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**HAVELOCK NORTH : A STUDY OF POPULATION GROWTH
AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE TOWN SINCE 1952**

**A Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Geography
at Massey University**

By

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PREFACE

Many small towns in New Zealand have undergone a change in role in the twentieth century depending upon their relationship with a nearby larger urban centre. In some instances the relationship has become totally changed as a result of complete absorption of the smaller centre by the larger and the development of Greater Auckland is an example of this. Alternatively, the small town may retain its individuality to a greater extent yet undergo a significant change in function, developing as a residential suburb of the larger town or city to the detriment of its 'all-round' development.

Such is the case of Havelock North, a town situated on the lower slopes of a range of hills approximately three miles east of Hastings City. Following its inception in 1860 after a short period of initial growth the township began to decline in importance and for a period of about sixty years from around 1890 to 1950 it was virtually little more than a small 'peaceful village' serving primarily as a retirement centre and a 'high-class' residential suburb of Hastings. Within the last two decades, however, the population of Havelock North has grown considerably from 1,828 in 1951 to 5,472 in 1966. It is this rapid growth in recent years together with the associated changes which have occurred, both directly and indirectly, in the morphology of the borough and the character of the borough's population which provides the basis for this study.

Havelock North, however, is also of interest in that many of the borough's residents seemingly do not wish to acknowledge or recognise that Havelock North is no longer the 'village' of former times, a home predominantly for retired and 'well-to-do' persons. Although recent changes have radically altered this image of Havelock North the idea of a 'village' catering almost solely for elderly and moneyed persons is still remarkably prevalent among many residents of both Havelock North and neighbouring urban centres.

Although the growth experienced by Havelock North appears to have arisen since 1945, this study confines itself primarily to that growth which has taken place since 1951. This decision was made because Havelock North was constituted a borough early in 1952 and because census figures are available for 1951 and subsequent five year intervals. Census returns from the New Zealand General Censuses of 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966, have provided basic statistical data on population, the majority of the remainder of the information within this study having originated from a questionnaire distributed to a sample of the population in September, 1968 (211 questionnaires were completed comprising 12.8 per cent of the total population), from personal interviews with residents of Havelock North, and from a land use survey conducted by the author in August, 1967 revision of which was necessary in August, 1968.

This study set out to establish the extent of growth and change which has occurred within Havelock North since 1951 and to

find a possible over-riding explanation or explanations for this growth. The extent of population growth and change was investigated primarily through the use of government statistical publications. These sources revealed that the population has been increasing at an ever-increasing rate, and the author's research on the morphology of the borough revealed that concomitant growth has occurred in the number of houses built, in the number of retail facilities available and in the length of roading within the borough; furthermore, that there has been a major change in the age structure i.e. the proportion of young people has increased while that of the older age groups has decreased.

Explanations for this growth and change were sought principally through questionnaires put to a sample of the residents as well as to all the retailers and the owners or managers of all the various industrial concerns within Havelock North. It was also necessary for the author to isolate from the registers of births and deaths in the Hastings Court House the numbers of births and deaths recorded for Havelock North during the period under consideration. Results from these sources indicate that although the factors which have played some part in attracting population to the borough are many and varied, the most important single factor has been the relationship between Havelock North and Hastings. Havelock North is predominantly a dormitory centre for Hastings and, apart from its initial establishment, developments in Havelock North always appear to have been related to those of Hastings. The early decline of the township largely resulted from the early growth of Hastings, while the recent

growth has apparently occurred primarily through the inability of Hastings to accommodate current growth and present, although as yet not particularly well-defined trends suggest that in the future the role of Havelock North may again be that of serving as a 'high-class' residential suburb of Hastings.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgements	
Preface	iii
CHAPTER 1 : <u>HAVELOCK NORTH, VILLAGE</u>	1
The Stop-Over Period 1860-1890	4
Period of Relative Decline 1890-1901	10
Period of Revived Growth 1901-1951	12
CHAPTER 2 : <u>POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 1951</u>	19
Total Population Growth	19
Changes in Distribution of Population	22
Changing Age Structure	22
Changing Racial Composition	27
Changing Occupational Structure	28
CHAPTER 3 : <u>IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH 1951-1968</u>	33
Housing Development	36
Roading Development	44
Commercial Expansion	45
Attraction of the Shopping Centre	49
General Upsurge in Activity	53
CHAPTER 4 : <u>IMPACT UPON THE BOROUGH OF THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE POPULATION</u>	57
Change Inherent in the Changing Age Structure	57
The Impact of Increasing Numbers of Children	57
The Role of Natural Increase in Promoting the Population Growth of 1951-1968	59

	<u>Page</u>
The Effect of Increasing Numbers of People 25 - 34 Years of Age	61
The Effect of Population Over 55 Years of Age	63
The Retirement Function of Havelock North in 1968	64
Effects of the Changing Racial Composition	66
Effects of the Changing Occupational Structure	67
The Possible Effects of Lower Income Groups	68
Industrial Expansion	70
 CHAPTER 5 : <u>PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE GROWTH OF HAVELOCK NORTH 1951-1968</u>	 74
Physical Factors	76
Climate	76
Topography	79
Semi-Rural Character	81
Economic Factors	82
Availability of Sections	82
Cheap Sections	83
Employment	86
Miscellaneous Factors	86
 CHAPTER 6 : <u>HAVELOCK NORTH : A DORMITORY SUBURB?</u>	 88
Amalgamation of Havelock North and Hastings	96
 CHAPTER 7 : <u>THE FUTURE OF HAVELOCK NORTH</u>	 102
References	107
Appendices	114
Bibliography	139

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1 : Original Sections Offered For Sale, 1860	5
Figure 2 : Urban Sections Circa 1880	6
Figure 3 : Napier, Hastings, Havelock Area, 1865	7
Figure 4 : Population Growth 1901-1966	20
Figure 5 : Age/Sex Structure 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966	23
Figure 6 : Boundary Changes Since 1951	34
Figure 7 : Housing Prior to and Subsequent to 1950 in 1968	35
Figure 8 : Major Sub-Divisions Since 1960 : New Roads Since 1950	40
Figure 9 : Shopping Centre 1952, 1968	48
Figure 10 : Proximity of Havelock North and Hastings	89
Figure 11 : Average Daily Traffic Flow, Havelock North/ Hastings Road, August 1968	91

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table I : Havelock North Population Growth 1901-1951	12
II : Residents 65 years of age and over; 1936-1951	17
III : Population Growth 1951-1966	21
IV : Length of Residence in Havelock North	21
V : Population Distribution by Age Groups 1951-1966	22
VI : Primary School Rolls 1950-1968	24
VII : Increase in Pre-School Age Group 1951-1966	25
VIII : Numbers and Percentages of People 15-54 years, 1951-1966	26
IX : Maori Population : Hastings and Havelock North, 1951-1966	27
X : Occupational Status, Havelock North 1956, 1961, 1966	29
XI : Salary and Wage Earners, Havelock North 1968	30
XII : Proportion of Population in Industrial Sectors, 1966	31
XIII : Proportional Change in Industrial Sectors, 1961-1966	31
XIV : Permits Issued for New Dwellings, April 1st, 1937 - November 1st, 1968	37
XV : Housing Permits for Flats and State Houses, 1955-1968	39
XVI : Payments for Maintenance of Roads in Havelock North, 1951-1966	45
XVII : Havelock North Shopping Facilities, 1952	46
XVIII : Havelock North Shopping Facilities, 1968	47
XIX : Shops Built Since 1951	50
XX : Percentage of Havelock North Residents Shopping in Havelock North	52

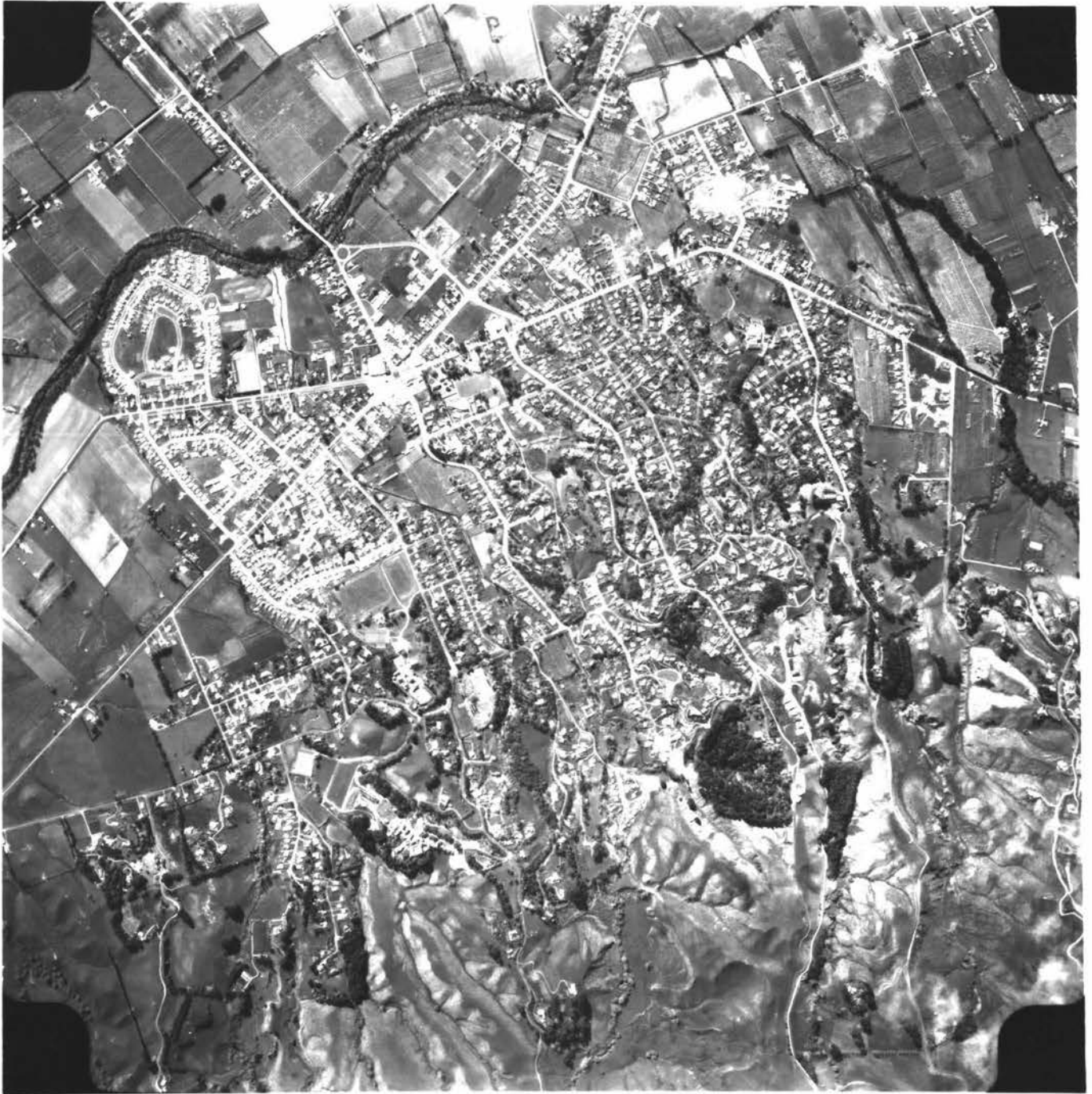
	<u>Page</u>
Table XXI : Membership as at April 1st of Havelock North Public Library 1961-1968	55
XXII : Natural Increase in Havelock North 18.4.51 - 22.3.66	60
XXIII : Natural Increase; Havelock North, Hastings, New Zealand, 1951-1966	62
XXIV : Sports Club Membership in Havelock North 1952-1968	64
XXV : Number and Value of Houses Built in Havelock North, 1960-1966	69
XXVI : Date of Commencement of Industries in Havelock North	72
XXVII : Havelock North Residents' Previous Place of Residence	75
XXVIII : Reasons Listed for Moving to Havelock North to Live	77
XXIX : Precipitation : Havelock North and Hastings, 1967	78
XXX : Sections Sold in Havelock North and Hastings, 1955-1966	83
XXXI : Average Price of Sections Sold in Havelock North and Hastings 1955-1966	85
XXXII : Previous Place of Residence of Retired People	87
XXXIII : Total Passengers on Buses between Havelock North and Hastings	92
XXXIV : Motor Vehicles Registered 1951-1968	92
XXXV : Should Havelock North and Hastings Amalgamate?	96
XXXVI : Proportions in Age Groups For and Against Amalgamation	97
XXXVII : Proportions in Years of Residence For or Against Amalgamation	97
XXXVIII : Public Debt, Havelock North and Hastings, as at March 31st, 1962	99
XXXIX : Rates Comparison : Havelock North and Hastings, ⁸ Year Ended March 31st, 1961	100

LIST OF PLATES

	<u>Page</u>
Aerial View of Havelock North September, 1968	ii
Plate 1 : Early Houses 'On the Flat'	15
Plate 2 : Early Houses 'On the Hill'	16
Plate 3 : Houses Built During 1950	42
Plate 4 : Houses Built During 1960	43

LIST OF APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Appendix A : Examples of the use and non-use of the 'North' in the name 'Havelock North' in the period around 1890 - 1900.	115
Appendix B : Questionnaire distributed to a sample of the households in Havelock North.	116
Appendix C : Maori Population in New Zealand by Statistical Areas, 1961.	122
Appendix D : Occupations Divisions and Major Groups; 1961, 1966.	123
Appendix E : Retail and Professional Facilities; 1952, 1968.	124
Appendix F : Questionnaire Distributed to Retailers.	125
Appendix G : Increasing Membership in Community Activities, 1960 - 1968.	127
Appendix H : Natural Increase Figures for Hastings and New Zealand 1951 - 1966.	130
Appendix I : Questionnaire Distributed to Industrial Establishments.	132
Appendix J : Comparative Temperature Figures, Havelock North and Hastings, 1967.	134
Appendix K : Traffic Flow : Havelock North/Hastings Road.	136
Appendix L : Number of Passengers Using Bus Service between Havelock North and Hastings, October, 1968.	137



Havelock North : Aerial View, September 1968