

Longbeach Estate Item G

Light Horse Stable



Location

Address:	1034 Lower Beach Road, Ashburton
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5678543 , Easting 2404574
Legal Description:	Lot 2 DP 39648 (CT CB18K/390), Canterbury Land District
Owner:	Longbeach Estate Limited

Purpose

Current Use:	Storage
Original/Past Uses:	Stables

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 a small L shaped single-storey stable building located south of the homestead, and west of the Draught Horse stables (heritage item Longbeach H). The date of construction is not known, but it is thought to be later than the draught stables.</p> <p>The stable is constructed of brick walls with a corrugated iron roof. The bricks for construction of the stables (and other buildings on the site), were made in a purpose built brickworks which John Grigg established primarily to produce field tiles for the massive drainage schemes in the swampy lands of the coastal marshes.</p> <p>The building is a traditional L shape with stable yard in the centre. The eastern wing has three stable doors with a small window to the east of each door, accessing into three stables. The western wing has one stable door accessing a stable, one small door and window accessing workers accommodation, and one larger door accessing tack room and feed storage. At the corner of the 'L' there is an angled door accessing a corner stable. The western elevation of the building is plain with no openings. The southern elevation has three windows and a door opening onto a paddock. The northern gable has a small high window and the eastern gable has a small high vent. All the windows and stable doors have segmental brick arched lintels.</p> <p>The small workers accommodation has a brick surround fire place with brick chimney.</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 came to New Zealand bringing his siblings with him.</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>Longbeach was by then carrying 30,000 sheep; 3,000 pigs; 1,000 head of cattle and 150 working horses, plus 5,000 acres in wheat; 3,000 acres in Oats, permanent staff of 200 farmhands. In 1882 Longbeach provided part of the cargo of the first shipment of frozen meat sent to England.</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>

Detail	
	<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:	Brick construction; L shaped design; stable doors; segmental brick arched lintels; workers accommodation; fire place.
Condition:	The building appears to be well maintained. The roof is in excellent condition, possibly recently replaced. The brickwork is in good tidy order, with some loose bricks/movement evident in the inner corner of the courtyard and around some windows, otherwise the walls appear intact but weathered. The doors and window frames are well painted, however some of the doors appear very worn particularly the corner stable door.
Setting:	This stable block is located to the north west of the other Estate buildings, adjacent to the paddocks. A workers cottage has been built immediately south east of the building. The setting is of importance due to the stable's link to the Estate and its functions and other buildings.





