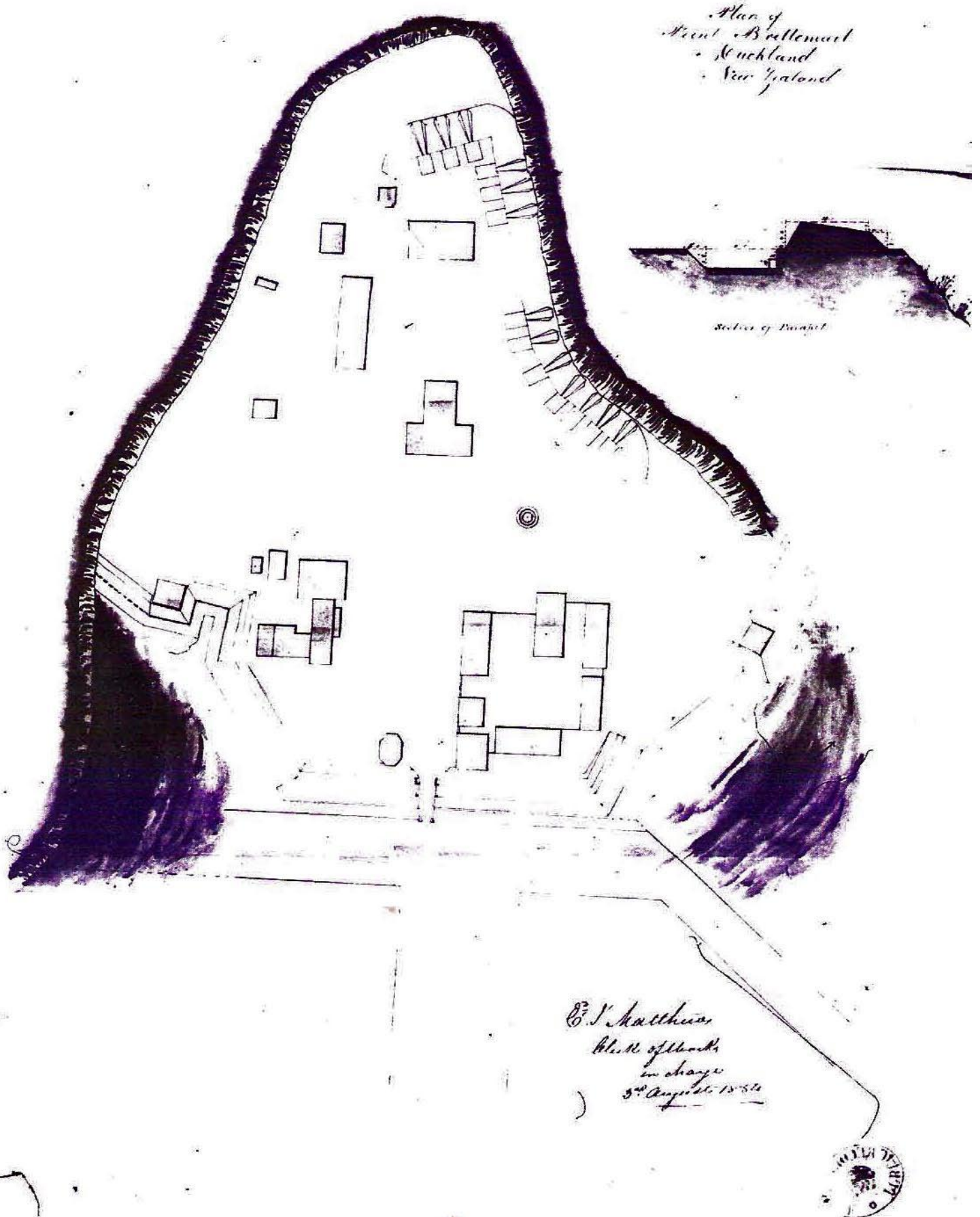


# Plan of Fort Britomart Auckland New Zealand 5 August 1856

Compiled by John Osborne MG DTT PhD FSG

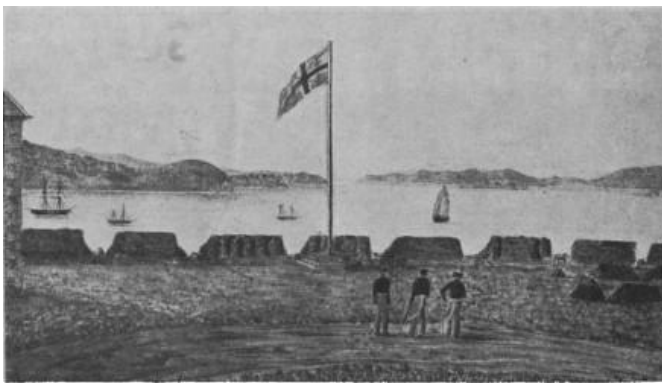
Fort Britomart situated on Point Britomart was built as an army barracks and coastal defenses for Auckland. The British flag was first unfurled on the headland on 16 September 1840. The initial building was completed in 1841, and other buildings were added in response to external and local threats in subsequent decades. The fort closed in the early 1870s



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Fort Britomart, Auckland, New Zealand



(From a sketch by Lieut. H. S. Bates, 65th Regiment.)  
Fort Britomart, Auckland, 1863.

Fort Britomart 1863



Fort Britomart 1875

It started with a bang – 21 in fact, fired from the guns at Auckland’s Fort Britomart. As soon as the smoke had cleared, New Zealand’s first Parliament was under way.

It was noon on Wednesday 24 May 1854, and the venue was Auckland, the country’s capital city and home to Parliament for the next 10 years. The day was wet and miserable – even if it was Queen Victoria’s birthday – and the buildings were not yet ready to receive the new Parliament, but there was excitement in the air as New Zealand took an important step in its history.

The colony’s first parliamentarians, all 37 of them, were sworn in, giving their oaths of allegiance to the Crown in the person of the acting governor, R.H. Wynyard. Then the members went to a formal reception in the afternoon and a ball that evening. Three days later came the state opening of the General Assembly with all the pomp and ceremony that could be mustered – a great treat for the locals who turned out to watch.