Heritage Assessment – Whakarire Breakwater

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Purpose of Heritage Assessment

- Identify features or areas of heritage interest in project area
- Assess potential impact of proposal on heritage features
- Provide recommendations for management of heritage values as part of the project
History

- Area included in first survey by Arthur Domett of township of Napier in the 1850s
- Described as a shingle spit separating Inner Harbour from sea
- Ferry landing and public reserve identified at eastern end
- Location of early harbour works
- Location of freezing works 1880s - 1924
Developments

- Few houses constructed along spit by 1870
- By 1880 a groyne had been constructed at entrance to Inner Harbour
- Lagoon formed behind groyne
- Freezing works
- Residential housing
1868 photo of Ahuriri and Westshore

Photo from collection Hawke’s Bay Museum and Art Gallery
1880s

Photo from collection Hawke’s Bay Museum and Art Gallery
North British and Hawke’s Bay Freezing Works

- Established at eastern end of spit in the late 1880s with first shipment 1888
- Facilities included wharf and rail system
- Operated at site until 1924
- Most buildings demolished following 1931 earthquake
Little visible remains of freezing works today

One of reasons for failure – point severely affected by erosion
Impact of Proposed Breakwater
As this site pre-dates 1900 there is a legal requirement to obtain an authority to modify an archaeological site from the Historic Places Trust.

A record of the historic timber structures associated with the sea wall at Whakarire Ave is made prior to any modification associated with this project.

Further interpretation, outlining the changes to land form and land use at the end of the western spit is incorporated into the construction project for the groyne at the end of Whakarire Ave.