



Beaconsfield, 12 Lincoln Street

1880/81

Use	Residential	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Timber, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-402-00	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Legal Description	Pt Secs 45-47 Town of Patea	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	L1		

Description

Beaconsfield is a ten roomed, two storey house with a Verandahhh three sides. Arthur Fryer, a local Hawera historian describes the house as 'an Italianate house. Its origins lie in the architectural tastes of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who chose that style for the rebuilding of the royal home of Osborne on the Isle of Wight. That was in 1845. Elements of the style were copied all over the world. Big houses had a tower of some Italian villas. That is the origin of the two storey porch on the Bakers home.

History

On 21 September 1880 Captain Charles Allan Wray placed an advertisement in the Patea County Mail which read: "*Tenders will be received until noon on Monday, the 4th October next, for the erection of a ten roomed house. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Plans and specifications may be seen on application to the undersigned. C A Wray.*" Mr F Searling was the successful tenderer who built the house. Captain Wray named the house Beaconsfield, possibly after Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), one-time Prime Minister of England granted the title Lord Beaconsfield by Queen Victoria in 1876.

Captain Charles Allen Wray was a prominent Patea citizen, and was the Resident Magistrate of the Patea District (Patea to Normanby). He had a long family background in the Royal Navy and was himself in the Indian Navy from 1856 until 1863, when it was abolished. In 1864 he arrived in New Zealand and was a member of Percy Smith's surveying parties in the Patea area in 1865. In 1868 he volunteered to serve in the Colonial Forces.

In January 1869 he was appointed acting quartermaster at Patea for a year, until the post was abolished and he became merely storekeeper. In November he was promoted to rank of Captain and appointed Commissioner of Confiscated Lands, and in 1871 was given other government jobs including paymaster. However none of these provided much salary for him and he applied for a raise in consideration of his responsibilities. He progressed as a local businessman and a respected citizen, becoming Chairman of the Patea Education Board in 1876. As Commissioner of Lands he was in a good position to apply for 'reserves' for the Education Board and Harbour Board which brought in good rents in later years. Charles Wray left Patea in 1888. These items are on display at the South Taranaki Museum. He returned to England in 1909 where he died in 1920.

The next resident was Mr H F Christie. He was the manager of the Bank of Australasia. He rented the house until 1897 (Patea Mail says between 1879-82 Beaconsfield was used as hospital during this time) when Dr G G Gillon (MB, CM) rented the house and used it as a private hospital. On 12 January 1901 the property was sold to May E Palmer who in turn sold it to Annie Death on 18 February 1911. On 9 August 1917, she sold the property to Mr E F H Hemingway, proprietor of the Patea & Waverley Press, who in turn sold it to Daniel Quickenden, proprietor of the Central Hotel. From then the house was tenanted as two flats, using the common bathroom on the landing.

The Quickenden Estate sold Beaconsfield in 1982 to the present owners, who have restored the house as nearly as possible to the original design and character as money and time have allowed.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Mr F Searling

Sources

Jim Baker, Present Owner and Member of the Patea Heritage Working Party

Arthur Fryer, *A Little Bit of History*

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Date

January 2000

Minor amendment made November 2002.

