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## Marsland Hill

18th century

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**Themes in development:** Maori, early settlement, land wars, cultural and social, civic.

**Cultural heritage values:** historical, architectural, technical, symbolic, rarity, townscape and group values.

**Registered:** Category I on the New Plymouth District Planning Scheme (as Marsland Hill Reserve).

Owner	Title	Use
Various owners	Secs 2341, 2342, 2459 & 2460 Town of New Plymouth - sec 2459 Marsland Hill Historic Reserve Sec 2460 Community Buildings Reserve ID: 015530 [observatory]	Open public space, religious, residential uses

### **Description**

Marsland Hill is a prominent hill rising above and to the south of the central city. It is bounded by the Huatoki Stream to the south, Robe Street to the west, St Mary's Church and grounds to the north, and Brougham Street to the east. The hill is tree-covered around its flanks and is open grassed space on top, with various monuments, and seats for the enjoyment of spectacular views of the city and surrounding country.

### **History**

In earlier times, the hill was a pa site called Pukaka, established by Taranaki iwi from the south during one of their periodic and successful raids into this Ngati Te Whiti stronghold. It later reverted to vacant Wahi-tapu once Taranaki were expelled by military resurgent Ngati Te Whiti. In European times, the hill was levelled and became the site of military barracks and a refuge for New Plymouth residents.

### **Statement of Significance**

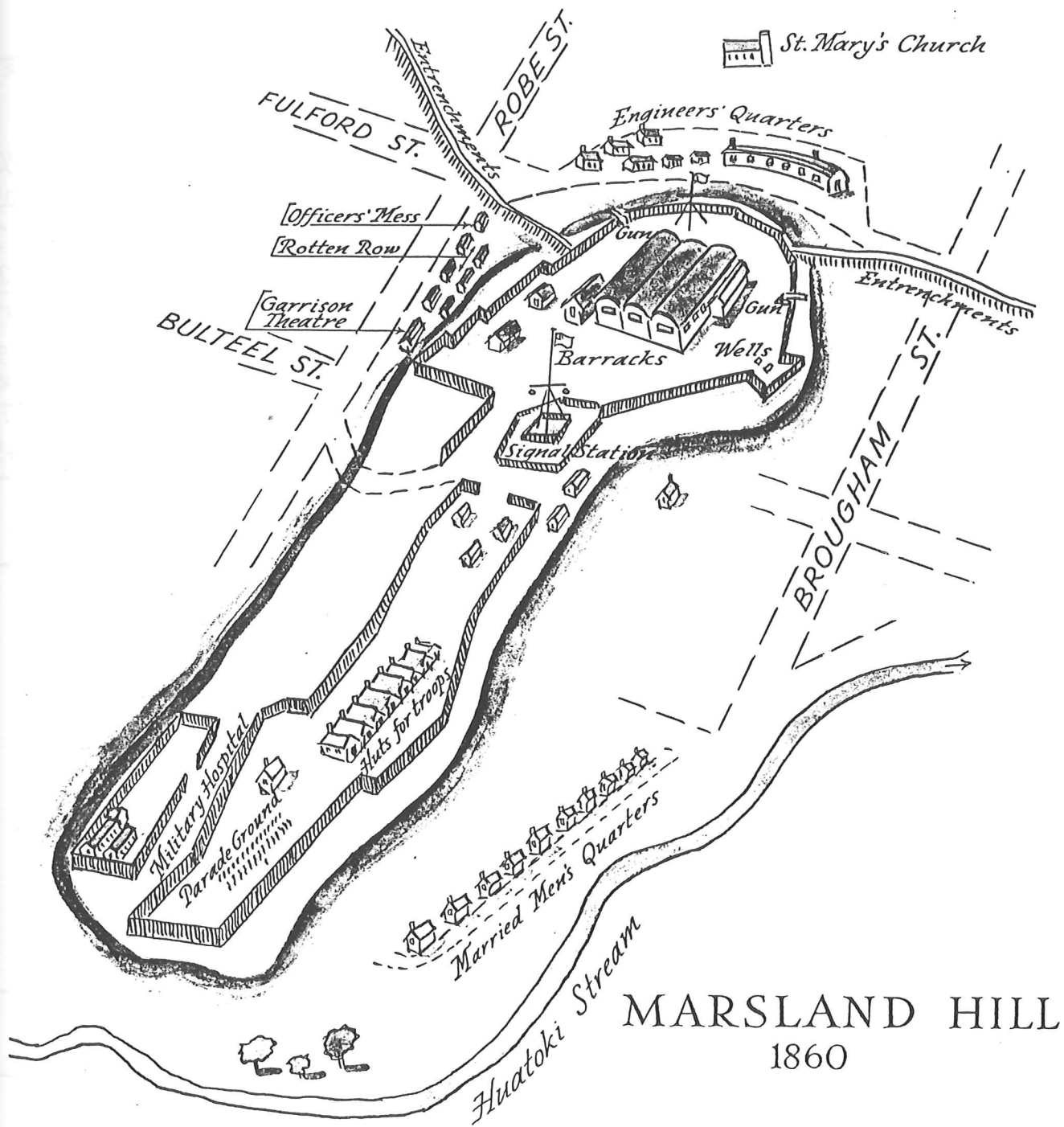
Now viewed by both Ngati Te Whiti and neighbouring Taranaki iwi as Wahi-tapu, a site of remembered conflict where opposing dead were committed together into this sacred earth of Pukaka. Its European historical significance relates to its military use during the land wars. Since that time, it has served as a green open space in the central city, with significant recreational and aesthetic values. Marsland Hill is prominent in views looking south from the city, and particularly along Egmont Street, providing a green backdrop in these views.

### **Elements of Significance**

Open space and mature trees.

Memorial, item M1; seats, item M2; base of memorial, item M3; memorial seat, item M4; Kibby carillion, item M5; Charles Brown's grave, item M6.

Remnants of earth works.



Sketch of Marsland Hill, 1860

From *Historic New Plymouth*, A B Scanlon, 1968. See also Volume I.