

NORTH FROM THE BRIDGE

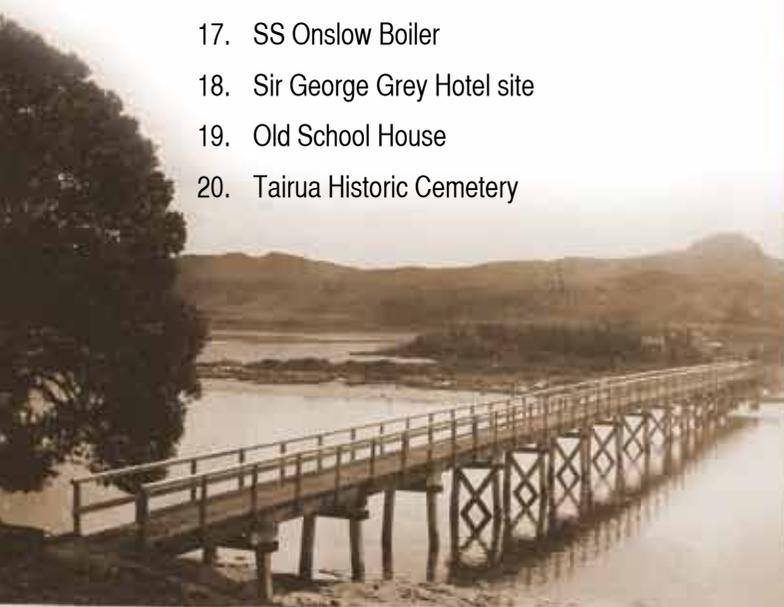
1. Old Cinema site
2. Hornsea House
3. Cowshed Shop
4. The Causeway
5. Archaeological Site
6. Tairua's Oldest Building
7. SS Ngoiro
8. The Old Mill

SOUTH FROM THE BRIDGE

9. Pepe Bridge
10. Tairua Community Hall
11. Kauri Slab Reclamation
12. Tairua's Timber Mills site
13. Beach's Camping Ground site
14. Tairua Wharf
15. Dairy Company site
16. Cundy's Corner site
17. SS Onslow Boiler
18. Sir George Grey Hotel site
19. Old School House
20. Tairua Historic Cemetery



Although some of the buildings illustrated here are open to the public, many are best viewed from the street. Please respect the privacy of owners at places not open to public.



# TAIRUA HISTORY TRAIL



1. OLD CINEMA SITE: – sponsored by the Galloway family  
The “Plaza” was built here in the early 1960’s. It could seat 250 people, showed movies every night in summer and operated here for over 20 years.

Photo: 1963



2. HORNSEA HOUSE: – sponsored by the Cory-Wright Family Trust  
This family home was built in 1908 by the Cory-Wright family and was called Hornsea House in the 1960’s when Doreen established a bed and breakfast. Only members of the Cory-Wright family have ever lived here.

Photo: c.1924



3. COWSHED SHOP: – sponsored by Rosie Hayward, Josephine Feasey & Doreen Wernham  
Harold Cory-Wright built his cowshed here in the mid 1930’s but the family sold their dairy herd in 1955 and in 1967 it was converted into a unique crafts shop which was very popular for nearly ten years.

Photo: 1970



4. THE CAUSEWAY: – sponsored in loving memory of Albert and Yolande Browne  
The original causeway was built by Harold Cory-Wright in the 1950’s to get material for building Hornsea and Manaia Roads. The present construction dates from 1966.

Photo: c.1960



5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE: – sponsored by the Oceana Club  
This site has been excavated by archaeologists since 1958. In 1964 it revealed a small Polynesian fish-lure dated to be one of the oldest artefacts ever found in New Zealand.

Photo: 1964



6. TAIRUA’S OLDEST BUILDING: – sponsored by Pacific Paradise Ltd  
This building began life in 1868 as the Kauri Mill Store and soon after included a Post Office. Later it was converted into a shop by Charles Beach and became the camp store in 1948 before moving to this site.

Photo: c.1990



7. SS “NGOIRO”: – sponsored by Pacific Paradise Ltd  
The SS “Ngoiro” was built in 1913 to serve St Heliers Bay in Auckland. She was refitted as a floating restaurant in 1984 and arrived in Tairua in March 1999.

Photo: 1999



8. THE OLD MILL: – sponsored by Pacific Paradise Ltd  
A shell lime mill was brought here from Miranda by Harold Cory-Wright. Much later the abandoned mill was converted into a youth hostel before finally becoming a restaurant.

Photo: 1961



9. PEPE BRIDGE: – sponsored by Pam Langham  
The bridge was first erected in 1911 by six men over six weeks. It was widened in 1926 and the present reinforced concrete bridge was built in 1943.

Photo: 1911



10. TAIRUA COMMUNITY HALL: – sponsored by Peter Carverhill and family  
The hall was constructed in 1932 by local volunteers using mainly native timber collected from the beach. It started life essentially as an unlined shed.

Photo: 1961



11. KAURI SLAB RECLAMATION: – sponsored by Lance Bedford  
Waste (slabwood and sawdust) from the milling of giant kauri logs was used to reclaim an area for stacking and drying cut timber which covered over 3 hectares.

Photo 1887



12. TAIRUA’S TIMBER MILLS SITE: 1877-1908 – Tairua History Group (2012)  
In 1864 Richard Seccombe built the first mill in Tairua just upstream from the present wharf. A second and much larger mill was built nearby in 1878.

Photo: c.1880



13. BEACH’S CAMPING GROUND SITE: – sponsored by the Baird family  
The camp was opened in 1948 by Mary Beach and remained under her sole management until it was sold in 1975. Mary Beach had owned the land and store since 1923.

Photo: c.1950



14. TAIRUA WHARF: – sponsored by Garry Maitland Lawson  
Originally a mill wharf, it could berth vessels up to 50 tons. It has had many disasters over the years and has been rebuilt several times.

Photo: c.1920



15. DAIRY COMPANY SITE: – sponsored by Roger and Patricia Turner  
In 1922 machinery from a closed-down factory in Northland was shipped to this site and the factory served the 25 suppliers in the district for 27 years.

Photo: c.1930



16. CUNDY’S CORNER SITE: – sponsored by Isabel and the late Ian Mace and family  
Cundy’s Cozy Camp started here in 1949 and was also the site of the town’s Post Office until 1959. Selling ice cream etc. the corner became the town’s focal point.

Photo: c.1950



17. SS ONSLOW BOILER: – sponsored by the Brown family  
This relic belonged to a wooden steam launch built in 1889 in Dunedin. She came to Tairua in 1903 to tow logs across the bar, was damaged by fire in 1907 and retired in 1911.

Photo: 1889



18. SIR GEORGE GREY HOTEL SITE: (1892-2004) – sponsored by Rosemary Langham  
In 1892 when it was granted a license, the hotel was located ‘around the Pepe’ and had no road access. It was shifted here in 1936, destroyed by fire in 1941. A temporary bar “the tin shed” was used from 1942 to 1951.

Photo: c.1940



19. OLD SCHOOL HOUSE: – sponsored by the Mason family  
Originally owned by the Mill, the building had major renovations in 1883 then, in 1892, the Education Board formalised a 44-year lease for the 0.4 hectare site.

Photo: 1926



20. TAIRUA HISTORIC CEMETERY: – sponsored by Graeme and Marguerite McDonald  
People were buried here from the late 1860’s, but official records show that approximately 125 burials had taken place between 1876 and 1944.

Photo: 2012