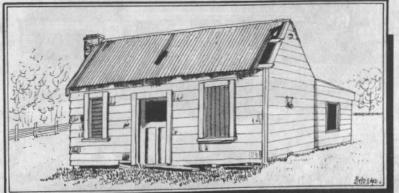






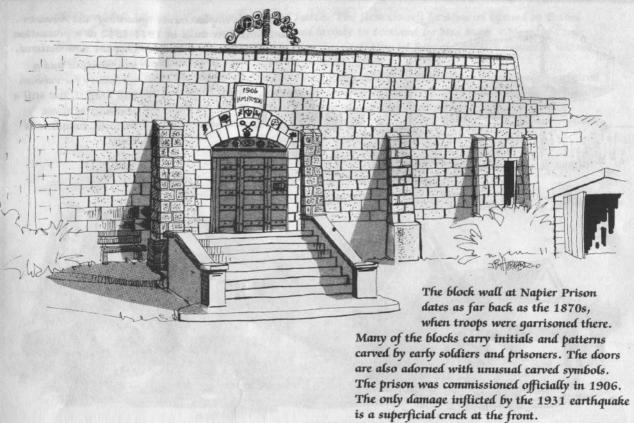
This little cottage in Johns Road (off Meeanee Road — Taradale end) has an interesting history to say the least. In the latter 19th century this was Mission land, grapes were grown and dairy farming flourished.

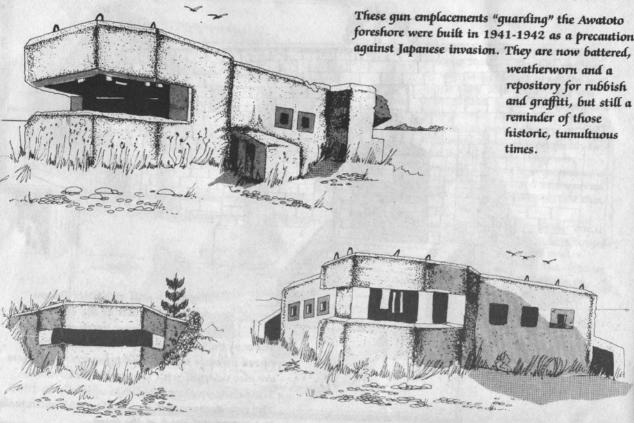
The farm labourers were single Irishmen brought out specifically to tend the dairy herds. They were eventually followed by a contingent of Irish women and, those who married, settled in tiny farm cottages like this.



This particular one is reputed to have housed mum, dad and 16 children. The children apparently slept on specially constructed wall shelving — making the most of limited space.

A rich vein of Napier history!





"Wilson Hall 1866 — Knox Presbyterian Church. The first church in Ahuriri opened as Bethel Chapel, December 16, 1866, with funds raised largely in Scotland by Mrs Mary Wilson of Clyde Road. Renamed the Port Church in 1867. Also the first Ahuriri School 1867-78 renamed Wilson Hall following the opening of Knox Church, June 21, 1896."

This is a quote from the plaque on the Hardinge Road side of this building. However, the original construction is the part with the bell tower on the western (Iron Pot) side — the rest was added on at a later date (bell tower on left of sketch). A piece of our very earliest history.

