

## Longbeach Estate Item H

### Draught Horse Stable



#### Location

<b>Address:</b>	1034 Lower Beach Road, Ashburton
<b>Co-ordinates:</b>	Northing 5678560 , Easting 2404638
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Lot 2 DP 39648 (CT CB18K/390), Canterbury Land District
<b>Owner:</b>	Longbeach Estate Limited

#### Purpose

<b>Current Use:</b>	Storage
<b>Original/Past Uses:</b>	Stables

#### Heritage Significance and Category

<b>Heritage Significance:</b>	Physical; Historic		
<b>Heritage NZ:</b>	Historic Place Category 2	<b>List #</b> 1762	<b>Date Listed:</b> 23 June 1983
<b>Ashburton DC:</b>	Category B		

#### Site Assessment

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

Detail	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This is a medium sized stable building located south of the homestead, between the cookshop (heritage item Longbeach J) and the flourmill (heritage item Longbeach L). The exact date of construction is not known, but it is thought to be during the 1880's.</p> <p>The stable is constructed of brick walls covered with a cement render and 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 has good proportions with three stable doors along the front elevation (north west) with small four-paned sash windows alongside each door. There was a fourth stable door which has been partially blocked and turned into a window. The windows and stable doors all have segmental brick arched lintels. The bricks around the windows and doors are exposed. To the north east gable there is a small double door with timber lintel. There is a feed/hay loft above the stables which has two windows onto the front elevation. The northern elevation has one large ground floor opening, with no door. The south eastern elevation is very plain with one ground floor small paned window and one loft door into the first floor.</p> <p>Internally the stables have five short stalls with cobbled floor and timber divisions. Old bridles and saddles on saddle racks still remain, although the stable is no longer used. The area to the north eastern end of the stable block holds a separate workers bedroom with window, door and fireplace.</p> <p>Although aesthetically pleasing in their form and proportions, the stables lack the attractive appearance of the cookshop or light horse stables, due to the cement render which results in a rougher exterior.</p>
<b>History:</b>	<p>John Grigg was born in Cornwall in 1828. After his parents death 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 but by his mid-30s he 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>

Detail	
	<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> <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>
<b>Notable features:</b>	Brick construction; cement render; stable doors; segmental brick arched lintels; workers accommodation; fire place; stalls; cobble floor.
<b>Condition:</b>	The building is in relatively good condition. The roof is rusted but still intact and appears to be watertight. The cement 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 paintwork on the door and window frames is well maintained apart from the first floor loft door which is faded and worn. The chimney appears to be solid. Internally the woodwork of the stalls is all still in very good condition as are the cobbles on the stall floors.
<b>Setting:</b>	This stable block is located right in the heart of the Estate buildings, with the road running along the back of the building and the doors and windows opening onto the stable yard to the north west. The setting is of high importance due to the building's importance to the Estate and its relationship with other Estate buildings.







