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# Archaeology of the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, Wellington, New Zealand: “It’s all memories now... .”

Kevin L. Jones<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

Katherine Mansfield, the New Zealand author, was born in 1888 in the newly-built house at 25 Tinakori Road, Wellington, and lived there until the family left in 1893. Archaeological investigations of the house and its section were carried out in collaboration with architects before and during the course of restoration of the house between 1987 and 1998. The section on which the house was built had been deeply filled before construction, and lenses in this fill produced artefacts that relate to the domestic utensils of the period. Only the topsoil and gravel or cinders paving have artefacts which clearly relate to the period when Mansfield lived in the house. The fill was so poorly consolidated that the WC (water closet, located in a partitioned space in the lean-to) and sewage system may have failed to function by 1907. Investigations under the house related principally to the location and orientation of the coal ranges in the house service areas and the plan details of the 1888 lean-to, which had been demolished and re-constructed in 1907.

*Keywords:* HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, THORNDON, HOUSE MUSEUM, LATE-VICTORIAN, BEAUCHAMP, KATHERINE MANSFIELD BIRTHPLACE SOCIETY, NEW ZEALAND LITERATURE.

## INTRODUCTION

No. 25 Tinakori Road was the birthplace of the writer Katherine Mansfield (1888–1923) whose birth name was Kathleen Beauchamp. Today she is renowned as an author of short stories, letters and a journal (Alpers 1980; Tomalin 1987). The sub-title of this paper comes from her letters (Alpers 1980: 367). She has a particularly strong following in France and Japan. The Beauchamp family lived in the house until 1893. Katherine Mansfield’s father, Harold Beauchamp, was at this time a senior clerk in an importing firm which he later owned. He subsequently became chairman of the Bank of New Zealand and was knighted. Mansfield’s contested relationship with her father has been the focus of much biographical study (Alpers 1980). The house section was originally leasehold, and a condition of the lease to Harold Beauchamp was that a “substantial house” was to be built. The Beauchamp family was large, with three generations and a servant living in the household. Although the house was purpose-built in a new subdivision on the outskirts of the town, the facilities were cramped and plain for a large family with upper middle-class aspirations. This we know from the written records of the family’s perception of the place and, importantly, from the

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Conservation, PO Box 10-420, Wellington, New Zealand. Email: kljones@doc.govt.nz

early works, filled with childhood remembrance, of a special daughter of the household, Katherine Mansfield.

In the late 1880s, New Zealand was in the middle of a significant slowing in the rate of growth of its economy, with consequences for exports, borrowing, expectations of capital gains from the sale of land, and individual incomes (Hawke 1985: 66–83). The last factors may be why the section was under lease; why the house's construction was modest; and why the family shifted from it in 1893, when economic conditions began to ease. The leasehold of the property stayed in the name of Harold Beauchamp, who rented it out. He was responsible for the major alterations of 1907, which have proven such a puzzle for the restoration project. The untangling of the alterations of that period is one of the main themes of this paper.

In 1987, the house was purchased by the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society to commemorate the centenary of her birth. A programme of restoration started in 1987 and by 1998 was nearly completed. Archaeological excavations were carried out at the site during this period. These were part of a wider programme of oral history, documentary and architectural investigation conducted according to the principles of the ICOMOS (Burrah) Charter (ICOMOS 1966; ICOMOS New Zealand 1992; Kerr 1985). The charters stress a process for definition of the cultural values of a place, deciding on which period (if any) is most relevant, respect for original fabric, and the ethics of restoration and reconstruction. With two exceptions (the lean-to and upstairs bathroom mentioned later), the decision taken under the ICOMOS charters was to restore or reconstruct the house back to its form in the period 1888–1893, the period during which the Beauchamp family was in residence.

The archaeological aims were to support the restoration by investigating structural details of the house surrounds and its interior at or below ground (the demarcation point with the architectural investigation carried out by the late Martin Hill and James Beard; reports on file with the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society) and to recover artefacts or house fittings related to the various periods of occupation and refitting of the house. It was also intended that the archaeology be used to reconstruct late Victorian life-style in an urban setting in New Zealand, with a particular emphasis on the elements that may have affected a small child. As such, the archaeology was designed to fit the historical archaeology paradigm, "In small things remembered", as expressed by Deetz (1977: 120–136).

#### THE HOUSE AND ITS SETTING

In 1888, the north-eastern end of Tinakori Road was on the rural periphery of Wellington City. Some 150 m to the east, down a gully eroded out of the Wellington fault line, lay the railway line and edge of Wellington Harbour (Figs 1, 2, 3). The landform of 25 Tinakori Road, before construction of the house, is indicated by the trend in levels of the original subsoil, and comparison with ground levels beyond the section. The section was approximately 16 x 37 m, with the long axis extending from Tinakori Road to the gully. Tinakori Hill extended out in a broad low ridge along the line of present-day Hobson Street. The toe of this broad ridge was truncated, originally by the fault line along the gully and later, in the nineteenth century, by the cut-and-fill forming of Tinakori Road. Widening of the road may have provided the fill used at the rear of No. 25, although the filling might also have taken place just before construction.

The section of No. 25, as it exists today, slopes gently down towards the east, with a slightly steeper slope closer to the gully in the backyard. The driveway runs along the north-east boundary, providing access to the entrance hall and the rear of the property.

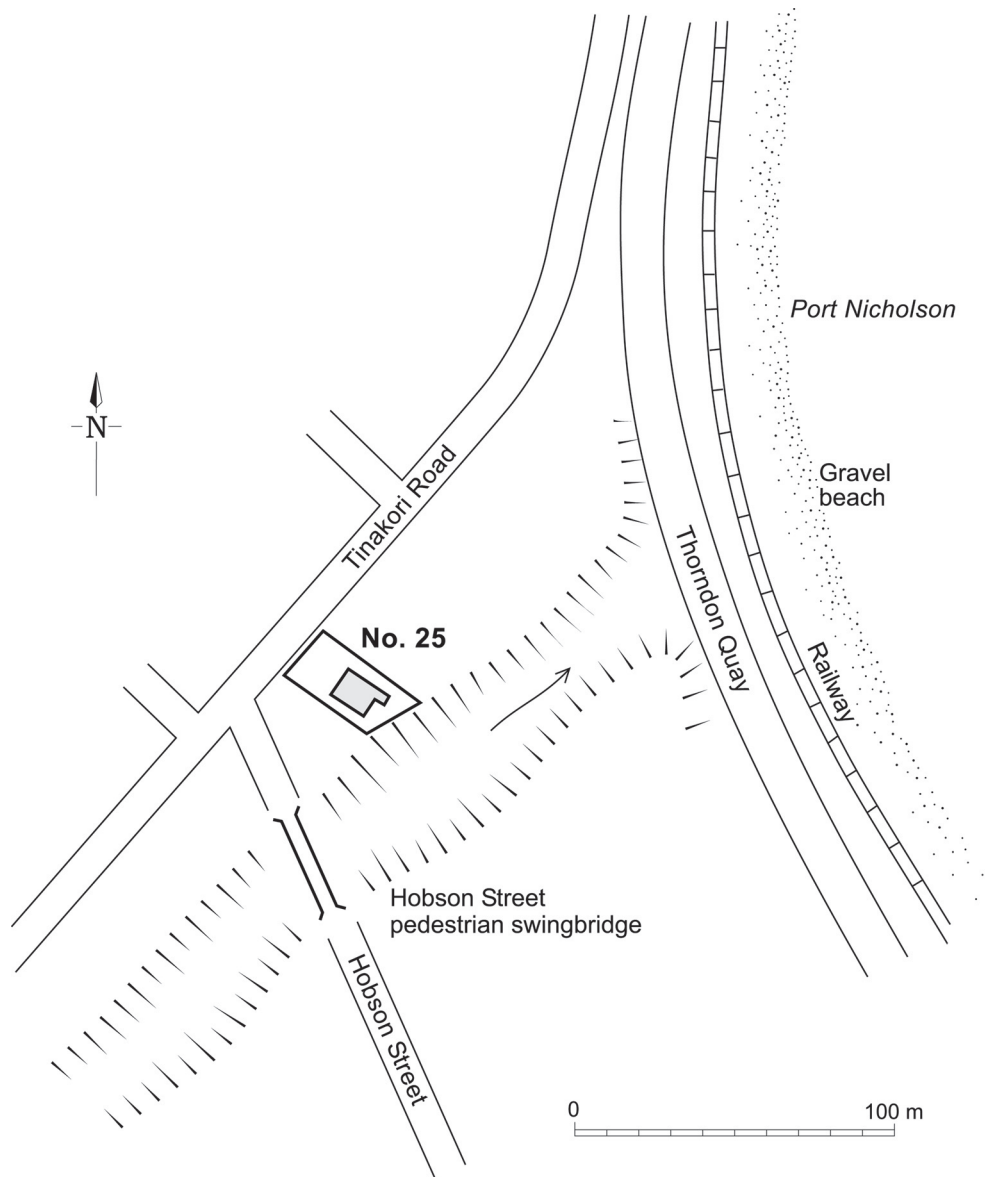


Figure 1: General locality plan of 25 Tinakori Road in 1887–1888 (based in part on New Zealand Aerial Mapping Ltd. photograph SN 70, F/4 1938).

Karaka trees (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) grow along this boundary. It is likely that they are the sole remnants and indications of nineteenth century and earlier Maori settlement in this vicinity.

In its original form, the house at No. 25 comprised two storeys, with bedrooms upstairs (not shown in figures). Downstairs, there was a parlour and sitting or dining room in the front (the north-west segment) facing Tinakori Road. Two passageways and doors gave access from the sitting room and the entrance hallway to the rear of the ground floor. Here

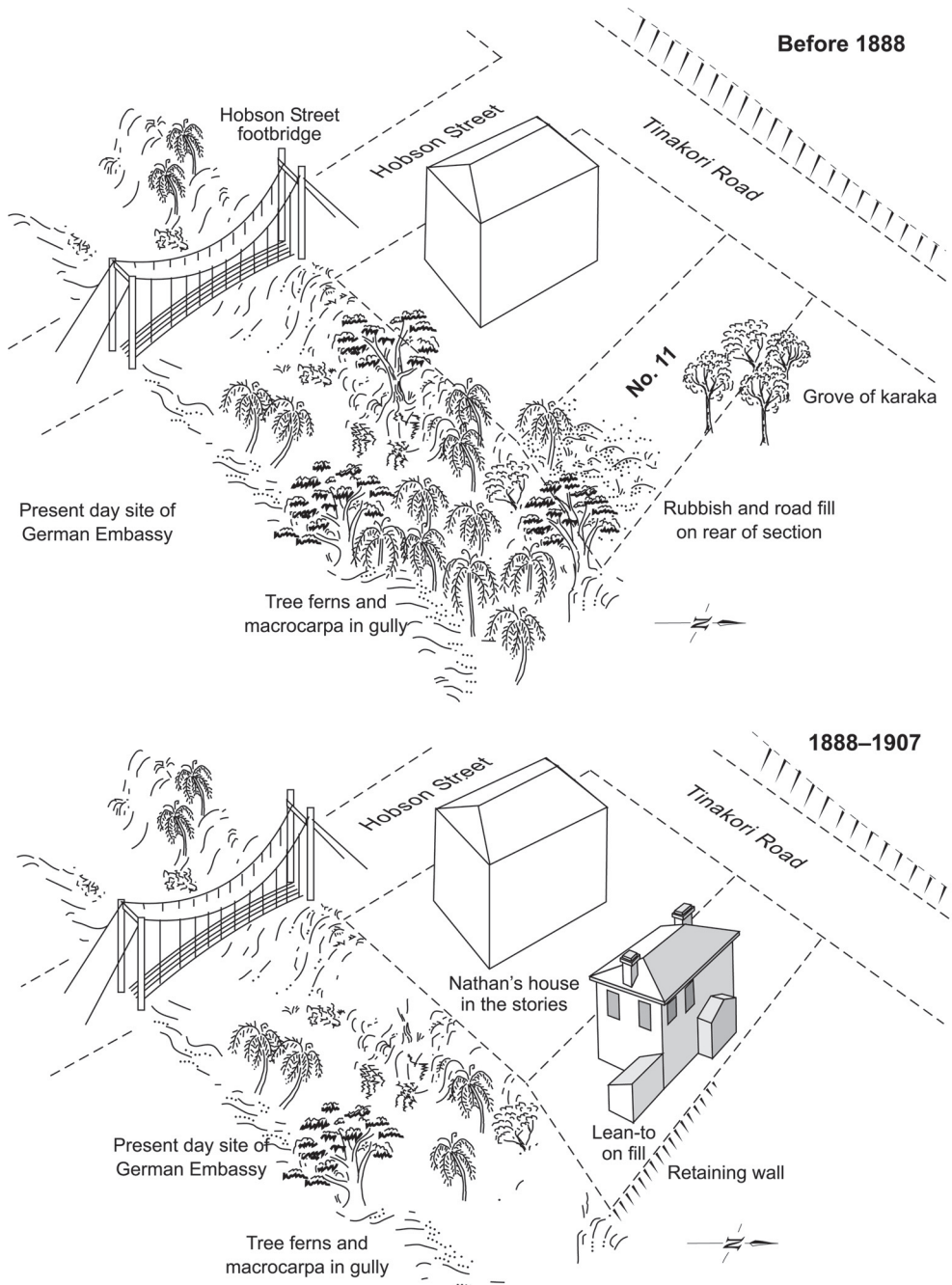


Figure 2: Perspective sketch of the section at No. 25 Tinakori Road before and after building in 1887–1888. The section is sometimes referred to as No. 11, as here, because that was its original number.

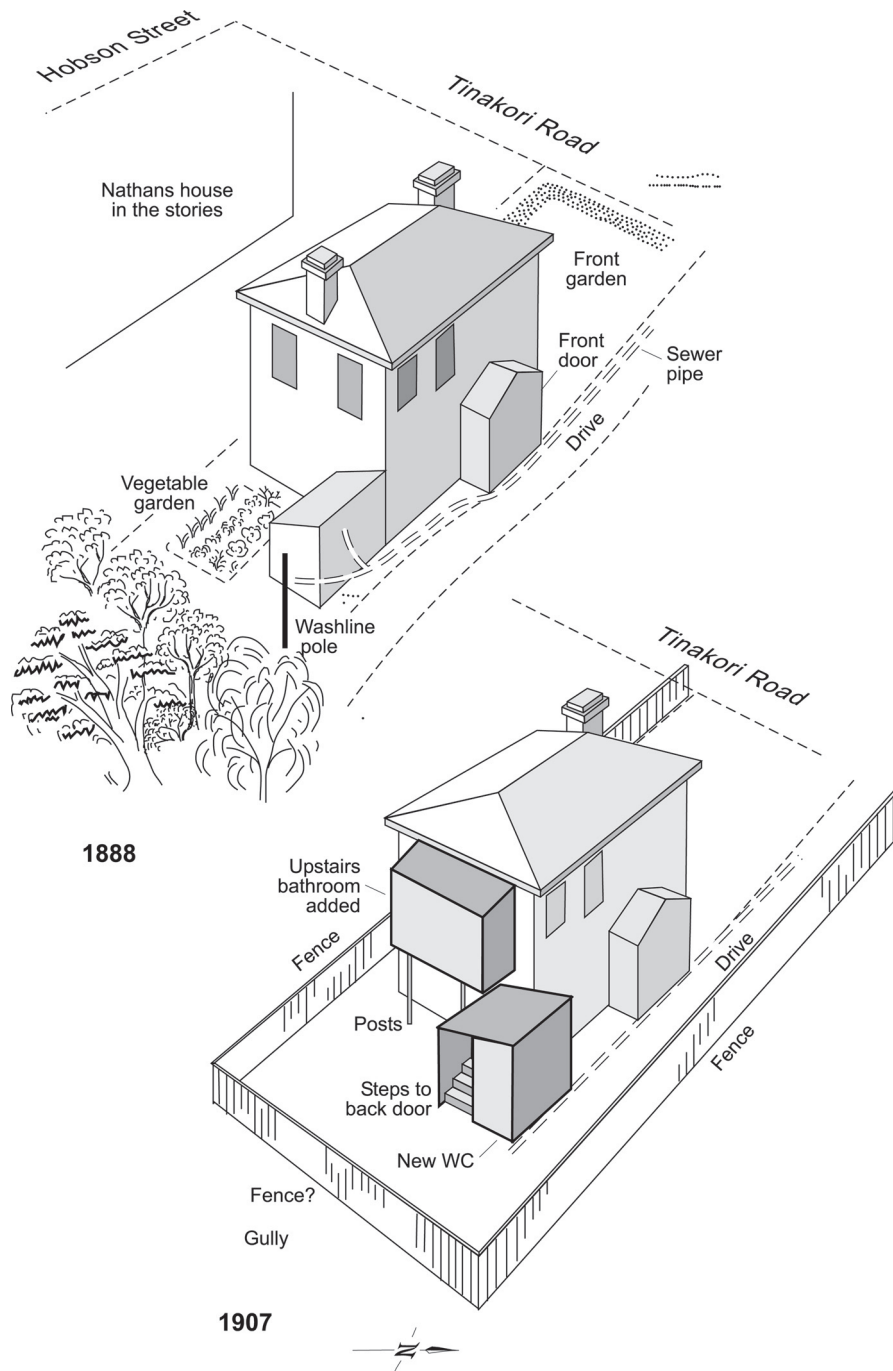


Figure 3: Perspective sketch from the rear of the house in 1888 and 1907, showing the changes made in 1907.

there was a tiny bathroom (on the north-east wall) and a scullery and kitchen adjacent to each other. To the south-east the scullery opened into a lean-to. This had an asphalted earthen floor approximately 60 cm lower than the level of the floor in the rest of the house.

The house as built in 1887–1888 occupied an area 10 x 13.5 m. The lean-to added a further 4.5 m extension at the rear of the house. The lean-to was present by 1891, when it was mapped by a Thomas Ward. So, if not part of the original building, it was added soon after the main part of the house was constructed. It is referred to in this paper as the 1888 lean-to. This original lean-to was demolished in 1907 and a new one built which had a wooden floor level with that of the house (Fig. 3). Because they provide visitor gathering, display and storage space, the current lean-to and the upstairs bathroom (both built in 1907) are the only parts of the house which have not been reconstructed or demolished to their 1887–1888 form. In the 1940s, a garage was built in the east corner of the section. This has since been demolished.

Specific dates for the chronology of the house and its various re-workings are derived from manuscript reports prepared in parallel with the present paper and from advice from the architects, especially James Beard and the late Martin Hill, and Oroya Day. Some of the chronology and stages of reconstruction of the house are based on archaeology, but much are also based on architectural inspections, council building plans and oral history. The chronology is as follows:

#### *Before 1888*

- Tinakori Road was progressively formed and fill placed by cart on adjacent sections or farmland, along with domestic rubbish, up to the edge of the gully.
- An apron was formed of cinders, clinker and household rubbish just off the road. Some small childrens' toys became lost in the cinders.
- Deposition of fill continued.
- A substantial house (the Nathans' in Katherine Mansfield's stories) was constructed on the corner of Tinakori Road and Hobson Street.

#### *1887–1907*

- The platform was levelled and the house built on relatively unconsolidated deposits of rubbish and road fill.
- A lean-to was built, with a water closet (WC) at its far south corner, wash tub at west corner, coal hatch at east corner and possible door on south-west elevation.
- The earliest services were laid down in the centre and towards the north-east side of the drive/carriageway in 1888.
- A garden surround was made at the front of house.
- Children used the gravelled drive/carriageway and rear of house for playing.
- The driveway was levelled and resurfaced with stony clay fill.
- The driveway was surfaced, probably with asphalt.
- In 1893, the Beauchamp family moved to Karori. The house was rented out.
- The deposits of fill at the rear of the section settled and the lean-to and sewage system became unusable.
- The house as a whole adopted a tilt or slight slope down towards the south-east.

#### *1907*

- The garden surround was demolished and the bay windows were constructed.
- The 1888 lean-to with asphalt floor and enclosed WC was demolished.
- The lean-to was re-built to its present plan and became a scullery with a new WC and a copper on a brick pedestal.

- The coal range was removed from the 1888 kitchen/dining room, which became a sitting room/‘family’ room.
- The 1888 scullery became a kitchen with a new coal range and boiler installed.
- There was an unknown sequence of stripping the driveway, resurfacing it with asphalt, and further work on the surfaces.

1942

- A large earthquake and aftershocks struck Wellington.
- The chimneys of the house were probably damaged.

1946

- The house was extensively remodelled and plaster-board lined to create two flats/apartments.
- The chimney head mouldings were demolished.
- The wooden front steps were removed and replaced with concrete.
- About then a garage with wooden frame and asbestos sheet cladding was erected.

1960s

- The garden surround was re-emplaced and a concrete block fence erected on the street front.

#### THE EXCAVATIONS

The excavations were carried out with volunteer assistance in three main areas: the rear yard, the front driveway, and under the house, including investigations under the kitchen and scullery and in the lean-to, and monitoring of the emplacement of reinforced concrete corner foundations. There were five main exercises over the period 1987–1997. Manuscript reports for each of the excavations are on file at the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace (see Appendix 1). Earlier phases of the excavation were reported briefly in Jones (1991).

The first excavation in 1987, of approximately 12 m<sup>2</sup> of the rear yard adjacent to the garage, was aimed at identifying ceramic and other building materials used in the service areas of the original house; and recovering materials, restorable or otherwise, with care as to their stratigraphic provenance and association with 25 Tinakori Road. Subsequent investigations in the rear yard included the paving around the outside of the 1907 lean-to, the area beneath the demolished garage, and some details of paving and the extent of a vegetable garden in the south-western sector of the rear yard. Demolition of the retaining wall on the north-east boundary revealed a long section, which was cleaned down and recorded.

A small excavation was undertaken at the northern corner of the house to examine the original garden border, and to investigate the sequence of driveway fills in the area at the northern corner of the house. Monitoring was undertaken during emplacement of new concrete foundations at the corners of the house and work in the front garden.

The potential for investigation of the original structures under the house was limited by a decision not to demolish the lean-to additions. However, there was enough space and headroom partially to excavate the demolished chimneys and bases of the kitchen and scullery coal ranges, the asphalt floor of the original lean-to and other features under the lean-to built in 1907 to replace the one constructed in 1887–1888. It was not practical to lay out squares under the house and the lean-to and other excavations under the house were referenced to the foundation layout.

Artefacts were cleaned and some were restored. All were catalogued in a hard-cover exercise book held with the artefacts at the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace.



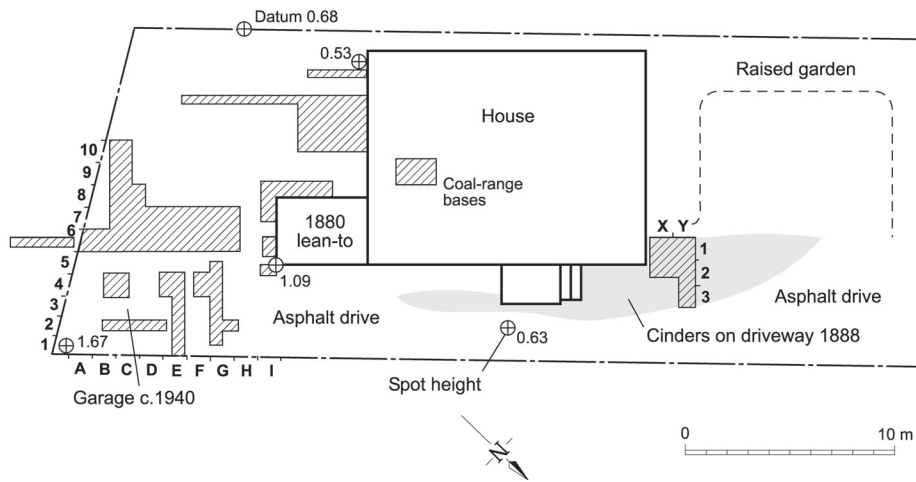


Figure 4: Plan of the grounds of No. 25 Tinakori Road showing excavated squares.

## EXCAVATIONS IN THE YARD

One of the early aims of archaeological excavation was the recovery of plans of gardens and structures external to the main house. Details of the front yard show clearly in two photographs taken from Tinakori Hill in about 1890 (Wellington Public Library WP 5380; National Museum B 14582). This lessened the need for excavations in that area, except to gain an understanding of the driveway construction sequence. However, no photographs exist of the rear yard, except for the earliest Wellington vertical aerial photography of 1938 (SN70 F/4). The back entranceway, lean-to, paths, gardens and washing line that may have existed before the reconstruction of the lean-to and re-working of service areas in 1907 needed to be investigated.

### REAR YARD

The first excavations at the rear of the property provided a section from the paving by the lean-to to the gully (squares I–A, 6–7). These excavations were extended by a further line of squares at right angles along the edge of the former gully (squares B–C, 6–10) (see Fig. 4).

After the demolition of the garage in the south-eastern corner of the section, an excavation was conducted in this area. The garage was thought to be late 1940s or early 1950s in age and had a concrete ring foundation and infill concrete slab floor. The objectives were to determine plan extent and other features at the south-east end of the 1888 driveway, check whether a building or other functional area of the period 1888–1920 lay under the garage and recover artefacts (potentially of display quality) from well-sealed and undisturbed 1888–1907 deposits in this part of the yard.

After removal of the concrete slab and most of the ring foundation, selected areas were opened up in plan and deeper sections cut to ascertain the depth of the original topsoil. Earlier excavations had suggested that there would be evidence of gradual infilling over the

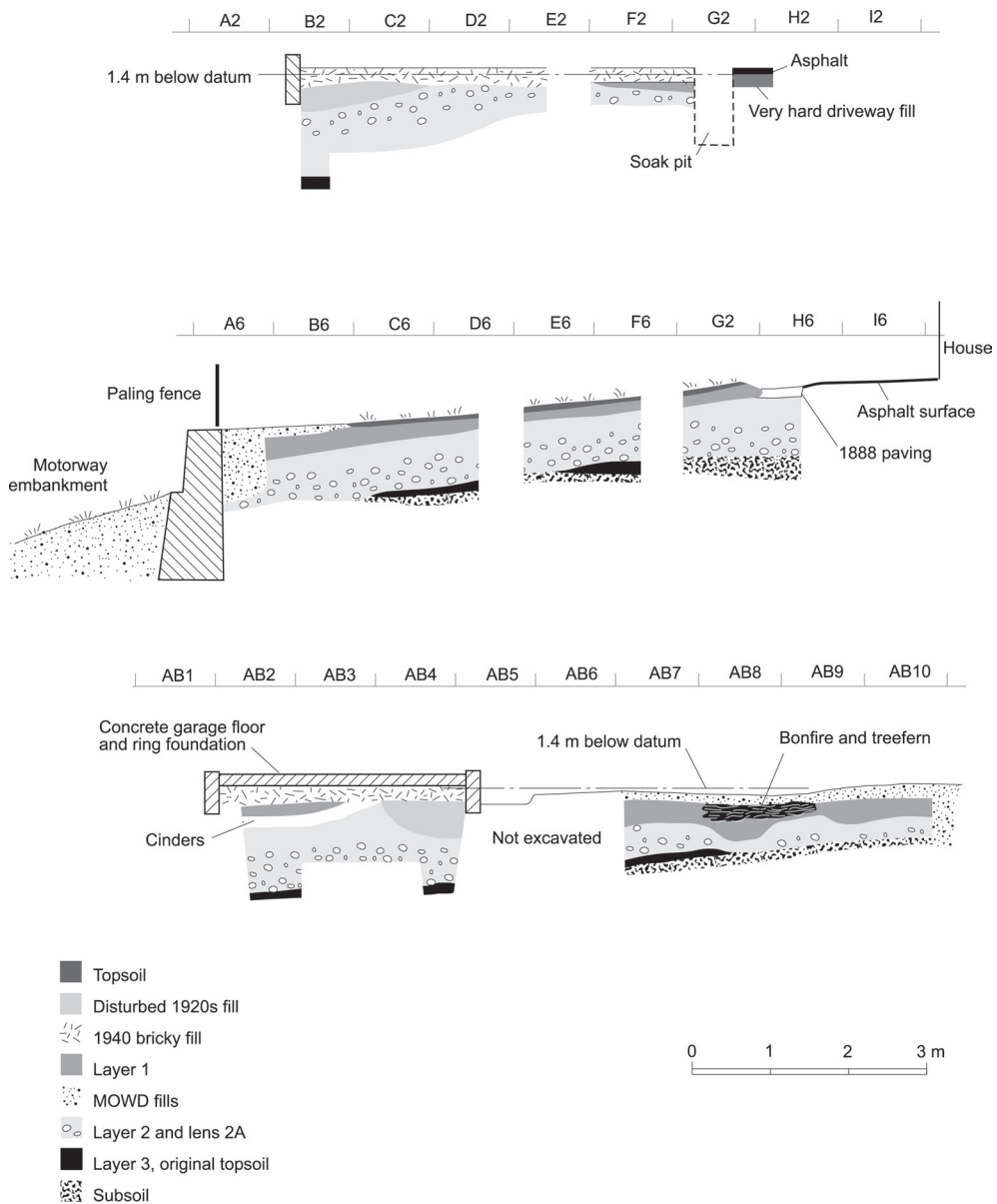


Figure 5: Composite long sections of the rear yard stratigraphy. Top: long section through the garage (the concrete slab is not shown). Middle: north-east baulk of squares A6–H6. Bottom: composite section on south-east baulk of squares A or B 1–10.

near-gully down slope of the property, and this was anticipated to be quite deep (up to 80 cm) under the garage. Because of the risk of flooding from the driveway, a trench or soak pit was excavated across the line of the end of the asphalt driveway and partially backfilled with rubble. This trench also gave an opportunity for an inspection of the section across the site.

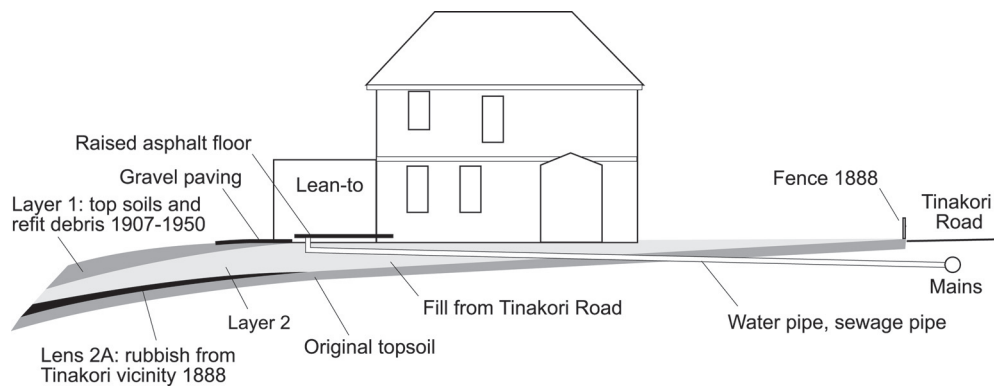


Figure 6: Schematic stratigraphy of the site from Tinakori Road to the gully. The modern motorway was formed in the gully at the rear of the house. Stratigraphy is vertically exaggerated.

### Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the backyard excavations is illustrated in the three sections in Figure 5. Figure 6 shows the general stratigraphy of the site from the street frontage to the gully.

Layer 1 is a dark-grey soil developed *in situ*. It was formed by gardening, mixing-in of material from digging of drains and incorporation of artefactual material from 1887 to the present. Layer 1 varies in thickness from 10 to 40 cm and is thickest at the lowest point of the site. This topsoil layer must have been derived from a rather messy backyard.

Layer 2 (Tinakori fill) is the principal fill component of the site. Its greatest depth is in the eastern corner, where it has raised an area of approximately 40 m<sup>2</sup> by 1.2 m to a level somewhat below that of the rest of the property. The fills are yellow-brown very stony silty clay and crushed greywacke with lenses of grey gravelly topsoil. The grey lenses occur more frequently towards the bottom of the layer, suggesting a sequence of cut and fill. From a nearby locality, topsoil and then subsoil must have been cut and brought by cart to the site. On being dumped, the topsoil was buried at the bottom of the fill layer creating the grey lenses. Layer 2 contains some artefacts, especially in lens A in squares B–D/6–7, deposited on or close to the original soil surface. The bottom of Layer 2 rises to the south and the layer itself peters out into squares C8–10, where it had buried the prostrate trunk of a tree fern and other wood lying on the original soil surface.

At the base of the excavations is the original subsoil, yellow sandy clay with some angular stones. In places it is overlain by grey topsoil (Layer 3). This original subsoil lacks any cultural material and is uniform in colour and texture.

Several more localised layers were also recorded. Under the concrete garage slab was a yellow brown bricky fill (large lumps of clay, soil and bricks plus yard rubbish), which had been added to bring the area within the ring foundation up to a level upon which the concrete could be poured. Beneath this towards the rear fence was a loose, disturbed 1920s and 1930s fill. These layers rested on the 1888 surface of the Tinakori fill, consisting of lenses of cinders and soil. This is referred to as the Beauchamp soil.

The rear of the section abuts the modern motorway, and here there are deposits of MOWD (the former Ministry of Works and Development) fill resulting from motorway construction.

In the line of squares H6–7, two asphalt layers were distinguishable: an upper layer; mortar re-surfacing and levelling work; and an aged and deteriorated lower asphalt. Beneath

the asphalt was a 10-cm-thick layer of gravel paving consisting of equal parts of greywacke and rounded quartz gravels with some shell (i.e., beach gravels) and some crushed greywacke with a distinct interface to Layer 2. These are probably from a Wellington beach, perhaps in the Ngauranga area. A fragmentary wooden stake was found on the outer edge of the gravel between the paving and Layer 1 at this point, and the distinct horizontal interface suggests that this was part of a piece of wooden formwork to elevate and hold the gravel in place.

*Plan features*

Figure 7 shows the general features of the yard areas. The steep edge of the gully ran north-east/south-west (parallel to the line of the present fence and motorway) from the southern corner of the section. The original edge of the gully was about two metres from the present fence above the motorway. A partly burnt tree fern in Layer 2 (see Fig. 5) was associated with a bonfire in Layer 1. This appears to have burned through the Layer 2 fill, moulding gravels on to the exterior surface of the trunk and carbonising its interior. This may be the same species of tree fern referred to in one of the Mansfield stories relating to the site (*The Aloe*).

The pavings around the exterior of the lean-to include, at the bottom, a gravel paving (including some marbles), which is most likely to be part of the footpath paving from the driveway around the rear (south-east) of the lean-to of 1887–1888. Coal would have to be delivered here and there must have been a passage from the driveway and washing line to the rear door on the south-west elevation of the lean-to. The asphalt above the gravel is thought to be late nineteenth century paving placed at the rear of the house before the 1907 lean-to additions.

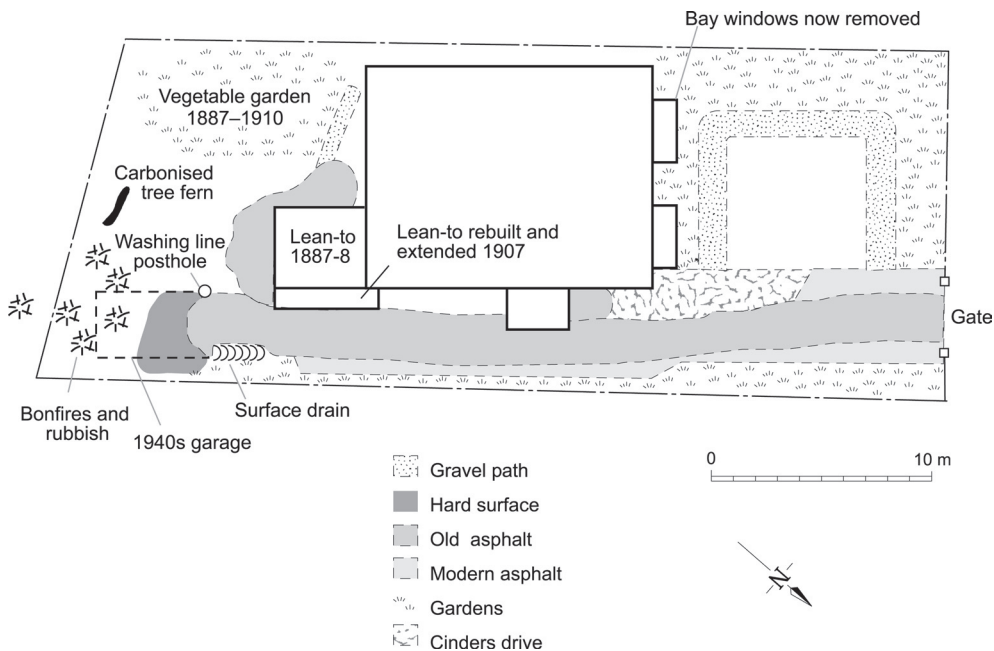


Figure 7: Plan details of the yard 1888–1907 as revealed by excavation.

There was no evidence of structures under the post-war garage, although an area of hardened topsoil would have been used for parking carriages or cars. The original 1888 driveway extended about 1.5 m south-east of the existing asphalt, where there is very hard-packed topsoil. The earliest driveway was beach-gravel surfaced, the gravels being similar to those of the foot-paving known from the front entrance (see below). The section sloped down to the east and south even after the fill was deposited. There was an open drain on the north-eastern side of the driveway gravels. Its bottom was about 20 cm below the 1888 driveway surface and it was filled with a dark topsoil wash and later fill (including bricks).

Two adjacent postholes dug from the 1888 surface in square G4 were possibly for the clothesline or the tennis net said to have been in the yard. One was 15 cm diameter and round, the other 10 cm square. The 1890 photographs show, faintly, a post and washing on the south-western boundary. The line is unlikely to have run directly across the back of the house since this is shaded severely. It probably ran in a south-easterly direction.

#### *Artefacts recovered*

Layer 1 contained a considerable quantity of iron, building materials, and ceramic and glass house-wares spanning the period 1890–1950. Some of the artefacts, including ceramic tiles and broken earthenware drainage pipes, appear to derive from the 1907 demolition of the lean-to and kitchen/scullery re-working.

Artefacts in the Tinakori fill spanned the period 1880–1920, with most of it in the period 1890–1900. They included a lot of earthenware dishes, leather shoes and ‘hole-in-cap’ cans. The last is an early form of can initially manufactured with a hole in the lid and then sealed with a soldered cap. By 1900, these cans had been replaced by the modern ‘sanitary can’, in which the hole lid is crimped on to the cylindrical body of the can. The rubbish from the bottom of the Tinakori fill may pre-date the Beauchamp household; i.e. it came from other households nearby. There is just a chance that the deposition of the fill was not complete by 1888, and that the deepest fill by the gully could be from the period of occupation by the Beauchamp household. The rubbish from this part of the fill is from the period 1880–1895.

Under the garage, in the yellow-brown bricky fill, the datable ceramics strongly suggest a post-war age for the slab construction. Chinaware was recovered from the ‘Beauchamp soil’ (i.e., a variation of Layer 1) that overlies the Tinakori fill in this area. It includes a fragment of green majolica with a raised mint-leaf pattern; a soup bowl with appliqué handles, raised rococo decoration with blue brushed underglaze; ‘pink blush’ painted fragment of a china doll’s head (neck area) (plus similar from yellow-brown bricky fill); rococo under-glaze green Acanthus ware. Other artefacts from the Beauchamp soil included a copper or brass tube set into a copper cover (possibly part of a pen), glass containers and the bone handle of a toothbrush, marked ‘JUNIOR’.

#### THE FRONT DRIVEWAY, GARDEN, AND CORNERS OF THE HOUSE

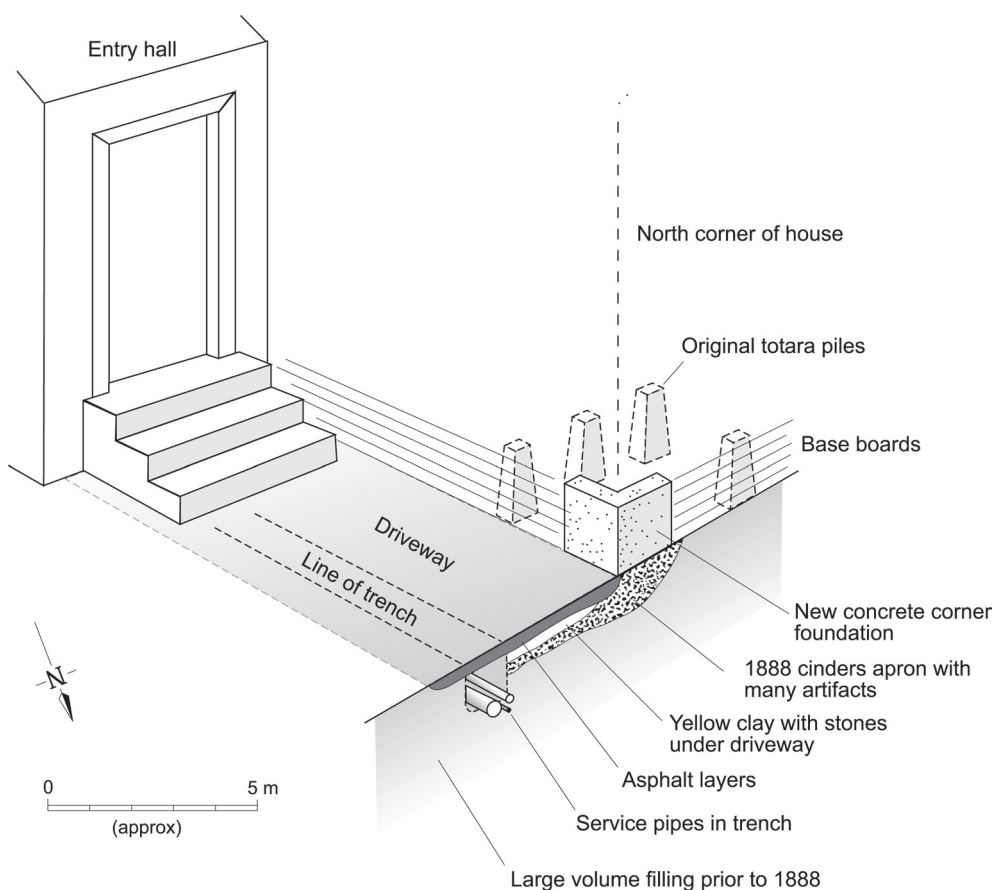
The plan of the initial excavation at the northern corner of the house, adjacent to the bay window, is shown in Figure 4. The asphalt was peeled off using pick and grubber, and the underlying layers removed by trowelling. Subsequently, a footing trench 50 cm wide along the north wall from the excavation to the front steps was examined, along with footings at

all four corners of the house. Monitoring and testing were also undertaken following removal of the bay windows in 1988 and the remaking of the front garden.

*Stratigraphy at the northern corner (Fig. 8)*

Immediately beneath the asphalt of the drive was a lens of stony yellow clay fill with many artefacts. This began in the garden border and reached a depth of about 10 cm in the traffic-bearing area of the drive. It was also present between the main excavation and the front steps. It probably represents levelling for the first phase of asphaltting, possibly as early as 1890. This yellow fill may contain rubbish from the Beauchamp household.

An apron of cinders up to 10 cm deep extended out for up to 2.6 m from the line of the original house wall. This area was very rich in artefacts and faunal material (cattle bones and a dog jaw) comprising up to 20% by volume. The layer of cinders extended out towards the lower part of a lens of mixed topsoil and cinders by the bay windows where it was mixed in the coarse soil of the garden border. The cinders layer was also present towards



*Figure 8:* Perspective sketch of the relationship between the front drive stratigraphy and the house. The reinforced concrete corner foundation, installed during conservation work, is embedded at a lower level than shown.

the front steps, where there was a lens of beach gravel near the surface. This gravel may have been the 1888 surface around the steps. It is similar to the lower layers of gravel paving at the back of the lean-to. During the excavation of footings at the corner of the house, the cinders layer was found to peter out about 50 cm inside the house.

Towards the centre of the existing driveway, the cinders layer petered out at a point where the current service pipes run along the length of the driveway. A one-inch iron water or gas pipe was here sealed beneath a banded yellow fill lens and in a separate block of yellow fill.

Most of the cinders fill on the front drive may have been deposited by the Beauchamp household. It would not be difficult for a single household to create the amount of cinders and rubbish found in the front driveway and for some to be scattered under the house. Alternatively, the cinders fill may have been deposited immediately before the house was finished. It could have been an apron of fill placed in the course of constructing the house. In Victorian times, fill for driveways and compacting of surfaces generally was often made up from household fireplace ash and cinders (Stockton 1981: 18). This material could have been stockpiled with other domestic rubbish in the near-city neighbourhood and brought to the section to be laid on the drive to some depth.

It is possible that the driveway had originally been surfaced with less-compacted gravels, in which children's playthings became lost. The front driveway is the sunniest, most sheltered area of the section, and the front yard is referred to in Katherine Mansfield's stories as a play area (O'Sullivan 1982: 29; and see below). However, it is also possible that the driveway was sealed in a nineteenth century, hand-tar sealing process (i.e., thin tar poured and gravel sprinkled on in alternate layers). This would include tar being poured over the cinders layer, so there may have been a period in which Beauchamp artefacts worked their way into the driveway.

The substrate at the northern corner of the house is a sandy yellow clay with stones, interpreted as being the original subsoil or, possibly, large volumes of clean fill from the original formation before 1888 of Tinakori Road. Considering the long axis of the section, from the north-west side of Tinakori Road to the motorway (Fig. 6), this point would mark, approximately, the change from the cutting of the hillside to the filling of the lower parts of the overall slope surface.

The footings in the other corners of the house also showed substantial filling. In the western corner there were some artefacts in a lens of fill under one of the original wooden piles but not on the surface, suggesting that this area was not a focus of activity in the period to 1946 when the house was occupied as a single unit. The southern corner had some 50–60 cm of fill and a slight trace of the channel (30 cm below surface) leading to the storm water sump.

In the east corner, adjacent to the lean-to, angular stony yellow fill went to the bottom of the section at about 110 cm and contained a lens of topsoil fill at about 40–60 cm. The lens sloped up towards the road entrance. This pattern of filling is identical to that of the rear of the section, and supports the view that the house was built on a sheet of fill from 60 cm to 2 m in depth over most of the section.

### *Artefacts*

Finds from the cinders layer in the initial excavation in this area included a quantity of maroon-banded chinaware and a small netsuke mouse in porcelain with a paste ('matt') finish. From the wider area of cinders came more maroon-banded ware, a slate pencil, bottle

glass, some ceramics and a piece of the Japanese cherry blossom with bird china mug, the other part of which was found in the Layer 2 fills in the rear yard (Fig. 9).

Artefacts found and set aside by the contractors during excavation of the corner footing included a fragment of a rubber ball, green with red and black rectangular stripes, identical to that found in the Layer 2 fills in the rear yard, bottle corks preserved because of the relatively dry conditions under the house, and a large part of a Lee & Perrins bottle. The matching artefacts are significant for analysis of the chronology of the site infilling (see later discussion).

*Features in the northwest corner*

Photographs show that the original front steps were wooden. The front steps of plastered brick (probably constructed in the 1940s), demolished by the contractors, were found to be reinforced concrete veneer over bricks and with a core of hard fill. In the fill were many

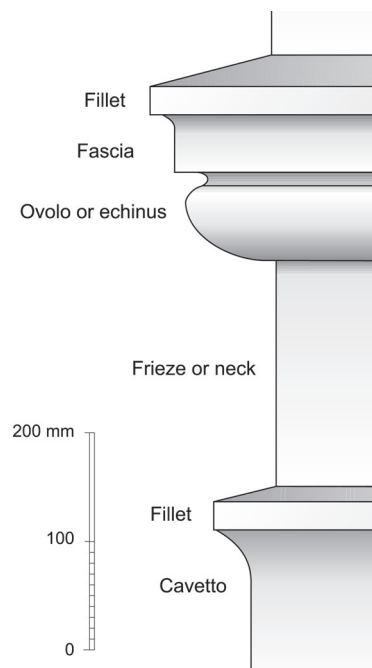


Figure 9: The design on the brown under-glaze Japanese blossom and bird mug, a typical example of Japonisme. Separate fragments were recovered from the base lenses of the rear yard layer 2 fill, and from the driveway cinders fill. Drawing by Jadwega Karas.



pieces of what appeared to be mortar coping, some with bricks attached. The mortar copings and brick were totally unexpected and are parts of the original chimney head mouldings of 25 Tinakori Road. Some details were able to be checked against pre-1942 photographs. The chimneys were probably demolished after the earthquakes in 1942 and the debris recycled into the steps. The remaining fragments were sufficient for architect James Beard to use to reconstruct the original chimney profile (Fig. 10).

The sections at the northern corner of the house showed the location of wooden piles at the corners of the main house and the 1907 bay windows. Both piles were 6 inches (15 cm) across and were probably 6 inches square. The bay window post was chamfered at the corners and painted green. Originally a post for a verandah or similar, it appears to have been recycled as a pile.



*Figure 10:* Chimney head moulding detail. Reconstructed by project architect, Jim Beard, from material used as hard fill in the front steps, and from pre-1948 photographs of the house.

The bay windows were removed in July 1988. In the course of re-making the front garden, which borders a rectangle of lawn, an opportunity was taken to inspect for a possible path around the existing raised border at the front, which was possibly made in 1946. These investigations suggested that the front lawn was approximately 6 m square, surrounded on three sides by a narrow (50 cm wide?), thinly gravelled pathway, some form of edging and a garden border about 1.5 m wide. The north-east side of the lawn bordered on to the cinders driveway.

## EXCAVATIONS UNDER THE HOUSE

## THE KITCHEN AND SCULLERY OF 1887–1888 AND THE 1907 MODIFICATIONS

In the house's 1887–1888 form, the rear rooms were a kitchen (to the south-west) and a scullery (Fig. 11). The kitchen had a coal range, for heating and cooking; the scullery had a bricked-in copper, possibly with water piped out to the lean-to. After 1907, the 1887–1888 kitchen became a sitting or 'family' room; the scullery became the kitchen with a new coal range and boiler (an integral part of larger coal ranges); and the bathroom became a pantry. (Also in 1907 a bathroom was added to the rear of the upper storey of the house.) In turn, the lean-to became the scullery with a wooden floor at the same level as the rest of the ground floor of the house. It contained a copper on a brick pedestal (to support the fire base), a WC partitioned off in the south-east corner and a small porch under the eaves with steps down to the south-east (see Fig. 3, 1907 layout).

The thorough refurbishings of 1907 (and 1946) greatly changed the kitchen and scullery. The chimney base between the scullery and kitchen of 1887–1888 was the focus of the first phase of excavation work. The east corner of the chimney base lay 3 m from the

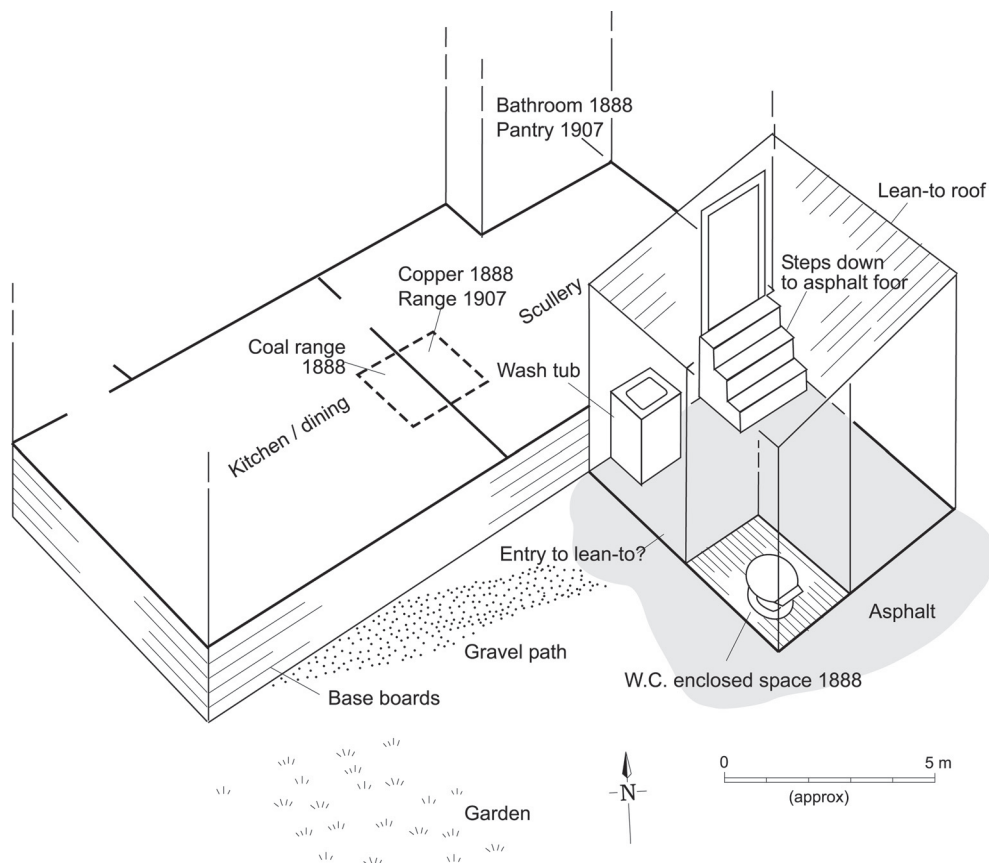


Figure 11: Perspective sketch of the south-east end of the house, showing details of the under-floor area of the lean-to/scullery/kitchen and the lean-to as it may have been in 1888.

north-eastern base boards and 1.5 m from the south-eastern base boards (Fig. 12). It had been demolished down to the fifth or sixth course from the ground, with a false flooring inserted above it on joists that ran north-east/south-west, i.e., at right angles to the prevailing line of the joists of the rest of the house. A line of the original piles ran at right angles to the north-western and south-eastern faces of the chimney base, some of which had been replaced by concrete piles.

A typical pattern in demolition of chimneys is for the brickwork to be broken away first above the roof. Then chimney flashings are removed, and the demolition proceeds with bricks knocked down the inside of the chimney. The bricks are removed by hand or barrowed out of the house. Eventually, the last few courses are removed below floor level, and the mortar fragments, dust and the odd broken brick or tile from the tile surround are swept down the hole and under the floorboards. False floor joists and boards are installed in the gap left.

Debris from the demolition of the chimney, principally mortar sand and dust, lay in a heap around the chimney base, extending about 1.5 m to the north-east and 1.4 m to the south-west (Fig. 12). The heap had decorative tiles, scattered bricks and ironware over its

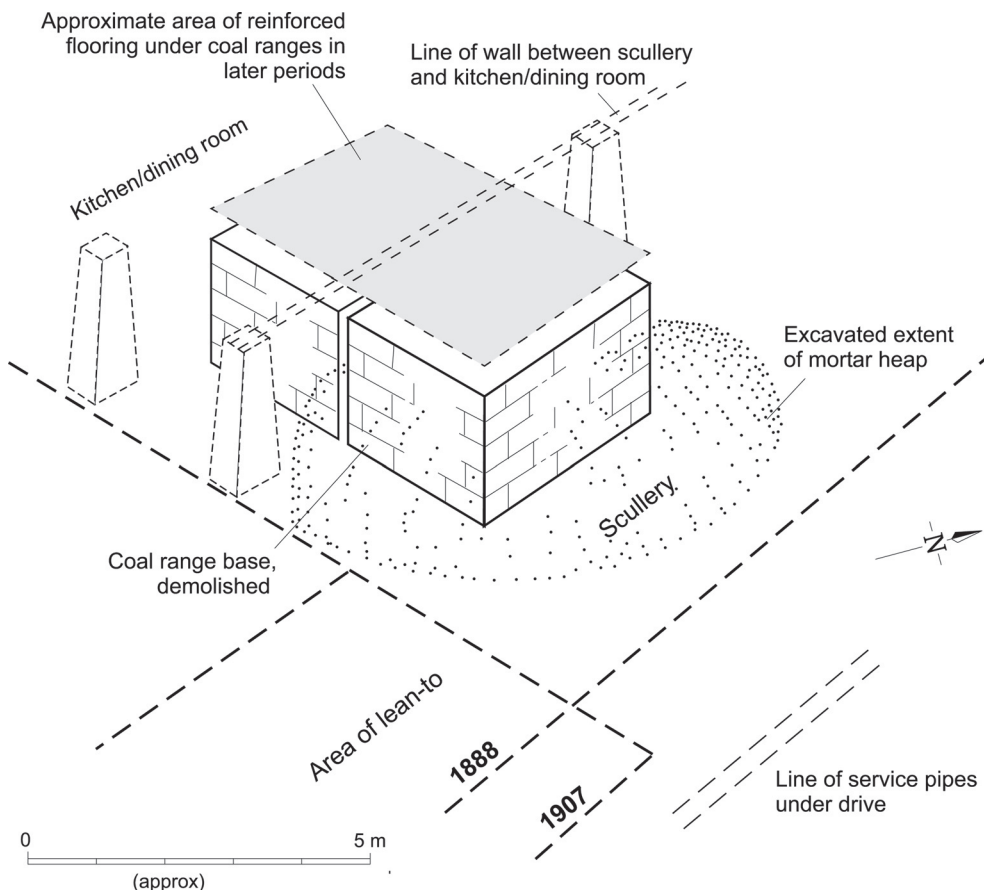


Figure 12: Perspective sketch of the brick supports for the coal range and copper in the 1888 kitchen and scullery, both in the main body of the house.

surface and contained within it. To the south-east and north-west, the debris had been somewhat disturbed by the installation of the concrete piles. The heap of chimney debris had a maximum thickness of 30 cm against the chimney base and no stratigraphic layering. However, the location in plan of some of the items may have had significance in relation to the rooms (scullery or kitchen) from where they came, so they were numbered as they were recovered and recorded on the archived plan. The heap was trowelled through and the material recovered and bagged. There was not much head room. Only the north-east and south-east corners of the chimney were excavated. The debris heap was larger to the south-west of the chimney base, but apart from collection of items on the surface of the heap this was left as a reserve.

Among the artefacts recovered were at least five pieces of the coal range. Some have the potential to allow the type of coal range taken out in 1907 or 1946, which may be the original one, to be identified. These pieces comprise a finger plate for inspecting the side flues, an oval butterfly flue valve, a grate frontpiece, and steel bars—probably rods for manipulating flues. A firedoor and top plate had earlier been found in the yard. A top plate had previously been found in Layer 1 in the rear yard, and a firedoor in the driveway cinders. The coal range pieces are not of the types manufactured by S. Luke in Wellington in 1907, based on illustrations from their catalogue of that year. Nor are they identical to a small Shacklock range of that age which has been installed in the reconstructed kitchen. More inspections of coal ranges could establish the model, probably one of the smaller types. In the S. Luke catalogue, the smaller ranges, e.g. 'The Tinakori', have top plates with a simple (not moulded) finish at the edge (Fig. 13). Larger ranges have elaborate moulded edges with several in-turns and out-turns in the profile of the moulding. The butterfly valve (12.5 cm long), top plate (25 x 30 cm), and finger plate that have been recovered are quite

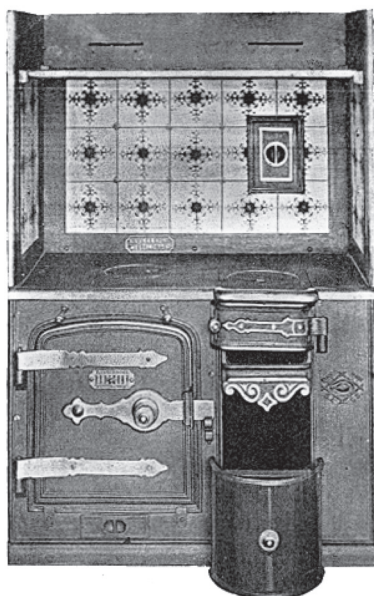


Figure 13: Small coal range from the S. Luke catalogue similar to that of the Beauchamp household.

small and suggest a range possibly as small as 3 ft (91 cm) wide. The butterfly valve, however, has no trace of burning or soot and is likely to have been an oven heating-control, and therefore smaller than a flue valve. On balance, the width of the brick base (about 1.2 m or 4 feet) and the existence of a tiled coving suggest a modest-sized coal range about 1 m wide.

The 1887–1888 range was set in a cavity, lined with dark teal-blue, ceramic tiles in two sizes: 109 x 54 mm and 153 x 153 mm. These were moulded tiles and two of the smaller size had come from a mould with a raised relief line—an Art Nouveau motif which shows as a line from which the glaze had retreated. Some surfaces in the range cavity were blacked mortar, a finish which, in some cases, is found attached to the teal-blue tiles. A second style of tile was also used. These were the same size as the teal-blue tiles, but brown, sometimes with a geometric relief decoration from which the glaze had retreated.

The distribution of particular excavated materials about the heap seemed to have little bearing on where they came from in the original plan of the house. This is quite consistent with the interpretation that the floor cavity created by removing the chimney was used as a point from which mortar sand and demolition rubbish from several sources around the ground floor could be jettisoned. Bricks would have been removed to be recycled.

#### THE 1888 LEAN-TO AND ITS TRANSFORMATIONS IN 1907

In most houses, the service areas are usually the most expensive to re-make and also in the greatest need of updating. No. 25 Tinakori Road was no exception to this generalisation. The architectural investigations of the timber structures and the changes to the lean-to were among the last restoration processes carried out. These areas had had to be kept intact as servicing areas for the front of the house and upstairs bedrooms while the earlier phases of reconstruction or restoration were under way.

A City Engineer's Office specification (serial no. 7641 date stamped 16 May 1907, Wellington City Council Archives) gives important clues to the changes made to the house at that time:

Bricklayer

The present range in Kitchen and copper and brickwork in Scullery are to be removed.

Fix in new Kitchen [i.e., the 1888 scullery] a new range and boiler complete & all to be properly set.

Set the copper in new Scullery in good solid brickwork with furnace doors damper etc complete... .

As noted above, the section had been deeply filled in its rear (south-east) aspects, and from 1887 the house had rapidly settled to the rear (to the south-east). Anticipated settling of the fill was probably the reason for the construction in 1888 of a temporary lean-to with an asphalt floor (Figs 2, 3, 6). In 1907, the lean-to was completely reconstructed, so that none of the original above-ground fabric of the 1888 lean-to survives.

Archaeological evidence would be the key to determining the plan arrangement of fittings and functions in the 1888 lean-to—such as the copper (for boiling and washing household linen and clothes), the WC, the plan of flooring and, perhaps, the exact position of the opening to the yard. Plan features evident on inspection before excavation (Fig. 14) included:

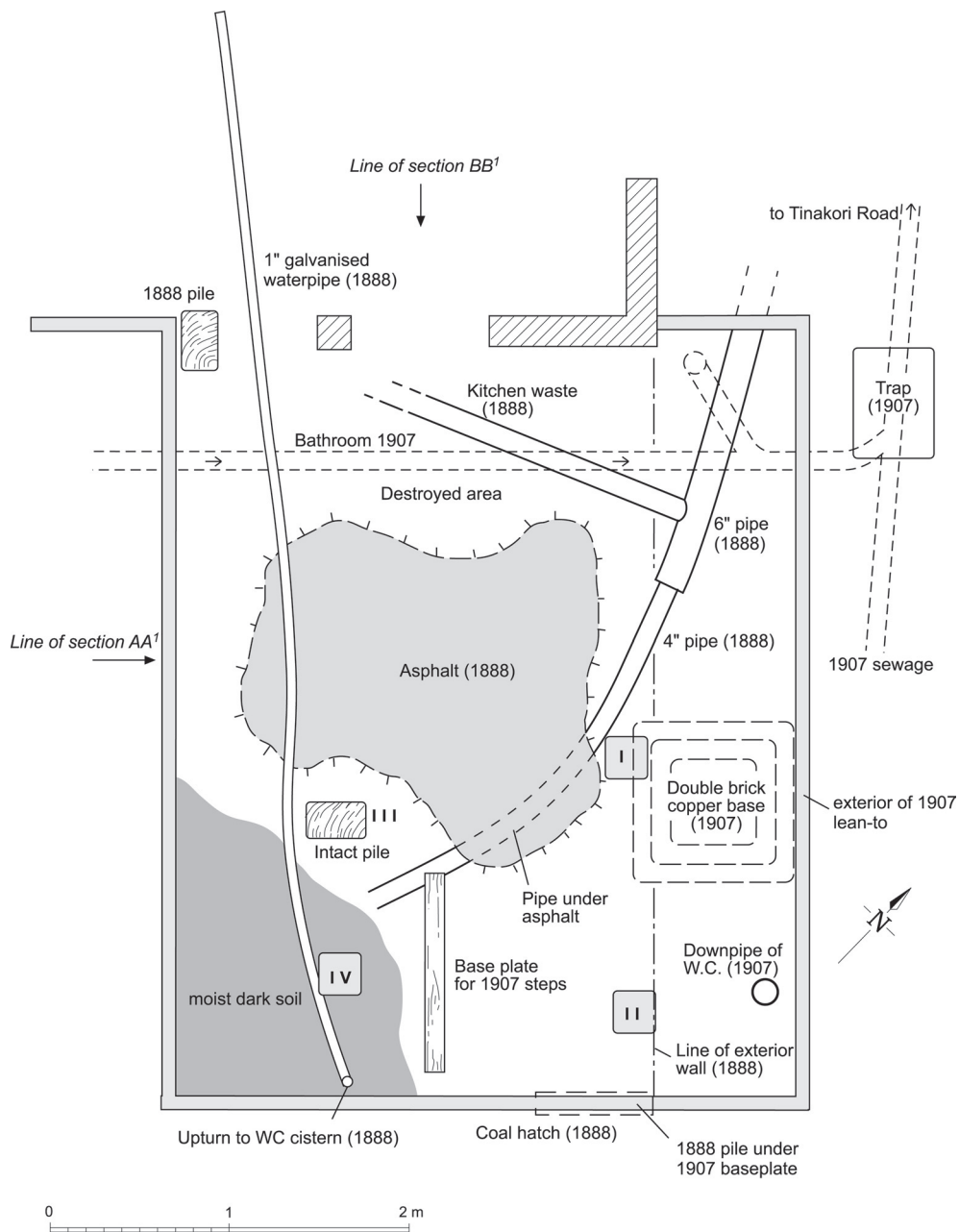


Figure 14: Plan of lean-to ground features as found at the start of investigations.

- A square double-brick base (approximately 90 x 90 cm) rising to beneath the joists: the base of the copper of 1907, not on the site of the 1888 copper.
- The asphalt pad, occupying an irregular area of about 2 x 1.7 m, slightly elevated above the surrounding fill and the driveway and grounds of the exterior.

- 4-inch and 6-inch (10 cm and 15 cm) ceramic drain pipes of 1886–1888, 1907, and possibly 1946, on the main house side of the asphalt. The installation of both the pipes and piles had disturbed the original 1888 asphalt area and ruined any stratigraphic associations between the main house and the lean-to.
- At the rear of the lean-to, the 1888 coal hatch. Some fragments of coal remained in the soil surface but most had been cleared out in an earlier phase of restoration.
- A 1-inch (25 mm) galvanised water pipe apparently running under the asphalt from the main house towards the south-eastern side.

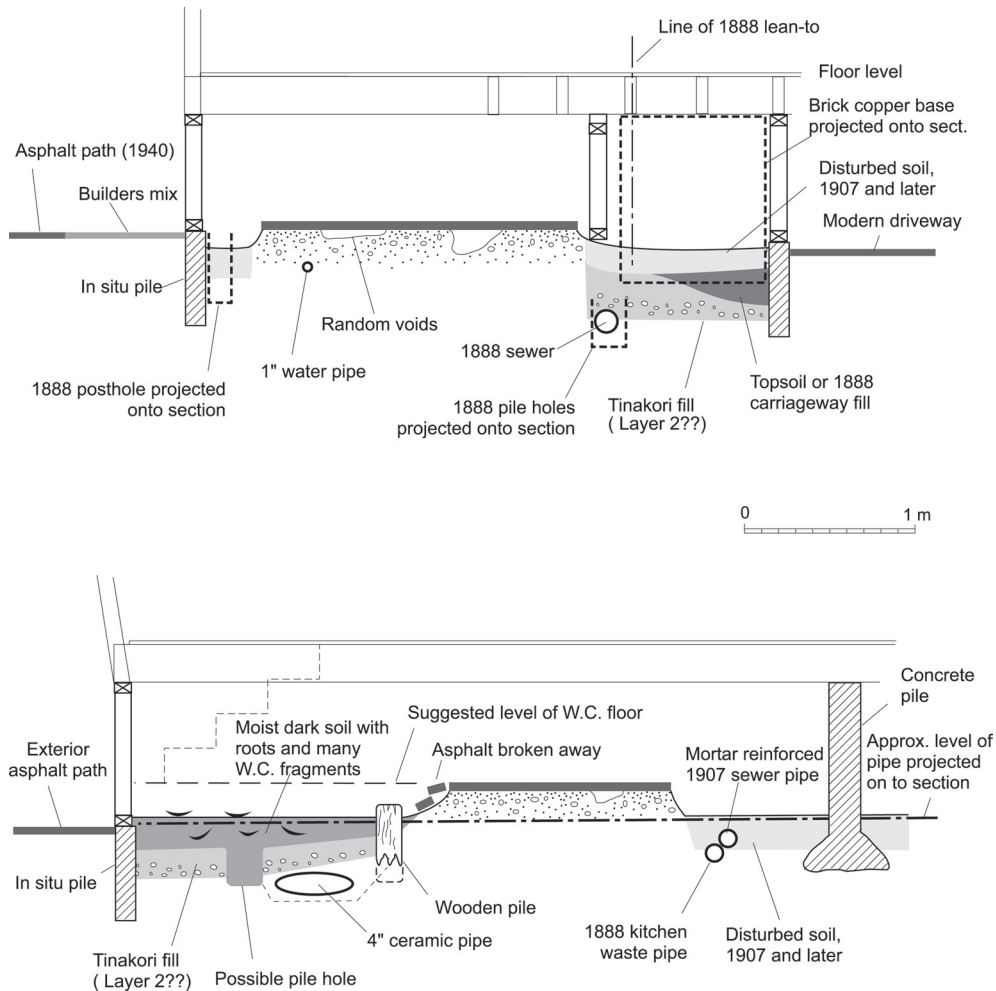


Figure 15: Sections beneath the lean-to. Upper: Section AA<sup>1</sup>. Lower: Section BB<sup>1</sup>.

### *Stratigraphy*

Two sections were of key importance (Fig. 15; see Fig. 14 for locations).

*Section AA<sup>1</sup>* ran from the south-west elevation through the asphalt north-east to the original (1887–1888) driveway fills lying within the current line of the north-east elevation of 1907.

Inside the south-western stud, the original piles (probably of the 1888 wall line) had been entirely removed, apart from one on the western corner of the lean-to (shown projected on to the section). The depression between the stud line and the asphalt had been heavily disturbed in the course of repiling. The asphalt consisted of pea gravels, overlying a lime mortar or clay-levelled Tinakori fill into which tar had percolated. This fill had many voids in it, presumably the result of fill settling under the stiff asphalt cap. In one or two places the cap had broken, but testing indicated that these breaks were not the result of structural features such as postholes.

Between the north-east edge of the asphalt and the current stud line on the driveway, the surface was much disturbed by earlier piling work and laying of sewage lines. However, enough survived to allow the detection of a horizontal change outside the putative line of the 1888 wall. A lens of mixed topsoil and drive-or carriage-way fill, quite firm, extended to the north-east elevation/base boards of 1907 and presumably out to the modern driveway. This would have been the base of the 1888–1907 driveway.

The line of the 1888 pile holes I and II is projected on to the section in the same position as the 1888 sewer pipe (which curves across the plan drawing and does not intersect the pile holes). Also projected on the section is the double-brick copper base of 1907.

*Section BB<sup>1</sup>* lies on a line under the current rear steps of the lean-to, and runs north-west to the major dividing wall into the original 1888 scullery (and 1907 kitchen).

On the north-west end, the section shows the heavily disturbed deposits around the 1907 sewer line (4-inch ceramic pipe) from the upstairs bathroom, which was reinforced with mortar. To the south-east, off the asphalt, the original surface sloped away down under the rear steps of 1907. Apart from roots, the soil contained many fragments of a glazed beige earthenware vessel, identified as fragments of the original 1888 WC. This soil also covered an extension of the 1-inch water pipe noted under the 1888 scullery. The pipe had a right-angle tap-and-die fitting on its end, the upturn being vertical and probably connected to the cistern attached to the wall above the WC of 1888.

Outside the building, sections were investigated at the foot of the rear steps (through modern asphalt). This revealed a sparse scatter of beach gravels lying on Layer 2 Tinakori fills approximately 15 cm below the asphalt surface. These gravels have not been found close to the lean-to elsewhere and suggest an external door opening, possibly for the WC (J. Beard 1994 pers. comm.). Fragments of the WC were found in dirty fill between the beach gravels and the asphalt.

### *Plan features*

The surviving asphalt is the original 1888 floor surface of the lean-to (Figs 14, 16). The line of the north-east wall of the 1888 lean-to was revealed by three pile holes, I, II, and the pile on the south-west elevation supporting the 1907 base plate timber under the coal hatch. These were recovered by excavating down through some 40 cm of loose, disturbed fill to the hard Tinakori fill surface, where they showed as squarish areas (approximately 30 x 30



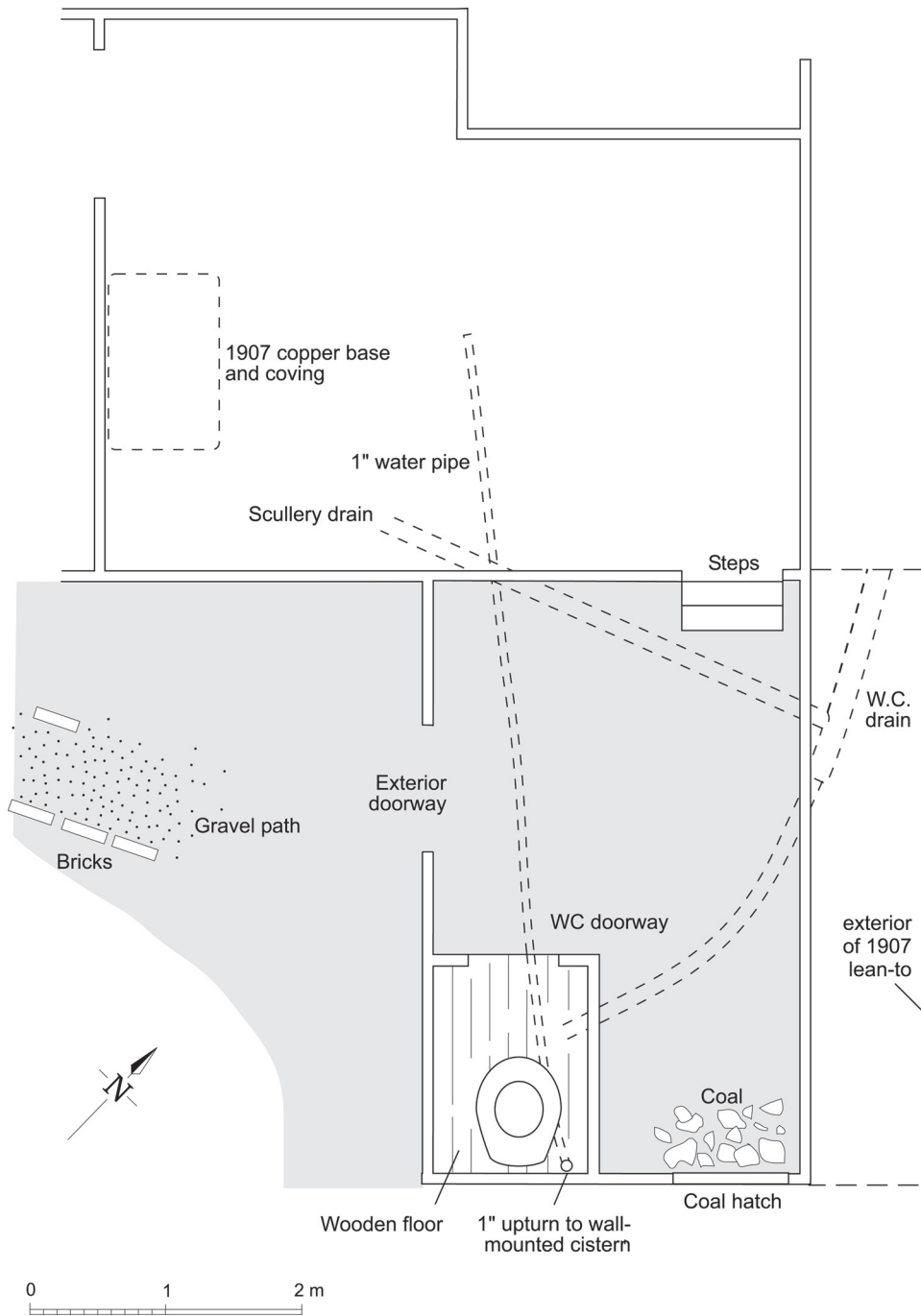


Figure 16: Lean-to features as they existed in 1888–1907, in the Beauchamp period (see also Fig. 11). The asphalted area is shaded.

cm in plan) of softer, greyer fill. Each was excavated to its base at about 1.70 m below the floorboard datum. Outside the pile holes was a horizontal change in stratigraphy from the disturbed Tinakori fill to the 1888 carriageway fill or topsoil. A further pile hole and pile (IV and III) were located in the southern corner of the lean-to, below the area of the present lean-to steps. Here also were found many fragments of the beige glazed earthenware of the original WC. Together these particular pile holes reveal the plan outline of the 1888 lean-to and an interior partition enclosing the WC. The exterior opening of the lean-to can only have been on the south-west elevation, not to the rear as in the current lean-to.

Of key importance in determining the location of the WC is the convergence of two sets of pipes: first, the 1-inch water pipe on section AA<sup>1</sup>; and second, the 4-inch ceramic pipe which curves south into this area and is seen in section BB<sup>1</sup>. Towards its northern end, the 4-inch ceramic pipe joined a 6-inch ceramic pipe. The latter also served as the outlet for the 1888 kitchen-waste ceramic pipe from the main house.

The arrangement of the 1-inch pipe upturn on the south-eastern wall, presumably to a cistern mounted on the wall above (see Fig. 14), and the plan position of the ceramic pipe make a connection to the WC problematic. The ceramic pipe should also go close to the south-east wall, where it would turn up to the WC, but would have to reach it by way of an S-curve. No trace of such an S-curve was found in the course of excavation although, clearly, that end of the pipe had been smashed and removed. Alternatively, the outlet of the WC may have been positioned forward rather than rearwards, as is illustrated in a contemporary catalogue of 1883 (Anon. 1991). This would remove the need for the ground-laid ceramic pipe to turn up at the rear wall.

#### *The water closet*

Although many nineteenth century privies were separate small sheds in the far corner of a yard, No. 25 had a WC enclosed within the original lean-to. The asphalt floor of the lean-to was at a lower level than the house, but still slightly above the outside ground level. There seems to have been just enough fall for the WC waste pipe to empty to the Tinakori main sewer. An *in situ* wooden pile (pile III) lay just south-east of the asphalt paving. Allowing for a 4-inch bearer and 1 inch thickness of floorboard, the level of a floor built on this pile would have been the same as the asphalt surface, suggesting that the pile was a structural member of wooden flooring adjacent to and contemporaneous with the asphalt. In the immediate vicinity of this pile, the fill was disturbed and powdery, while to the south-east, towards the base boards, a moist soil had formed. (The moisture comes from storm water from the yard seeping under rotten base boards and working its way across the ground surface.) The WC was therefore probably in a small tongue-and-groove match-lined room, 1.8 x 1.2 m in plan, partitioned off from the lean-to but with a wooden floor at the same level. The partitioned area almost certainly opened out into the lean-to so the family did not have to brave the elements to reach it. It had its own little area of wooden floor on wooden piles. The closet itself was of a mustard-coloured glossy glazed earthenware. It had a full ceramic skirt and inner bowl. The skirt was screwed to the floor. The cistern, presumably at head height, was probably on the south-east wall.

#### *Other features*

Partly lying over pile hole I, and therefore post-dating it, was the square brick column base for the 1907 copper. The 1907 reconstruction expanded the area covered by the lean-to

about 1 m to the north-east. As noted above, the brick column rose to full height through the joists to the floorboards where a false floor had been fitted after removal of the copper. The south-west and south-east sides of the brick base were demolished in the course of establishing the line of pile holes I and II. The column was double brick with a loose mortar debris fill.

In the column fill were two significant sets of finds: further small fragments of the glazed beige earthenware WC of 1888 and parts of the finished mortar cap of either the original scullery copper of 1888 or the 1907 copper surround, all of which had been thrown down into the cavity. The mortar cap of the brick base into which the copper fitted is approximately 90 cm square and 4 cm thick. The preferred explanation of these finds is that the brick base was filled with debris from the period 1887–1888, including fragments of the WC of that date. The mortar cap of 1907, as laid out, showed some 30 percent of the circular perimeter of the imprint of the original copper bowl, and some 50 percent of its square outline.

#### *Artefacts and house fittings*

Because the artefacts were recovered from fill or disturbed layers, their association with particular households at particular times cannot be fully determined. However, the WC fragments in the moist soil of the southern corner are of the 1888–1907 period, since this area is sealed by the low flight of steps above and had not been disturbed after 1907. Fragments of the WC recovered include parts of the stout rim with sunken holes for screwing to the floor, the 4-inch outlet pipe to the ceramic pipe system at the rear of fitting, and a larger fragment of the false outer skin of the lower supporting part. Further fragments found under the exterior asphalt include pieces of the false skirt and the rimmed outlet pipe with an internal diameter of 100 mm (4 inches) (matching that of the ceramic waste pipe).

Other significant items, potentially associated with the 1888 period, are glass gas or electric light mantles, in two patterns, and the lid of a child's china teapot. The gaslight mantles are in an art nouveau pattern, and consist of thin (less than 1 mm) moulded glass, one in a light pink, the other in a light blue or purple. Both are sand-blasted to diffuse the light, with the pattern formed by etching of the sand-blasted surface. The pattern on the blue is of ribbons with inlet rosettes and geometrics; the light pink is an elaborate rococo carved-flower effect. Both mantles had a maximum diameter of about 15 cm, and the blue had an open neck (top or bottom) of approximately 10 cm.

## DISCUSSION

The aims of the excavations had been (1) to work out some details of the plan of the structures and the surrounds of the house; (2) to set chronological limits to lenses of dirt and rubbish cast down around the house; and (3) to recover and document within the lenses, everyday utensils and household fittings of a particular family in late Victorian Wellington. The excavation perhaps has to be open to the criticism of Connah (1983) that historical archaeology has not achieved the profundity of purpose and method that has been developed for long time-scale archaeology in the prehistoric period.

The preparation of the section before construction of the house appears to have been hasty. The initial cuts forming Tinakori Road appear to have left raw fill deposited adjacent to the road line, but this had not completely levelled the adjoining sections. Surplus road fill was

deposited in the lowest eastern corner of the section, the site of the rear yard excavations. The fill had not consolidated at the time of building, so the rear of the house settled rapidly (hence the rough lean-to) and then more slowly over the century or so since its construction. The floor of the house museum today still has a distinct slope down to the south-east. Although it has been fully re-piled and corner walls installed, levelling the house to a true horizontal might have risked damage to some of the framing and also would be less true to the original house as built, where settling probably occurred quickly.

Initially, it had been assumed that only the rear yard had been filled to any depth, and that it may have been filled after the construction of the house. Had that been the case, the lenses of rubbish in the Layer 2 fill would most probably have been the occupation debris of the household—the Beauchamp household’s rubbish—in the form of “a broadcast sheet of refuse” (Deetz 1977: 125). In the rear yard, up to one metre below the surface of the Layer 2 fill, were lenses of household rubbish, china, fragments of cloth and leather shoes that were of the approximate period of the house’s first use. However, Layer 2 fill extends under the house, so much of this domestic rubbish must have been dumped in the course of filling immediately before the house was built. Victorian builders had what we would now regard as quite unscrupulous building practices. For example, London builders of the time would sell gravel excavated from a building site and backfill with rubbish, leading very quickly to unevenly settled houses (Flanders 2003: xlix).

#### THE BEAUCHAMP OCCUPATION HORIZON

The deep Layer 2 fills under the four corners of the house, and also the presence of matching pieces of two separate artefacts, indicate that the house was built on fill and that there was no separate phase of substantial filling at the rear after 1888. An 1886 photograph (New Zealand Railways E1105, *c.* 1886–1887) shows a pre-existing wooden fence on the gully edge of the section. The fence sloped down only slightly from the Nathans’ house on the corner of Hobson Street and Tinakori Road to the north-east with a slope similar to that existing today. The fills are, nevertheless, very close in date to the first occupation of the house and, even if not of Beauchamp origin, may be regarded in their own right as constituting an interesting late-Victorian household assemblage. The driveway fills must have been placed first on the section to form an apron just off the roadway, with more solid stony fills being deposited from this apron and, indeed, the building materials delivered on to it. As Deetz (1977: 15) notes, “Fill is an artefact itself, and intelligent study of it can be most instructive”.

Items which would stay in use for some time, such as cups or ornaments, can set a maximum age for deposits if the date of manufacture of the item is known. From the stratigraphy in relation to the house we have a minimum age for Layer 2 lens A, while the youngest items in Layer 2 lens A will set a maximum age for that layer. Linkages by way of similar and rejoined material in both the driveway fills and Layer 2 lens A at the rear of the house would indicate a close association in date. From Layer 2 lens A, a Lea & Perrins bottle with “A.C.B. Co.” on the base is of the period 1880–1910. Ritchie and Bedford (1983: 240) describe these bottles as dating to the period 1880–1920 (Layer 2 lens A has a minimum age of 1907). Although this particular sauce product has a very long history, the four or five specimens from both Layer 2 lens A and the front driveway cinders are identical, with the same “A.C.B. & Co.” embossing on the base, and would date to before 1900. They are consistent with an illustrated example of an 1892 bottle and further descriptions of such bottles in Stockton (1981: 61–65).

The hole-in-lid tin cans are of the period 1880–1900 (N. Ritchie pers. comm.; Ritchie and Bedford 1985). The base of a beige salt-glazed earthenware pie dish with oval-impressed manufacturer's mark on under-side "warranted fireproof, Sharpe, 011" probably pre-dates 1895. The dish would be from the manufacturers Sharpe Brothers & Co., of Swadlincote, Derbyshire, who added "Ltd" to their works after 1895 (Godden 1964: 570). Similar beige earthenware is found in both lens A and the front driveway fill, again reinforcing that link. Other materials which reinforce the chronological linkage between the front drive and the rear yard are:

- Maroon and yellow banded earthenwares with lithograph both under and over glaze, which occur in some volume and variety on the site.
- Maroon-banded with gilt china.
- Blue ribbon transfer-printed china.
- Cream-glazed china with embossed or appliqué blue grapes. It is very distinctive and quite common in New Zealand in the period 1880–1900 (Ritchie 1986: Plate 14e, Table 4.2, 91; Bedford 1986: Plate 6B).

In addition, fairly plain white earthenware ceramics are also common in Lens A. They include mugs or large cups, saucers, and dinner plates. The most common patterns are plain white china, with underglaze coloured bands and hairlines at the rim. These are typical of the late Victorian period (Ritchie 1986: 281–322). Some useful comparative material for dating this type of material is in the Mount Cook National Park, the site of the first Hermitage which was open from 1885 to 1910 (Ritchie 1985). The Mt Cook open-necked pickle bottles, salad oil and vinegar bottles, and the beer and wine bottles are very similar to those of No. 25 Tinakori Road. The hole-in-cap meat cans from the Layer 2A fill were common at Mt Cook, as might be expected; they were invented in 1875 (Ritchie and Bedford 1985: 100–101). This brings the age of lens 2A up to that date, and decreases the risk of lens 2A not being close in age to the occupation of 25 Tinakori Road. It might even be speculated that Harold Beauchamp in his business was responsible for the importation of the wares at both No. 25 and at The Hermitage.

Layer 1, the topsoil fill on top of Layer 2 stony fill, contains house-building materials, including a large volume of used nails, lead-head nails and ceramic tiles, presumed to be from the re-worked service areas of the house and the first lean-to. The materials generally indicate the period after the substantial re-working of the house in 1907, when the lean-to was constructed in its present-day form, up to the post-World War II period when the lean-to and the main house were again substantially re-worked, converting the house into two flats. The building materials and household waste in this layer may be securely attributed to the house in its original 1888 form. They include a telephone lightning arrester.

#### LIFE IN THE BEAUCHAMP HOUSEHOLD

The northern end of Tinakori Road was an undeveloped part of late nineteenth-century Wellington. The first houses were built on farmland with leasehold sections. This probably reflected the lack of capital expenditure in this period in New Zealand history. The gully was filled with tree fern and native shrubs into which macrocarpas were soon planted. Karaka trees existed on the edges of the gullies, perhaps the only sign of earlier Maori settlement. Pūriri were planted on neighbouring sections. The initial cuts forming Tinakori Road had left raw fill adjacent to the road but this had not completely levelled the adjoining

sections. Domestic rubbish from the nearby houses would have been dumped and spread around to make a working surface for builders. After the Beauchamps' house was built, the section was still muddy, and the ashes and cinders from the coal range, along with some domestic rubbish were spread on the driveway to firm the surface. From the fill layers, we know that much rubbish including coal range debris, broken cups and glass were dumped nearby or into the gully. Chickens may have ranged in the area, and horse-drawn carriages had access down the drive to the service areas at the back.

The tablewares of the household were, on the whole, plain, with some blue or green transfer-printed wares, grape-appliqué ware and banded cups and mugs and dinner services. The kitchen had a coal range. Large crocks and pie dishes were in use in the same area. Food consisted of roasts of mutton, soups made from beef bones, and the occasional meal of rock oysters. Meat dishes and, perhaps, meat pies were served with a generous dressing of spicy sauces such as Lea & Perrins. Rather large cups of tea were taken, and beer, wine and spirits drunk in moderate quantities. The cast-iron fireplaces and the coving of the coal range had blue and brown glazed tile surrounds. The principal bedrooms were supplied with washbowls and chamber pots in simple colour-banded decorative styles.

The decorative styles of the house, particularly the wallpaper and the turned uprights of the balustrades, show a strong Japanese influence (*Japonisme*, *Japoniserie*). It is reflected also in some of the better-quality porcelain recovered, including a netsuke China mouse, possibly a child's plaything. The excavations have therefore had some success in partially establishing both house fittings and artefacts in use in the first household at No. 25 Tinakori Road. They more fully document housewares in general use in late-Victorian Wellington, which are not necessarily associated with this particular household.

The promised healthy life heralded by the discovery in early Victorian times of antiseptics and formal sewage systems was slow in coming to the outskirts of Wellington township. Quack medicines such as "Barry's Tricopherous", were in use, besides other more practical remedies dispensed in pre-calibrated bottles, such as indigestion remedies or opium-based preparations.

The section and house were cramped in area, and an opportunity was taken late in the century to level and make better use of the rear of the section nearest the gully. A tree fern on the edge of the gully was felled, and surplus road fill deposited in the lowest eastern corner of the site. The fill dumped before 1888 had settled. The outflow of sewage from the WC may have failed. In 1907, when the property had been rented out, the restrictions and discomfort were eased by the addition of extra bathrooms, toilets, a re-working of the kitchen and a new lean-to with an elevated wooden floor and new WC.

The several generations of children who were born or grew up at 25 Tinakori Road had a few prime playing areas. These were by the front of the house in the driveway, and on the gravel paving at the rear of the house. They had ceramic dolls, a ceramic mouse, marbles, slates and slate pencils, and many sets of dolls' tea services, some of Oriental origin.

The ground filled late in the nineteenth century also served to extend the drive. A garage for a vehicle was erected in the 1950s. Cars were repaired and builders' rubbish was thrown into the sloping back end of the yard. This gully area continued to be used as a dumping ground for the local community, the mess happily masked by flourishing tree ferns and macrocarpas.

## THE HOUSE IN KATHERINE MANSFIELD'S PUBLISHED WORKS

There are references to features of No. 25 Tinakori Road in various of Katherine Mansfield's stories. She herself is arguably present as 'KM', 'Cass' or 'Kezia'. The stories that have greatest relevance to the archaeology are *The Aloe*, *Prelude* and *A Birthday*. The first two are differing versions of the one story. Besides general references to the meanness and the darkness of the house, there are references to its setting. There is a description of dumping rubbish in the gully at the rear of the yard:

He looked down at the row of garden strips and back yards. The fence of these gardens was built along the edge of a gully, spanned by an iron suspension bridge, and the people had a wretched habit of throwing their empty tins over the fence into the gully... .

Ward (1928: 234) confirms the practice of throwing rubbish into the gully, and it is understood that a great volume of rubbish was removed in the early 1960s when the motorway was constructed. There are other yard references:

Burnell's [i.e. Beauchamp's] yard was small and square with flower beds on either side. [See the front garden outline in Fig. 7.] All down one side arum lilies aired their rich beauty, on the other side there was nothing but a straggle of what the children called "grandmother's pin cushions", a dull, pinkish flower... . (O'Sullivan 1982: 29)

The general arrangement of the lean-to, scullery and kitchen is clear, as is the step up from the asphalted level to the scullery. There is no specific reference to the lean-to, though.

Slowly she walked up the back steps and through the scullery into the kitchen. Nothing was left in it but a lump of gritty yellow soap in one corner of the kitchen window-sill and a piece of flannel stained with a blue bag in another. The fireplace was choked up with rubbish. (O'Sullivan 1982: 33)

"The fireplace... choked up with rubbish" suggests the kind of debris with mixed cinders and domestic rubbish found laid on the driveway and quite common in the grounds of many Victorian houses in Wellington. This walk up the backsteps was in fact from the first lean-to and scullery (with WC in one corner) into the house proper.

Vera Margaret, Charlotte Mary & KM were cleaning out the doll's house... . They were being systematic thorough little souls and their cheeks were flaming, their hands aching with exertion. 'It's the chimneys' said KM polishing these articles with tremendous verve. 'All the dust seems to fly into them'. 'On them' corrected C.M. in her careful cool little voice... . (from 'The Tale of the Three'; Boddy 1996: 55).

Vera and Charlotte were Katherine Mansfield's older sisters, with whom she would have played on the driveway and in the backyard.

The details of the fittings in the house are clear in some particulars. There is a reference to the single flush toilet. The Nathan children (the Samuel Josephs in the stories) were disdainful:

“You’ve only got one w. at your place,” said Miriam scornfully. “We’ve got two at ours. One for men and one for ladies. The one for men hasn’t got a seat.” “Hasn’t got a seat!” cried Kezia. “I don’t believe you.” (O’Sullivan 1982: 31)

Here are the ingredients of colonial class-aspirations and rivalry, and a hint of the breaking of taboos. The archaeology with its clear indication of the single WC’s location and the kitchen is relevant—indicating a pinching in the money spent on the house.

## CONCLUSIONS

This programme of excavation was done within the constraints of the restoration programme. The results were fed directly into the restoration and also into the ongoing interpretation of the place. Particularly notable results were the proof of the filling of the section, which may have led to the construction in 1888 of a temporary lean-to, and its failure before 1907, and the mapping of the inferred plan of the 1888 lean-to. The 1888 lean-to had been the most difficult and challenging of the investigations needed for a satisfactory understanding of the house in which Mansfield was born. The deposit of fill (Layer 2 and its lenses) came from off the property and artefacts within it are not of the Beauchamp household. Artefacts impressed into the original surface of Layer 2 which have become imbedded or worked into Layer 1 (modern topsoil) are probably of the Beauchamp period. Children’s toys in the cinders which covered the driveway (such as the netsuke mouse) are almost certainly of the Beauchamp era since they are sealed beneath early asphalt layers created over the cinders. In the rear yard, household fittings in Layer 1 come from the house of the Beauchamp era and include window fittings and cast iron coal range pieces.

Under the house and in the front steps of 1946, the excavations assisted by architect James Beard have been particularly successful in establishing the decorative form of the chimney heads, and some details of the dining, scullery and kitchen areas from 1888 and 1907. The plan of the lean-to with its enclosed WC in the south corner and its asphalt flooring at ground level and the demonstration of a possible opening to the yard on the south-west elevation are also important results.

Some of the artefacts and features discovered can be related to Katherine Mansfield’s stories in a general way: these include references to house fittings recovered in the course of the excavation. This was not an objective of the original excavations; it would have been too much to hope for.

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#### APPENDIX 1 LIST OF UNPUBLISHED EXCAVATION REPORTS

The following reports are on file with the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society.

Archaeological investigations for Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society, May 1987. [Includes summary of the artefact catalogue.]

Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Catalogue 1987 (handwritten).

Lean-to archaeology, Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, June– November 1993 (with addendum October 1994).

Backyard excavations, Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, October 1994.

Excavations beneath service areas, 25 Tinakori Road, Thorndon, for Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society, June 1988.

Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, more backyard excavations, January 1996–August 1997.

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