

Ahuriri 1970



Hospital Tce to Westshore



Bridge from West Quay to Westshore



Looking towards NSC 1950s

Ahuriri is said to mean "a rushing out of water" and refers to the channel through which lagoon waters flowed. Ahuriri covers 0.98 km² and had an estimated population of 1,080 as of June 2024. Captain Barney Rhodes established a trading base in 1839. The first white child born in Napier was Mary Jane Villers, 19 Nov 1851.



Tareha survived the massacre at the Battle of Te Pakake fought near the Iron Pot in 1824. Later recognised as one of the five principal chiefs of Heretaunga after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, Tareha was a central figure in the Ahuriri land purchase of November 1851 and became the first Maori Member of Parliament for Eastern Maori in the late 1860s.



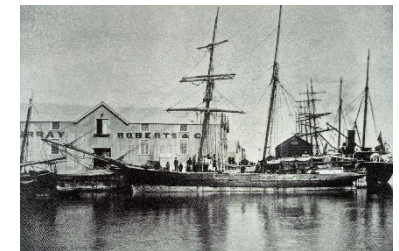
In the 1840s, Alex Alexander and Anketel established a pork salting and bacon curing factory on the Eastern Spit (Port Ahuriri). Their business catered primarily to passing whaling ships and was supplied wild boar carcasses by local Māori. The factory, along with an abattoir built on the Western Spit in the late 1880s, released waste directly into the waters, creating an overpowering stench. earned the nickname "Perfume Point". Napier constructed a sewage outfall at the mouth of the Ahuriri Estuary in 1915. It was intended to eliminate health concerns associated with septic tanks, problems persisted. The plant operated until the early 1970s.



In the background, the North British Freezing Works on the Western Spit, which closed in 1926, can be seen. In the foreground, lighters transported goods between larger ships anchored offshore in the Roadstead. The boat on the left, Coralie, is accompanied by a tugboat used for towing lighters. On the right, the Result, owned by Robert Beresford, sits beside the sailing ship Piri, which delivered ammunition and explosives for Noble-ICI. Next to them is the trawler Ohinemuri, owned by George Novell, which later broke up near Westshore. Behind them on Nelson Quay, a shed that was destroyed in the 1931 earthquake stands.



The historic Customs House, Built-in 1895, this was the third Customhouse at Port Ahuriri, served until 1953, now a museum with a collection of old photographs of buildings, boats, events and characters of Napier's original port. One of the iron tryposts used by European whalers in the early 19th century for rendering whale oil can be seen outside the Customs House.



Opposite Paddy's Bar, the small Royal Navy destroyer HMS Veronica was berthed on the fateful day of 3 February, 1931. The ship's radio operator transmitted the first report of the earthquake disaster to the outside world while the rest of the company assisted in emergency rescue work in the devastated and burning town.



Overlooking the Scapa Flow boat harbour in Napier, the Ahuriri Tavern—affectionately known as the "Roundhouse"—was constructed in just three weeks in 1967. Designed by Len Hoogerbrug of Hastings Architecture, it was built using a pioneering pre-cast concrete method by S. Romanes and Son, incorporating 160 cubic yards of concrete (280 tons) and 24 tons of steel. The concrete sections were steam-cured for rapid strength development, transported by L.E. Elms and Sons, and assembled on-site like a puzzle.

The tavern was part of Leopard Brewery's plan to transition into extended bar hours following a September 1967 referendum, transferring the Ahuriri Hotel's licence to the new establishment. The 10,000-square-foot (\$200,000) structure opened in August 1967, featuring a unique circular design with three first-floor bars: public bar, Iron Pot bar, and lounge bar. A striking feature was the Crow's Nest, a spiral-staircase-accessed upper-level bar with a central servery and surrounding couches, offering views of the activity below.