Heritage Trails

Havelock North
Architectural Drive

HAWKE’S BAY

the Real
Discover New Zealand
Havelock North Architectural Drive

The village of Havelock North sits on the southeastern edge of the Heretaunga Plain at the foot of the Havelock North hills, above what was the swamp and lagoons that once made the plain almost uninhabitable until drained. The Provincial Government opened the village for settlement on 17th January 1860 and by the early 1900s a number of architects had left their mark with unique buildings that can be seen from this trail. There is time to enjoy extensive views and interesting gardens in a village noted for its trees. Hawke’s Bay, in the rain shadow of the dividing range, is noted for long hot summers when the grass browns and the village appears like a fertile oasis.

Note: If it is intended to drive through the schools, please telephone beforehand,-

Iona College (06) 877 8149
Woodford House (06) 873 0700
Hereworth School (06) 877 8138

- or, if not, detour as directed below.

Please respect the privacy of all owners, viewing from the road unless otherwise stated.

The trail begins at –

Havelock North Village Information at the roundabout, corner Middle and Te Aute Roads, Havelock North (phone 877 9600). This 1914 building, designed by James Chapman-Taylor, originally housed the transformer for power generated by the Maraetotara power station. (see Waimarama Heritage Trail brochure). In the centre of this building is a transformer and electrical equipment that continues to supply the needs of the Village’s central business area.

Commencing on Te Aute Road turn left into Porter Drive and then right onto Middle Road to Palmerston Road, turn left then left again into Given Street to top of rise to view on left No. 16 -

1. Endsleigh. (1.33km) Large single-storied house where Thomas and Julia Tanner lived after “Riverslea”, their Napier Road house, burned down. Thomas was active in local affairs until his death in 1918. Originally named “Dilkoosha” and built for W. Beecroft who was the first owner of Lucknow Lodge where he established the original public transport service to Hastings. View from road only.

Along Given Street, right into Lucknow Road to -
(Or to detour: continue to Iona Road, then right to site No. 3 Woodford House).

2. Iona College. (1.70km) Little to be seen from road, but cars may travel through with permission. It was the dream of Rev. Alexander Whyte, minister of Saint Columba’s - Havelock North, that a college for girls be established. When Hugh Campbell gave the land to the Presbyterian Church for a girls’ boarding school in 1911, his dream was realised.

Iona College

Willam J. Rush (1872 – 1965) designed the buildings in Spanish Mission style. The foundation stone was laid in May 1913. The school was opened by Prime Minister W.F. Massey in February 1914. Buildings were seriously damaged in the 1931 Hawke’s Bay Earthquake, but restoration work was successful. Eric Phillips designed the chapel which is dedicated to Saint Martin.

Exit and cross road to -
3. Woodford House. (2.2km) Note: There is no through route but you may park in the school grounds and view on foot. (or to detour: continue into Kopanga Road then left into Pufflett Road to site No. 4 Arden House.)

Founded in Hastings in 1894 by Mabel Hodge. The late Thomas Mason Chambers of Tauroa Station, Havelock North, gave land for the school when it outgrew the original site. The first building there was designed by W.J. Rush in pseudo-Tudor style and reopened in February 1911, blessed by Bishop Averill. The chapel, of Gothic style, dedicated to Saint Francis, was consecrated in 1928. Damage to the school in the 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake was relatively minor, although the chapel needed extensive repairs and was then enlarged to the size it is today. Later features were contributed by other architects.

Exit from the school by loop road, as signed, turning right into Iona Road, then right into Kopanga Road, next left into Pufflett Road. Up the hill to the right can be viewed -

4. Arden Lodge. (4.18km) Built in stripped classic style and designed by William Henry Gummer (1884 – 1966) for Maurice Chambers in 1926. Charles Reginald Ford engineered the building, the senior draughtsman being Francis Gordon Wilson, who later became a New Zealand Government Architect. The building is composed of reinforced concrete and brick with a plaster finish. The interior joinery is of totara with jarrah floors. Now privately owned. It must only be viewed from the road.

Down Pufflett Road, turn left and drive through -

5. Keirunga Gardens. (4.80km) Pass the scale (miniature) Havelock North Steamers & Associates “Keirunga Park Railway” (open 1st. and 3rd. Sundays) on the left. The homestead on the right was built in Californian style circa 1907 by Robert Holt on part of Tauroa Station. The first owners were Reginald and Ruth Gardiner who named it “Stadacona”. Charles Tanner purchased the property and changed the name to “Keirunga”. In 1928 the grounds were developed into a park by George Nelson, the new owner. It was donated as a public park in 1956 in memory of the early settlers. On his death in 1964 the entire property passed to the Havelock North Borough Council. It is now used extensively by many arts and crafts groups.

Turn right into Pufflett Road straight ahead into Keirunga Road then right again into Toop Street. Here can be seen typical John Scott (1924 – 1992) houses at Nos. 22 & 32. He also had some influence in No. 16.-
6. Tauroa House. (8.00km). Visitors may park outside the gates to view, from the roadside, the exterior of this splendid house. The first house on this site, built by T. Mason Chambers, was destroyed by fire in 1914. The present building was designed by William Gummer in New Cubist style and completed in 1916. It caused quite a stir by its size and modernistic approach. In 1983 it was purchased by Hamish McHardy. View from road only.

Tauroa Chambers Collection

The grandeur of this house can be seen in the view opposite No. 195 Durham Drive (just past site No. 12) later in the trail.

Magnificent views of Wakarara and Ruahine ranges, water reservoirs and new housing may be seen by turning right up Hikanui Drive. Otherwise, turn left down Tauroa Road into Duart Road to No. 51 -

7. Duart House and Gardens. (9.40km)

Built in 1882 for Allan and Hannah McLean as a colonial style grand mansion. Allan didn't allow gardens, but his widow developed them in 1890. The house is built of heart rimu and totara rafted down the Esk River. The House has its own very fine collection of 19 paintings by George Thompson Pritchard. Open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from 10am to noon or by arrangement; phone (06) 877 6334.

Duart House Havelock North Community Archive

Continue down Duart Road, to No. 18 (corner of Campbell Street) -

8. Sunbourne. (10.60km) James Walter Chapman-Taylor’s (1878 – 1958) fifth house. Built with a technique he named “Honeycomb”, the 14 inch (355mm) thick concrete walls were made with the use of 4 gallon (18 litre) petrol cans and reinforced with old iron bedsteads. The windows were glazed with photographic plates. The base is square and archways were used for interior decor. It was completed in 1919. During construction the architect lived in a small cottage at No. 23 Campbell Street which he called “Oak Trees”. View from the road only.

At Nos. 21 & 19 Campbell Street are two examples of the architecture of John Scott (1924 – 1992).

Turn Right into Te Mata Road. Travel along to Danvers Street on the left. At the end of this street is the Waiapu House Aged Care Centre where the Chapel of the Good Shepherd designed by John Scott may be viewed. Note his use of coloured glass. Prior permission must be sought from reception – phone (06) 872 8930 during office hours.

Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Rev. Cherie Baker

Return to Te Mata Road turn left and continue to, on the left -
1. Endsleigh
2. Iona College
3. Woodford House
4. Arden Lodge
5. Keirunga Gardens
6. Tauroa House
7. Duart House & Gardens
8. Sunbourne
9. Our Lady of Lourdes
10. Hereworth School
11. Woodcroft
12. Falcon Ridge
13. Original Te Mata Homestead
14. Rush Cottage
15. Peloha
16. Arataki Honey House
9. Our Lady of Lourdes. (11.48km) This is the first Catholic Church to be built in Havelock North. It was designed by John Scott and opened in 1960. Features of this building are the simple structure of a ridge beam resting on triangular supports, and the light from the tower falling on the altar. Again note use of coloured glass.

10. Hereworth School. (11.64km) First called “Heretaunga” it was founded in Hastings by William Rainbow in 1882 at the behest of William Nelson. The decision to move to the present site was made in 1912. W.J. Rush was commissioned to design the buildings. In 1926 declining numbers forced a merger with “Hurworth” School Wanganui and the new school received its composite name. The chapel, designed by R. Muston and dedicated to Saint James by Bishop Norman Lesser, was opened in 1958.

Exit and turn right into Simla Avenue to view on left No. 51 -

11. Woodcroft. (12.51km) Another Chapman-Taylor house on which no expense was spared. The “honeycomb” technique was used again. It was built in 1920 for the Davidson family. Inside is a beautiful “ingletonook” (seat in fireplace). Rafters are exposed and wood panelling used. The roof is high, tiled, with dormer windows. View from the road only.

Continue up Simla Avenue, passing the road leading to Te Mata Peak and down into Greenwood Road, over the bridge, turning right then right again into McHardy Street. This passes many interesting houses of varying styles. Right at Lindsay Street, then right again into Te Mata Road. Continue to James Cook Street and turn right. At the end, turn right into Durham Drive. Almost at the top, a typical Rush designed homestead may be seen on left at No. 169 –

12. Falcon Ridge. (17.40km) This home, built by a pioneer of the hardware business, F.L. Bone, was built circa 1902. The timber was mainly Australian jarrah and all nail holes had to be drilled with a hand-drill. As there was no formed road at the time all the materials were dragged up to the site using bullocks and dray. View from the road only.

In this vicinity are some more examples of John Scott’s work a little further on at Nos 195 and 263 at the end of Durham Drive. The latter is best seen across the valley on the approach.
13. Te Mata House - Original Te Mata Homestead and Historic Woolshed. (20.70km)

The earliest European house in the Havelock North district was a modest cottage, the first home built in 1854 by John Chambers. The original home was engulfed by the construction of two-storied wings on either side, circa 1870, then bridged in 1876 to complete the present building. A small schoolroom was erected in front and a tutor, J. Reynolds, engaged to teach the Chambers’ sons. This led in 1863 to the establishment of what is now Havelock North Primary School and he became the first headmaster. In 1892 J. Bernard Chambers planted his first grapevines across the road at a place he named “Mamelon”. He converted the brick stables adjacent to the house into a winery, still in use by Te Mata Estate. At the turn of the century the house was extensively and sensitively restored to its former 1923 state. View from the road only.

14. Rush Cottage. (21.96km) On the left this site is well marked by a tall palm grown from seed brought home from Egypt after World War I. This cottage was built by the Te Mata Station staff under the direction of W. J. Rush. When John Henry Jolly married he bought a block of Te Mata including the cottage. His son, John Mackey Joll, married in 1926 and lived there until 1953. When the house was being built, it was pointed out that there was no access from the ground floor to the second floor. So the stairway was an afterthought, very steep and intruding seriously into the living area. Scrap iron collected from around the station was used as reinforcing in the poured concrete walls. No provision had been made for windows and they were chipped out after the boxing was removed.

Opposite Te Mata Estate Winery, an example of innovative architecture can be seen above the vines. “Coleraine” (21.15km) was designed by Ian Athfield (b1940) and built for the Buck family of Te Mata Estate in 1980/81. It has been featured widely in the media and is listed with Historic Places Trust.

The cottage and two adjacent Black Barn retreats are available as tourist accommodation. Other features of Black Barn are the hillside amphitheatre, underground wine cellar, art gallery and restaurant.
Return to Te Mata Road then left to Weleda shop car-park to view -

15. Peloha. (23.30km) Built in 1904 for John and Margaret Holdsworth (sister of J. Bernard Chambers) the house was originally named “Swarthmoor” in honour of “The Friends” school in England. Purchased in 1942 by Dr Herbert Sutcliffe, it was renamed “Peloha”, an abbreviation of PEace, LOve and HArmony. He established the International Sutcliffe Schools for Radiant Living with Peloha as headquarters. In the 1970s the property became a charitable trust. In 1988 it was purchased by Weleda, who manufacture herbal, homeopathic and anthroposophical medicines, mostly from the plants grown on the property. View from the driveway only.

16. Arataki Honey Visitor Centre. (25.40km) A government research station was set up here in 1903 with grape vines and apple trees. By 1911 it was offering a large number of disease resistant varieties for sale. The venture was closed in 1922 because of the poor financial climate and soil conditions. In 1944 Percy Berry set up the apiary business based here with hives spread widely throughout the North Island.

A visit to this education centre to observe the working of the honey bee is well worthwhile.

The Heritage trail ends here.
Other brochures in the Heritage Trails series are available from local iSites.
Acknowledgements:

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Abbreviation:

NZHPT - New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Research:

Committee - Hastings District Heritage Trails Society Incorporated

Rev. Cherie Baker and Don Trask

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