

TE HENUI

V I C A R A G E



NEW PLYMOUTH

NEW ZEALAND

Te Henui Vicarage

earlier also known as The Parsonage, is one of the oldest surviving buildings in New Zealand. It is maintained as a heritage feature by the New Plymouth District Council and is now the headquarters and gallery of the New Plymouth Potters' Society Inc.

History

In 1843, Bishop George Augustus Selwyn moved to establish the Anglican church in New Plymouth by appointing the Reverend William Bolland as the first vicar of the parish. The Bollands, given a choice of residence, selected an existing sandstone building overlooking the Henui River, belonging to Captain J.C. Cooke.



Reverend William Bolland. (1820 - 1847)

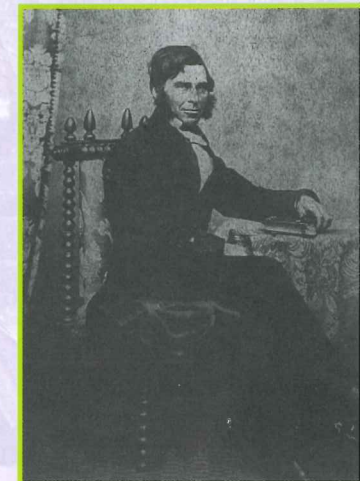
In August 1845, Cotton again visited the Bollands' but, by this time, the present beachstone (andesite) extension had been erected. Selwyn's architect, Frederick Thatcher, is thought to have had at least some input into the design of the addition. As part of his plans for the establishment of a self-contained mission station, Bolland soon erected temporary buildings for an infant school, hospital and hostel for Maori needing accommodation when in New Plymouth. While it did not come to pass, he intended these to eventually be replaced by more permanent stone structures.

Plan and elevation of Te Henui Vicarage, by Edwin Harris, N. Z. Company draughtsman, 1846.

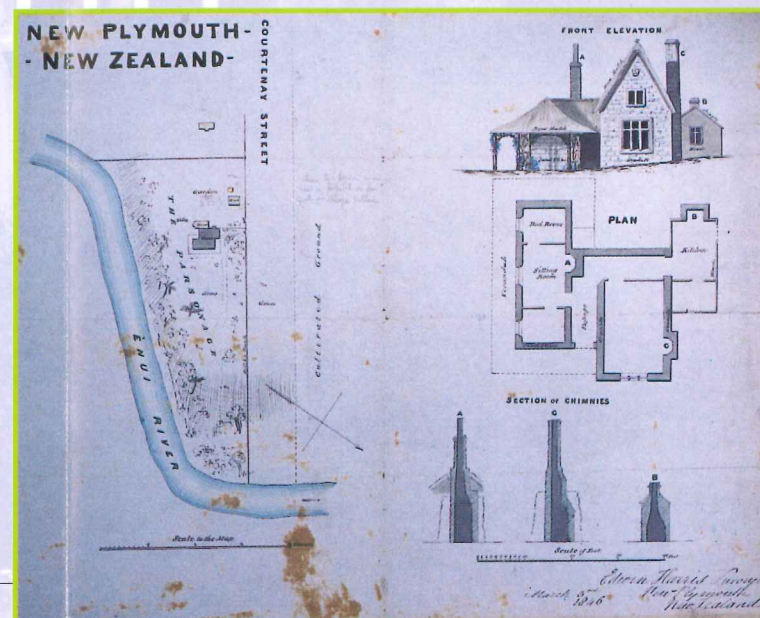
William Bolland's ministry in New Plymouth was to be a short-lived one as he died of typhoid in May 1847 and his widow, Jane and family soon after returned to England.

Bolland was replaced by his cousin, Reverend Henry Govett, and thus began a near-legendary half-century tenure as New Plymouth's Anglican vicar and archdeacon.

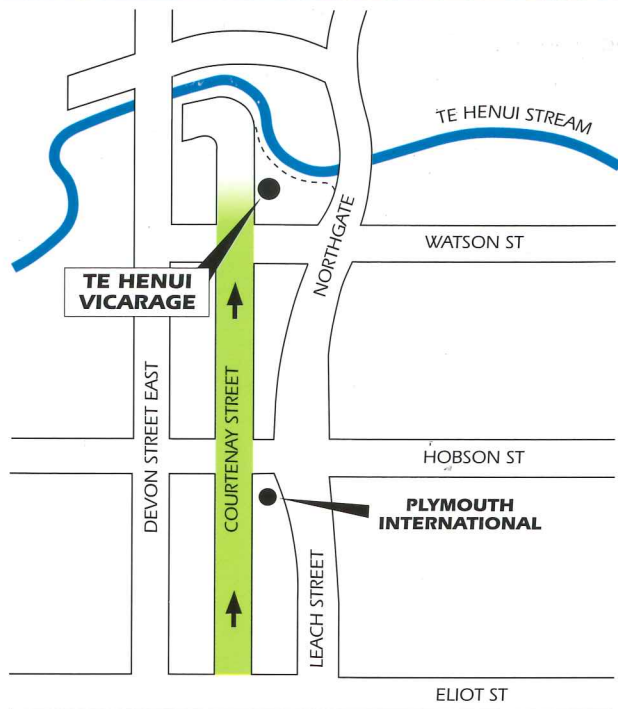
Govett and his family then lived in the complex until the outbreak of the Taranaki war in 1860.



Archdeacon Henry Govett (1819 - 1903)



How to get to Te Henui Vicarage



Opening Hours New Plymouth Potters' Society Gallery and Workshop 290 Courtney Street

Saturday and Sunday 1 - 4pm

For further information:

Taranaki Museum

Ariki Street, New Plymouth

Ph (06) 758 9583

Fax (06) 758 7427

or

Customer Service Centre

New Plymouth District Council

Ph (06) 759 6060



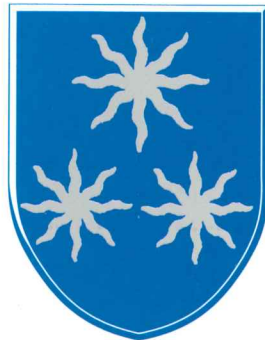
NEW PLYMOUTH
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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History

In 1848, Selwyn described the vicarage,

".... picture to yourself an irregular stone building, roofed with genuine thatch, with shady verandahs overrun with creepers, and a grassy bank in front sloping down to the sparkling stream of the Henui, fed most plentifully when it most needs supply, by the snows of Taranaki."



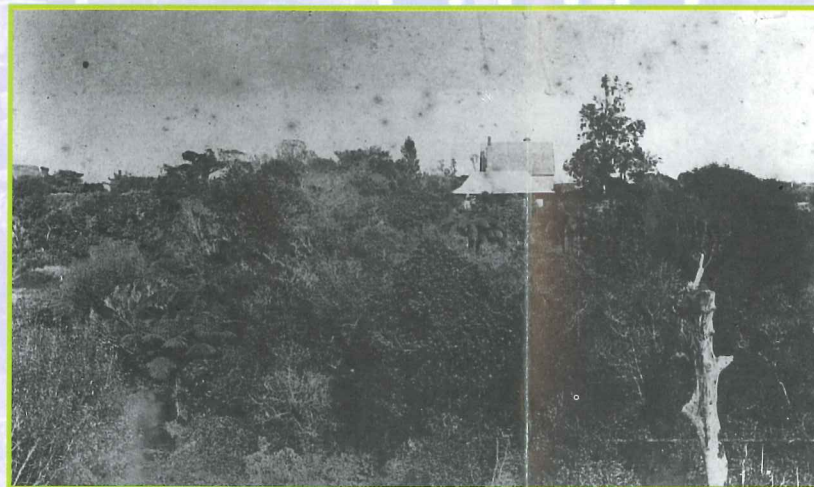
Carved in stone under the northern gable is the unofficial Coat-of-Arms of the Anglican Diocese of New Zealand, established in 1841. In 1949, the Arms were granted to the Diocese of Auckland.

The Henui Vicarage remained in church ownership as a residence for employees or as rental accommodation until bought by the New Plymouth City Council in 1950. One long-term tenant, Sydney Phipps and his family, occupied it for some 50 years from 1904.

After a major restoration by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, which included strengthening the stone walls with a concrete lining, Te Henui Vicarage was opened, in 1973, as the headquarters and gallery of the New Plymouth Potters' Society.



Te Henui Vicarage and its outbuildings - hospital, school and hostel - in 1849.
(Watercolour by Henry Maplestone, Alexander Turnbull Library)



The vicarage complex in the 1870s. Cooke's original house is in the foreground and the shingle-roofed vicarage beyond.

The dark area on the roof was, for many years, thought to be a painted image of a cloaked figure with a cross; a tapu sign which prevented the building's destruction during the First Taranaki War of 1860 - 61. Recent examination of the original shows it to be the shadow of a second chimney.