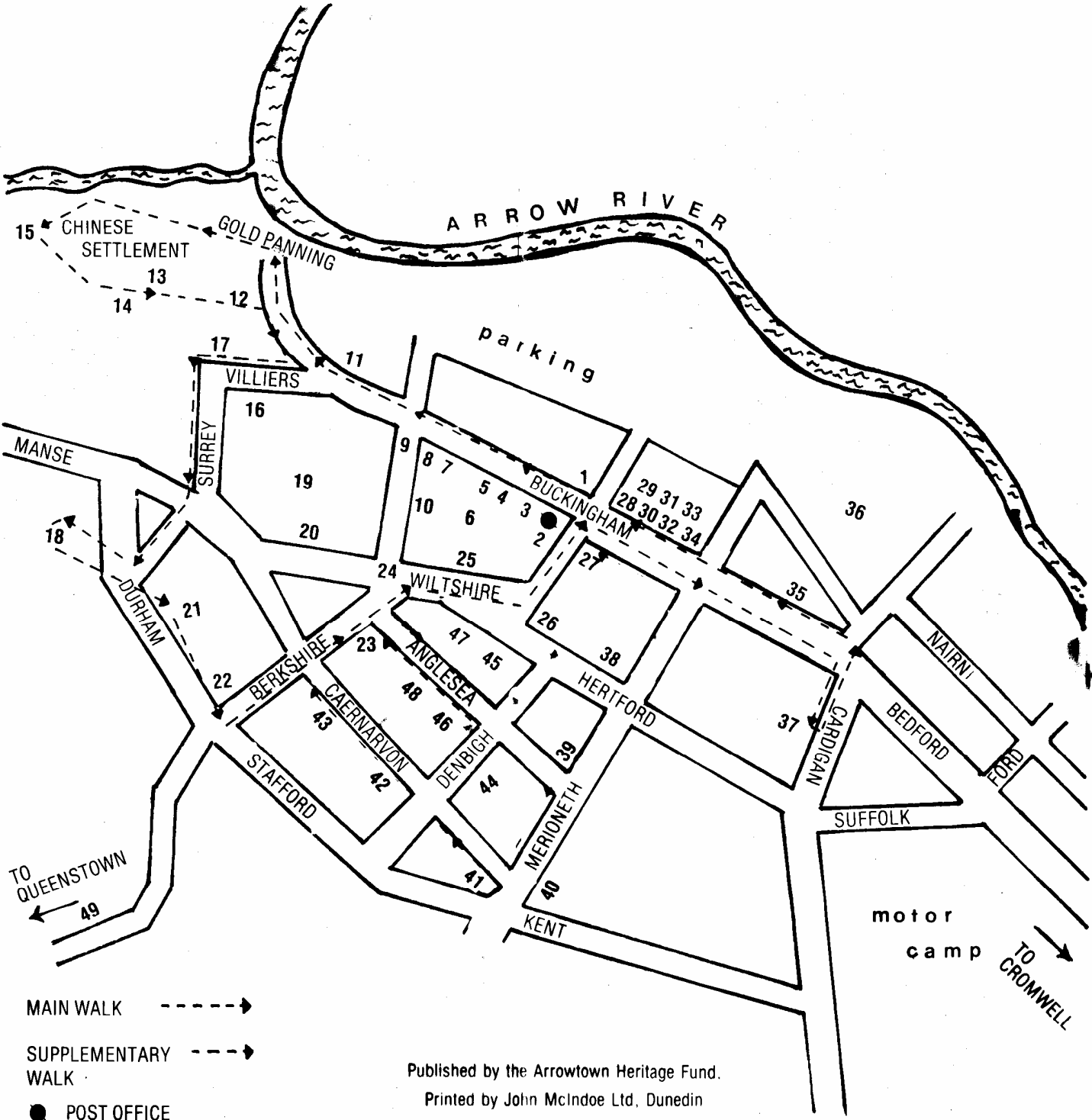


HISTORIC ARROWTOWN



Published by the Arrowtown Heritage Fund.
Printed by John McIndoe Ltd, Dunedin



PRESERVING THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF ARROWTOWN

The Arrowtown Borough Council was always aware of the need to preserve the early character of this historic Central Otago town created over a period of 130 years. It was founded by those attracted by the lure of gold. In more recent times, planning policies have allowed for an historic area within the town to retain its character and 19th Century atmosphere. The Borough was amalgamated with the Queenstown Lakes District Council in October 1989 and retains its identity within that council through directly elected councillors and a separate planning committee.

This pamphlet has been produced to foster a greater interest from both townsfolk and visitors alike by drawing attention to the buildings that are of historic importance.

Arrowtown Heritage Fund —

In 1984 a Heritage Fund was set up by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Arrowtown Borough Council to provide assistance to owners in the maintenance of remaining Arrowtown buildings, and to support planning objectives. Funds have been provided jointly and administration is controlled by four trustees, two appointed by the Borough Council and two by the Historic Places Trust. The object of the Fund is to encourage the retention, preservation, maintenance and presentation of historic buildings in the Borough of Arrowtown by making grants or loans of money on such terms and conditions as deemed appropriate.

Since the fund was set up a number of projects have been assisted by either grants or loans.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust —

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust is set up to identify, protect and preserve New Zealand's historic places and to foster public interest in them.

Among its many activities is the classification of historic buildings. It also marks historic buildings and sites with plaques and noticeboards. It is increasingly concerned to help preserve historic sites and buildings by providing assistance to private owners. It actively promotes the "recycling" of interesting old buildings.

Any person or organisation may join the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Membership entitles participation in local activities and free access to Trust Properties as well as free admission to National Trust Properties in Britain and Australia. Above all, membership helps to ensure historic buildings and sites are preserved for future generations to appreciate.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRUST CONTACT:

The Regional Officer,
New Zealand Historic Places Trust,
P.O. Box 5244,
Dunedin.

A TOWN BUILT ON GOLD

From the goldfields of California and Victoria came the hardest and most adventurous of men to explore the snow topped mountains and treacherous rivers of Central Otago's Lake District. William Fox, a sailor, was one whose previous experience told him that somewhere in this rough and awesome landscape, gold in payable quantities was waiting to be found.

Fox and John O'Callaghan in October 1862, encouraged by reasonable gold finds along the banks of the Kawarau River, found their way up from the Arrow Junction to the shingle banks and rough mountain faces of the Arrow Gorge, just below the present site of the Arrowtown centre. There they found a rich deposit of gold and at one stage they collected more than 3 ounces in 2 hours.

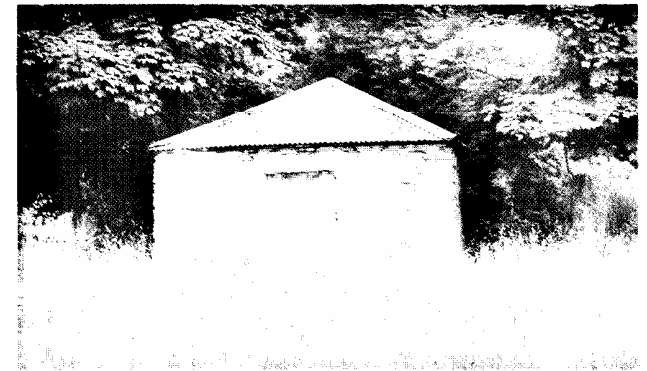
Fox was joined by a small group of other miners and at first they managed to keep the Arrow River to themselves. But, news leaked out that Fox and his party had found a new and secret gold field and the hunt was on. More miners arrived at the scene and mining began in earnest. The records of those days make today's fossickers green with envy; one party of newcomers obtained 110 pounds in just over 4 weeks; Fox's small group collected 40 pounds in 2 weeks.

Early Hotels —

By the end of the year there were between 3,000 and 6,000 men working in the area and a canvas shantytown, initially called "Fox's," had sprung up on the banks of the Arrow. Miners' camps were dotted all along the river and today remnants of miners's cottages can still be found between Arrowtown to Macetown and beyond.

In 1863, having made his fortune, Fox opened the GOLDEN AGE HOTEL.

The lure of overnight riches also attracted its share of unsavoury characters. One of these was Captain W. H. Hayes who was a thief and a scoundrel and became better known as "Bully Hayes". He built the UNITED STATES HOTEL and became embroiled in a feud with the owners of the PROVINCIAL HOTEL, bringing him into conflict



with many of the older settlers. His marriage to Rosie Buckingham, daughter of the opposition hotel proprietors did not resolve these differences. Hayes later left the district leaving a trail of unpaid debts. He was killed in a brawl in the Marshall Islands in 1877.

Women —

The rapid growth of the population and the riches found brought with it the demand for entertainment. Hotelkeepers soon responded to the need by the importation of women as barmaids and dancers. Whenever a coachload of women arrived it was welcomed by hordes of miners attired in their Sunday best. Much to the chagrin of the public spirited publicans, most of their new imports were married within a few days. There is a story of one hotelier who was so dismayed at losing his staff that he brought in the ugliest woman he could find. She was married in 2 weeks.

In 1863, an early spring thaw in the mountains wreaked havoc on the Arrow. Dams broke and destroyed many of the workings and scores of miners lost their lives in the sudden torrents that burst down from the mountain ranges. After that Arrowtown's main street was rebuilt on its present site, above the river flats.

Chinese —

Meanwhile, word of the rich gold strikes in the Arrow and other rivers had spread and many more fortune seekers arrived, including groups of Chinese. The old timers did not take kindly to these newcomers but the Chinese quietly went their own way. They kept to themselves and went through the heaps of tailings scattered along the gorge making a living extracting the finer gold which the earlier miners had not bothered to take out.

Development of the Borough —

As time went on, Arrowtown settled down to a more orderly existence. The Borough Council was formed in 1874, trees were planted along the main street in 1877 and a gaol, bank and hospital were built. By 1900 the great rush was over. In following years gold mining activities diminished further and Arrowtown became what it is today: a peaceful, beautiful place to spend a leisurely and enjoyable holiday, with the opportunity to go back into the golden past.

CLASSIFIED HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF ARROWTOWN

Arrowtown is noted for its simple beauty provided by the setting and the many historic buildings still existing. These have either been classified by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and/or listed for protection under the Local Authority's District Scheme.

Because many of the town's historically significant buildings are privately owned, viewing is from the street only.

The attached map and following detailed list is laid out in a sequence to allow two separate town walks.

MAIN WALK

1. **MUSEUM** Buckingham Street
This former Bank of New Zealand premises built in 1875, was given over to the Museum authorities in 1955. The Bank of New Zealand and the Colonial Bank (which was later absorbed by the Bank of New Zealand) handled the bulk of the gold recovered in the district.
2. **POSTMASTER'S HOUSE** Buckingham Street
This is a good example of the styles of the early 1900s.
3. **POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE** Buckingham Street
Built by Peter Hunter in 1920, this building was extensively added to in 1988 in the same styling.
4. **SMALL SHOP** Buckingham Street, between the milk bar and ice cream parlour.
This was once a barbers shop and library, then a bank agency.
5. **BUCKINGHAM GREEN** Buckingham Street
This area previously contained a butchery, stables and a hotel. The original retaining walls were built in 1875 to level Arrow Lane behind.
6. **STABLES RESTAURANT** Buckingham Street
The original stone building at the rear was built as a stable as part of a large adjoining commercial building by Bendix Hallenstein of Thurlby Domain, the founder of two large National drapery businesses.
7. **ARROWTOWN STORES** Buckingham Street
This fine building has been modified following an early fire which destroyed a second storey. The main building was built about 1875.
8. **BUTCHER'S SHOP** Buckingham Street
This business was commenced by Flint and Wedlake in 1862 and operated as a combined butchery and bakery. The remains of the baker's oven can still be seen at the rear.
9. **COBBLED GUTTERS** Corner Berkshire and Buckingham Streets
These were built by the borough in 1878 for \$18 to provide a sluice direct to the river and provide an outlet for drainage problems of the time.

10. **STONE STABLE** Berkshire Street (now part of a house)
This provided stabling for delivery horses of Pritchard's store (now Arrowtown Stores). It was incorporated into the present house in 1987.
11. **STONE WALL AND BUTLER'S PARK** Buckingham Street
This was built by the borough to provide access to the river area.
12. **BUTLER'S COTTAGE** Buckingham Street (now Dudley's Cottage)
William Butler, one of the original settlers, built this cottage in 1862. Butler arrived on the goldfields with basic supplies to set up one of the first grog shops and went on to become a farmer, storekeeper and hotel proprietor.
13. **AH WAK'S LAVATORY** Buckingham Street
This is the only remnant of a house on this site occupied by a prominent Chinese man.
14. **AH LUM'S STORE** Buckingham Street
Built in 1883 for Wong Hop Lee a local market gardener, this small building became a store in 1893, leased by Ah Chung Bung. It finally reverted to Ah Lum who operated the store until his death in 1927. This was the last Chinese store to operate in the area and has been recently restored by the Department of Conservation.



15. **CHINESE SETTLEMENT** Buckingham Street
Chinese miners established their own village in this area between the 1870s and 1900. Although mainly lost through neglect and overgrowth of trees, cottages have been recreated by the Otago Goldfields Park section of Department of Conservation. Informative plaques in the area provide further details.
16. **"REIDHAVEN"** Villiers Street
Built in 1866 by James Reid, this homestead for a nearby farm has been owned by his descendants to this day. An attached thatched dairy provided facilities to sell milk, cream, eggs, and oats to townspeople. This stone building has had a timber veranda added at a later date.
17. **COTTAGE** Villiers Street
Built in the 1880s by a Chinese miner, Wong Hop Lee, this cottage has since been added to.

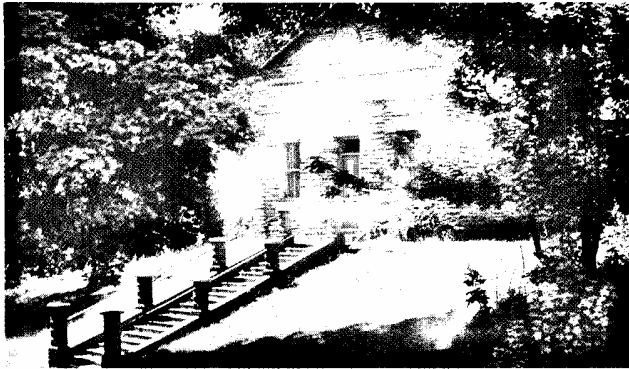
18. **CEMETERY** Durham Street
There are many early graves in parts of this cemetery and the stone wall is a good example of early dry stone walling having been erected before the borough came into existence in 1874. The wall has recently been repaired and restored.



19. **REID'S STABLES** Wiltshire Street (these are now included in a recently built house)
They formed a central part of farm buildings attached to "Reidhaven" and built to stable the farm horses in 1866.
20. **COTTAGE** 34 Wiltshire Street
Stone cottage with front and rear verandas of good design. The house to the right was the original maternity home for the town.
21. **WORLD WAR I WAR MEMORIAL** Caernarvon and Durham Streets
Built by public fundraising and subsidies in 1925, this memorial commemorates the men from the district who lost their lives in World War I. The field gun alongside was captured from the Turkish armies by Australian Infantry in the Syrian campaign and was presented to the borough by the New Zealand Government.
22. **ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** 26 Berkshire Street
Chinese labourers built this church in 1873. The wooden vestry was added soon after. The two large redwood trees were planted about 1878.
23. **ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH AND VESTRY** Berkshire Street
This simple and elegant building was built in 1873. The vestry was previously located elsewhere on the section, and was used as accommodation by visiting clergy.
24. **EDWARD VII CORONATION MEMORIAL LAMP** Corner Berkshire and Wiltshire Streets
This was erected by the then borough council in 1902. It was originally a gas light supplied from an acetylene gas plant.
25. **COTTAGE** 16 Wiltshire Street
This was the home of the Smiley family who were prominent in town affairs. The front structure is of stone and the rear is wooden. It forms a well preserved example of early home design.



26. **COTTAGE 11 Wiltshire Street**
Another good example of stone work. This cottage has some recent additions.
27. **MASONIC HALL 9 Wiltshire Street**
Erected in 1878, this hall has been changed little over the years.



28. **STONE COTTAGE RESTAURANT 51 Buckingham Street**
This cottage was previously the Colonial Bank Offices, then a private residence before becoming a restaurant.
29. **COTTAGE 53 Buckingham Street**
This was previously a chemist's shop operated by Edsell Gruber, who was also a former mayor and councillor of the borough. Later used by Mr Selby as a tailor's shop.
30. **COTTAGE 55 Buckingham Street**
This house also served previously as a shop.
31. **ARROWTOWN BOROUGH CHAMBERS 57 Buckingham Street**
Built originally as the Oddfellows Lodge hall in 1877, this building was purchased by the borough shortly after construction.

32. **GRANNY JONES COTTAGE 59 Buckingham Street**
This cottage is a private museum open to the public. It was built at the same time as many of its neighbours and was purchased in 1901 by Granny Jones, a former Bullendale resident.
33. **COTTAGE 61 Buckingham Street**
This cottage has been preserved in its original condition through purchase and resale under covenant by the borough council a few years ago.
34. **ROMANS COTTAGE 65 Buckingham Street**
The former home of a prominent Arrowtown family. Mr G. H. Romans ran in partnership a combined butcher shop and bakery near the present museum.

He acted as Councillor and Mayor of the town and became well known as a public speaker and racing enthusiast in a lifetime of 103 years. A son was a prominent officer with the New Zealand Army before being killed in action during World War II.
35. **COTTAGE 69 Buckingham Street**
This is an interesting stone house of elegant proportions with some interesting features.
36. **WOODEN COTTAGE 7 Bedford Street**
A small wooden cottage with stone chimney built early 1870s.
37. **OLD GAOL Cardigan Street**
This is the third gaol used in Arrowtown. The first was a log of wood which acted as an anchor for prisoners, but had to be replaced when one prisoner had the strength to make it portable. This gaol was built in 1875 and a police house was later built on a nearby section.

SUPPLEMENTARY WALK AREA —

38. **CATHOLIC CHURCH Hertford Street**
This church was built in 1874 from stone obtained from Bush Creek. The stone was carried by the parishioners. Extensions and modifications were added in 1882.

The convent school used the adjacent small shed as a Primers room. The school was headed in 1897 by Mother Mary of the Cross, the foundress of the Order of St Joseph. Mother Mary returned to Australia later and continued the work and development of the order there. She is remembered by a portrait in the church.
39. **COTTAGE 21 Anglesea Street**
Built as a convent which also provided a music room. The Catholic school was located further along Anglesea Street, and was closed in 1943. The school room was shifted to become the main bowling pavilion building.
40. **TOBIN'S COTTAGE 31 Merioneth Street**
This cottage dates from the early 1870s but was former home from 1910 to the 1930s of Pat Tobin, editor of the Lake County Press. It has had very little modification.



41. **OFF PLUMB COTTAGE 38 Caernarvon Street**
This was previously the Hamilton family home. The Hamiltons are descendants of the storekeeping Cotters and still operate Arrowtown Stores Ltd. Richard Cotter was one of the colleagues of the reputed founder of the Arrow goldfield, William Fox.
42. **COTTAGE 24 Caernarvon Street**
This house was shifted to this site in the early 1930s having been the Fever Ward at the Arrowtown Hospital and located near the golf course.
43. **COTTAGE 16 Caernarvon Street**
This was the former home of the O'Callaghan family. John O'Callaghan was a member of the original party to discover gold in the Arrow in 1862. The family became well known as waggons and hotel proprietors.
44. **COTTAGE 15 Denbigh Street**
This was the home of the Low family. One of the Miss Lows was the first European to be born in Arrowtown.
45. **COTTAGE 12 Anglesea Street**
The former home of the Baker family who are remembered for a mother and her son who each received an old age pension when the qualifying age for such a pension was 65 years of age.
46. **COTTAGE 11 Anglesea Street**
This is a simple design of late 19th century style with a stone chimney.
47. **COTTAGE 10 Anglesea Street**
This was the home of a painter, Bill Dakers.
48. **COTTAGE 9 Anglesea Street**
A simple typical house type with lean-to rear modified by recent additions in the same styling.
49. **POWDER MAGAZINE Malaghans Road**
This simple stone building was purpose built in February 1877 at a cost of \$90. It provided safe storage of explosives for individual miners. Each miner was limited to one keg and was charged \$2 per annum for the privilege.