

**Archaeological monitoring of the Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints Religious Services Complex, 9 and 19
Redoubt Road, Manukau**

**report to
The New Zealand Historic Places Trust
and
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Glen Farley

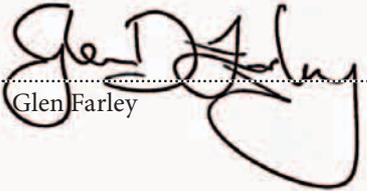
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Introduction

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints are developing a Religious Services complex at 9 & 19 Redoubt Road, Manukau City (Pt Clendons Grant (DP 16630) and Pt Clendons Grant (DP 20053)). The development block is located immediately west of the St John's Redoubt Historic Reserve, which is jointly administered by the Department of Conservation Auckland Area office and Manukau City Council. The reserve contains St John's redoubt, recorded as site R11/534 in the New Zealand Archaeological Association site file, but part of the visible earthworks of the redoubt, the western bastion, is located in the development block (Campbell 2006: 1). A 5 m buffer has been established around the western bastion within which no earthworks are to take place. Earthworks on the remainder of the development block were monitored under the provisions of authority 2007/143 issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust under section 14 of the Historic Places Act 1993.

Matthew Campbell of CFG Heritage Ltd conducted an archaeological assessment and a section 18 archaeological investigation of the property in November 2006. This involved a re-examination of the property, a geophysical survey and a series of test pits. The geophysical results showed a series of anomalies possibly relating to the 1860s occupation. The test pits uncovered no intact deposits from the 19th century, only re-deposited shards from this period and a 20th century rubbish pit (Campbell 2006: 7).

Historic background

The history of St Johns Redoubt has been well documented. The following summary is taken from Campbell (2006: 3), who drew upon the Department of Conservation Heritage Inventory compiled by Andy Dodd.

The redoubt is associated with the 1863–64 Waikato campaign of the New Zealand Wars. Construction began on 21 July 1863, shortly after the beginning of hostilities. It was located with strategic views of the Great South Road, the Manukau Harbour and back to Auckland. Earthworks

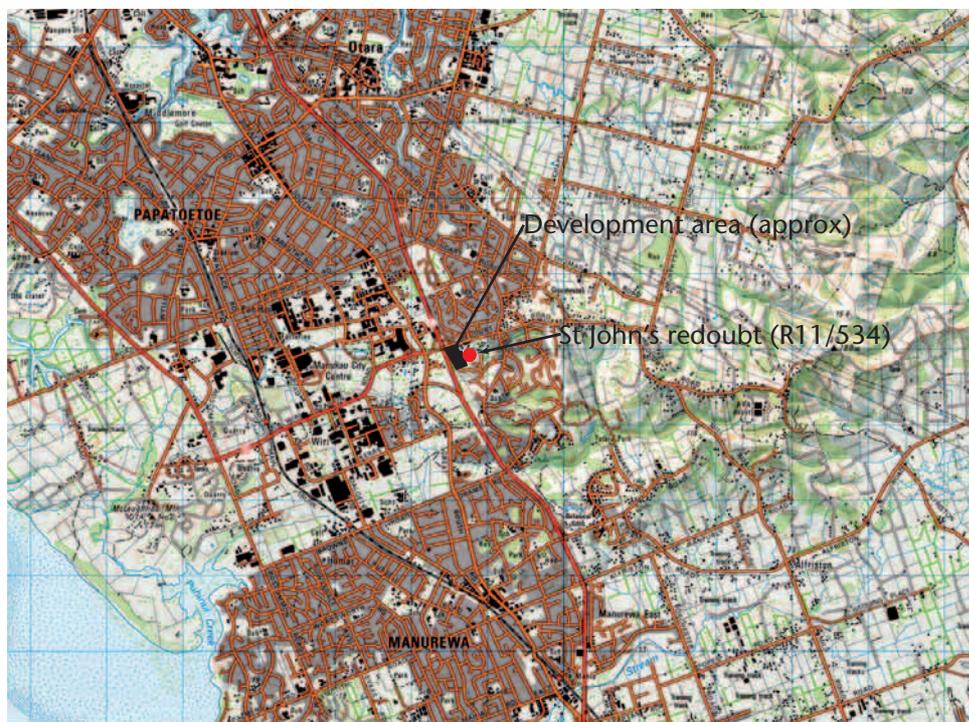


Figure 1. Location of the development area and St John's redoubt.

were still being dug on 21 August – it is not clear when they were finished. The redoubt was intended to protect the supply lines along the Great South Road and to protect Auckland from attack. It was named for the commanding officer of the 1st Waikato militia, Captain J.H.H. St John. Its strategic value diminished as the campaign proceeded, and it never saw any active engagement (apart from false alarms), but continued to be used as a staging post throughout the campaign.

The redoubt covered 50 x 50 m, and was a standard one-company, two-bastion redoubt with curved bastions to east and west allowing enfilading fire and positioning of Armstrong guns. Earthworks would have consisted of a ditch up to 1.8 m deep with the spoil thrown up to form a defensive parapet inside the ditch about 2.4 m high (Prickett 2002: 23). It could have accommodated 150–200 men in 25 bell tents.

Previous archaeological work

Previous archaeological work was summarised by Campbell (2006: 3-4).

The site was first recorded as an archaeological site by Susan Bulmer in 1978 (see NZAA site record form attached to this report) and mapped by Wynne Spring-Rice in 1980. In 1960 the current reserve was gazetted for historic purposes and the land was transferred to the Department of Conservation in 1987. It was reclassified as a Historic Reserve in 2000.

In 1997 John Coster (Coster 1997a, 1997b, 1997c) carried out an assessment of the development area for the LDS, when the development of the Religious Services Complex was first proposed. He noted that the western bastion was poorly preserved, with fencing and stock trampling round a trough and through a gate affecting it badly. He noted a depression and two indistinct terraces on the slopes to the south west of the redoubt (i.e., on the LDS block). He recorded these as a separate site, R11/1958, and proposed that, although they were indistinct and difficult to interpret, they may be associated with the redoubt, possibly outworks. A few fragments of dark-green bottle-glass and a brass cartridge case were found on disturbed ground below the site. He also noted the presence of early 20th century house and farm building sites, since demolished.

As an outcome of the recording of R11/1958, and the general lack of clarity of the site (“possible outworks”), Rod Clough of Clough and Associates Ltd was engaged by the LDS to investigate the site. He did so under a section 18 authority issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1998, accompanied by Nigel Prickett, as a specialist in New Zealand Wars earthworks, and by John Coster (Clough 1998). Clough used a backhoe to strip the topsoil off the possible outworks. This did not reveal any archaeological features, though two 19th century glass bottle-bases were found, probably redeposited through ploughing.

These may, or may not, have derived from rubbish deposits associated with the redoubt. A second trench downhill of the western bastion revealed an 8 cm field drain running downhill from the direction of the redoubt. Its function and origin were not determined, though it is most likely to be a later farming feature (Nigel Prickett pers. comm.).

In 2002 a geophysical survey using a fluxgate gradiometer was undertaken on the part of the redoubt in the Historic Reserve by Ben Thorne and Colin Sutherland, and subsequently incorporated into David Rudd’s MA thesis (Rudd 2003).

In 2006 a geophysical survey was undertaken on the development block over an area measuring 100 x 50 m, centred on the western bastion. A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken by Hans-Dieter Bader and Dan Parker of Geometria Ltd, and a ground penetrating radar survey by Dan Mitchell of NZLocators Ltd.

The western bastion was clearly visible in the results, and to the north west of it a rectangular feature was visible, along with a series of smaller anomalies indicating metal concentrations, typical of rubbish pits. Clough’s 1998 test trench is visible running parallel to the fence, so the rectangular feature may be the tile drain he located. To the south east of the survey area are a number of rectangular features (these were not visible in the GPR survey) that may be indicative of hut sites.

On 1 November 2006 three of these features were test-pitted by Matthew Campbell of CFG Heritage Ltd under section 18 authority 2007/107. Test pit locations are shown in (Figure 2), overlaid on Figure 3 of the geophysical survey report. Each test pit was two shovel widths wide, and was dug down either to natural subsoil (clay), or until the nature of any archaeological deposit was clear.

In summary, the possible outworks at R11/1958 are not an archaeological site. In addition the geophysical analysis and test pitting undertaken by Campbell failed to identify any significant archaeological features. Campbell, Coster and Clough all found bottle-glass that is probably 19th century in origin. While this is likely to be associated with the redoubt occupation, none of it was found in an intact archaeological deposit and so no conclusive statement can be made.

Methodology

Prior to the removal of the topsoil from the property a 5 m buffer was established around the west bastion of the redoubt. This was to ensure protection of the redoubt and any closely associated features. The development area was monitored for archaeological deposits, paying particular attention to the upper slope closest to the redoubt.

The archaeological monitoring involved the removal of topsoil from the property under the supervision of an archaeologist. A mechanical excavator equipped with a weed bucket removed the topsoil and a dumper unit

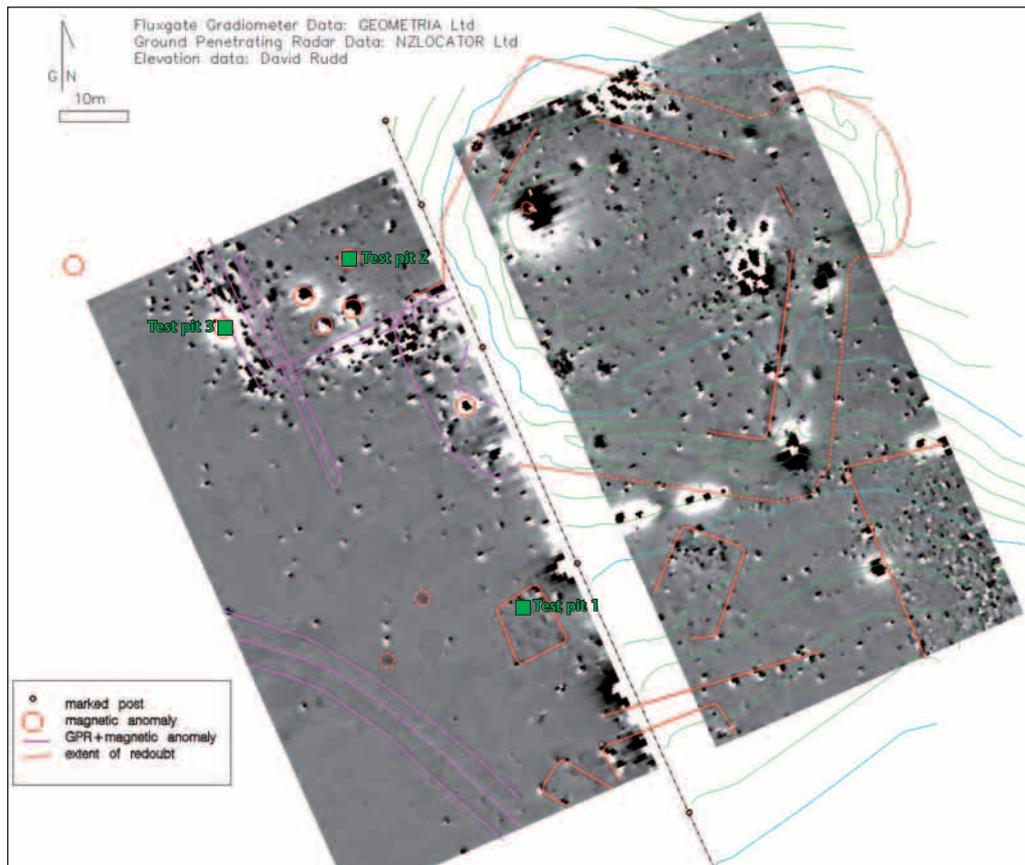


Figure 2. Test pit locations, overlaid on the geophysical survey results.

removed it to a stockpile. Any items from within the topsoil that may have related to the historic occupation of the site were collected. Any archaeological features would have been observed at the interface with the subsoil. This activity was monitored by Noel Hill, and Glen Farley between 22 and 27 January 2009.

Results

Soils

The topsoil was a mid brown fine soil with a depth of between 200 and 350mm. The topsoil overlaid a light brownish yellow to white clayey subsoil. Several vague plough lines were observed criss-crossing the subsoil. At the time of observation the soil matrix was extremely dry and dusty.

Archaeology

The underlying surface was examined for potential archaeological features. A number of deposits were examined. All of the intact deposits related to the 20th century occupation of the property. Most of these were small rubbish pits of broken household items, shell and bone, similar to Test Pit 2 identified by the fluxgate gradiometer survey and excavated in 2006 (Campbell 2006: 4). A couple of modern animal burials were also identified.

Some features located included modern drains and field tiles, tree stumps, foundations for a house and associated services. The services and foundation were located in the north east corner of the property, where the 20th century house was built; this is best seen in the aerial photo in (Figure 3). The location of the tree stumps was consistent with the hedge line shown in the figure, and also with the rectangular anomaly identified by the geophysical surveys.

A sample of glass and ceramic objects was collected from the topsoil and subsoil surface. This material was identified by Jaden Harris (see Appendix A).

The material was predominantly of 20th century origin. Only a few objects were identified as dating to the period of the military occupation. The mid 1800s material included two ceramic tableware items with the Athens pattern, several clay pipe fragments, a single olive coloured pig-snout gin bottle, and 12 olive coloured black beer bottles.

The more recent material has been dated from between the late 19th century to the middle of the 20th century. The glass objects ranged from alcohol bottles to household condiments and cosmetics. Most of the glass material dates from the 1920s at the earliest. The ceramic vessels were mostly undecorated white tableware. A green slip teapot and a plain white chamber pot were also recovered. Other



Figure 3. St John's Redoubt, 1992. Photo taken from Prickett 2002: xviii.

objects included clothing, shoe fragments and building material.

All of the material that dates to the 19th century was recovered from the topsoil plough zone. This material was generally highly fragmented and had been re-deposited through farming activity. It was noted that the majority of this material was located close to the 5m buffer fence.

The presence of fragmented material outside of a discrete deposit can be explained either through pre- or post-depositional processes. Pre-depositional behaviour could include: leaving an item on the ground when finished with it, throwing used or broken objects over the top of the parapet and down the hill slope, or setting up objects on the parapet for target shooting. Post-depositional behaviour could include: ploughing scattering objects from their initial context, people or animals disturbing material through trampling or burrowing, or changes in the hillside environment.

Conclusion

Despite the historical use of St John's Redoubt, and predictions of significant archaeological deposits within the property, no intact 1860s deposits were identified. While it does seem likely that features relating to the military occupation are situated outside of the redoubt, it appears that, given the topography, any tent sites or rubbish deposits were located on a flatter portion of the hillside, to the north and south of the redoubt, outside of the investigated property.

The only intact deposits relate to the 20th century occupation of the area. These were noted across the property,

but with a particular clustering in the north east corner. This is also where the 20th century house was built.

Fragments of 19th century material have been identified in each of the previous examinations of the property (Coster 1997a,b,c; Clough 1998; and Campbell 2006). All of these examinations were conducted at a small scale, with the potential for archaeological deposits to be missed. This investigation examined the whole property and returned a similar result. This suggests that the military occupation of the redoubt did not utilise the land in any fashion that created archaeological deposits.

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Appendix A. Artefacts recovered during monitoring

Item	Portion	Label/Marks	NISP	MNI	Date
Ceramic					
purple whiteware 'Athens' saucer	fragments		11	1	c.1850–87
purple whiteware 'Athens' serving vessel	fragments		3	1	c.1850–87
blue whiteware 'Willow' plate	rim		1	1	mid–late 19th C
white bone china cup	fragments		1	1	20thC
white bone china saucer	fragments	PHOENIX WARE/MADE IN ENGLAND/T.F. & S. Ltd	1	1	c. 1925–50
green buff-body teapot	fragments		3	1	20th C
white whiteware chamber pot	fragments		4	1	20th C
polychrome whiteware plate	fragments		3	1	20th C
white whiteware plate	rim		1	1	20th C
white whiteware cup	fragments	MADE IN ENGLAND	2	1	1920s+
Glass					
olive pig-snout gin bottle	top			1	mid 19th C
green ring-seal bottle	mamelon			1	mid–late 19th C
olive black beer bottle	top			12	mid–late 19th C
olive black beer bottle	base			2	mid–late 19th C
olive black beer bottle	base			7	mid 19th C
olive black beer bottle	base			5	mid–late 19th C
aqua spirit bottle	top			2	mid–late 19th C
aqua blue bottle	base			1	mid–late 19th C
aqua square-section pickle bottle	base			2	mid–late 19th C
aqua bottle	base			1	mid–late 19th C
aqua salad oil bottle	top			1	mid–late 19th C
clear tumbler	base fragment			1	mid–late 19th C
brown poison bottle	whole	POISON/NOT TO BE TAKEN		2	1920s+
brown Scrubb's ammonia bottle	whole			2	1920s+
brown bottle	whole	NOT TO BE TAKEN, base, AGM monogram		1	1930+
clear bottle	whole	base, Q-TOL		1	1930+
clear coffee & chicory bottle	base	BROWN & BARRETT/AUCKLAND		1	20th C
clear bottle	whole			1	1920s+
clear bottle	whole	RENCO/FOR/JUNCKET		1	1930+
clear bottle	whole			1	1930+
clear vial	whole			1	1920s+
clear bottle	whole			1	1920s+
green alcohol bottle	base			2	1920s+
milk-glass cosmetic bottle	fragments			2	1920s+
clear preserving jar	fragments	part ZEALAND/AIRTITE		1	1920s+
clear	base	AGM/MADE/IN NZ		1	1930+
clear bottle	base	AGM monogram		1	1930+
clear condiment bottle	whole			1	1930+
clear Champion's vinegar bottle	base			3	20th C
Miscellaneous					
iron nail	head			1	
iron nail/spike	whole			2	
clay pipe	stem fragment	McD[OUGALL]	1	1	1846–c. 1891

Item	Portion	Label/Marks	NISP	MNI	Date
clay pipe	stem fragment	[Balt]ic//Ya[chter]	1	1	mid-late 19th C
clay pipe	stem fragment		3	3	mid-late 19th C
clay pipe	bowl frag		1		mid-late 19th C
white porcelain button				3	
heel plate			1	1	
shoe/boot	fragments			1	
orange/red ceramic roofing tile	fragments		1	1	20th C