

Longbeach Estate Item N

Smokehouse / Bakery



Location

Address:	1034 Lower Beach Road, Ashburton
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5678475 , Easting 2404709
Legal Description:	Lot 2 DP 39648 (CT CB18K/390), Canterbury Land District
Owner:	Longbeach Estate Limited

Purpose

Current Use:	Vacant
Original/Past Uses:	Smokehouse / Bakery

Heritage Significance and Category

Heritage Significance:	Physical; Historic
Heritage NZ:	Not registered
Ashburton DC:	Category B

Site Assessment

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

Detail	
Description:	<p>This is an attractive building tucked into the slope of the land to the rear of the flour mill. This former smokehouse/bakery is a small structure built of concrete 'block' rendered walls and a corrugated iron roof. It is possible that the roof was originally clad in other material but this is not established. Internally there is a concrete floor.</p> <p>There are two window openings to each side of the building (north-east and south-west) and one opening to the south-eastern gable. The window openings are not glazed but rather covered in mesh or wooden louvres. The window surrounds have a gradual moulded arch and deep splays, affording more light into the building and providing a very classical appearance to this small structure.</p> <p>There is one doorway on the north-eastern elevation with a timber door and arched and splayed surround similar to the widows. The exact date of construction is not known, but it is thought to be during the 1880's.</p>
History:	<p>John Grigg was born in Cornwall in 1828. After his parents death he became responsible for his siblings. He inherited a freehold farm which he sold in 1853 and then sailed for Australia (with his siblings) in the ship "Blackwall," reaching Melbourne early in 1854. Mr. Grigg remained only about six months in Australia, and then came to New Zealand.</p> <p>At first Grigg lived in Auckland then moved south with his wife Martha, their children (of which there were eventually 6) and his siblings. The land was described as 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.</p> <p>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>Between 1880/84 John Grigg began confining the Hinds River by cutting a system of open drains which helped drain the swamp and then laying field tiles which were made on the property at an estimated cost of 2 to 4 pounds per acre to deal with the constant seepage. These tiles were laid at a rate of 30 miles a year leaving a network of at least 150 miles of tile drains and 70 miles of eleven parallel open drains.</p> <p>The Station was 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. Most of these buildings still remain 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>

Detail	
Notable features:	Concrete block construction; arched and spayed window and door surrounds; proportions; setting.
Condition:	The building is in relatively good condition. The roof is rusted but still intact and appears to be watertight. The render is cracked in many places and there are some small areas where it has chipped off. There are some small cracks in the brick arches above the doors and windows. The wooden door and louvers are weathered but intact. Internally intact and in good condition.
Setting:	This bakery is located in a hollow to the rear of the flour mill, next to the waterwheel. The building is not visible from the road and sits much lower than the track which runs to the south-west of the building. The setting is of high importance due to the building's relationship with the flour mill and other Estate buildings.





