

Imlay Graves



Location: : Front verge, outside No.16 Wordsworth Street, Whanganui

Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga

List Number: Nil

Physical Description: Large rectangular marble slab with old-style lead inlaid lettering, laid horizontal slightly above ground level within the berm, and bordered by a concrete strip. Neighbours think that the graves extend under the tar-seal of Wordsworth Street.

Register Item Number:

332

Building Type:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Recreation
- Institutional
- Agriculture
- Other

Significance:

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological
- Cultural

Thematic Context

- Early Settlement
- Residential
- Industry
- Agricultural
- Commerce
- Transport
- Civic/Admin
- Health
- Education
- Religion
- Recreation
- Community
- Memorials
- Military

Other known names: Imlay graves, Balgownie Cemetery, Imlay Family Private Burial Ground

Current Use: Grave, Grave marker

Former Uses: Marks site of former Imlay crypt

Heritage Status: District Plan Class: Class B, 2013

Architectural Style: memorial Date of Construction: 1881-1898

Materials: Marble, lead lettering

Registered owner:

Legal Description:

History: The Imlay crypt – in its original form - was described as having been a “solid concrete tomb surround by iron railings.” However, Flora Spurdle, in *New Stories of Old Whanganui* wrote in 1958 (p. 50) that: “If you go looking for it today you won’t find it, but, you will find a big white slab set in the footpath of a newly formed road, bearing the names.”

The “newly formed road” is the residential cul-de-sac called Wordsworth Street, differing only from any other suburban street through having a large marble grave slab set in the grass verge outside house No. 16.

On December 15th 2009, the *Whanganui Chronicle* interviewed Tom Duncan - who with his wife Val, had just stopped workers from digging up the road near the graves to work on the storm water pipes. Mr Duncan had lived in Wordsworth Street since 1954, at a time when the street was “all sand dunes and head-high lupine.”

He said that when he arrived in the street, “the crypt was obvious, dug into the side of a sand hill and with an iron picket fence around it, and a locked gate. ‘You could look through the bars. The caskets were on a plinth in that brick or concrete crypt.’... At the time the road was only gravel. When the council of the time wanted to seal it the fence was removed and a marble plaque was set over the crypt, at ground level, recording the names of the six people buried there. The road, which had circled the crypt, was (then) straightened and the Duncans’ say it may now be partly covering the bodies.”

No clear indication was located during this study to indicate why the Imlay family chose to establish their own private family cemetery. What is clear, though, is that

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the first two burials, those of Ellen Imlay (on 11th April 1878) and her father Peter (on 10th March 1881), initially took place at Wanganui (Heads Road) Cemetery. This perhaps explains a request in December 1878 by Mrs Imlay and her daughters that they be allowed to use the Cemetery Road, which was then locked. The Borough Council said that if the Cemetery Trustees were agreeable, that they might be given a key.¹

Jane Imlay was the first to be buried at the family cemetery directly following death. Her death certificate states that she was buried in the "*Private Burial Ground at Balgownie*" on 3rd November 1898.²

While the date (somewhere between 1881 and 1898) that this private cemetery was established has not been located, the matter should have been published in the *NZ Gazette*. Other records, including those relating to the two disinterments will also have existed at one time. However, none of these were located in the course of this study.³

In 1910, the legal position of private cemeteries came to the fore due to complications involving the Fraser-Campion private cemetery near Bulls. In the course of this, the Chief Justice concluded that the Cemeteries Act, 1882, which was consolidated in 1908, had not provided or allowed for the management of private cemeteries. "*The Act saves the rights of private burial grounds. It demands, however, that before a burial can take place in a private burial ground there must be the consent of the magistrate or two justices, and if in a borough the consent of a mayor or two councillors. It is clear, also, that the setting aside of land for private burials would be contrary to the law against perpetuity.*"⁴

The result of this situation was the Cemeteries Amendment Act, 1912, which allowed parcels of land containing past burials to be declared private burial grounds. The Minister was also to appoint trustees to maintain these private burial grounds.⁵ However, once again, there is no indication that this cemetery was registered under this Act (to 1930) – although three others were, beginning

¹ *Wanganui Herald*, 4 December 1878, p. 2

² Ref: The Death Certificates of Peter, Jane and Ellen Imlay

³ Email, Garry Gleeson, Aramoho Cemetery, to Val Burr, 16 April 2012

⁴ *Evening Post* 29 June 1910, p. 8

⁵ *New Zealand Statutes*, 1912, pp. 102-104

with the Fraser Family Private Burial Ground in 1913.⁶

In 1952, the circumstances of the graves came to the fore. On 18 September 1952, the Wanganui City Council's Town Clerk wrote to Imlay Saunders, whose parents are in the grave, stating that further to their recent phone conversation, the Council had authorised to him to discuss closing the Imlay Family Grave (officially) and to incorporate the area into Wordsworth Street.

Referring to the site as the "*Balgownie Cemetery*", Imlay Saunders eventually replied (also noting previous phone calls) on 17 February 1953. He had discussed the matter with his brother and they realised "*that finally the street and footpath will have to be instated and we agree to transfer the land in this title to the council when we can, no doubt, come to some amicable arrangement to leave the gravestone by the footpath.*" He wanted to erect only the part of the stone that had been used, so as some record of the family remained. The agreement included the Saunders brothers not being put to any expense whatsoever, and that they would transfer the land to the council without payment.⁷

On 26th March 1953, the Town Clerk advised Saunders that the City Engineer had been instructed to remove all surface obstructions and to realign the street.

In a letter to the City Solicitor also dated 26th March 1953, the Town Clerk (presumably, the sender's identity is missing from the letter sighted) stated that the trustees of the Imlay Family Burial Ground were at that time Gonville I.F. Saunders and Imlay Saunders. The Saunders brothers wished to transfer the property to the Council – while allowing the remains of the family members to remain undisturbed. The Council had agreed to this and to bear all costs that may be incurred. The Council was querying whether the burial ground should be formally closed before the realignment of Wordsworth Street could take place.

The legal description of the burial ground property at that time was Lot 49 DP 2471, Pt. Sec. 5 R.B.W.R., Wordsworth Street, and its Certificate of Title was WN243/148. Its area consisted of 3.9 perches (or about 98 square metres).

⁶ *NZ Gazette*, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 1851

⁷ File AAF : 33/4, 1947-1959, 'Cemeteries crematorium and morgue: Aramoho, General, Civilian Lawn, Old Cemetery (Jewish and Imlay family grave)', Wanganui District Council Archives

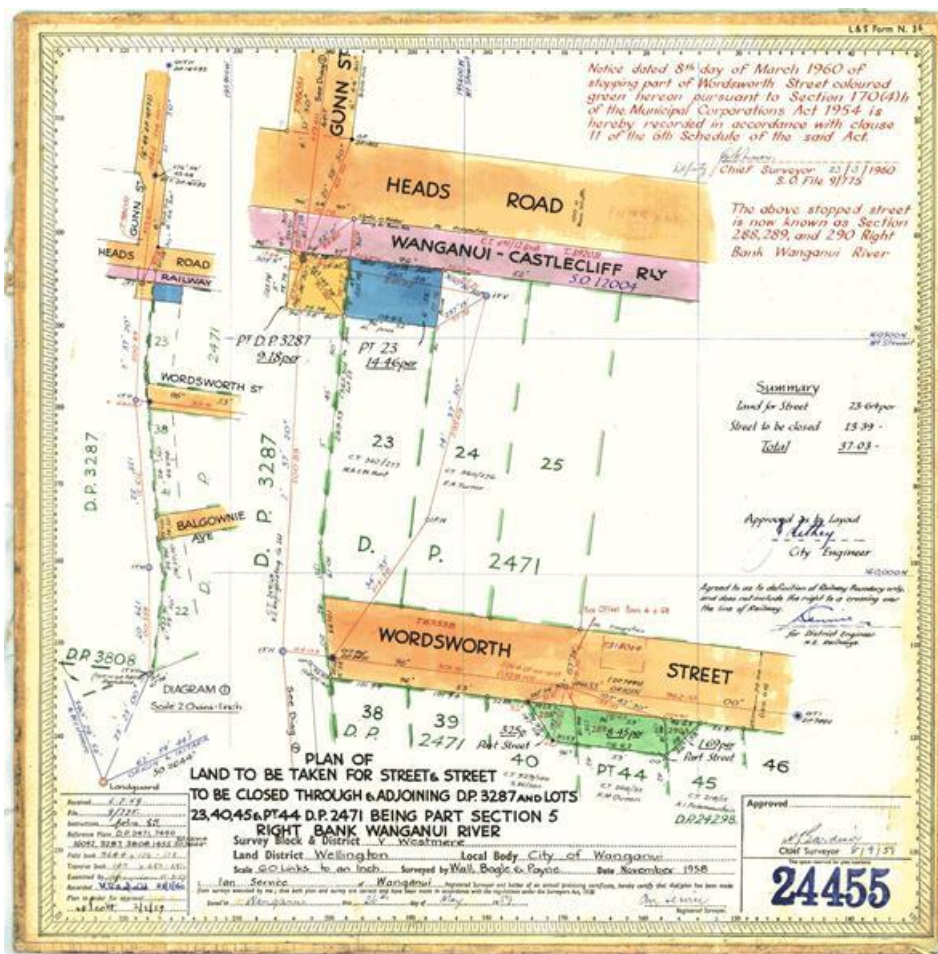
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Probably this Certificate of Title was issued in about 1907. Another reference to the site that appears on the 1907 plan is “Deed T 378044”. These documents were not sighted during this study and may add further information.

Following the realignment, the Council proposed to offer the resulting redundant piece of roadway to the owners of residential Lots 40, 44 and 45 (on the south side of the road) which fronted it. This land would then be included in their properties. From the plans, Lot 49 covered up to half of the width of the present street – however, that width included the footpath and berm.⁸



Deposited Plan 24455, Wordsworth Street, dated 8 September 1959. This plan shows the straightening of the street across the cemetery site, although the footpath and berm will cover much of the cemetery site

⁸ Letter: Town Clerk (presumably), Wanganui City Council to City Solicitor, 26 March 1953. Also an associated sketch (File AAF : 33/4, 1947-1959, Wanganui District Council Archives)

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In response to a letter from the City Solicitor, the Minister of Health replied on 9th October 1953. He did not think it was necessary to formally close the burial ground under Section 72 of the Cemeteries Act, 1908, as: *“Such a closing order would not disturb the existing graves and might tend to confirm the status of the land as a burial ground.”* The Minister of Health continued, stating that as there was a Land Transfer Title to this land, that *“it may be possible for the area to be transferred to the City Corporation by arrangement with the registered proprietors after some suitable provision has been made for the transfer of the remains of the persons already buried there. I would counsel against the proposal to take the road over the graves, marking them by a roadside monument. Although the relatives may be agreeable to this there is a possibility that such an action by the City Council might lead to public criticism. For this reason it might be better for the remains to be transferred to some cemetery under the city council’s control, perhaps being placed in some suitably marked single grave. In case it is decided to transfer the remains in this way I can state now that I will be prepared to authorise the disinterment, subject to the information on the burials being provided and evidence being produced of the consent of any known near relatives.”*

“If all the human remains that can be discovered are removed from the burial ground then it should be possible to disregard the former status of the area and transfer the land to the Council in the ordinary way. I am advised that in some few cases in the past where old burial grounds have been disturbed for roading purposes the action has, to remove any doubts as to its legality, been sanctioned by special validating legislation.”

By the time City Solicitor, C.F. Treadwell, forwarded the above letter to the City Council on 14 October 1953, he had already spoken to Imlay Saunders, who was not prepared to have the remains disinterred, *“and he further informs me that in the event of the road going over the present site of the grave that he does not want any memorial erected on the roadside.”*

On 2 December 1953, a discussion between Imlay Saunders and the City Engineer concluded with the decision to straighten the roadway; to lay kerb on the new line of the road; to remove all surface obstruction; and with an offer to keep the grave tidy for ten feet around the slab. The slab was also to be re-laid at ground level and on a new base surround. Saunders also provided the lettering to

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go onto the slab at around this time.⁹

In September 1954, an Agreement was signed between the Saunders brothers and the Wanganui City Council with regards to the grave itself and the land transfer. While this Agreement was not sighted during this study (its accompanying letters were sighted), it included care of the gravesite. However, over the next few years there were various interactions with Imlay Saunders who felt strongly that the Council was not maintaining the grave to the standard it had originally agreed to. By May 1956, he was “*absolutely browned off*” with the manner in which the grave was being maintained.

By September 1956, with the matter still unresolved, the Council had approached the adjoining owner to ask if he would maintain the area if the Council laid down the lawn. Saunders’ letter of 24 September 1956 indicates that the promised (two years earlier) footpath was still not present and that only the lettering on the gravestone was complete. He was not happy. By January 1957 he was threatening legal action “*to compel Council to honour its agreement.*” The Council, meanwhile, considered that it had not broken any agreement, but had made arrangements for the grass around the plot to be mowed more intensively. Further improvements to the street were also due to be carried out now that the kerb and channel had been completed.¹⁰

Evidently matters were resolved at that point. In 1993, Mrs J. Taylor of Auckland paid \$70.00 to cover the cost of refurbishing the grave. She was duly advised that: “*the whole gravestone is looking much better since the facelift.*”¹¹

⁹ File AAF : 33/4, 1947-1959, Wanganui District Council Archives

¹⁰ Letter, 22 January 1957, Town Clerk, to the Mayor (File AAF : 33/4, 1947-1959, Wanganui District Council Archives)

¹¹ Letter, 1 July 1993, W.B.B. Crichton, to Mrs J. Tyler, (File AAF : 33/4, 1947-1959, Wanganui District Council Archives)



The homestead at Balgownie, which was named 'Awarere' – photographed presumably from one of the three tennis courts that in their day were popular attractions for social events at the house. (Source: Photo B-HO-111, Photographic Collection, Whanganui Regional Museum)

The Imlay Family

The first death, in 1878, was that of 24-year-old Ellen Imlay. Her 90-year-old father, Peter Imlay, followed three years later in 1881, aged 90. They were then joined by Ellen's mother (and Peter's wife) Jane, in 1898, aged 75. Ellen's brother-in-law George Richard Saunders died in 1904, aged 50; her unmarried sister Jeanie died in 1917 aged 75 years; and then her sister Jessie Saunders, died in 1923 aged 63. Only one Imlay sibling, Mary (Abbott, formerly Daniell), is not buried there. She lived outside New Zealand for some years and died in France in 1926, aged 75.

Peter Imlay (1797-1881)

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* provides a history of the three Imlay brothers, George (c1794-1846), Peter (c1797-1881) and Alexander (c1800-1847), the sons of Alexander Imlay and his wife Agnes, nee Bron, of Aberdeen, Scotland. Alexander jnr. was an army surgeon who settled in Australia in 1829. Peter, a naval surgeon arrived in Hobart in 1830, and George, arrived as a

surgeon on a convict ship in 1833. The three brothers soon became extensively involved in both farming and whaling. However, they lost much of their property in 1844. Peter Imlay was then shipwrecked in July 1846, and in December 1846 George, who was suffering a terminal disease, shot himself. Alexander then died in March 1847. George had been unmarried while Alexander left a widow and three-year-old son.

On 23 February 1853, Peter married Jane Maguire at St. Andrews Church, Sydney.¹² The couple's marriage occurred eleven years after the birth of their first child, Jeanie, born 1842. Their second daughter, Mary, was born in 1849. Their death certificates reflect this confusion, with Peter's stating (correctly) that he married aged 55 (about 1852), while Jane's says that she married aged 18 (about 1841). Both said they married in Tasmania.

Peter had migrated to New Zealand in 1851, and the family settled in Wanganui in 1857 – from where he controlled his trading interests in the south-west Pacific.

Imlay purchased a 115 acre property from Dr. Wilson, which had been called Bellhaven, but which Imlay renamed Balgownie. Over time the property grew to some 5,304 acres, and stretched from the riverbank around where the burial ground is, to Rapanui.¹³

Flora Spurdle, in *New Stories of Old Whanganui* (pp. 48-49) states that the Imlay homestead was completed in 1857. At the time it was the only house for miles. There were no roads in the vicinity – only the house, which was noted for an emergency escape tunnel that Imlay had built leading from it to the orchard, to be used if the house came under attack.

Imlay fully occupied himself with his farm and his livestock – including shipping cattle and horses across the Tasman. In July 1861, he exported the first shipment of meat to leave Wanganui. He sent 25 live bullocks and 25 carcasses aboard the *Wonga Wonga*, bound for Auckland. Unfortunately the meat was tainted by the time it reached Auckland.¹⁴

¹² Marriage of Peter Imlay and Jane McGuire: V181532377 73C/1853; and Peter Imlay and Jane Maguire V1853222 81/1853: <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/> ; Also H.P. Wellings, 'Imlay, Peter (1797-1881)' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/imlay-peter-2259>

¹³ M.J.G. Smart & A.P. Bates, *The Wanganui Story* (Wanganui, 1972): p. 257

¹⁴ Smart & Bates, p. 155

Although Imlay was made a Justice of the Peace, he was seldom seen in town. He took no active part in public affairs and was described as *“a man of retiring habits and disposition, and only visiting the town when business compelled him, preferring the quiet serenity of his comfortable home at Balgownie to the bustle of a town and the hum of a ‘maddling’ crowd.”*¹⁵

While he may not have gone to town, the home was an active one. At one time there were three well-used tennis courts between the house and the river – until gradually the river eroded the bank away.

Spurdle wrote (p. 49) that Balgownie was a *“gay”* one (in the old sense of the word). *“Four young women and the military not so far away meant dinners and dances and riding parties...The late Mrs John Russell told me how she, as a little girl, has seen (a) wedding party from Balgownie go by in bullock waggons to the little English Church near the Rutland Stockade. The beautiful dresses and the rough carts made such a contrast that she never forgot it.”*

Peter Imlay died of syncope (loss of consciousness) at Balgownie on 8 March 1881, aged 90. His funeral was held at Balgownie, but his place of burial was not referred to.¹⁶

Ellen Imlay

Ellen was born in 1853, soon after the family arrived in New Zealand. She featured in the local newspapers in May 1871, after she was attacked when walking home from the racecourse. Her 16-year-old attacker had told her she had been left behind and so she had begun walking to Balgownie. She was fortunate that her attacker was disturbed – unlike his next victim a few days later. He received six months hard labour for attacking Ellen, but unfortunately was found not guilty (when he clearly was) due to lies incriminating the victim told by a member of his family. Two years later he struck again (an 11-year-old girl) and received fifteen years in prison as a result.¹⁷

¹⁵ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 4 June 1977, p. 7 (quoting J.G. Woon's 1902 book)

¹⁶ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 9 March 1881, p. 2

¹⁷ *Wanganui Herald*, 27 May 1871, p. 2, 29 May 1871, p. 2, 8 October 1873, p. 2, 27 October 1873, p. 2, 28 October 1873, p. 2; *Evening Post*, 28 October 1873, p. 2

Ellen died of Phthisis (tuberculosis of the lungs) at Balgownie on 9 April 1878, aged 24 years. She had been suffering from this for six months. Her death notice stated that her funeral would take place at Balgownie, but did not refer to her place of burial.¹⁸

Jane Imlay

Jane Imlay, aged 75, died at Balgownie on the 1st November 1898, after suffering from Asthma and chronic cystitis, with her illness lasting nine months. Although her death was mentioned in the newspaper, there was no funeral notice.¹⁹ It would seem likely that it was Jane who initiated plans for her own burial at the property – given that some of the plans must have occurred prior to her death. Her plans, however, possibly did not take into account the subdivision of the land so soon after her death.

Doctor George Richard Saunders

The next death in the family was Doctor George Richard Saunders, husband of Jessie Imlay. His obituary described him as having been one of the foremost athletes of his day, and that he had always taken a keen interest in every kind of British sport. He had been on the staff at Wanganui Collegiate for less than a year when in 1878, at the age of 24, he was appointed its headmaster. He had come to New Zealand seeking a warmer climate, after taking ill in England. A. Sangster's book, *Pathway to Establishment: The History of Wanganui Collegiate School*, (p. 38-39) states that George and Jessie enjoyed life to the full, including riding to hounds together. He raced his own horse and during his time as headmaster, the boys at the school attended the races "as a matter of course."

He left the school in 1881 and returned to England to qualify as a medical practitioner. He then returned to Wanganui to practice in 1890. However, his ill-health returned and eventually claimed his life at 'Mount Desert' on 25 February 1904, aged 50.²⁰

Jeannie Imlay

Jeanie (variously Jeannie) Imlay died on May 24th 1917, aged 75 years. Various

¹⁸ *Wanganui Herald*, 10 April 1878, p. 2

¹⁹ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 4 November 1898, p. 2

²⁰ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 26 February 1904, p. 5

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reports in the local newspapers throughout her lifetime suggest that she was a very capable woman. Her obituary also gives a good background to the family:

"It is with deep regret that we announce to our readers the death of Miss Imlay, which took place at her residence, 'Mount Desert', yesterday morning. The deceased lady was the eldest daughter of the late Mr Peter Imlay, who was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1791, and died in Wanganui in 1881 at the advanced age of 90 years. The late Miss Imlay was born at Bega, New South Wales, and arrived with her parents in in the year 1852. After a short residence in New Plymouth, the family removed to Wanganui, Mr Peter Imlay acquiring a large area between Wanganui and the sea, where he carried on grazing operations until his death. The old Imlay Homestead at Balgownie was proverbial for the kindly and generous hospitality of its inmates, which is a tradition to this day.

"On the death of her mother in 1898, the late Miss Imlay removed to 'Mount Desert,' where (with the exception of a short interval) she has since resided. Her kindness and generosity were known to a very wide circle of friends, and it is not too much to say that wherever she was known she was loved. She was an enthusiastic gardener, and for many years one of the most prominent supporters of the Horticultural Society, whilst the choice and rare blooms of her beautiful garden were ever at the disposal of her friends. Some three years ago Miss Imlay visited her relatives in Europe and she was staying with her sister, Mrs Abbott, in France when the present war broke out.

"During the last few months her health has given her relatives and friends great concern, and the end came peacefully yesterday morning. The deceased leaves two surviving sisters, Mrs Abbott (now in France) and Mrs Saunders, of 'Mount Desert'. Her nephews, Messrs Gonville Saunders and Imlay Saunders, also reside here. The funeral, which was of a private nature, took place this afternoon, the deceased lady being interred in the family cemetery at Balgownie.²¹

²¹ *Wanganui Herald*, 25 May 1917, p. 4(7)

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Jessie Saunders

The funeral of Jessie Saunders, the youngest of the family born in 1857²², followed the tradition of announcing that it involved a private interment. She died on October 3rd, 1923. No obituary was found.²³

The Missing Sibling

Only Mary is missing from the grave. She died in 'Les Figuiers', Dinard, France, aged 76, on 18 July 1926. As well as outliving all her siblings, she had also survived her two husbands and two of her four children. Her first husband, Ralph Allen Daniell, died in Wanganui aged 27 on 2 January 1873. Her second husband, Joseph Abbott, drowned at Fremantle while fishing on 5th October 1898 (while she was living in Wanganui). Then her daughter Isabel Butler (nee Daniell) drowned in a shipwreck off the coast of France in 1905, and her only son, Guy Abbott, died in South America some years before his mother's death.²⁴



²² Her Birth Registration 1857/110, daughter of Peter & Jane Imlay, however 1856/933 is also Jessie Imlay with parents not named: <https://bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/> ; The grave marker stated that she died aged 63, however, this is probably incorrect.

²³ *Wanganui Herald*, 3 October 1923, p. 4(4)

²⁴ *Wanganui Herald*, 4 January 1873, p. 2, 22 October 1898, p. 2, 26 July 1926, p. 6(6); *Wanganui Chronicle*, 24 October 1898, p. 2, 22 November 1905, p. 5

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Deposited Plan 2471, Plan of Awarere, surveyed September 1907, and approved by the Gonville Town Board on 14 March 1911. The former location of the (subsequently demolished) Imlay family home called 'Awarere', is shown on Lot 17. The cemetery, with the road sharply curved around it, is shown below Lot 26.

Balgownie

Jeanie Imlay evidently moved out of the Balgownie Homestead – the name of which was in fact 'Awarere' - in 1898. The house was then rented for a few years. By 1910, work was proceeding with subdividing the property around the cemetery, and during this time DP 2471, 'Plan of Awarere', was prepared. This plan was surveyed in September 1907, and its sections were put up for auction in November 1910. In April 1911, the Balgownie Homestead was advertised for sale for removal. This included its outbuildings and tanks.²⁵ With it gone, all that was left of Balgownie was the tiny cemetery.

Mount Desert Homestead

The Mount Desert Homestead – at 45 Bedford Street, Gonville – remains from the Imlay family's time there. However, the suburb's name and many of the streets also trace to the Imlay/Saunders family. Peter Imlay had had this house built for Mary when she married Ralph Daniell²⁶, the couple having married at Balgownie in 1870.²⁷ Mary later lived there with her second husband.²⁸ However, all of the daughters lived there at some point, other perhaps than Ellen. Mostly though, it was the home of George and Jessie Saunders.

²⁵ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 29 November 1910, p. 5, 12 April 1911, p. 8; Spurdle, p. 49

²⁶ Spurdle, Flora, *New Stories of Old Whanganui* (Wanganui, 1958, this copy 1959), p. 49, 92; also Athol Kirk, *History Now: People, Places, Machines, Events* (Wanganui, 1994), p. 64

²⁷ *Wanganui Herald*, 8 September 1870, p. 2

²⁸ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 7 February 1879, p. 2 (marriage), 17 November 1879, p. 2 (Mt. Desert up for lease for one year)

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Mount Desert front entrance, 45 Bedford Street. Photo: Val Burr, March 2012

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Also newspapers, archival material and online articles as referred to in the footnotes.

Architect/Designer:

History of changes: Crypt converted to present style late 1953 or 1954

Date Period: 1880s to 1890s

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Rarity / Special Features: the grave stone is likely to be unique in being located in a grass berm in a suburban street.

Integrity: The grave stone is in a fair condition with some lead lettering missing.

Representativeness: The grave is similar to many in-ground slab graves stones in cemeteries.

Context/Group Value: This grave is associated with the Mount Desert Homestead at 45 Bedford Street, Gonville, Wanganui, which was the family home of three of the people now buried in this grave. It was built about 1870 by Peter Imlay for the only Imlay daughter missing from the grave.

Diversity (Form and Features):

Fragility / Vulnerability: As a gravestone in a suburban street it is potentially vulnerable to vandalism.

Summary of Significance:

Archaeological Qualities

The grave was created in the late 1800s and is therefore an archaeological site.

Architectural Qualities

The slab on ground grave type is common throughout New Zealand cemeteries.

Historic Qualities

The grave is a private cemetery, known as the Balgownie cemetery where three members of the Imlay family were buried. These are:

- Ellen Imlay who was 24 and who died in 1878;
- Peter Imlay, aged 90 who died in 1898, and who was Ellen's father;
- George Saunders, aged 50, who died in 1904, Peter Imlay's son-in-law;
- Jeanie Imlay, aged 75, who died in 1917, Peter Imlay's daughter;
- Jessie Saunders, aged 63, who died in 1923, Peter Imlay's daughter.

Peter was a Naval surgeon who initially settled in Hobart and then immigrated to Wanganui in 1851 where he farmed and bred horses, while George was a doctor and former headmaster of Wanganui Collegiate.

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Technical Qualities

The materials used for the slab are typical of the time.

Cultural Qualities

The burial site has sentimental values to the Imlay family where three of their family are buried.

Reference Source:

Associated Pictures:

Date of Survey: 2012

Prepared by: Ian Bowman and Val Burr