

## 'Tawyll' – 198 Tokorangi Road, Halcombe



**Architect:** Unknown

**Construction date:** Ca 1893

**Visible materials:** Painted timber weatherboards and joinery, corrugated steel roof

**Architectural style:** Victorian Saltbox cottage

**Use/building type:** Residential

**Date and compiler:** Ian Bowman, December 2014, Val Burr 2019

**Proposed category:** B

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

'Tawyll' is said to be one of the oldest houses in Halcombe, and to have such a claim suggests that it almost certainly predates the Maegaard family, who both arrived in New Zealand and bought the property in 1894. Therefore, in light of the lack of certainty as to precisely which owner built it, starting with the known property owners themselves is a safe way to begin. This claim also takes it back into the time when Halcombe was a German-Polish settlement, and that in itself helps make this house unique. Descendants of these early families may have valuable input they could make on the history of the house, but nothing of any depth of this nature was located during this study.

The earliest traced certificate of title that directly includes this property is WN5/266, which was issued to the Emigrant & Colonists Aid Corporation Ltd. that established the Manchester Block. This CT was issued on 6 September 1873, and from it were distributed a great many properties around the area. This eventually included the property this house is located on, namely Lot 164 on the public map of Halcombe - this being on Deposited Plan No. 98. The transfer of the land on 20 June 1883 from the Corporation to Johann Behrendt, was recorded on page 12 of this very lengthy document. The following day a new CT was written that also mentioned the property and the same transaction, this new CT being WN29/291 – a CT that in fact had been issued on 21 June 1882. This was for a new subdivision totalling 1597 acres and 13 perches more or less (metric equivalent: 646.3159ha).

It is possible that the property was only formally placed in Behrendt's name after he had fully paid for it. Such deferred payment processes occurred in other similar 'special settlements' – including the Stoney Creek Scandinavian & Roadmen's Block near Palmerston North, which, like the early Halcombe

settlement, had also been under the charge of Arthur Follett Halcombe (after whom the town was named).<sup>1</sup> Therefore Behrendt perhaps had selected (or been allocated) the land prior to the 1883 entry on the CT. He may even have built his new family home there before 1883 – however, it would be difficult to establish this.

What can be established though, is that the earliest known private and individual owner of this property was Johann Behrendt, who was described on the next certificate of title in the property's succession of CT's (WN33/130 - issued on 29 June 1883) as a labourer of Halcombe. This property, Section 164 of the public map of Halcombe, measured five acres, five roods and sixteen perches (2.2662 hectares). The house itself was not subdivided out of this small farm until 1980. There is no certainty that the property that he owned was restricted to just this five-acre farmlet either, as that aspect was not researched.

### The Behrendt Family (also spelt Behrent and other variations in NZ)

Johann Behrendt was born in 1832, in Pomerania, Prussia. In about 1857, and at the age of 23, he married Juliane Beiuke, who in turn is said to have been born on 2 April 1831, at 'Merlin' - an unidentified location in Germany or Poland.<sup>2</sup> By the time they reached Halcombe in 1876, the couple were both aged 44 years. Their family then consisted of six children: Ferdinand Ludwig (18), Hermann August (14), Attile Amelia (9), Alwine<sup>3</sup> (6), August Frederick (3) and Bertha Louisa (6 months). The large gap between the births of Hermann and Attile suggests they may have also lost one or two children born between those two.<sup>4</sup> The couple appear to have had no more children after their arrival in New Zealand.

Whereas most assisted emigration processes during the period of the so-called Vogel Immigration and Public Works Scheme, were fairly straightforward, the voyage that the Behrendt family and a number of their future neighbours were on, was not. The *Evening Post* of 5 August 1876 (p. 2) provided some detail of the somewhat international dilemma: "*ARRIVAL OF THE FRITZ REUTER: The long-expected German ship Fritz Reuter, from Hamburg, arrived in this port last evening, after a somewhat protracted passage of 110 days. She left Hamburg on 16th April, and experienced generally fine weather during the voyage. On the Fritz Reuter being signalled at the Heads, Captain Fairchild, knowing that all the pilots were on board the various other vessels of which a perfect fleet came in during the afternoon, went out with the (paddle steamer) Luna to show the way in, but the ship stood in safely, without assistance, and anchored in the stream. She brings no Government immigrants, but has nearly 500 souls on board, equal to 420 statute adults, who were ready to come out when orders were given to discontinue the shipment of foreign immigrants. They were therefore forwarded independently of the Government, and probably will be landed on Monday next. Their general health has been excellent during the voyage. Eleven deaths occurred, viz., 1 adult, 4 children, and 6 infants under 12 months old. She is consigned to Messrs Krull and Co.*"<sup>5</sup>

The *Evening Post* then went on to explain a bit more of the background to this problematic shipment of would-be immigrants: "*The arrival of the Fritz Reuter with 420 German adult immigrants caused a complication which at one time threatened to be rather awkward. As stated in another column, the*

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<sup>1</sup> Val A. Burr, *Mosquitoes & Sawdust: A history of Scandinavians in early Palmerston North & surrounding districts* (Palmerston North, 1995), p. 17

<sup>2</sup> Amongst the various 'John Behrendt' entries listed in a My Heritage search: [https://www.myheritage.com/names/johann\\_behrent](https://www.myheritage.com/names/johann_behrent); 'John Behrendt (1832-1886)' in Wikitree: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Behrendt-138> (plus link to wife)

<sup>3</sup> Archives NZ Reference ACFQ 8221 IM1/18 1876/1077: The *Fritz Reuter* passenger list names her as 'Alaine', however, records that appear to be connected to the family name her as Alwine – which is a female name. This copy from Pandora Research, NZpictures.co.nz: <http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/pandoraresearchANZ-IM1-1876-1077.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Archives NZ Reference ACFQ 8221 IM1/18 1876/1077: 'Passengers ex "Fritz Reuter"'. This copy from Pandora Research, NZpictures.co.nz: <http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/pandoraresearchANZ-IM1-1876-1077.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> *Evening Post*, 5 August 1876, p. 2 (1)

*immigrants were despatched by the Continental agents after instructions had been given to the Agent-General and repeated to them by him, not to send out any more shipments of foreigners. Arrangements, however, already had been made to ship the present lot, and they were sent out accordingly. On their arrival here being notified to the General Government yesterday, the latter declined to receive or recognise them, declaring their shipment wholly unauthorised. Mr. F. A. Krull, then as German Consul, formally applied to the Government to take charge of the immigrants, without prejudice to any future proceedings in the matter between the Government and the agents. The Government consented to take charge of them on this understanding, and they will be landed and sent to the Barracks on Monday. The Health Officers boarded the ship this afternoon.”<sup>6</sup>*

Most Germans assisted by the New Zealand Government under the Vogel Scheme, arrived between 1874 and 1876. Of the ten voyages they came on, eight terminated at Wellington. However, the Government soon recognised that the cost of settling emigrants without the English language was far higher than that for British immigrants. Also, employment opportunities in the district were frequently unreliable, with needy ‘foreigners’ such as Germans proving especially vulnerable.<sup>7</sup>

An abrupt cessation of immigration from the Continent in early 1876 came as a shock to the German emigration agent and shipping company. The situation was far worse, though, for hundreds of German emigrants (and other nationalities) who had been accepted for New Zealand, and who had already given the required three months’ notice to employers and sold their possessions.<sup>8</sup> The dilemma came to a head when the Prussian Government forced the agent and shipping company to send these emigrants to New Zealand anyway.<sup>9</sup> These people included the Behrendts.

As a result, on 4 August 1876 the *Fritz Reuter* sailed into Port Nicholson with its unwanted cargo.<sup>10</sup> The August 7<sup>th</sup> flurry of communication between F.A. Krull and the Immigration Department in Wellington, saw Krull reduced to virtually begging for their help to accommodate temporarily and feed this enormous number of people. The Minister of Immigration, albeit unwillingly, agreed to allow the most unfortunate to use the Government’s immigration barracks. He also agreed to provide a few days’ rations. As it happened, almost every immigrant fitted the Minister’s criteria.<sup>11</sup> In due course, a number of these people settled in Manawatu-Rangitikei – especially at Halcombe and Rongotea.<sup>12</sup>

The Behrendt family was amongst the 26 men, 27 women, 10 boys, 15 girls and 5 infants whom Arthur Follett Halcombe, agent for the Emigrant and Colonist’s Aid Corporation, personally selected (a demand that Halcombe had insisted upon) on behalf of the Corporation. They were to come to the Manchester Block, and in particular to the new township of Halcombe. Of this number, the extra

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<sup>6</sup> *Evening Post*, 5 August 1876, p. 2 (4)

<sup>7</sup> For example, *Wanganui Weekly Herald*, 30/9/1876 p. 11(2).

<sup>8</sup> W.T. Kirchner to I.E. Featherston, 20 February 1876, *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJHR)*, 1877, D-2, pp.11-12.

<sup>9</sup> W.T. Kirchner to I.E. Featherston, 20 February 1876 and 8 May 1876; I.E. Featherston to R.M. Sloman, 26 February 1876, *(AJHR)*, 1877, D-2, p.10, 15, 17 respectively.

<sup>10</sup> ‘Fritz Reuter’ passenger list for its Hamburg to Wellington voyage dated 12 April 1876 to 4 August 1876. My copy obtained from a descendent of a ‘Fritz Reuter’ family that settled at Rongotea. According to James N. Bade, ‘Assisted Immigrants from the German Empire who settled in the Lower North Island in the 1870s’, in *New Zealand Legacy*, Vol. 8, No. 1, (1996), p.15, the original source is at Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

<sup>11</sup> Communications between F.A. Krull, the Minister of Immigration and the Under Secretary for Immigration, between 26 July 1876 and 7 August 1876, *(AJHR)*, 1877, D-1, pp.4-6. This topic is covered throughout section D-2.

<sup>12</sup> This segment substantially derives from Val Burr, *German-ating the Seeds of Anger: The Great War’s impact of Germans in Manawatu and Rangitikei* (B.A. [Hons.] History Research Exercise, Massey University, 1996), p. 4. Available also on: <http://www.oocities.org/somesprisonersnz/germanating/ger1.html> Some of the original references used were: *Wanganui Chronicle*, 10 August 1876 p.2 (2 & 4), 19 August 1876 p.2 (3); also Pamela Benson, *History of Rongotea* (Palmerston North, 1981), pp. 13-14; D.A. Davies & R.E. Clevely, *Pioneering to Prosperity 1874-1974, A Centennial History of the Manchester Block* (Feilding, 1981), pp. 77-8; James N. Bade, in *New Zealand Legacy*, Vol. 8, No. 1, (1996), pp. 13-5; ‘Fritz Reuter’ passenger list 1876.

woman, 44-year-old Sophie Christensen, went on to Napier instead, while another couple and their 10-year-old son, along with a single man, were subsequently added to the list for the Manchester Block. The party departed Wellington bound for Foxton aboard the 'Matau' on 14 August 1876.<sup>13</sup> The *Evening Post* duly recorded: "*The result of the negotiations between Mr. Halcombe and the owners of the s.s. Matau, referred to in our last issue, was that the steamer was detained until noon to-day, when she left for Foxton with sixty-eight of the German immigrants ex the Fritz Reuter, of whom sixty-five are en route for the Feilding settlement. A large crowd of spectators assembled on the wharf to witness the departure of the Matau with her large living freight. In addition to the above immigrants, she had about a dozen passengers, or about eighty in all.*"<sup>14</sup>

An article entitled 'Polish immigrants sought leave from a harsh life,' published in the *Taranaki Daily News* on 1 January 2016 – describes the plight of the Behrendt family and their shipmates. The article records that: "*The immigrants were leaving a harsh life in their homeland in West Prussia, formerly the Polish province of Pomerania. Villages were run by the Prussians and the people were banned from speaking Polish. Life was little better than slavery and the people were thought not worthy of educating. So the opportunity to leave took little convincing after news that a boat was leaving Hamburg that offered an escape to a new life. Some thought they were heading to America and most would not have heard of New Zealand.*"<sup>15</sup>

Articles in the newspapers of the time indicate that all was not happy in the new township of Halcombe in the period after the *Fritz Reuter* passengers arrived. Some would-be settlers even gave up and left the area for better prospects.<sup>16</sup> However, it is noticeable that amongst the surnames of the original German (Polish?) immigrants from the *Fritz Reuter* who were delivered to Halcombe, that many of them stayed in the Halcombe area, or least in the Manawatu region.

An extensive article on the Rangitikei-Manawatu District published in the *NZ Mail* on 20 January 1877 (p. 7) included some interesting observations about Halcombe:

*The first view of Halcombe is very taking. The immigrants' cottages are mostly situated on the gentle slope of a slight hill, along the crest of which runs a line of bush, and it is outside of these that the suburban sections are situated, which will be offered for sale in Wellington by Messrs. Bethune and Hunter on the 25th instant.<sup>17</sup> The main railway from Wanganui to Wellington passes along the hollow at the foot of the hill, and the contractors are hard at work here, the line to Feilding being expected to be ready for opening in a little more than eighteen months. It is no wonder that applications should have already been made to purchase privately the sections about to be sold by auction, for they are not, like land too often offered in this colony, remote from road, railway, or township.*

*The township of Halcombe, though only started twelve month(s) ago, already contains 500 people, and all the accompaniments in the shape of the usual excellent hotel which, thanks to Inspector Atcheson, is now the rule in up-country townships, good stores, accommodation houses, etc. I have seen towns spring up with lightning-like and evanescent growth on goldfields, and in too many cases "come like shadows," and "so depart;" but the growth of Halcombe has been as rapid as that of a goldfields township, and contains elements of permanent prosperity and progress necessarily wanting in the former.*

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<sup>13</sup> Archives NZ Reference ACFQ 8221 IM1/18 1876/1077, 'Passengers ex "Fritz Reuter"'. This copy in Pandora Research, NZpictures.co.nz: <http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/pandoraresearchANZ-IM1-1876-1077.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> *Evening Post*, 14 August 1876, p. 2

<sup>15</sup> Graeme Duckett, 'Polish immigrants sought leave from a harsh life,' in *Taranaki Daily News*, 1 January 2016: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/lifestyle/75565092/null>

<sup>16</sup> For example: *Manawatu Times*, 30 May 1877, p. 2, *Wanganui Herald*, 6 December 1877, p. 2

<sup>17</sup> This sale offered about 100 town and suburban sections for sale at Halcombe, plus about 3,000 acres of rural land. However, evidently not a single bid was received. *Manawatu Times*, 20 January 1877, p. 3(1); *Evening Post*, 25 January 1877, p. 2

*Mr. Halcombe, with characteristic good judgment, accepted a number of the German immigrants by the Fritz Reuter, and settled them at Halcombe. As has been the rule with their nation, they have turned out most patient and industrious colonists —men, women, and children turning-to literally “with a will.” Indeed, in one case brought under my notice, a German woman and her daughter had dug up an acre of ground in nine days.<sup>18</sup>*

Johann Behrendt became a road-building contractor, his contracts including work on Stanway Road (£30) and Rangitawa Road (£73-9s) in early 1877 – the latter in partnership with former shipmate Rudolph Noffke.<sup>19</sup> Not all went well for the family though, with young Hermann Behrendt being arrested in 1878 for forging a cheque by altering it from £1-15s to £10-15s. The 16-year-old was sentenced to six months imprisonment.<sup>20</sup>

In October 1883, the partnership of Behrendt and Burr (another German immigrant from the area) was awarded a major contract for work on Kakariki Road to the value of £1,087-16s-6d.<sup>21</sup> This road, which nowadays is defined as the section of the Feilding-to-SH1 road between Pryces Line and SH1, includes the substantial section of hill road alongside the historic ‘Westoe’ - Sir William Fox’s one-time home.

Johan Behrendt appears to have had other family living in New Zealand, and he was presumably the brother living in Halcombe who was called to help a man named Frank Behrendt, who had been severely injured in a trap accident on the Awahuri Bridge. Their sister, Mrs Doreen, had also been in the trap, but was okay. Frank Behrendt died two days later.<sup>22</sup>

Then the *Evening Post* of 25 March 1886 (p. 2) recorded that: *“An accident, which unfortunately terminated fatally, occurred about a mile beyond Hunterville on Thursday (says the Rangitikei Advocate of Monday). Mr. Behrent(sic), the well-known contractor, was engaged in getting metal out of one of the Rangitikei Council’s pits, when a sudden fall occurred, and the poor fellow was buried beneath a heap of gravel. His companions extricated him as soon as possible, when it was discovered that he had been seriously injured. He was removed to his home at Halcombe on Friday, and died there on Saturday morning. An inquest will be held at Halcombe before the District Coroner. The deceased was known as a hard-working, steady man, and was much respected by all who knew him. He was one of the contractors for fencing at the Marton waterworks.*

The *Feilding Star* of 23 March 1886 (p. 2) had previously reported that: *“A man named Behrendt was killed in a gravel pit at Hunterville on Thursday last. An inquest was held at Halcombe yesterday, and a verdict of accidental death returned.”*

Julianne Behrendt is next heard of in February 1894 requesting, along with her son F.L. Behrendt, that the Manchester Road Board metal the road leading to her property.<sup>23</sup> She sold the farmlet the same year – the transfer being recorded on the certificate of title on 12 December 1894. She died on 30 October 1896, aged 65, and is buried with her husband at Halcombe Cemetery. A woman named

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<sup>18</sup> *New Zealand Mail*, 20 January 1877, p. 7

<sup>19</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 28 February 1877, p. 3

<sup>20</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 8 July 1878, p. 2; *Wanganui Herald*, 31 October 1878, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 31 October 1878, p. 2

<sup>21</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 23 October 1883, p. 2

<sup>22</sup> *Feilding Star*, 12 March 1885, p. 2, 14 March 1885, p. 2; The sister is presumably Lena “Behrandt” who married Edward Doreen in 1880 (Births, Deaths & Marriages Online: <https://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/> : Ref: 1880/2791

<sup>23</sup> *Feilding Star*, 5 February 1894, p. 2

Wilhelmina Frederica Behrendt (72), who died on 26 February 1894, is also buried at Halcombe Cemetery, though her relationship to Johann and Juliana was not researched for this study.<sup>24</sup>

### The Maegaard Family

The next owners of the property were the newly arrived Maegaard family, who had emigrated from Denmark in 1894<sup>25</sup>, and who therefore were new arrivals at the time they purchased it. Nothing was sighted during this study that claims that the family actually built this house, and the available evidence suggests that it – or perhaps at least part of it – predated the Maegaards.

Gordius Peter Maegaard was born in Olsker, on the Danish island of Bornholm, in 1847, and was aged about 48 when he emigrated to New Zealand.<sup>26</sup> His wife, Ingeborg Kristene, was also born in Denmark in about 1858, and was aged about 37 when they emigrated.<sup>27</sup>

G.P. Maegaard's mother had died in 1869, while his father Wevst Peter Maegaard had died in 1892. Possibly that latter death had some influence on the family's decision to migrate to New Zealand when the couple was quite aged.<sup>28</sup>

The couple had at least three children, with the known ones being Vevst Sorn Peter (born about 1885, and known as 'Peter'), Karoline Margrethe Hansine (born 23 April 1887) and Ingeborg Marie Kristine (born 23 April 1888).<sup>29</sup>

In 1917, when the 'Alien Register' was filled out, Gordius described himself as a dairy farmer, while Ingeborg gave her occupation as 'domestic duties'. At that time they had been living in New Zealand for 22 years, and had been naturalised as British subjects.<sup>30</sup> The Wellington Land Transfer office records also lists G.P. Maegaard as having had land transferred to him at some point, that had the certificate of title reference "Volume 5 Folio 825".<sup>31</sup> This has not been researched further, other than to note that it was probably a CT from the early 1870s.

Certificate of Title WN33/130 indicates that the property was passed on to the couple's son, Peter Maegaard in early 1919. He was described as a builder of Halcombe.

Ingeborg died at her home in Tokorangi Road, aged 66, "after a long and painful illness" on 9 July 1924. She was survived by her son Peter and two daughters, Mrs I.M.K. Kenny (of Kaeo) and Mrs K.M.H. Jefferson (of Paeroa). Then on 5 September 1925, her daughter-in-law, Mary White Maegaard, aged 42, also of Tokorangi Road, also died at a private hospital after a short illness.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Births, Deaths & Marriages online: <https://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/> : Death ref: 1894/1505; Manawatu District Council, Cemetery Search: [http://www.mdc.govt.nz/Online\\_Services/Find\\_It/Cemetery\\_Search](http://www.mdc.govt.nz/Online_Services/Find_It/Cemetery_Search)

<sup>25</sup> Note that some references say they arrived in 1895, but the date they purchased this property was 1894.

<sup>26</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 24 May 1932 p. 6(7); 'Gordius Peter Maegaard, in ourtree.dk: <http://www.ourtree.dk/web/familytree/ancestor.php?ancid=166053>

<sup>27</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 10 July 1924, p. 2

<sup>28</sup> Ourtree.dk: 'Wefst Peter Maegaard': <http://www.ourtree.dk/web/familytree/ancestor.php?ancid=166038> ; See also: <http://www.ourtree.dk/web/familytree/ancestor.php?ancid=166039> (mother); and <http://www.ourtree.dk/web/familytree/ancestor.php?ancid=166053> (G.P. Maegaard)

<sup>29</sup> Births, Deaths & Marriages Online: <https://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/> : Death Regos: 1967/46250, 1977/32718, 1974/34759; Ingeborg M.K. Kenney: Billiongraves: <https://billiongraves.com/grave/Ingeborg-Marie-Kristine-Maegaard-Kenney/23698583> Note that the differing spellings of the names of Vevst Sorn Peter Maegaard and his grandfather Wevst Peter Maegaard, could reflect phonetics, but the matter was not researched

<sup>30</sup> *New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs: Register of Aliens, 1917* (Wellington, c1918), p. 213

<sup>31</sup> NZ Land Transfer Office: This copy in <http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/pandoraresearchANZ-LTOW-299-67-M.pdf> (page 7 of 120)

<sup>32</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 10 July 1924, p. 1(1); *Manawatu Times*, 10 July 1924, p. 2; 7 September 1925, p. 1; & 8 September 1925, p. 3

Gordius Peter Maegaard died aged 85 on 20 May 1932, at his son's Feilding home, after a brief illness. At that time he was considered one of Halcombe's oldest residents – having lived there “for the past forty years”. He is buried with his wife at Halcombe Cemetery.<sup>33</sup>

It is not clear who lived in the house for much of the time that Peter Maegaard owned it. He had married his first wife, Mary White Glenn, in 1912, and she died in 1925. He then married Rita Dorothy Bismark in 1929, and by 1932, when his father (G.P. Maegaard) died, Peter and Rita Maegaard were living in Feilding. Peter Maegaard, along with business partner George C. Lord, were contractors who were “responsible for the construction of many bridges and buildings which stand today (i.e. 1941) in testimony” to their workmanship.<sup>34</sup> One surviving thing they were responsible for constructing, is the Hitchman's Corner Pioneers' Memorial water trough that was unveiled in 1939 at the intersection of Kimbolton and Colyton Roads.<sup>35</sup>

### Subsequent Owners

Peter Maegaard, then aged about 66, sold the property in about January 1951, to Norman Thomas Prior, who was described as a farmer of Halcombe. His wife, Myrtle Barbara Prior, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1961, aged 52. The couple's headstone at Halcombe Cemetery describes her as “A patient sufferer at rest.” Her husband had sold the property well before his death on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1990, aged 85 years.<sup>36</sup>

The next owner, from mid-1972, was Henry Allan Goodwin, a retired schoolteacher of Feilding. He died on 14 September 1989, aged 82 years, also long after his departure from the house.<sup>37</sup>

He had parted with the house after only about six months – the new owner being Graham George Hamilton, a County employee of Taihape.<sup>38</sup> This purchase was entered onto the certificate of title on 29 January 1973.

Just over a year later, the property was sold to Lawrence William Goldfinch, a Feilding contractor, and his wife Simone Sylvia Mary Goldfinch – the transaction being entered on 5 April 1974. Then in 1980, the property was transferred into the name of Simone Sylvia Mary Goldfinch alone. This transaction was entered onto the certificate of title on 15 May 1980.

The house was then subdivided out of the property during 1980 while in the ownership of Simone Sylvia Mary Goldfinch. The property size accordingly dropped from 2.2662 hectares, to approximately 810 square metres. It was then sold later the same year to Alexander Ivan Taylor, of Halcombe and his wife Sylvia Taylor. Then in 1986 the property was transferred into the name of Sylvia Taylor alone, still of Halcombe. Alexander Ivan Taylor, a market gardener, died on 15 March 1987, aged 83 years.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 20 May 1932, p. 1(2) & 24 May 1932 p. 6(7)

<sup>34</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 26 November 1941, p. 5

<sup>35</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 21 December 1939, p. 4. See also Manawatu District Council Heritage File No. O11: Hitchmans' Corner Pioneers' Memorial water trough

<sup>36</sup> Manawatu District Council: Cemetery Search: [http://www.mdc.govt.nz/Online\\_Services/Find\\_It/Cemetery\\_Search](http://www.mdc.govt.nz/Online_Services/Find_It/Cemetery_Search) (Search their names)

<sup>37</sup> Palmerston North City Council: Cemetery Search: <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/services/cemetery-and-cremation-search/warrant/?id=40539>

<sup>38</sup> He is possibly the Horowhenua man of that name who passed away on 30 August 2018, aged 72 years. (*Dominion-Post*: 31 August 2018 – and also: <https://www.neighbourly.co.nz/public/death-notice/message/49984182> ). Although there is no certainty that there were not two men with the same full names, the following from the *Dominion-Post* of 5 November 2013, applies to this deceased man and references the time frame when the house was in the ownership of ‘a man named Graham George Hamilton’: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/hutt-valley/9361881/Market-employee-has-tax-fraud-convictions> )

<sup>39</sup> Palmerston North City Council: Cemetery Search: <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/services/cemetery-and-cremation-search/warrant/?id=39672>

In 1989, the property was transferred into the names of Robert Andrew Nicholson and Dorreen Ruth Nicholson, of Levin. Robert died at Palmerston North on 9 August 1992, aged 71.<sup>40</sup> It is not apparent as to whether they were living at the Halcombe house at that time. It was then sold again, with Dorreen Nicholson subsequently dying on 6 December 2008, aged about 84.<sup>41</sup>

The house was next transferred into the name of the present owner, the qv.co.nz website giving the date as 24 May 1993.<sup>42</sup>

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The following description is based a visual only inspection from the road. No plans of the building have been sighted and the interior of the cottage was not inspected.

### Planning, style, construction

The one and a half storey timber framed cottage has a symmetrical street elevation with windows either side of a central front door, consistent with the Victorian Georgian box cottage style. The uneven pitched salt box roof is clad with corrugated steel while It has rusticated weatherboards to the street elevation and shiplap to the side elevations. A verandah wraps around the west and north elevations that has simple brackets to posts and a, likely non-original, cast iron valence to the front entry. Windows to the street front are six pane per sash double hung windows while the door is panelled and glazed with coloured glass. There is a substantial brick chimney to the south elevation.

It is presumed that the original plan form of the building was rectangular however it appears that the house has had extensive additions and modifications to the rear. There is a large garage on the north west corner of the section. The cottage has a small garden with a picket fence on the street boundary.

### Style background

The Victorian Georgian box cottage usually had a central corridor and rooms either side and was a vernacular carpenter response to limited budget accommodation, using readily available materials, based on an English Georgian rural cottage. Cottages could be increased in size by adding lean-tos or double gables located parallel to each other. Key characteristics of the style include symmetry, medium pitched roofs, close eaves, boxed eaves, a verandah and small paned or large sash windows. The saltbox version of the cottage had an unevenly pitched roof, with the roof towards the street of a higher pitch than the rear.

### Setting

The front elevation of the cottage faces west, addressing Tokorangi Road. It has a small, densely planted colonial styled garden to the front with large trees around the perimeter of the suburban-sized section. There is a house to the immediate south and several other neighbouring houses several hundred metres away. The wider environment is mostly open, rolling farmland near to the village of Halcombe.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUES

Tawyll has **low to high local** significance for **architectural, representivity, rarity, authenticity, people, pattern** and **educational** heritage values.

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<sup>40</sup> Palmerston North City Council: Cemetery Search: <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/services/cemetery-and-cremation-search/warrant/?id=41350>

<sup>41</sup> Births, Deaths & Marriage online: <https://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/> : Death Ref: 2008/30153

<sup>42</sup> QV.co.nz – details for this property: <https://www.qv.co.nz/property/198-tokorangi-road-halcombe-4779/803906>

The cottage has **moderate architectural** and **moderate representivity** values as an example of the Victorian Georgian salt box cottage style. As this is a common, early style of cottage throughout New Zealand the house has **low rarity** values. The building is not part of a group.

The exterior of the cottage appears to have been modified significantly such that it has **low authenticity**.

The cottage has **moderate historic people** values in its association over a period of 68 years with its first owners who were early German/Polish and Danish immigrant families. Locally the house has **high pattern** values in its historical association with Polish, German and Danish immigrants in the Manawatu area generally and Halcombe in particular.

Given the range and levels of heritage values, Tawyll has **moderate education** values as it can contribute to an understanding of early settlement patterns in Halcombe and early immigrant architecture.

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### Other Sources

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Manawatu District Council: Certificates of Title; MDC Heritage File No. O11: Hitchmans' Corner  
Pioneers' Memorial water trough

## IMAGES

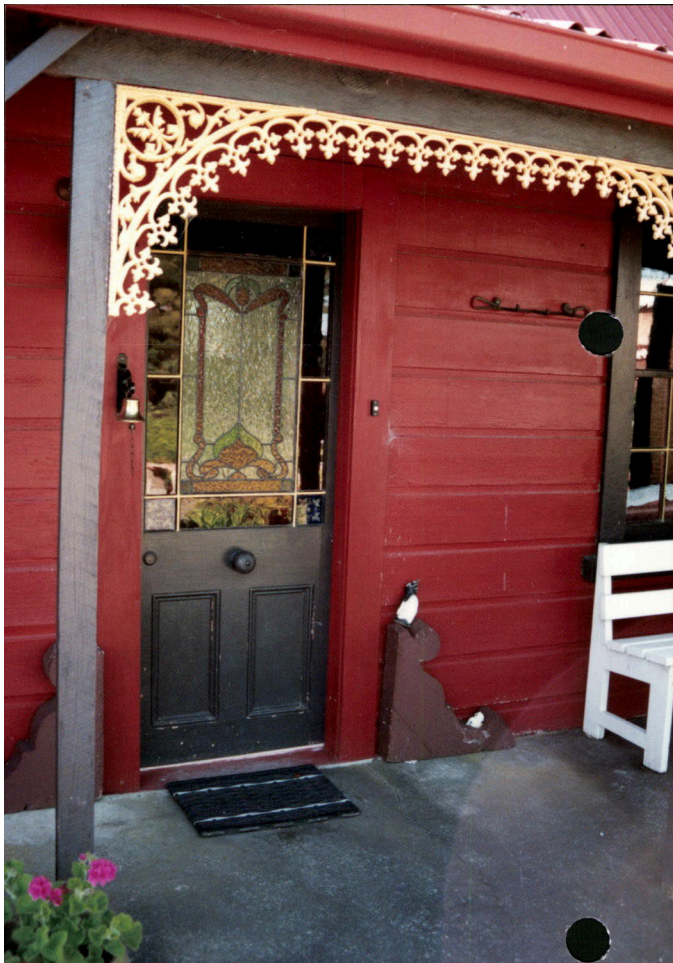
### Images



'Tawyll' during the Nicholsons' ownership. (Photo: M. Bazzard, January 1992, HPT – This copy: Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua Inc. File No. 30-025 on this property [held at Te Manawa, Palmerston North]). Note that the holes in these photos were unfortunately inserted into them at some point, to keep them in place in File No. 30-025.



'Tawyll' during the Nicholsons' ownership. (Photo: M. Bazzard, January 1992, HPT – This copy: Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua Inc. File No. 30-025 on this property [held at Te Manawa, Palmerston North])



'Tawyll' during the Nicholsons' ownership. (Photo: M. Bazzard, January 1992, HPT – This copy: Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua Inc. File No. 30-025 on this property [held at Te Manawa, Palmerston North])



This photo shows the house at right in about 1987, during the Goldfinch ownership, with the houses of Halcombe on the hill in the background. (Source: B.G.R. Saunders, *Manawatu's Old Buildings* [Palmerston North, 1987], p. 24)



The house tucked away behind the trees, in a Google Street View photo dated May 2015



A Manawatu District Council satellite photo of the house section and the surrounding buildings – January 2016.



A Manawatu District Council satellite photo of the original farm and the house section – January 2016.



The Behrendt/Behrent grave at Halcombe Cemetery: <https://billiongraves.com/grave/Johan-Behrent/19053105?referrer=myheritage>