

2.11 Clyde Road, no. 17: Samuel Begg's House

Schedule number: NCC Heritage Group:

Heritage New Zealand List number and category (if applicable): N/A

Type of site: Archaeological site, V21/489; historic place

Address: 17 Clyde Road

Legal Description: PT SUB SEC 85 NAPIER (CT 63/117)

Construction date: 1860s



Figure 90 17 Clyde Road from the gate Source: Chris Cochran May 2019



Figure 91 17 Clyde Road. Source: Chris Cochran May 2019



Figure 92 View over fence into backyard of 17 Clyde Road Source: Chris Cochran May 2019



Figure 93 Extent of 17 Clyde Road Source: Napier City Council property on-line

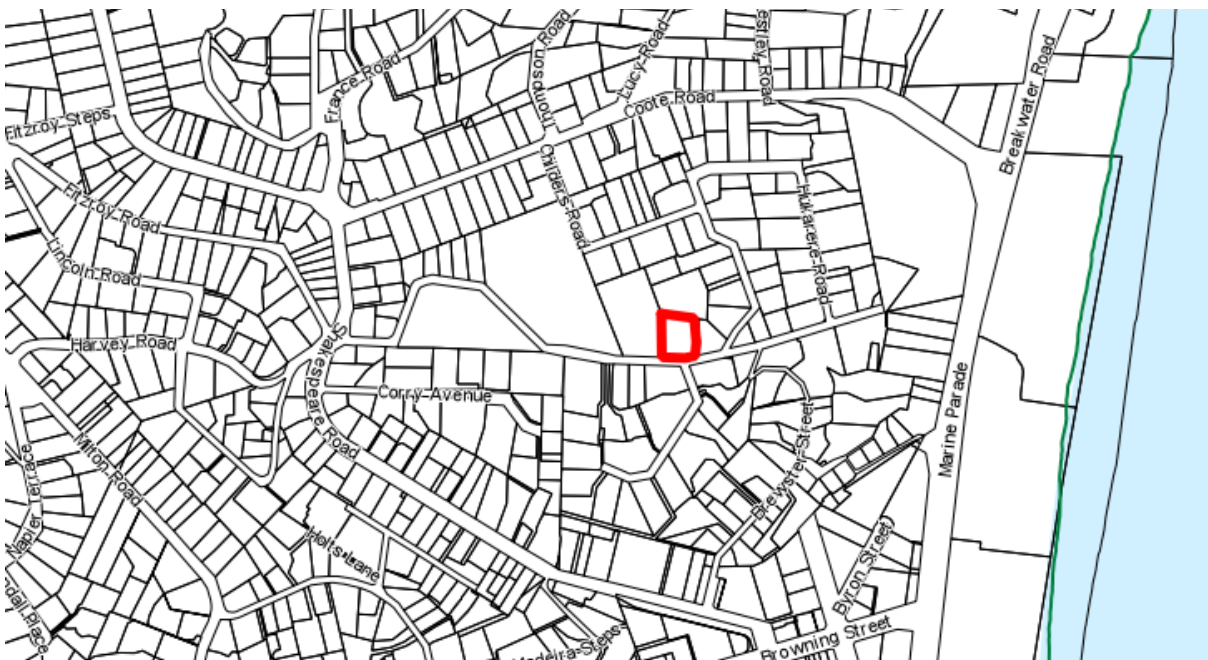


Figure 94 Location of 17 Clyde Road. Source: Napier City Council GIS on-line

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Original function/use: House

Original owner: Samuel Begg

Current use: House

Current owner:

Significance: Aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, historical, social, technological.

Summary:

The house is associated with a prominent early merchant, Samuel Begg. It is an important example of an early colonial cottage, added to over time, and retaining much of its original exterior fabric and character. It is one of the earliest surviving structures on Hukarere Hill, adding to the variety of the architecture and the townscape qualities of the area.

History:

Samuel Begg (1813-1879), his wife Agnes (1824-1912), and their seven children arrived in Napier on 2 February 1860, having travelled from London to New Zealand on the *Wild Duck* (*Hawke's Bay Herald*, 4.2.1860). Samuel Begg had been born in the West Indies and travelled to London where he married Agnes. John Begg (most likely Samuel's brother) was already in Napier by this time, having received a Crown Land Grant for Suburban Section 85 on 16 February 1859. John had apparently reserved some of this land for Samuel and transferred it to him upon arrival in New Zealand, as in May 1860, Samuel had placed a newspaper advertisement for Town Section 446 in Coote Road and "a portion of adjoining Suburban Section No. 85, in desirable dwelling house lots approached by a good road 20 feet wide" (*Hawke's Bay Herald*, 12.5.1860).



Figure 95 Part of Plan of Napier. C. 1876 by James Rochfort. Source: MTG Hawke's Bay object nos 87731, 7813



Figure 96 Part of Bowman Plan X c. early 1880s showing 17 Clyde road at bottom of picture. Source: MTG Hawke's Bay Bowman Plan X

Portions of the house date to the early 1860s, possibly slightly earlier, (though the date of construction is generally attributed to 1860). The house was given the name 'Prospect', with Mrs Begg placing advertisements for staff needed at Prospect over the decades (the first mention of this name was published in early 1865). Rooms were added from early on to accommodate a growing family, and Frederick Bowman's map of Napier lots in the 1880s shows that the outline of the house then is much as it is today – with only small extensions added after that point.

Begg family oral history is that a house was built at 6 Gladstone Road by Samuel Begg for one of his daughters as a wedding present in 1874; this house was removed in 2002. The Begg family retained ownership of the house at 17 Clyde Road into the early twentieth century.

Style/Description: The Samuel Begg House, with its origins dating back to the 1860s, has all the hallmarks of an early colonial cottage – these include small scale shapes and forms, steep-pitched gable roofs and lean-to roofs, dormer windows (indicating small bedrooms tucked into the roof spaces), exposed brick chimney, and plain lapped weatherboard cladding with corrugated iron on the roof. It is also remarkably plain and undecorated. And in the best tradition of these Colonial buildings, it has grown over time, so that today it is a remarkably

rich composition of geometric shapes and forms, with gables facing in all four directions and several lean-tos.

The layering of history and the sequence of construction would be difficult to piece together today unless there happened to be documentary evidence, rare for a building as early as this one. There are obvious stylistic changes in elements such as the joinery, where the double-hung windows pre-date the casement windows of the main (east) elevation; these windows, and the exposed rafter ends, indicate a date for this addition of the 1920s or 30s.

The house occupies a prominent site on Clyde Road, opposite the end of Onslow Road. It has a well-treed garden, with outbuildings, and a neat picket fence and gate to the Clyde Road frontage; there is no footpath in this part of the road.

Notable people: Samuel Begg

References:

Bloomer, Peter. Unpublished research and archival material held by Elizabeth Pishief.

Bowman, Frederick. 'Map, Napier Land Lots, Sheet X', 1880s. MTG Hawke's Bay.

<https://collection.mtghawkesbay.com/objects/72501>.

'Page 6 Advertisements, Column 1'. *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 12 May 1860. Via paperspast.natlib.govt.nz.

'Port of Napier'. *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 4 February 1860. Via paperspast.natlib.govt.nz.

Theme: Settlement, commerce

Hapu/Iwi:

Sociocultural connections: The Begg family

Hapu/Iwi:

Recommendations: Schedule as significant