

Longbeach Estate Item T

Dairy



Location

Address:	1034 Lower Beach Road, Ashburton
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5678408 , Easting 2404766
Legal Description:	Lot 2 DP 39648 (CT CB18K/390), Canterbury Land District
Owner:	Longbeach Estate Limited

Purpose

Current Use:	Storage
Original/Past Uses:	Dairy

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:

This is the former Longbeach Estate dairy located to the south-east of the main group of Estate buildings. The date of construction of the dairy is unestablished.

The dairy is a mixture of building materials and ages. It is a T shaped building, the northern section is constructed of brick, the central section of timber cladding and iron and the southern section almost entirely clad in iron. The roof is corrugated iron with roof lights. The window and door openings are a mixture of shapes and sizes, most being open but a few still retaining their doors or glazing. There is a large vehicle opening in the central wing of the T. To the northern corner of the building there is the dominant feature of a tall brick chimney.

Internally the brick section of the building is separated into smaller rooms, one to the rear containing an original copper in a brick surround with fireplace underneath and brick chimney to the side. The rest of the building is made up of stalls, pens and an open central area.

The dairy is currently used for storage of old farm equipment and wagons.

History:

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.

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.

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.

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, Woolshed, most of these buildings still remain today.

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.

In 1882 Longbeach was put up for sale, due to the amicable end of the agreement between Thomas and John. John purchased back 16,000 hectares and 13,000 sheep. With the frozen export trade firmly in his sights, he grew that number to 37,000 in 12 years and concentrated on lamb fattening. 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.

Detail	
	<p>Besides devoting great enterprise, intelligence, and energy to the development of Longbeach, John Grigg actively assisted in the establishment of the Belfast Freezing Works, in the management of the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association, and in the work of the Ashburton County Council, the Longbeach Road Board and school committee. He was also for some time a member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Grigg died at Longbeach on the 7th of November, 1901, in his 74th years, and was buried in the Longbeach churchyard beside his wife who had predeceased him by about sixteen years.</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>
Notable features:	Brick and timber construction; stalls and pens; copper and fireplace; brick chimney.
Condition:	The dairy is in moderate condition. The roof is weathered and rusted but appears to be water tight. The brick section is mostly intact with some areas of loose and missing bricks (particularly to the front). Windows are missing in this section. The brick chimney appears to be in good condition. The rest of the building appears to be mostly sound but the timber and iron cladding is weathered and/or missing in some areas. Internal timbers still appear to be in good condition.
Setting:	The dairy is situated to the south-eastern side of the Estate buildings, slightly detached from the main group. The setting is of high importance due to its relationship with the other Estate buildings.











