

# **Te Awa Lifecare Village**

## **Arnold Farm and Arnold Cottage Interpretation Information**



Prepared by Alexy Simmons and Keith Small

# The Arnolds at Cambridge

This place was the home of John and Maria Arnold and their descendants. Three generations of their family lived on this property from 1865 to 1983.

## *How Did Their Story Begin?*

In 1852 John Arnold, a butcher from northern England, immigrated to Bendigo Australia. Ten years later he married immigrant Maria Healing, a professional cook from Dover. John left his new bride in Australia and rushed to Gabriel's Gully in Otago, New Zealand to seek gold. She continued to work as a cook.

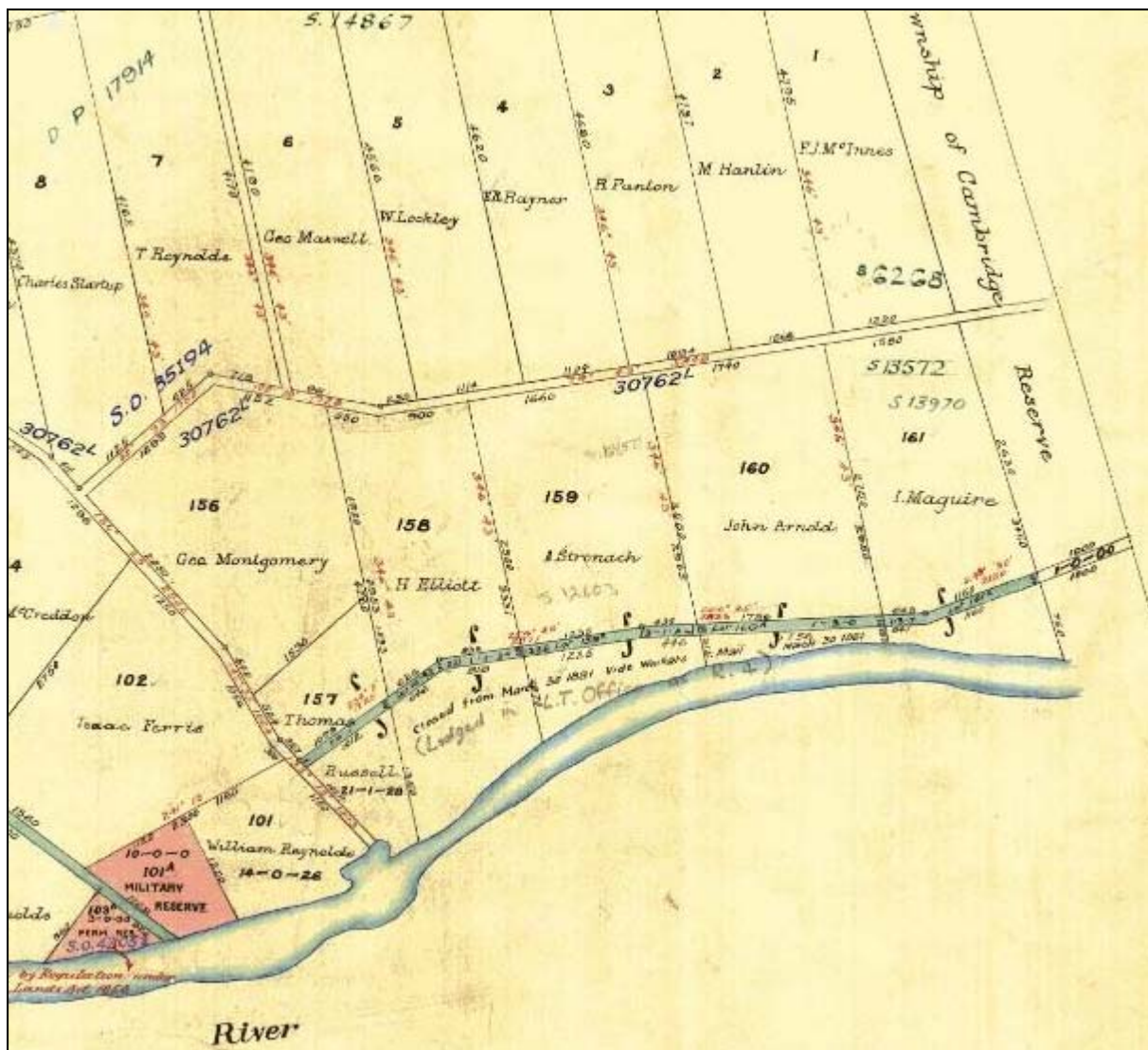
John's dream of an easy fortune was soon dashed. In November 1863 he enlisted as a Private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the Waikato Militia for the Waikato Campaign of the New Zealand Wars.

John was assigned to the Commissariat Department as a butcher. He was stationed at nearby Camp Cambridge and Pukerimu Redoubt in 1864.

When Maria joined her husband at Cambridge in April 1864. She was only the 9<sup>th</sup> women at the large military camp.

## *Land for Military Service*

In 1865 John was awarded a town section and a 50 acre farm for his militia service. The young couple rapidly moved into a tent on their farm, here on the outskirts of Cambridge.



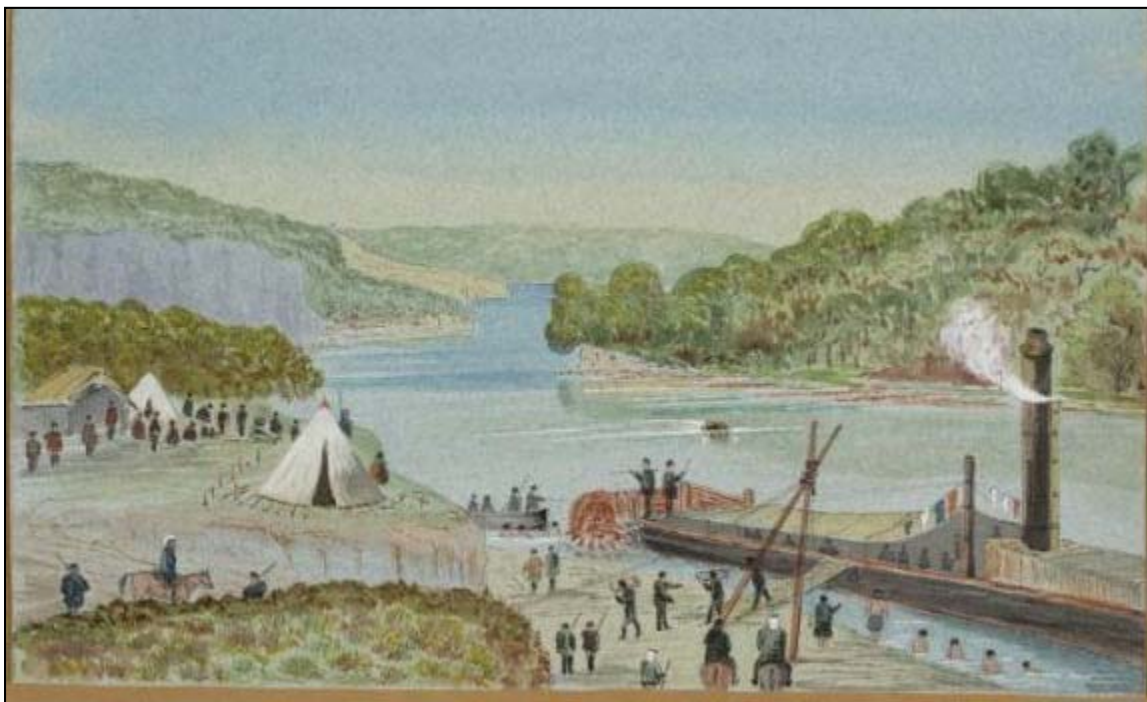
Location of John Arnolds farm, lot 160 near Cambridge and Pukerimu landing. (Plan SO 96<sup>3</sup>).

John continued to be employed as a military butcher. His duties at the Pukerimu Commissariat Depot took him across the Waikato River by punt close to Arikirua Pa. The Pa is on the bottom terrace of Te Awa Lifecare Village and can be visited by walking along the Te Awa Cycle track.



*Pukerimu landing place E.A. Williams April 1864.*

*"Looking down the Waikato from the landing place and commissariat stores. The steamer cruising up with flats in tow. The river is 100 yards broad here & very swift with an awkward rock in the middle" (Hocken Library digital collection 75/155).*



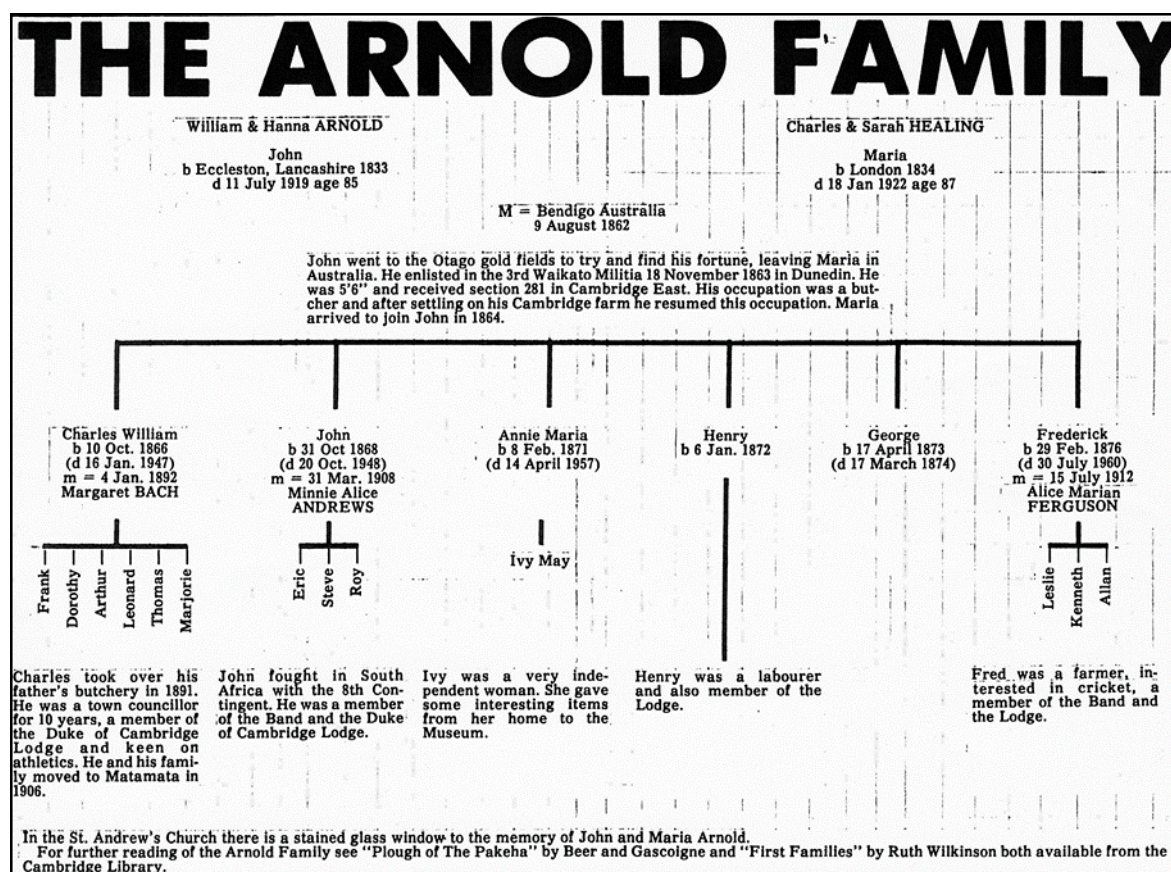
*Pukerimu, Waikato, J. O. Hamley April 1864. (Alexander Turnbull Library E-047-q-006.)*



(Copy of a watercolour by Colonel Edward Arthur Williams held by the Hocken Library and entitled Landing at Pukerimu. April '64).

## Children and Hard Work

Maria bore six children on the farm from 1866 to 1876; five sons and a daughter, Annie.



In the 1860s John opened a Butcher Shop in Cambridge, at the Triangle on Empire Street. Maria and the children all played a role in the success of the business and farm. Maria ran the butcher shop for 18 years, 'quartering meat with the best of them.' The children tended the farm stock, helped in the shop, and delivered meat.



*John Arnold Butcher Shop, at the Triangle, was the first butcher in Cambridge.*

*The caption states, John Arnold standing against the shop behind the horse and his son's mounted with delivery baskets. The girl posed at the corner with the baby, is probably Annie Arnold with her younger brother Fredrick in the child's carriage.*

**CAMBRIDGE BUTCHERY ESTABLISHMENT.**

**T**HE undersigned, in returning his sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Cambridge and surrounding districts for the liberal patronage bestowed upon him for several years, has now to inform them that his present prices are:

Mutton, side	...	3d per lb
" fore-quarter	...	3d
" hind-quarter	...	4d
Beef, boiling	...	4d
" roast	...	5d
Steaks	...	6d
Sausages	...	6d

All Country orders punctually attended to.  
Cambridge, July 24, 1878.

**JOHN ARNOLD.**

**JOHN ARNOLD**  
**Butcher.**  
**CAMBRIDGE.**  
[Established 1867.]

I beg to draw the attention of my customers and the public generally to the following list of **CASH PRICES** and hope by a careful attention to all orders to receive that share of patronage deserving my enterprise.

Boiling Beef	..	...	d.	d.
Roast "	...	...	3 to 4	1
Round "	...	...	4	1
Corneal "	...	...	3	1
Mutton "	...	...	3	1
Pork	...	...	4	1
Veal	...	...	4	1
Chops, Steaks and Sausages	...	...	5	1

All small goods carefully prepared on the premises. Hams and Bacon home fed and home cured.  
Families waited on and orders executed with my best attention. Family and Hotel orders according to contract.

**JOHN ARNOLD.**

*Advertisements for Arnolds' Butcher Shop (Waikato Times 1 August 1878, p. 3 and 21 August 1880, p.4).*

## Social and Family Life

John was a member of several local clubs and a lodge. Social clubs were used then, as they are today, for networking. Their sons followed their father's lead; they became members of the Loyal Duke of Cambridge Lodge of Odd Fellows and served as Lodge officers. They participated in club cricket, athletics, the Gun Club shoots, and lawn bowling.



*Vice Grand Odd Fellows Ritual Robe. (<http://robertleo.com/ioofstuff.htm>) and an example of Odd Fellows pins.*

Maria and John's eldest son, Charles William Arnold, was a member of the town council for ten years. In 1891 he took over the Triangle Butcher Shop when John retired.





Charles William Arnold (*Cyclopedia of New Zealand; Auckland Provincial District 1902*, p.767).

**BUSINESS NOTICE.**

**To the Inhabitants of Cambridge  
and Surrounding District.**

On retiring from the General Butcher-  
ing Trade, I beg to return my sincere  
thanks for the large amount of support  
I have received during the many years I  
have been in business, and now have to  
state that the business, in all its branches  
will in future be carried on by my son,  
CHARLES W. ARNOLD, for whom I  
solicit a continuance of that liberal sup-  
port so long conferred upon me.

JOHN ARNOLD.  
Cambridge, July 31, 1891.

With reference to the above, I trust  
that with strict attention to business,  
supplying meat of first-class quality only  
and charging the lowest prices, to merit  
a continuance of that liberal support so  
long accorded my father.

CHARLES W. ARNOLD.  
Cambridge, July 31, 1891.

John Arnold retires and the business is carried on by his son. (*Waikato Times 1 August 1891*, p.3).



Music was part of their life on the farm. Maria played piano for family and house guests. Her 1851 Collard and Collard cabinet piano is displayed at the Cambridge Museum.

Several of the children inherited Maria's musical talent. Fred and Jack (John Jr.) performed with the Cambridge Brass Band—one of oldest bands in New Zealand.

The family worshipped together as members of St Andrew's Anglican Church. A large stained glass window that commemorates the Arnolds is located in the Church.

Annie, the only daughter of John and Maria, was considered 'delicate', but known for her sewing skills. Maria started Annie hand sewing at a young age—'little hands to darn little socks.' A Beale Treadle Sewing Machine arrived for her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Annie produced many of the clothes worn by her family. The Beale Treadle and a little Taylor hand machine were used into the mid-1950s.



Example of a Beale patent treadle sewing machine and the Arnold Families W Taylor hand sewing machine bought in the 1870s. *The Pamphlet Collection of Sir Robert Stout: Volume 69* <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/Stout69-fig-Stout69P007112a.html>

Annie's daughter Ivy May was born on May 23, 1896. She grew up on the farm with her mother and grandparents. Ivy would eventually inherit the original 50 acre farm and cottage from her mother Annie.

Ivy was a good student, clever, and independent. She taught herself to spin and designed several spinning wheels. One featured a small electric motor. Ivy dyed the farm produced wool using natural dyes—walnut and pear leaves from the orchard, barberry and Karamu / Coprosma berries.

During the World War II wool shortage Ivy gave spinning lessons to members of the Red Cross Society.



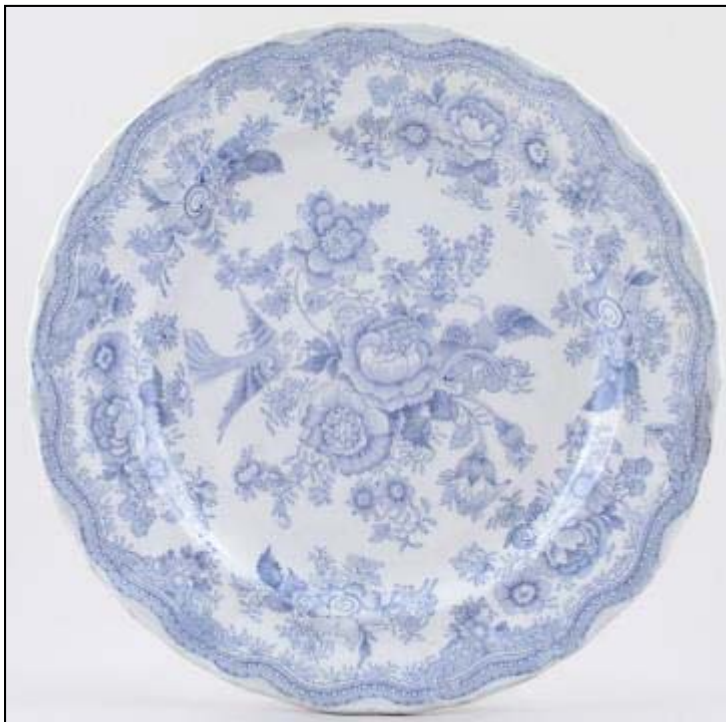
Ivy was a spinster and the last member of the Arnold Family who worked the farm and lived in this cottage.

Archaeological deposits of tableware; glass bottles that held various products—Lea and Perrins Worcestershire sauce, gin, straw hat polish; and other Arnold Family artefacts. These reminders of daily life on the farm are displayed in the cabinets in this room. Arnold Family furniture and other domestic items can be seen at the Cambridge Museum including their dinnerware pattern, Asiatic Pheasants.

Ivy and her spinning wheel. The spinning wheel was one she designed and had made by a local cabinet maker. (The wheel is on display at the Cambridge Museum.)



Ivy and her dog.



Asiatic Pheasant pattern plate.

Asiatic Pheasant pattern ceramics used by the Arnold Family were produced by three different manufacturers: R. Hammersley & Son (1860-1905); Brownfield & Sons (1871-91); and Burslem Pottery Co. (1894-1933). The dates indicate the family probably purchased replacement pieces in the same pattern over the years.



# The Farm

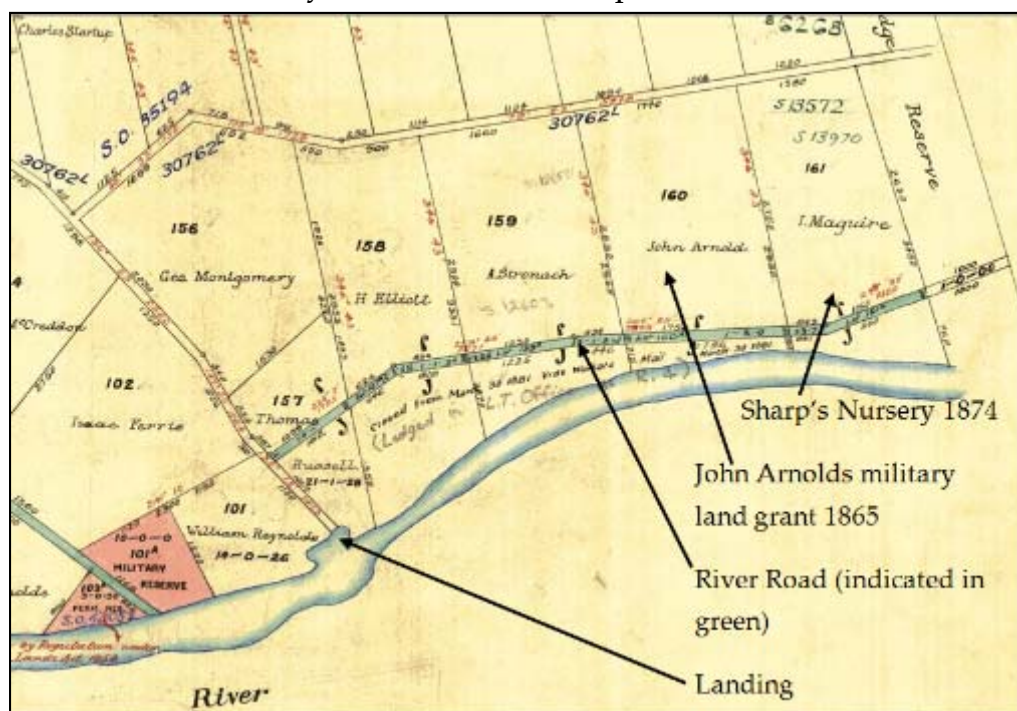
## Location, Location, Location

Maria and John committed themselves to making the farm sustainable. It also had other advantages:

- Arnold farm was close to town.
- River Road, the 1860s-70s link between Cambridge and Pukerimu Landing a supply port. The Te Awa Cycle path follows the old road.
- The land had been cleared and cultivated by Maori prior to 1863, and
- Ariki Stream was located on the lower pasture.

A water powered ram was installed on Ariki Stream to provide water to the cottage and land near the Hamilton-Cambridge Road.

John and Maria planted an orchard on the western side of the house. The orchard stock was from the nursery of their neighbour John Sharp. In 1975 the orchard contained several one hundred year old trees—a few pear trees remain.

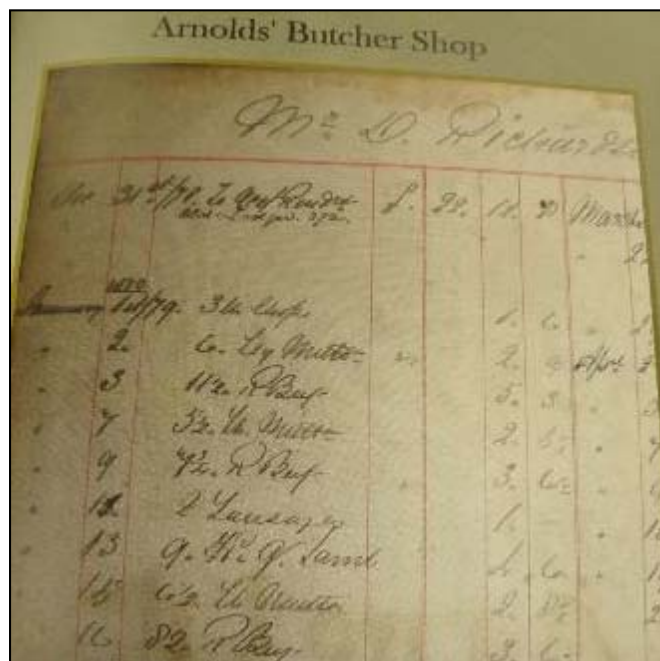


Location of John Arnolds farm, lot 160 near Cambridge and Pukerimu landing. (Plan SO 96<sup>3</sup>).

## The Farm and Butcher Shop

As you might suspect, the farm served the needs of the Arnold Butcher Shop. Cattle, pigs, and sheep were raised and fattened. A large garden was kept along with various species of fowl.

John built a slaughter house on the farm. Wholesale sized cuts of meat were conveyed from the farm directly to commercial customers or the shop. At the butcher shop the sides of meat were process for retail sale into steaks, chops, roasts.



**J O H N   \* A R N O L D**  
Butcher,  
CAMBRIDGE.  
[Established 1867.]

I beg to draw the attention of my customers and the public generally to the following list of **ALL PRICES** and hope by a careful attention to all orders to receive that share of patronage deserving my enterprise.

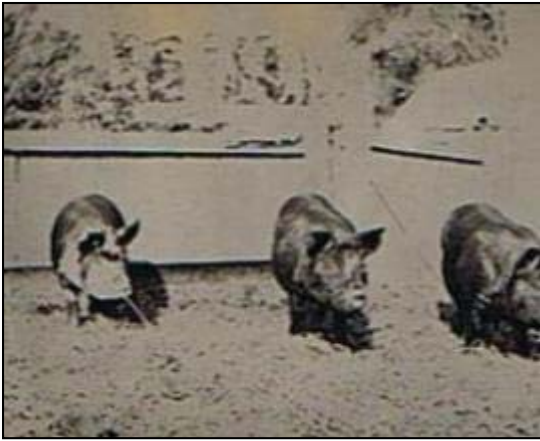
Boiling Beef	..	...	d.	d.
Roast	"	...	3 to 4	
Round	"	...	4	1/2
Corned	"	...	5	
Mutton	...	...	3 1/2	4
Pork	...	...	3	4 1/2
Veal	...	...	4 1/2	5 1/2
Chops, Steaks and Sausages			4	5 1/2

All small goods carefully prepared on the premises. Hams and Bacon home fed and home cured.  
Families waited on and orders executed with my best attention. Family and Hotel orders according to contract.

**JOHN ARNOLD,**

Butcher Shop Account book, 1879; page for D. Richardson (architect). (Cambridge Museum) *Advertisements for Arnolds' Butcher Shop; hams and bacon home fed and home cured.* (Waikato Times 21 August 1880, p.4).

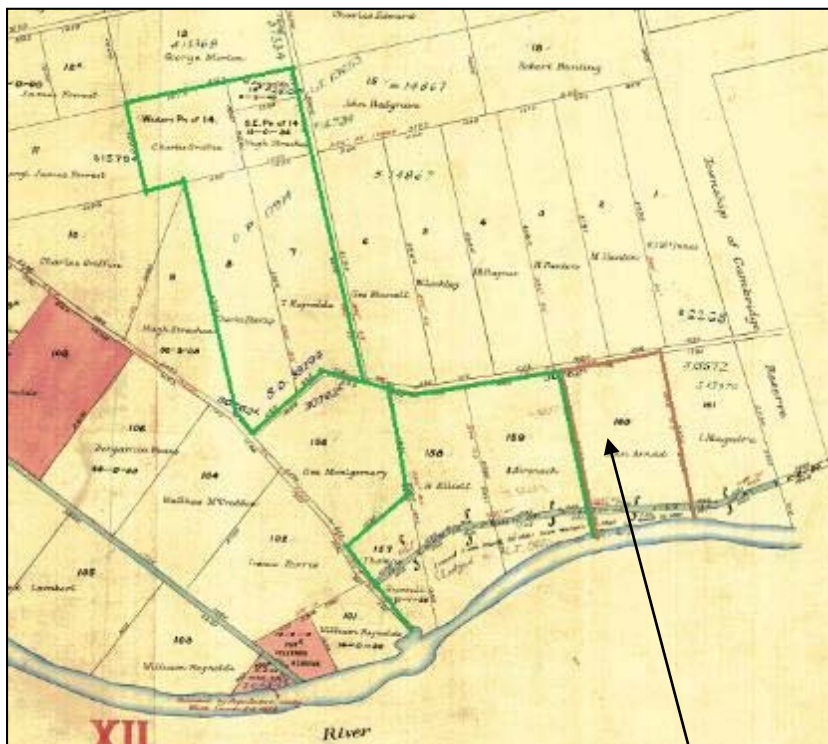
Bacon and ham were cured in a farm smoke house. The Arnold's promoted their home fed and cured bacon and ham. Beef was probably corned on the farm, but small goods like sausages were made in the shop.



Arnold Farm Pigs.

## Expanding the Farm

John was a tenacious businessman who was interested in expanding the farm. In 1882 he began purchasing additional farm land adjacent to this property. The Arnold farm was around 240 acres in size by 1919—almost five times larger than the 1865 farm.



*The original military land grant is outlined in brown the additions in green. John Arnold also acquired sections 157, 157a, 158 and 159; and sections 7, 8 and 14.*



## Farming—Grain Crops and Fine Wool

John was a member of the Waikato Farmers' Club, as were many other Cambridge farmers and businessmen in the mid 1870s. The club fostered local agriculture, scientific advancements, and collective purchases.

The Arnolds were growing wheat on this property in the 1880s, and possibly before.

In 1889 a journalist observed, "Riding down the Hamilton-Cambridge road a fine field of barley on Mr John Arnold's farm." (Waikato Times 24 December 1889, p.2).



*Arnold Farm, harvest time.*

By the 1900s the Arnold farm began raising Lincoln sheep for fine wool production. Stray dogs posed the same problem in the 1900s as they do today. In September 1907 John lost 30 ewes to dogs. He notified the newspaper that he was left with a large number of orphan lambs and was laying poison.



*Lincoln Sheep*

John and Maria's grand-daughter Ivy continued the tradition of raising fine wool sheep on the farm in the 1930-60s. She also raised fowl and sold chicken eggs locally. Ivy's egg account book can be viewed in the Cambridge Museum Archive.



*Ducks on the farm from Ivy Arnold's Photo Album.*

## Recreation on the Farm—Golf Links

John was an avid member of the Cambridge Golf Club. The Cambridge Golf Club was constituted in 1902 with 28 women and 27 men. John sponsored the establishment of the first golf links on this property.

The 1902 nine hole golf links, used the natural contours of the Farm's lower terrace. The club course remained until it was relocated in 1924. If you visit the lower terrace, where Arikirua Pa is imagine the nine hole golf links:

'Par (or bogey) was 46 for nine holes, because some of the holes were so long they deserved a par of 6 or 7.'



*Opening of the golf season, 1902, on Arnold Farm.*



## Farming Days—The Arnold Women

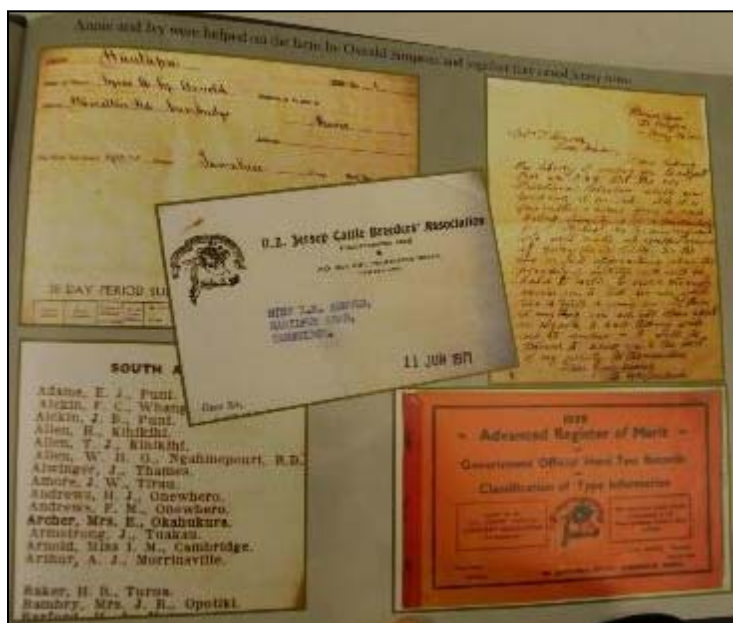
With John's death in 1919 the farm was reduced in size through inheritance. The original 50 acre farm was retained by Maria Arnold. Maria, her daughter Annie, and grand-daughter Ivy continued to farm the land.



*Maria Arnold, age 66.*

In 1922 Annie inherited the farm from Maria. Seven years later Ivy and Annie arranged for Oswald Simpson to help with the farm. He boarded with the Arnold women and provided skills they didn't have. Oswald, was a carpenter by trade, WWI veteran and member of St Andrew's Church.

Ivy and Oswald began raising Jersey cattle in the early 1930s. Many of the old farm buildings were re-purposed for the herd. Older structures like the slaughter house were demolished by 1955 and the timber used for a cow shed or barn.



*Ivy Arnolds, Jersey Herd in the Arnold Family scrapbook, Cambridge Museum.*

The farm passed to Ivy in 1957. The farming partnership between Ivy and Oswald continued until he suffered ill health in 1963.

Ivy's interest in Jerseys extending to 1971. Her herd records are in the Cambridge Museum Archive.

Ivy leased the farm to Bill Montgomerie in about 1972. She continued to live in the farm cottage, but no longer kept livestock. A tribe of cats and a dog called Fly kept her company. Bill provided her with fire wood.

Despite having arthritis, she continued to be active and self sufficient. She regularly checked on the water ram on Ariki Stream and had a knitting machine she used to make a sweater for Mr Montgomerie's son.



*One of Ivy's dogs and a chicken.*

Ivy, the last Arnold to live on the farm moved into care in 1983 and passed away a few years later.

James and Shirley Downey purchased the property in about 1987 and moved onto the farm with their son Paul. James planted the plane and willow trees that are dotted across the farm. They removed Ivy's milking shed and replaced it with a large house. The Downeys farmed and kept saddle horses on the property until 2013.

# The Cottage

You are standing in the Arnolds Family's second wooden cottage.

It does not look like it did in the 1870s. Three additions were made to the original house. This is not surprising; the Arnold family was a growing family and their economic means was also increasing.



Maria Arnold, the matriarch of the Arnold Family, on the front porch in ca.1900.

## *The 1870s Cottage*

The circa 1870s cottage is the core of the structure. If you step into the hall you have entered the original cottage with its four rooms, double fireplace opening, and simpler decoration.

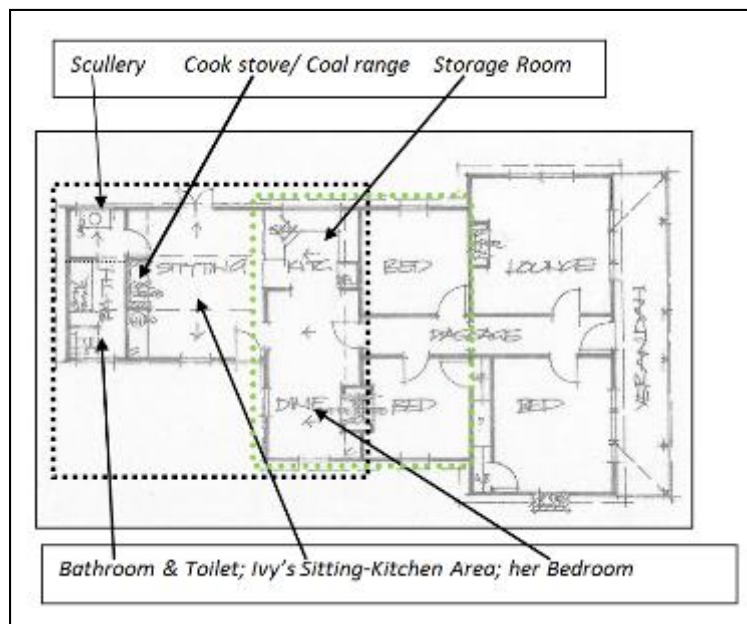
The single roof of the original cottage and its unusual construction were exposed during conservation work by Te Awa Lifecare Inc. in 2016. The illustrations show how the building was altered over the years. The frontage on Cambridge Road was designed to advertise the Arnold's economic status in the late 1800s.

## *Last Arnold Occupant*

Ivy Arnold was the last member of the family to live in this cottage. Ivy lived in the rear of this house until about 1983. She cooked on a coal range and did the washing up in the scullery (where the toilet sink is).

If you walk to the back of the cottage and face the old coal range you can imagine Ivy stirring a pot. A step through the toilet door takes you into what was the scullery.

A deep porcelain sink and long counter top has been inserted in this area to recall the scullery.



*The Original Cottage enclosed by green broken line and the living spaces used by Ivy Arnold in the 1970s and 80s are enclosed by a broken black line. The annotations show how she used the space.*

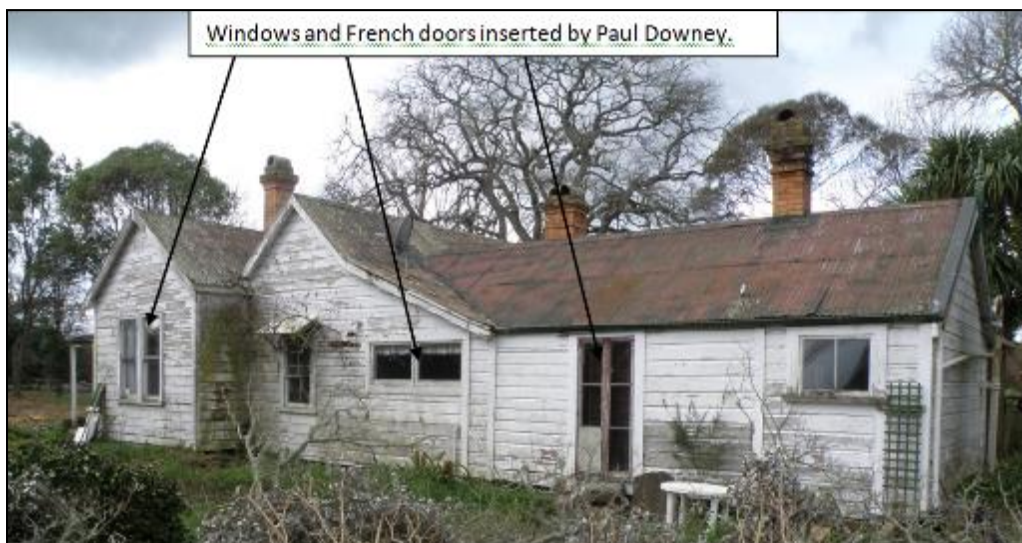


## *Paul Downey*

Paul Downey moved into the cottage in the late 1980s and made several changes. By the 1990s he had inserted a kitchen, removed the scullery, and changed some of the windows. He also landscaped the garden.

## *Heritage Integrity 2016*

In 2016 Te Awa Lifecare Village. carried out major work to make the building habitable and satisfy building code standards. The work was guided by a conservation plan. The plan ensured the heritage values of the structures were preserved.



*Changes made by Paul Downey. Photograph of the Arnold Cottage in 2014; west elevation. The rectangular kitchen window and French doors have been removed and double hung windows inserted. The double hung window in the front room was retained as a reminder of Paul's residency.*

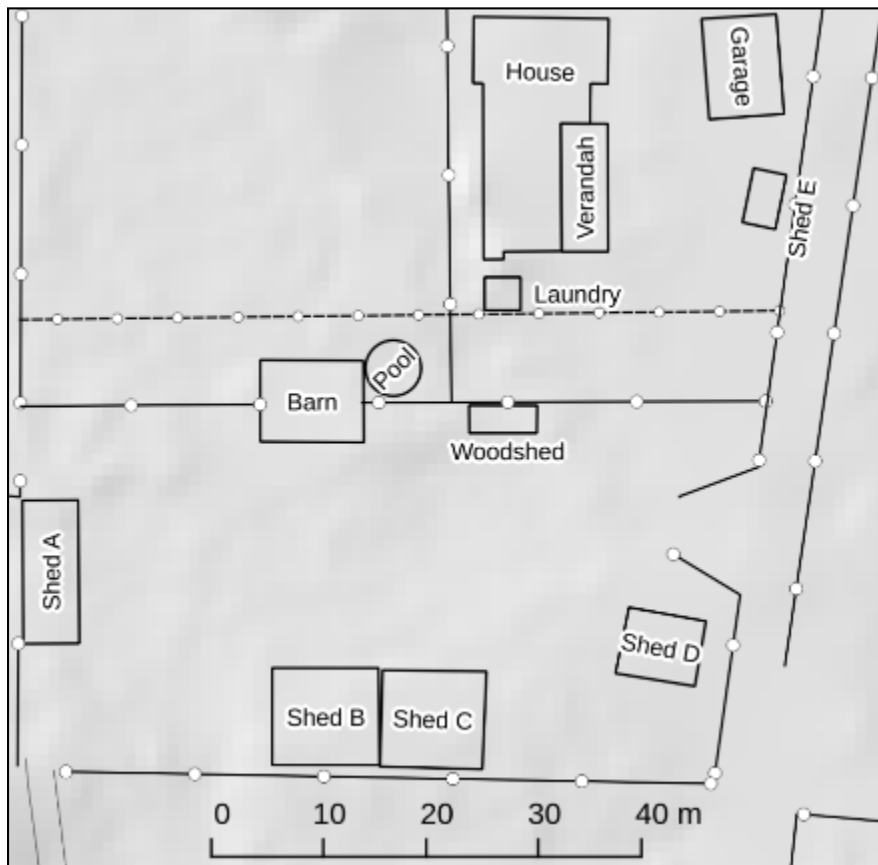




Interior view of Arnold House, 2015.

# Outbuildings

The house and farm yards contained a number of buildings. Many of the structures were constructed prior to 1943. The Downey Family were using many of the structures for storage in 2013.



*Structures in the house and farm yards in 2013.*



## House yard

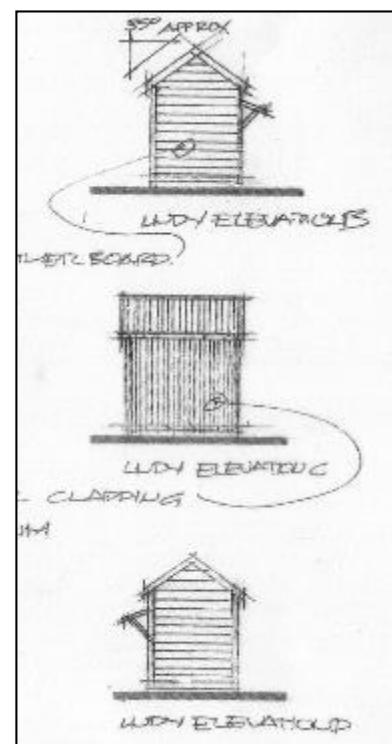
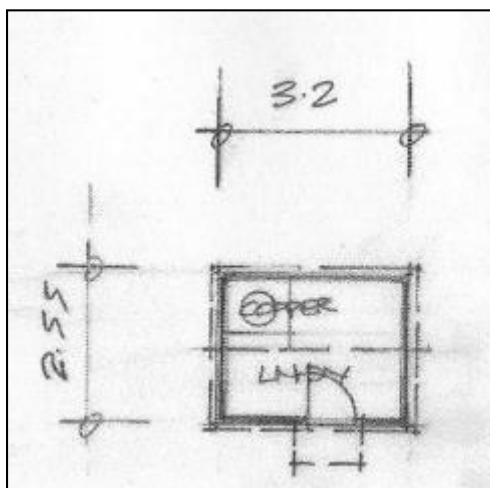
### *The Laundry and Water Tank*

The laundry building was probably used by Ivy and Annie Arnold. It may have been built by Oswald Simpson, a carpenter. It had a copper mounted in bricks with a fire box below.

In the 1990s Paul Downey replaced the laundry floor and relined the back and side walls with corrugated iron. He constructed a new tank stand adjacent to the house and installed a black plastic tank. This replaced a concrete tank that fell over.

By 2013 the laundry building foundation had collapsed.

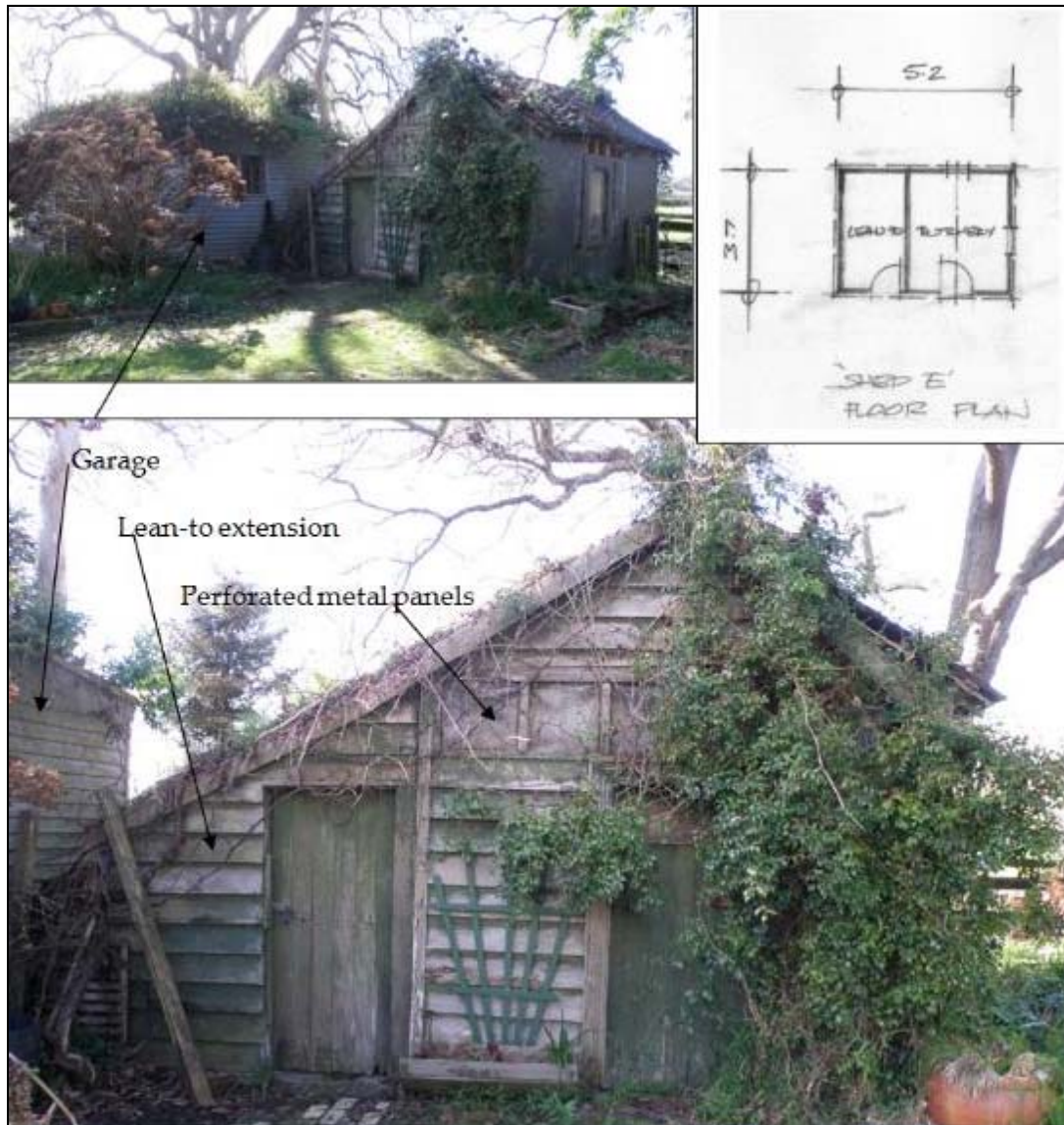
The building was demolished in 2016, but the copper was retained .



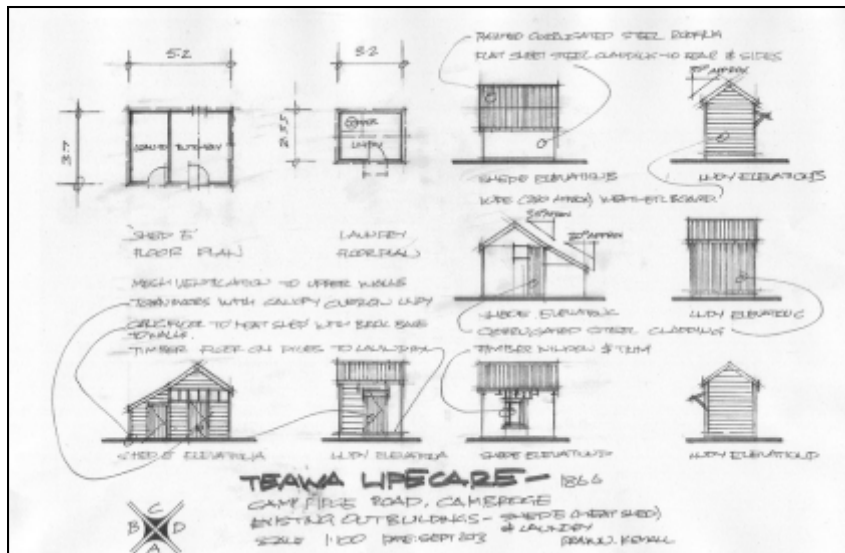
### *Shed E and Metal Garage*

In 2013 Shed E was used as storage shed by Paul Downey. The Arnold's may have used it as a cool store. The internal hooks below the gable ridge, and the perforated metal and screened openings suggested it was used for hanging sheep or pig's carcasses, or quarters of beef. The concrete floor and low brick wall on the interior would have assisted with cooling.

It was in very poor condition and demolished in 2016.



*Shed E, 2013*



*Laundry and Shed E plans and elevations*

## ***Farm yard Outbuildings***

*Wood Shed*, the previous use, if any, is not known. It was demolished in 2016.



### ***Barn***

The barn had a dirt floor, no doors and had a flat roofed addition on the north elevation. It was constructed of recycled materials including support posts of various dimensions.

The barn was probably used as a cow shed and / or for vehicle and tools storage. The south wall was leaning in 2013. Paul Downey used it for storage. It was demolished in 2016.

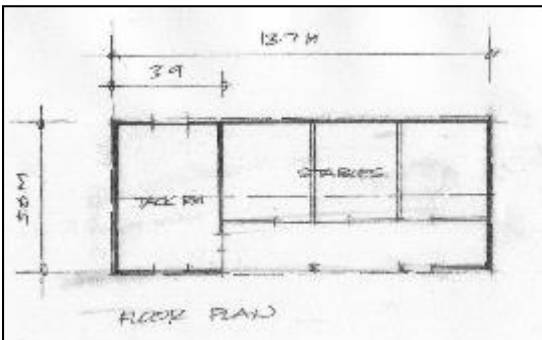




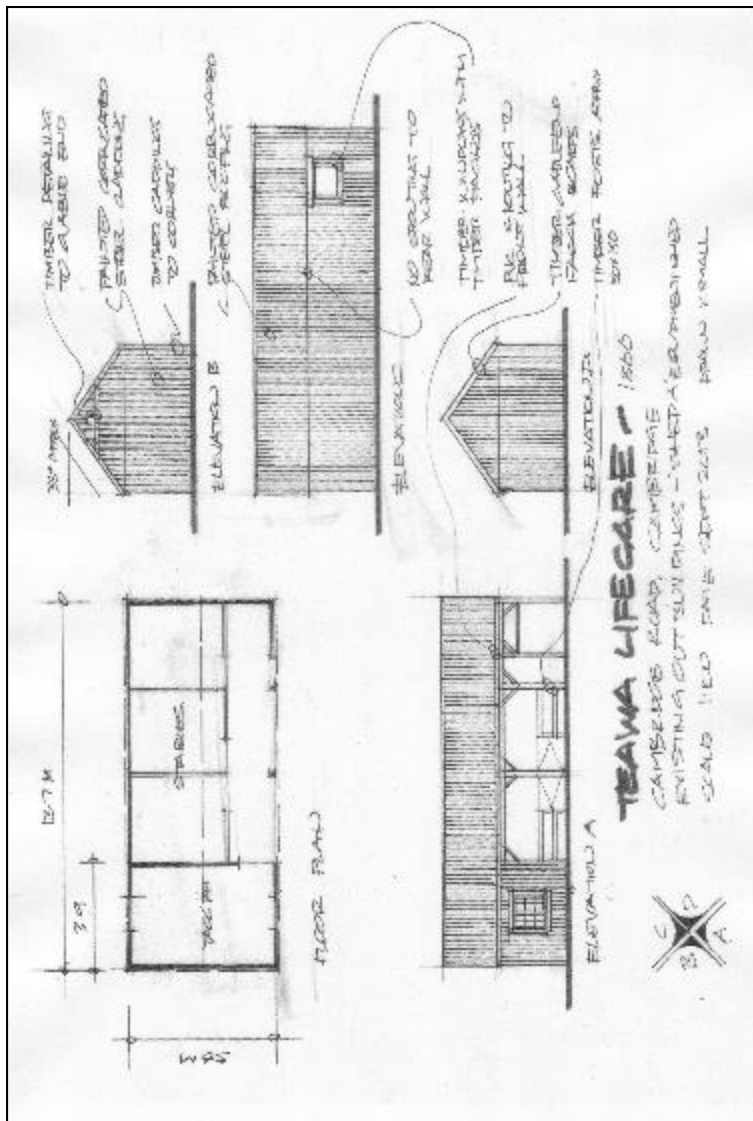
Barn, being used for storage by Paul Downey.







*Tack room with saddle trees on the south wall, 2013.*



### Implement Shed A / Downey's Stable

*Sheds C*

Shed C was designed for storing grain or fertilizer. It sat on a high foundation to keep the contents dry. The shed had corrugated siding, a wide opening on the east end and a wooden floor.

It was empty from 1972 to 1985. In about 2007 the shed was damaged by a falling tree and pushed off its foundations. Miscellaneous items were stored in the shed in 2013, including furniture.

It was demolished in 2016.



Shed C (Granary) and on the right Stables (Shed B)



Shed C, 2013.



### *Shed D*

Shed D had metal siding, a dirt floor and a small lean-to addition on the west side. The lean-to had a small room with a wooden floor and a porch with a workbench.

The main structure contained a work bench at the north end. Shed D may have been a barn and later a workshop. The lean-to room could have been used to house a farm worker prior to 1972.

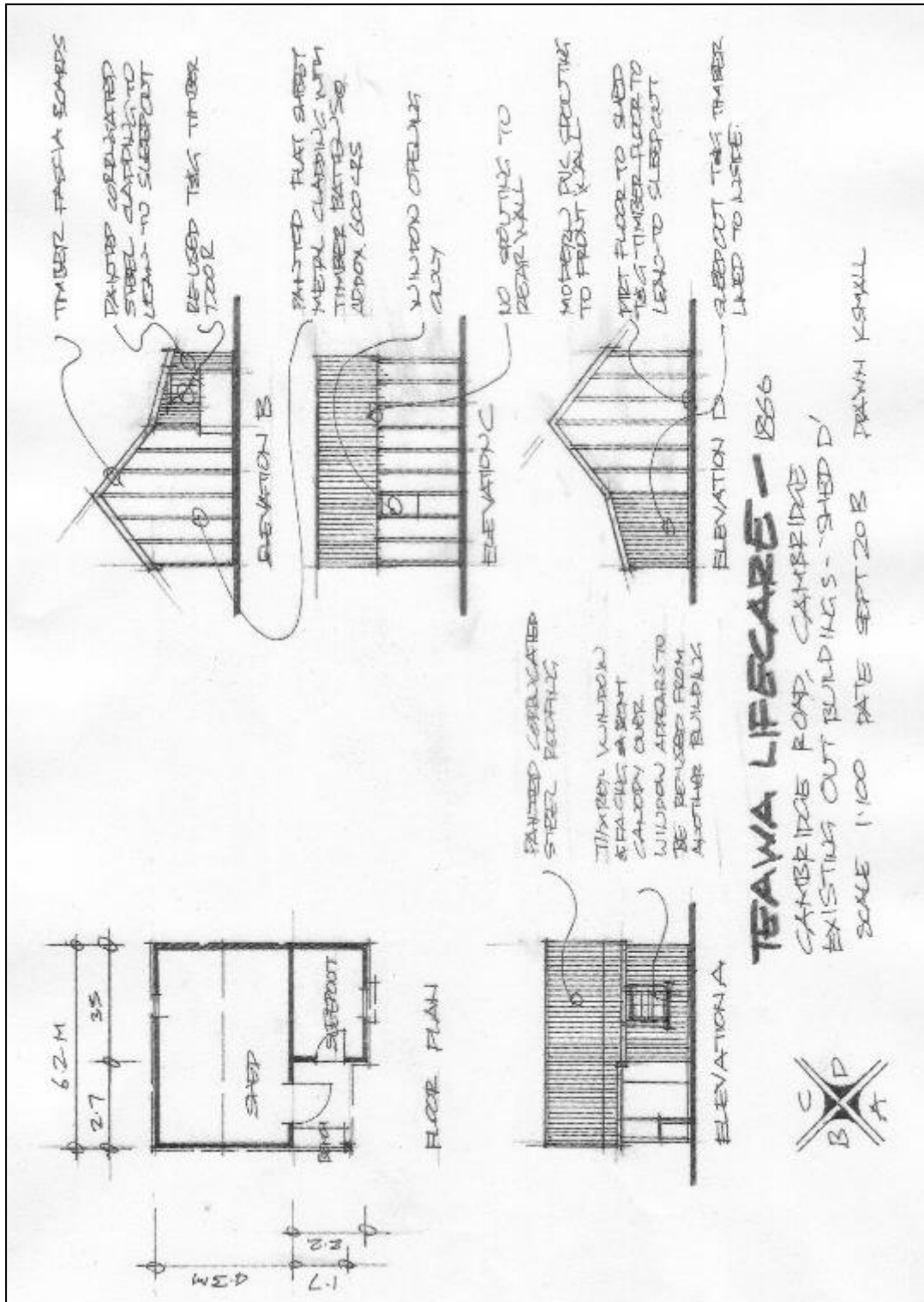
Shed D was being used for storage in 2013. A livestock pen and a stock loading ramp were located on the east side of shed D. It was demolished in 2016.



*Shed D with adjacent stock pen and loading ramp, north elevation, 2013.*



*Shed D, west elevation and interior of main structure and lean-to room, 2013.  
The 'J ARNOLD' sign from inside is in the cottage displayed cabinet.*



Shed D Plan

# Ditch and Bank Fence

Along the inside of the fence of the Home Paddock bordering the drive is an indentation in the ground. It is the remains of a ditch and bank fence. Its ditch is partially filled and the bank flattened. Imagine if the ditch was a meter deep and the bank 1 ½ meters high with a thorn hedge on top.

Ditch and bank fences were inexpensive and built on farms around Cambridge in the 1860s-80s.

The fences worked with some animals, but not others. Horned cattle could rip out the hedge and escape. A double ditch was dug to solve this problem.



# The Stables

The Arnold family stables (shed B) housed both heavy draught horses and light cart and saddle horses. In the 1960s it was used to house Ivy's Jersey calves.

## *Heavy and Light Horses*

Draught horses were a valuable asset and stabled to maintain their health. They powered the farm ploughs, harrows reapers, reaper-binders, threshers, and chaff cutters. The Arnold's horses also pulled the heavy wagons used to deliver meat from the farm to Arnold's Butchery and customers around town.



*The Arnold's team of heavy horses for pulling wagons and farming equipment.*

The stables also housed the Arnold's saddle and cart horses. John rode with the local hunt and served as a Jockey Club Steward for several years in the mid-1880s. His eldest son was also an accomplished horseman. Charles was involved in the Waikato Hunt Club and Cambridge Polo. He also served as clerk of the scales at the Hunt Club steeplechase races.



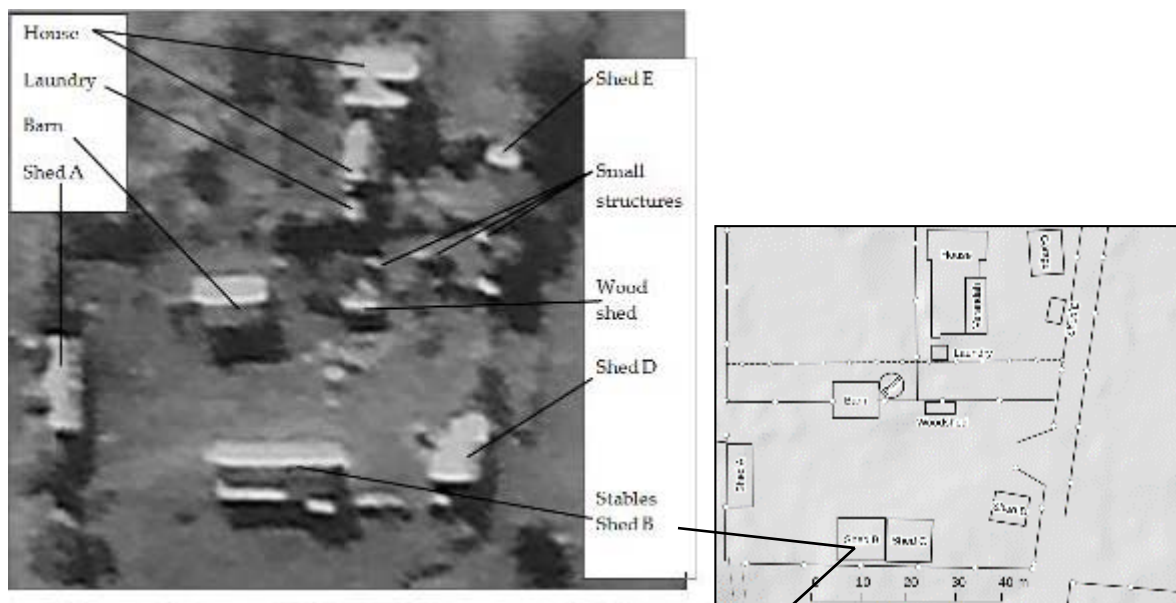
*John Arnold and his horse Pirere. (Cambridge Museum.)*

## *Stables 1988 through 2016*

Only part of the stables remained in 1988 when the property was purchased by James and Shirley Downey. A taller building abutted the open eastern end. The interior contained a dirt floor with four stalls and a tack room.



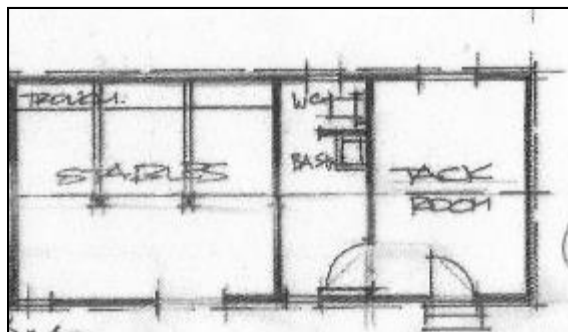
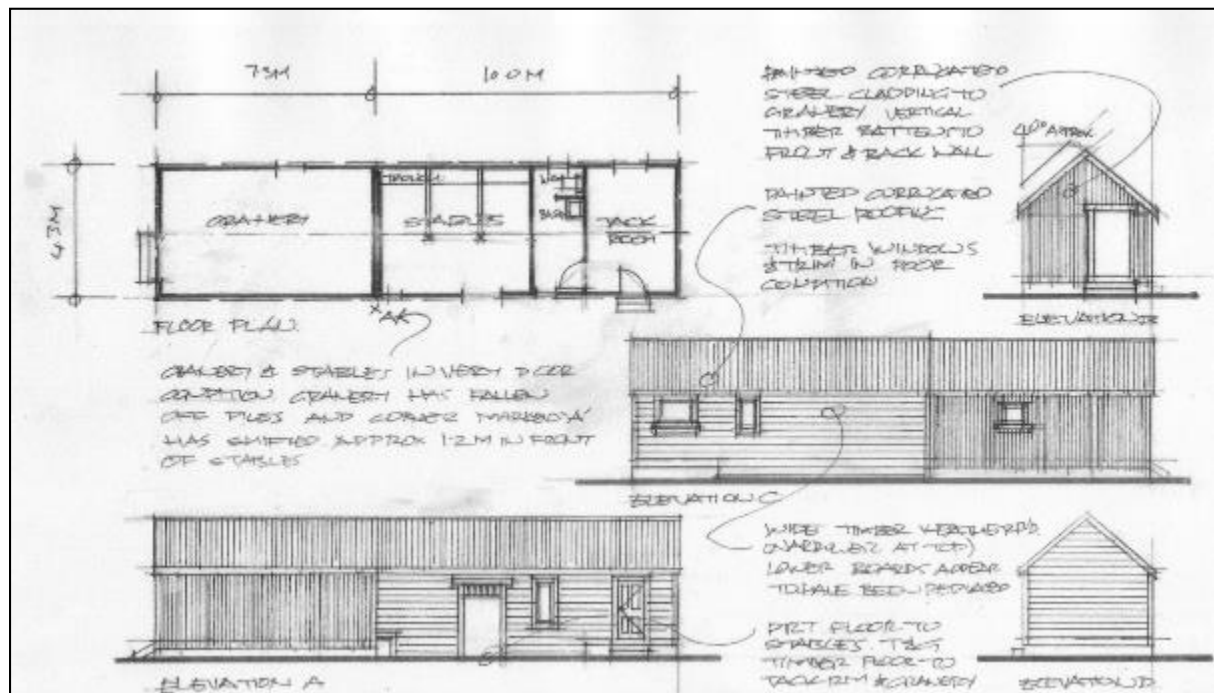
*Stables (Shed B)*



*Shed C on the left*

*The 1943 aerial photograph indicates approximately half the stables (shed B) has been removed. A taller storage shed with corrugated siding abutted the open end of the stables.*

The Downey's modified the stall next to the tack room to create a dressing room and toilet. Mrs Downey was a keen horsewoman and held club events on the farm. She did not stable her horse in the stalls.



Stables (shed B) and Grainery (shed C) in 2014. The stalls were restricted movement stalls—158 cm. wide x 247 cm. long.

In 2014 the interior of the stables featured a feed trough that extended the length of the three remaining stalls. The tack room contained an old saddle tree and graffiti near the internal door.





*Feed trough and tack room graffiti*

Prior to demolition the building was recorded and some of the building fabric collected. The tack room graffiti is displayed in the cabinet in this room. The feed trough and saddle tree are on permanent loan to Mystery Creek Heritage a



*A sign put up by Shirley Downey for club members.*