Queen Mary Hospital Site
Hanmer Springs

An Appraisal of Archaeological Values within the
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1 Summary

This report is a summary of the archaeological values of the Queen Mary Hospital site in Hanmer Springs, North Canterbury. It is based on a two-day site visit that took place in June 2004, comprising of a comprehensive ground survey and research from the early photographs and plans of the area.

Previous archaeological examinations of the site were limited to a short report on the Hanmer Springs Thermal Complex adjacent to the Hospital written in May 2004.

The site was traditionally known by Ngai Tahu, although no evidence of direct occupation has been discovered so far.

European use of the thermal springs began in 1859. By 1900, three bathhouses surrounded the main pool and a Sanatorium used for accommodation was located nearby. The reserve also included bowling greens, croquet lawns, a fountain house, tennis courts, orchards and numerous swimming pools.

The Historic Places Act 1993 states that an archaeological site is a place associated with human activity prior to 1900, and is able to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand through archaeological investigation. The pre-1900 thermal pools reserve is, by definition, an archaeological site.

The borders of the Queen Mary Hospital site, and the south-western paddock are the least modified areas and as such are more likely to contain subsurface archaeological material than the actual hospital grounds.

The locations of the original thermal complex buildings have been identified in the early plans and photos. Whilst the buildings have been demolished, evidence such as foundations and original gas piping still exists. It is also likely that archaeological material relating to the early European occupation of the pools exists under these areas. The area of the original complex is a significant archaeological site.

A map of the archaeological significant areas of the Queen Mary Hospital site has been attached to the report (Appendix 1).
2 Introduction

2.1 Background

The Queen Mary Hospital site is 15.3 hectares and forms the centre of the Hanmer township in North Canterbury. It is located adjacent to the Hanmer Springs Thermal Complex. The site was originally established to assist in the recuperation of soldiers returning from war and was part of a larger site incorporating the thermal springs reserve. Until recently, the site had been used in the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction.

The land is owned by the Canterbury District Health Board, which has made the decision to sell the site and is awaiting the Minister of Health’s approval to enable the sale to proceed. Ngai Tahu has expressed an interest in purchasing the site as have the Hurunui District Council.

The Council has recognised that the planning framework of the Operative District Plan for the site does not adequately protect the inherent values of the site. To this end, it initiated a review of the current provisions of the District Plan and drafted a Plan Change. As part of the consultation process associated with the review, the Council has commissioned a heritage and landscape assessment of the site to quantify the values that exist both in the context of the site and how the site relates to the surrounding township.

As part of the heritage assessment, the Council has agreed to allow an archaeological appraisal of the potential archaeological values of the site. This appraisal seeks to identify areas of potential archaeological material and assess the significance of these in regard to the heritage values of the site.

2.2 Nature of work involved

The appraisal is based on a two-day site visit and examination of the literature and plans of the area. It is intended to act as a preliminary guide for any future archaeological work that may be required. The site visits occurred on the 10th and the 16th of June 2004. The fieldwork consisted of a surface survey of the entire Queen Mary Hospital Site. This was followed up with an examination of the historical documents, plans and early photos in order to assess the extent of ground development that had occurred since the inception of the hospital and thermal resort.

3 Previous Archaeological Work

3.1 Archaeological Reports

The only recorded archaeological investigation that has occurred within the Hanmer Springs site was an assessment by Katharine Watson in May 2004 (Watson, 2004). The report was commissioned by the Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve and discussed the removal of the 1898 Gas Holder located near the entrance of the Hot Springs Complex.
Despite the Thermal Reserve being located within the bounds of the Queen Mary Reserve, the study was limited to an examination of the area around the Gas Holder.

No archaeological work has been undertaken within the Queen Mary Hospital site itself.

3.2 Recorded Archaeological Sites

The nearest recorded archaeological site from the New Zealand Archaeological Site Recording Scheme is some 19km away. It is a prehistoric artefact find near the Waiau River.

4 Environmental Setting

The Hanmer plain is a small ‘amphitheatre’ shaped area enclosed by the Amuri range to the south and the Hanmer Range to the north. It is located inland from Cheviot in North Canterbury and lies along the Lindis Pass route to the West Coast. The Waiau River and the Hanmer River flow along the southern edge of the plain. A number of thermal pools were located around the northern edge of the plain, below Conical Hill. The township has grown around these thermal pools.

The Queen Mary Hospital Site is located within the tree shelterbelt that forms the centre of Hanmer Springs. Jacks Pass road and Amuri Avenue run along the northern and eastern sides of the complex, while a natural creek with steep banks flows down the western side, separating the site from the neighbouring golf course. The southern edge flows into farmland although a series of fault-lines runs through the area.

Much of the site is located on a flat terrace of land, with some downhill movement towards the southern end of the site.

5 Historical Setting

5.1 Prehistoric Occupation

No prehistoric sites have been recorded in the area of Hanmer Springs at the present time.

It is clear that the later Ngai Tahu people knew of the location of the Springs, and ascribed the legend of the ‘Eruption of Ngauruhoe’ to the creation of the thermal pools (See Watson, 2004:2 for an account). The area of the Hanmer plain was known as Mania Rauhea, the ‘plain of the shining tussock’ (Watson, 2004:2; Mani Rauhea in Rockel, 1986:64), but no other traditions are currently known.

The Waiau River was a major route from Canterbury to the West Coast and Marlborough for Ngai Tahu, and the river does pass along the southern boundary of the Hanmer Plain (Taylor, 1952). It is unclear if earlier Ngati Mamoe or Waitaha used the pass. Any occupation that occurred along the Waiau was transitory in nature, in the form of nohoanga or campsites. Any excursion to the Hanmer Pools would be indicated by the presence of nohoanga remains such as earth ovens and food middens.
5.2 Early European Occupation

The first European to officially record the springs was William Jones, reporting to the *Lyttelton Times* in April 1859, “a remarkable fog...some holes which were filled with water of a temperature varying from milk-warm to almost boiling” (Rockel, 1986:64). The following year, the Nelson Provincial Government proclaimed a 1072-hectare reserve around the springs (Gardner, 1956:223). Visitors up to the 1870s would camp in tents beside the pool or take advantage of accommodation at the Jollies Pass Hotel, built in 1862 some 4km away.

In 1878, John Fry, owner of the Jollies Pass Hotel, constructed a small two-room Changing Shed next to the main pool in order to take advantage of the popularity of the springs (Fig. 1) (Watson, 2004:2).

Improved transportation allowed more visitors to reach the pools, and in 1883, the Lands Department began work on improving them. The main pool was excavated and fenced.

In 1884, a bathhouse, complete with four baths, was built around the main pool (Fig. 17) (Rockel, 1986:65).

A second bathhouse was added in 1888, with eight baths inside. This was further added to in 1893 with two more baths and a waiting room. Gas was collected from the springs to heat the waiting room (Rockel, 1986:65-6). A men’s swimming pool was added nearby, originally as a cold fresh-water pool but it was soon converted to a hot mineral bath (McManaway, 1980:37).

In 1894, an enclosed women’s swimming bath, known as the Marian Pool, was opened, near the main pool which had been segregated for men only. This was followed by the construction of a bowling green and tennis court. When a larger pool became available for the men, the main pool was allocated to the Women and the Marian pool to girls. (Rockel, 1986:66)

Accommodation remained a problem despite government the offering concessions for hotel development in 1886. In 1897, Robert Hood, of the Jollies Pass Hotel, built an accommodation house near the springs. It was named the ‘The Hamner Lodge’ and housed two suites and seventeen rooms (Rockel, 1986:68).

In 1897, the Government also added accommodation at the springs. The ‘Spa’, later known as the ‘Hamner Sanatorium’ was opened on the 9th December 1897 (Fig. 10). It contained a women’s drawing room, smoking room and sitting room and first class accommodation. By January 1898, with many camping in tents outside, it was clear that second class accommodation was required and within a few years additions were made to the building (Rockel, 1986:67). The Sanatorium was destroyed by fire the day after World War One broke out in 1914.

In 1899, a fountain-house was erected in the grounds (McManaway, 1980:15).
A third bathhouse was added in 1900, containing 8 baths and a Turkish bath. A croquet lawn was also laid down. In 1902, a massage department was added (Rockel, 1986:69).

The old bathhouses and fountain house were demolished in 1930 and a new private bathhouse and women’s massage block were constructed (Fig. 12) (Rockel, 1986:72).

The site continued to develop in the early part of the twentieth century. A large tea kiosk was added in 1904 and the Queen Mary Hospital was progressively established from 1916 onwards (see Fig.3). After 1918, the site continued to be used as a tourist resort and hospital centre, but the two functions were separated (Rockel, 1986:71).

6 Results of Fieldwork

6.1 Objectives of fieldwork

The primary purpose of the initial site visit was to establish the extent of unmodified landscape that could be identified within the defined area. It was presupposed that any prehistoric occupation of the site would only be evident on ground that had not been modified by the later thermal complex and hospital. Unmodified areas were to be identified and defined on an aerial layout map. The potential for archaeological remains was also to be assessed.

The secondary intention of the site visit was to establish the nature of any of the pre-1900 European buildings identified in the history and early photographs of the area. If locational evidence of the original buildings could be defined, then the buildings would be recorded as archaeological sites and entered as such on the aerial layout map. These locations would also be assessed for potential archaeological information still extant. The second site visit explored much of this objective.

6.2 Description of ground survey

The ground survey began with an examination of the northern part of the Queen Mary Hospital complex, from Jacks Pass Road, around the Chisholm building to the Nurses Home. The northern area is landscaped with groves of trees and small gardens amongst the well-maintained grass lawns. The current concrete paths are also well kept. The western edge of the grounds descends a shallow bank to a tranquil creek (Fig. 5). Walking paths run along the creek and bank alongside the Chisholm building. Behind the building, set into the lawn is a small square rock feature of unknown date. Further along the creek, near the Nurses Home, the bank rises steeply. Wooden steps have been cut into the bank nearby a manufactured waterfall (Fig. 4).

Towards the Rutherford building, the land gently sloped downhill except for where the building and surrounds had cut into the existing ground to form a small scarp around the western edges.
Beyond an existing fence and tree line, the southwestern area of the site was examined. It is currently used as farmland, and appears to have been uncultivated for some years (Fig. 6). Near the centre of the paddock is a stone cowshed, remnant of the earlier farm use of the area by the hospital staff and local farmers. A smaller stone shed is also located near the southern border. The paddock is fenced off and leads to Argellins Road.

Along the southern border of the property, two open spaces defined as spiritual gardens are located within a dense strip of brush and trees. A septic pool of water runs along the southern edge of the larger open space, south of the Rutherford building (Fig. 7). The southern border, past the Rutherford building, follows a natural bank down to the fence-line, continuing the downhill slope of the property interrupted by the Rutherford terrace. Trees and bushes separate the bank from the developed areas proper. It appears that building rubble and rubbish are swept from the maintained areas and down this bank (Fig. 8). The material is of unknown origin and may in fact indicate earlier structures were located nearby.

Towards the southeastern end of the property, amongst the belt shelter of trees is a small wooden building identified as the original Morgue, dating to the 1900s and shifted from its earlier position (Fig. 9). The building is structurally intact and represents the earliest building on site. It was in use up to the 1980s according to the current caretaker.

The centre portion of the site, including the Soldiers Block, Maintenance sheds and Visitors Centre are located in a flat concrete paved area, and represent the main functional part of the Queen Mary Hospital.

Discussions with the current caretaker, Martin Swarbrick, revealed a number of early aerial photographs and plans that helped locate the original pre-1900 buildings. Examination was made of the locations indicated within the Queen Mary Hospital complex for remnants of the buildings.

The Fountain House and Gymnasium building, situated adjacent to the southern boundary of the Thermal Pools complex and north of the Soldiers block, was identified as the location of the original bath house complex (Fig. 11). The northern wing of the building was identified as the same structure depicted in a 1930 photograph of the new bathhouse (Fig. 12). The photograph clearly shows the third bathhouse adjacent. Gas pipes are visible on the surface in front of this structure. The likely position of the original bathhouse appears to be in front of the Fountain House building (Fig. 13, see also figs. 16, 17). The area is covered with concrete slabs, although the imprint of a gas pipe under the slab is visible (Fig. 14). The original location of the main pool is located over the fence in the thermal pool complex. A gas pipe is visible in this location (Fig. 15). The tea kiosk was also located just over the fence, although the renovated structure currently used within the Thermal Reserve is further away.

The original Sanatorium building was identified as the site upon which the 1916 Soldier’s Block was located (Figs. 18,19). The current concrete paths still match the original paths around the complex and help identify the original layout of the structure. The interior
courtyard matches the plan for the Sanatorium, whilst an outlying brick building also matches the location of such a structure next to the wooden building.

6.3 Examination of building plans

Existing plans of the 1898 complex and a number of early photographs were held in the National Archives and in the Christchurch City Library Heritage Photograph Collection (Fig. 2).

A number of later plans and photographs were also found in the maintenance office and Carpenters office of the current property. In particular, a large 1956 aerial photograph hanging on the wall proved useful in identifying locations from the earlier plan. Other plans of the entire site found included one dating to 1915, prior to the building of the Soldier's Block and still showing the Sanatorium which burnt down in 1914. Another plan was found from 1950. Specific plans relating to the construction of the current Fountain House were also discovered, dating to 1926 and 1929.

The position of the original second and third bathhouse and the location of the original Fountain House, were able to seen in relation to the developments of the 1930s. The 1929 plans outline the proposed removal of the third bathhouse building and the original Fountain House (Fig.20). The plans suggest that the first two bathhouses were removed prior to the originally recorded date of 1930, but the 1926 plan indicates the presence of a large concrete slab upon which the Gymnasium building is built, referring to the original second bathhouse foundation (Fig. 21). The site of the third bathhouse building is now a cleared exercise area (Fig. 22).

The original fountain house appears in the plans to form a complex including the Men's Swimming Pool that is still extant (Fig.23). Another structure at the opposite end of the pool is no longer there, although a small toilet is located here.

Also evident in the plans and on site is the garden shed complex, near the Chisholm block (Fig.24). Because the area is currently in use, further research is required to fully examine the area.

7 Discussion

7.1 Prehistoric Occupation

No surface evidence of prehistoric remains was visible during the ground survey of the Queen Mary Site. Whilst absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, the lack of traditional and historical information suggests the likelihood of occupation is low.
The potential for any possible evidence is disrupted by the comprehensive landscaping that the site around the thermal pools has received over the last 100 years. The only areas that have not received the same level of modification lie on the edges of the complex: along the small creek; on the farmed paddock; and along the southern bank. Any material located in these regions would constitute evidence of occupation closer to the pools.

7.2 Early European Occupation to 1900.

No physical evidence of the original buildings dating prior 1900 was visible during the ground survey. Rubble of indeterminable age was found in numerous places around the site. More clear evidence may be seen in the gas pipes that lie around the locations of the original houses. These may well be the same pipes that ran from the Gasometer, established in 1898.

Examination of the plans revealed that the foundations of some of the buildings are likely to be still intact under existing buildings: The first bathhouse foundation lies under the concrete slab that is placed in front of the Fountain House. It appears that the slab covers the gas pipe that fed the building. The main pool, east of the first bathhouse, lies in the Thermal complex, although piping from it may still exist. The second bathhouse is indicated as a concrete slab built over with the gymnasium. The third bathhouse complex was completely removed at some point after 1930. The site of the building is now the exercise yard next to the Gymnasium. It is unclear whether there are any remains still evident. The original Fountain House appeared in the plans under one wing of the later 1930 Fountain House. The rest of the Swimming Pool context attached to the original Fountain House still exits, the pool being filled in by the current caretaker. The Garden Shed indicated on the plans and reserved from the Thermal Complex still exists. The small building sandwiched between two trees may actually be the original Wash House. The Sanatorium was completely destroyed by fire in 1914. The concept of the building was retained in the design of the Soldier’s Block. In particularly, the courtyard and possibly one of the chimneys were retained. Foundations for the Sanatorium probably remain.

Other smaller buildings within the pre-1900 complex are not evident, or located in areas heavily modified. Of interest is a structure identifiable south of the bath site, which later became the YMCA building and the Male Quarters (the current Visitors Centre). Further research is required to define what the original structure was.

7.3 Conclusions

The Queen Mary Hospital and the Thermal Reserve form a complex site of significant historical and archaeological interest. Whilst no prehistoric remains are evident from this study, it is clear that the original spring area and early bathhouse sites are still identifiable.
The 1898 plan provides the clearest indication of the archaeological significant areas of the thermal reserve. The buildings shown in this plan, as well as the third bathhouse and original fountain house built in 1900, should be considered as archaeological sites.

The location of the first bathhouse foundation is likely to lie beneath the concrete slab that is placed in front of the Fountain House. The main pool, east of the first bathhouse, lies in the Thermal complex, although piping from it may still exist.

The second bathhouse is indicated as a concrete slab built over with the current gymnasium. Remains of this are still likely to lie under that building.

The third bathhouse complex was completely removed at some point after 1930. The site of the building is now the grass-yard the Gymnasium and the Men’s swimming pool. It is unclear whether there are any remains still evident, but the location is intact.

The original Fountain House appeared in the plans under one wing of the later 1930 Fountain House. The foundations of this are likely to still exist under the current building.

The group of buildings around the original Garden Shed indicated on the plans in the northern part of the complex still appears exists. The small building sandwiched between two trees may actually be the original Wash House.

The foundations and location of the Sanatorium are retained in the design of the Soldier’s Block. In particularly, the courtyard and possibly one of the chimneys were retained.

The presence of a structure identifiable south of the bath site in the 1898 plan is of interest. This area later became the YMCA building, which burnt down and the Male Quarters (the current Visitors Centre). Further research is required to define what the original structure was.

The locations of these buildings are clearly marked in early plans and aerial photographs dating up to the construction of the modern Thermal Reserve area in the late 1970s. Remnants of these buildings still exist in and around the more recent buildings associated with the Queen Mary Hospital. It is expected that more archaeological material exists below the layer of concrete paving that cover much of the main site, and in the future more may be able to be recorded about the earliest days of the Hanmer Springs community.
8 References

Christchurch City Library Heritage Photograph Collection (available online), 2004.


9 **Significance Assessment**

9.1 **Map of potential archaeological sites**

Appendix 1 is an aerial layout of the site with areas of archaeological significance marked.

The areas of low archaeological potential are marked in pink hatching. These include the small creek, the southwestern paddock, the southern boundary bank and the central courtyard area which may contain the foundation of several small buildings indicated in the early plans. Whilst these areas are highlighted, the expectation of finding archaeological evidence is low.

The areas of moderate archaeological potential are marked in purple hatching. These include:

(i) The area around the Fountain House complex, including the Gymnasium building, the Swimming Pool, the Exercise yard, and the Fountain House itself;

(ii) The garden shed area in the northwestern corner of the current Thermal Reserve,

(iii) Areas within the Thermal Reserve which are outside the scope of the project,

(iv) The area to the south where the current Visitors Centre stands, since this area requires further research.

The expectation of finding archaeological material is still low, but there is clearer evidence that these locations did once contain archaeologically important buildings.

9.2 **Recommendations for future development**

It is recommended that any development of the Queen Mary Hospital Site refer to the attached map of archaeological potential.

In the areas of low potential, it is recommended that an Accidental Discovery Protocol regarding the finding of artefacts and archaeological material be followed to ensure that no information is lost.

In the areas of moderate potential, it is recommended that an authority to damage or destroy an archaeological site be obtained, an Accidental Discovery Protocol regarding the finding of artefacts and archaeological material be followed and that earthworks should be monitored by an appointed Archaeologist or heritage specialist.
Appendix 1: Map of Archaeological Potential
11 Appendix 2: Photographs relating to Report

Figure 1: Changing Shed and Pool (1872) (Held in collection of Dr. Robert Crawford, 2004).

Figure 2: 1898 Plan of Thermal Reserve (© Christchurch City Library Heritage Photo Collection, 2004).
Figure 3: Aerial Photograph of Queen Mary Hospital Site, 1956 (Held in Maintenance Office, Queen Mary Hospital, 2004).

Figure 4: View of waterfall into creek behind Chisholm Building (© Author, 2004).
Figure 5: View of creek running down western boundary (© Author, 2004)

Figure 6: View of farm paddock, south-western area of Queen Mary Hospital (© Author, 2004).
Figure 7: View of septic pond, southern boundary of property (© Author, 2004)

Figure 8: View of debris on southern boundary bank (© Author, 2004).
Figure 9: View of Morgue, southern boundary of property (© Author, 2004).

Figure 10: Plan of Sanatorium, 1898 (© Christchurch City Library Heritage Photo Collection, 2004).
Figure 11: View of Gymnasium block (© Author, 2004)

Figure 12: Original Gymnasium block including third bathhouse, 1929 (Held in collection of Dr. Robert Crawford, 2004).
Figure 13: Site of first bathhouse, near current Fountain House (© Author, 2004).

Figure 14: Gas pipe imprint on site of first bathhouse (© Author, 2004).

Figure 15: Gas pipe remains, possibly from main pool (© Author, 2004).
Figure 16: View from same spot as photo below, current Fountain House (© Author, 2004).

Figure 17: Photo of first bathhouse, c.1904 (© Christchurch City Library Heritage Photo Collection, 2004).
Figure 18. Sanatorium Block, c.1904 (McManaway, P. 1980, p.15).

Figure 19. View of Soldier's Block, in same position as above photo (© Author, 2004).
Figure 20: Plan showing original bathhouses and original fountain house, 1929 (Held in Carpenters Office, Queen Mary Hospital, 2004).

Figure 21: Plan showing concrete foundation of second bathhouse under current Gymnasium, c.1926 (Held in Carpenters Office, Queen Mary Hospital, 2004).
Figure 22: View of location of original third bathhouse (© Author, 2004).

Figure 23: View of Men's Swimming Pool, next to third bathhouse (© Author, 2004).

Figure 24: View of Garden Shed area showing small building between Macrocarpas (© Author, 2004).
1. Aids to relocation of site (attach a sketch map)
   Site located within the Queen Mary Hospital Grounds and bordering the Thermal Pools Reserve, at the junction of Amuri Avenue and Jacks Pass Road, Hamner Springs. Original foundations located under current Fountain House building and Gymnasium building.

2. State of site and possible future damage
   Foundations protected under current buildings, although these are condemned and the Hospital site is currently up for sale by the Canterbury District Health Board. Remains of gas piping located on surface.

3. Description of site (Supply full details, history, local environment, references, sketches, etc. If extra sheets are attached, include a summary here)
   SEE ATTACHED ASSESSMENT REPORT.

Area contains the remains of the original bathhouse complex associated with thermal pools, dating from 1878. Includes the remains of the original bathhouse (1884), second bathhouse (1888) with later additions (1893), original Men’s swimming pool (1894), original fountain house (1899), and the third bathhouse (1900). The main pool (1884) lies over the fence in the Thermal Pools Reserve. The later tea kiosk (1904) was removed to its current location in the Pools Reserve. Gas pipes possibly from the nearby Gasometer lie on the surface around the current buildings. Original locations of buildings located from early plans and photographs.

Associated sites include the Gasometer (c. 1898) and the foundations of the Government Sanatorium/Spa (1897) under the current Soldiers Block of the Queen Mary Hospital Site.

4. Owner
   Address Canterbury District Health Board

Tenant/Manager
   Address

5. Nature of information (hearsay, brief or extended visit, etc.)
   Photographs (reference numbers and where they are held)
   Aerial photographs (reference numbers and clarity of site)
   Brief visit (two days)

6. Reported by
   Address N. Cable
   144 Rattray Street,
   Dunedin

   Filekeeper
   Date

7. Key words

8. New Zealand Register of Archaeological Sites (for office use)
   NZHPT Site Field Code

   Latitude S
   [ ] Type of site
   [ ] Local environment today
   [ ] Land classification

   Longitude E
   [ ] Present condition & future danger of destruction
   [ ] Security code
   [ ] Local body
2. State of site and possible future damage

Foundations protected under current building. The Hospital site is currently up for sale by the Canterbury District Health Board.

3. Description of site (Supply full details, history, local environment, references, sketches, etc. If extra sheets are attached, include a summary here)

SEE ATTACHED ASSESSMENT REPORT.

Original Government Sanatarium/Spa built in 1897 and associated with the original bathhouse complex around the thermal pools, dating from 1878. Building burnt down the day after WWI started, 1914. Soldiers Block built over the top of the foundations in 1916. Original chimney and courtyard visible and paths around building maintained. Original locations of buildings located from early plans and photographs.

Associated sites include the nearby original thermal pools and bathhouses (from 1878), the Gasometer (c.1898) and associated piping still visible on surface.