

Heritage Item 24

Singlemens/Shearers Quarters, Hakatere Station



Location

Address:	1 Hakatere Potts Road, Hakatere
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5730882, Easting 2362233
Legal Description:	Lot 3 DP 4559
Owner:	Department of Conservation

Purpose

Current Use:	Information centre
Original/Past Uses:	Accommodation/Cookshop

Heritage Significance and Category

Heritage Significance:	Physical; Historic; Cultural		
Heritage NZ:	Historic Place Category 2	List # 9496	Date Listed: 10 December 2010
Ashburton DC:	Category A		

Site Assessment

Assessed by:	Arlene Baird, Davie Lovell-Smith Ltd.
Date Assessed:	27 November 2014

Detail	
<p>Description:</p>	<p>Extent of the Heritage New Zealand listing includes: <i>The land described as Section 1 SO 417234 (NZ Gazette 25 March 2010, p929), Canterbury Land District and the building known as the Stone Cottage. This listing also includes the Singlemen's Quarters and Cookshop associated with Hakatere Station thereon, and its fittings and fixtures. The following buildings are not included as part of the registration: Late 1950s concrete house, toilet block, wood sheds and garage.</i></p> <p>The Singlemen's/Shearers Quarters is a long timber building located only a few metres to the south of the Stone Cottage. It has a rectangular floor plan which is bisected near the centre by a projecting wing on the north elevation (formerly its cookshop). The building has a pitched gable roof with gables at right angles from the central wing. A concrete block bathroom extension is located off centre on the rear south elevation and has a shallow pitched gable roof. A verandah runs almost the whole length of the north elevation and is supported by a line of plain timber verandah poles. On the apex of the roof are two ridge mounted vents. There are numerous windows along the front and sides providing ample light into the building. The walls, window frames, doors and verandah are all painted a crisp white and the roof is painted red.</p> <p>The northern end of the building is used as an information centre with details of the buildings and area. There are a number of other buildings in the immediate vicinity, including the Stone Cottage (Heritage Item 20), sheds and a toilet block.</p>
<p>History:</p>	<p>Hakatere is the Maori word for the Ashburton River and the name that was given to this high country station. Thomas Henry Potts took up runs 181 and 189 of Hakatere Station in 1857. Over the next three years Potts added runs 256, 293 and 350, later adding Runs 374 and 384. Starting as a cattle station, Hakatere later changed to sheep and became one of the largest sheep stations in Canterbury.</p> <p>This small cluster of accommodation buildings developed gradually around the Hakatere Corner, including accommodation for shepherds and shearers and with facilities for cooking and dining. Two key accommodation buildings survive, being the Stone Cottage (Heritage Item 20) and the Singlemen's or Shearers' Quarters. This complex of buildings which provided the residential facilities for shepherds, shearers and cooks, provide insight into the life of workers at a nineteenth century isolated station.</p> <p>The construction date of the Singlemen's Quarters is not known. It is thought to date from around the early 1870s when the conversion of the Hakatere Station from cattle to a sheep station would have necessitated the provision of extra accommodation for shearers. It is also un-established whether the original portion of the Singlemen's Quarters was a rectangular timber building with a gable roof, which now comprises the central projecting bay of the much larger timber structure; or whether the original portion was the central bay cookshop, flanked by two or three large bunkrooms.</p> <p>During the 1940s this central cookshop was closed during winter because of the smaller number of hands employed on the station. The head shepherd's wife would feed the remainder at their home. From the late 1940s, the original cookshop space in the Singlemen's Quarters was subdivided into multiple bedrooms. In the late 1950s further bedrooms were added at the east end. Finally, in the mid to late 1970s, the west end was extended and remodelled to accommodate a lounge.</p> <p>At times the Singlemen's Quarters would accommodate around 14 shearers.</p>

Detail	
	<p>Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hakatere Singlemen's Quarters are representative in that they are of built of timber and that they are one of many examples of men's quarters or shearers' quarters in timber throughout both the North Island and South Island. However, the Hakatere Station Quarters building, with its very long timber building bisected by a protecting wing, is quite distinctive in its layout. There are other examples of long timber (and stone) accommodation buildings, but not with the projecting central wing. • The Singlemen's Quarters has been known as a place of social and community gatherings and is considered important to many in the local community. A working party exists to help preserve the Stone Cottage and Singlemen's Quarters. • The Hakatere Station buildings have aesthetic value as rustic examples of high country station accommodation buildings. • The Hakatere Station is associated with T H Potts, an early notable settler-conservationist in New Zealand who followed a movement to take up high country runs in the Canterbury region.
Notable Features:	Long timber construction bisected by projecting wing; grouping with other buildings.
Condition:	The building appears to be in relatively good condition. The timber walls are intact and the corrugated iron roof is water tight – although the paintwork on both is weathered and faded in many areas. The windows and doors are all intact and well painted and maintained. The walls and doors to the rear of the building are in less tidy condition than the front.
Setting:	The setting of the Singlemen's / Shearers' Quarters, within the isolated high country of the Ashburton Gorge, is of high importance as it provides an excellent example of rustic high country accommodation buildings. It is also of importance due to its grouping with the Stone Cottage, Cookshop and other later buildings on this corner – together they provide an excellent architectural, archaeological and historical record of the people and operations of this station for the past 150+ years.







