

M. A. Armstrong
77 Queen Street
PUKEKOHE 1800

Mrs. T. Gaffney,
Dear Madam,

23 Nov. 2000

I am sorry it has taken so long to locate and copy the enclosed photo and settlement statement relating to the sale of your house at 35 Cameron Street in 1952.

From my approximate age in the photo with mother and father it would appear to be taken about 1921. Also the pile of stones (top left photo) would be for the boundary wall adjacent to the Bacon residence. I note there is no lawn so I suppose my dad hadn't got around to that at the time.

The two interior photos of the sitting room (or lounge) show that the windowseat and piano are as you have them now.

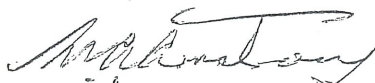
You may be interested in the sale settlement to Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Waters the purchasers in 1952. The original price was 3750 Pounds but to secure a quick sale that was reduced to 3300 Pounds. I had forgotten that.

The earthworks to remove soil for the house were done using a horse-drawn dray by my mother's brother Alfred Ewart WELLER who daily rode his horse from his parents' home at the corner of Te Henui and Devon St East at Fitzroy. The removed dirt was used to fill in and form the tennis court to the east of the house. At the time of building, just after the end of World War I my dad had trouble locating cement for the builder but eventually found a supply of Canadian cement elsewhere in Taranaki. The original roof was made of square tiles of some kind of fibrous cement material possibly even asbestos but these were replaced in the thirties by galv. iron.

I believe the land, right down to Pendarves St., was owned by the Fookes family who lived in the old residence south of your place and that my parents were the first to build on the sub-division. The Bacons' were persuaded to build close to the street so that their house did not interfere with the seaview, at least that is what I was told.

I hope this has been of interest and I must thank you for your hospitality and showing what has been altered to the property all of which has been improvements.

With many thanks
sincerely,



Monty A. Armstrong.