



Henry Frederick HARDY (Block1, Plot 23)

Lack of professional qualifications did not bother Hardy. By dint of hard work and great energy he became a highly successful builder/architect.

Hardy was born in Darley, Derbyshire, England on 11 February 1831, and brought up to the business of grocer. He arrived in Dunedin on the ship *Rajah* on 5 October 1853 after a voyage of 117 days during which he was almost shipwrecked in a hurricane.

According to his own writings he worked as a woodcutter, ship's carpenter, boatman, evening class teacher, cabinetmaker, builder and architect.

He apprenticed himself to the cabinet-making business and afterwards helped construct the first ship to be built in Dunedin – the *Star of Dunedin*.

His first foray into house design was for auctioneer and wool-broker William Carr Young at Pelichet Bay (where Logan Park now is) in 1857. Shortly thereafter he designed and built a fine house at Graham Street, which still stands, and is one of the oldest buildings in Dunedin on its original site. This was a “cottage orne” in the manner of the builders’ instruction books of the day. Sitting high on a ridge overlooking Serpentine Avenue, the small but richly detailed house advertised Hardy’s skill and ambitions.

In the late 1860s Hardy acquired a large block of land between Graham and Melville Streets and began building a series of even more ambitious houses. This burst culminated in the building of ‘Waimoana’ on the corner of Graham St and High St. Hardy lived in a number of houses and retained ownership of many. By 1882 he owned property to the value of 15,125 pounds.

Many commissions followed for the self-taught architect from Dunedin’s merchant and professional class. He built the immense ‘Dale House’ at Woodhaugh for Charles Nichols, and Dr Hocken’s House in Moray Place.

Hardy was also a vigorous politician. From 1885 he represented South Ward on the City Council, and twice contested the City mayoralty. He was nominated for the House of Representatives, losing by a narrow margin.

He was an early shareholder, and later director, in the Mosgiel Woollen Co and designed the woolen mills and factory. Churches, office buildings, warehouses, factories and houses were all represented in his prolific output. Amongst his prominent early buildings was the Otago Daily Times office, while the lovely St Peter’s Church, Caversham, shows his Anglican faith.

Amongst all his activities Hardy found time to marry twice. He married Isabella Calder in 1854 in First Church, Dunedin, and this union produced eight children. Two of these children, died in infancy, Isabella Jane aged 3 years 9 months, and Anne Marie aged 3 years. Both are commemorated on a special headstone in the family grave.

He then married Catherine McCallum about 1873, and this marriage produced two children.

Henry Frederic Hardy died in Queenstown in 1904, aged 73 years, and he is buried in the family plot, along with both wives, in the Southern Cemetery, Dunedin.