

Longbeach Estate Item C

Chapel



Location

Address:	1754 Longbeach Road, Ashburton
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5678968 , Easting 2404709
Legal Description:	Lot 2 DP 39648 (CT CB18K/390), Canterbury Land District
Owner:	Longbeach Estate Limited

Purpose

Current Use:	Chapel
Original/Past Uses:	Chapel

Heritage Significance and Category

Heritage Significance:	Physical; Historic; Cultural		
Heritage NZ:	Historic Place Category 2	List # 1760	Date Listed: 23 June 1983
Ashburton DC:	Category A		

Site Assessment

Assessed by:	Arlene Baird, Davie Lovell-Smith Ltd.
Date Assessed:	9 December 2014

Detail	
Description:	<p>Longbeach Station Chapel is thought to be one of the oldest surviving complete churches in Canterbury. It is a simple small structure, built in 1859 and constructed of timber walls with a corrugated iron roof. The roof was originally clad in shingle but later replaced in iron – it has a gabled roof which is steeply pitched. There is a small cross and bell tower on the apex of the roof.</p> <p>There are three sets of double lancet windows along each side elevation of the building – these double lancets are set in rectangular frames. There are long triple lancet windows on each gable end. To the southern elevation of the building there is a small decorative open entry porch, again with a steeply pitched roof.</p> <p>Internally the building is simple in form with king post timber trusses within the steeply pitched roof. Around the base of the ceiling there runs a band of scriptures written in coloured letters on the wood. The chancel to the front of the church is raised by one step and on it sits the altar and pedestal pulpit. Behind the chancel is a triple lancet window with a rose window above.</p> <p>A Memorial in the Chapel records the names of the men from Longbeach who gave their lives in WW1, there is also a memorial to John Grigg which quotes the words “Who laboured for the common good; Large was his bounty; His soul sincere.”</p> <p>There are mature trees and extensive landscaping to the northern, western and eastern sides of the Church, giving the building a secluded, private and peaceful feel. It is approached and entered from the south where there is a path from the gardens and a small tidy area of open lawn. Immediately to the south and east of the building, sit family graves.</p>
History:	<p>Church</p> <p>This Church was constructed at Prebbleton in 1859 to serve as a Chapel and School. By 1873 the small building was no longer required in that location and John Grigg bought it for thirty pounds. It was transported to Longbeach across the Ashburton River by bullock wagon to serve the station community, being located in the homestead gardens.</p> <p>The Church was dedicated by the Primate of New Zealand Bishop H.J. Harper and the burial ground near the Church was consecrated. The Bishop also baptised two children on the day of dedication, 25th May 1873 - these were the first two baptisms to be recorded in the Ashburton register.</p> <p>Attendance at the Chapel every Sunday was compulsory for family and workers at the Station. Today a number of the members of the Grigg family are laid to rest in the Chapel grounds.</p> <p>The historic Chapel now provides a wedding venue for couples of all denominations.</p> <p>Longbeach Estate</p> <p>John Grigg was born in Cornwall in 1828 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1854. He brought with him his siblings and step-siblings who he was responsible for following the death of his parents. At first John lived in Auckland but in his mid-30s he moved south with his wife Martha, their children (of which there were eventually 6) and his siblings.</p>

Detail	
	<p>The land was described as a Valueless Bog on the Lands Office Map in 1864. This was to become Longbeach and total 32,000 acres stretching from the Ashburton River in the North to the Hinds River in the South, and from the Pacific Ocean on the East to the present North/South Railway in the West. The Grigg family, including John's sisters, step-sisters and brother, lived in Christchurch for several years while work began on draining the swamp and establishing dwellings. He purchased the Chertsey Accommodation House and transported it by bullock wagon through the Ashburton River to the farm. The family arrived in a convoy of horses and wagons across the swamp in 1872.</p> <p>Crops were established and before long the merino flock numbered 10,000. The Estate became a self-supporting Community with its own Post Office, School, General Store, Flourmill, Brickworks, Church, Smithy, Bakery, Cookhouse as well as Stables, Cowsheds, Pig Sties and Woolshed.</p> <p>The Garden was first established in 1864 with trees planted as shelterbelts against the North West winds. Longbeach garden has prospered over the years as each generation of the Grigg family has continued with plantings and maintenance. Today there is 16 acres of sweeping lawns and garden.</p> <p>In 1882 Longbeach was put up for sale, due to the amicable end of the agreement between partners Thomas and John. John purchased back 16,000 hectares lying between Boundary Road and the Hinds River and 13,000 sheep. With the frozen export trade firmly in his sights, he grew that number to 37,000 in 12 years. Lamb fattening became a huge enterprise. John was also interested in dairying and his son JCN Grigg, was sent to source the best dairy cattle he could find. He settled on Dutch Friesian cattle, descendants of which are still important in local dairy herds today.</p> <p>Longbeach has remained in the same family, passing from John Grigg, to J.C.N. Grigg, to his son J. H. Grigg, who in turn passed it on to his daughter and son in law Virginia and David Thomas, and today it is farmed by their son Bill Thomas, his wife Penny and their four children. Bill was just 23 when he took over running Longbeach from his mother Virginia and her husband David Thomas in 1985.</p> <p>Today the Estate comprises of a successful farm plus the Chapel and Cookshop which are hired out for weddings and functions.</p>
Notable features:	Gothic styling; steeply pitched roof; bell tower; lancet windows; rose window; graves; memorials.
Condition:	This is an old timber building but has been retained and maintained in relatively good condition. The timber has little evidence of extensive wear or damage. The paintwork is in good condition and well maintained. The shingle roof has been replaced with iron. The surrounds are kept in excellent tidy condition.
Setting:	The Church is set in a secluded corner of the large mature garden, to the north of the homestead. It is surrounded by mature planting which prevents access to the western and northern elevations. To the eastern elevation there are a number of graves which are hidden from the path by a hedge and planting. To the front (south) of the Church there is a small tidy area of lawn. The setting is of high importance due to its links with the homestead and with the other Estate buildings and activities.





