

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME 'Oakwood', former Robinson Residence

ADDRESS 307 Gleniti Road, Hadlow

PHOTOGRAPH



Former District Plan Item No. NO. 2 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2066 / 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 331059

VALUATION NUMBER 2484011601

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1906

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** James S Turnbull, architect

STYLE English Domestic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey house with an L-shaped footprint and varied roof forms. Grouped casement and fanlight type fenestration, exposed rafters, shingle cladding on gable end, sunhood and a portion of the first floor wall. Return, double-height veranda, and bay or oriel windows of various shapes. Ground floor fanlights are set with leadlights. Jettied cross gable on principal/north-facing elevation is supported by paired brackets.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, roughcast plaster over concrete foundation, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Possible single-storey addition to south elevation (date unknown).

SETTING

The house stands on the north side of Gleniti Road, west of its intersection with Pages Road. It stands at some distance from the roadway within a mature garden setting. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the house is located, although it is noted that the Heritage NZPT list entry includes only the immediate curtilage of the house and excludes the single-storey wing on the south elevation.

HISTORY

Gladstone Robinson (c.1860-1936) emigrated to New Zealand from England in 1880. After a decade or so in Otago, during which time he gained farming experience, Robinson visited England. He was accompanied by his wife Eva (nee Bathgate), the first two of their six children and the children's nurse. The family group returned to New Zealand in 1891, at which time Gladstone Robinson's occupation was recorded as 'gentleman'. Robinson acquired 'Otumarama' to the west of Timaru from Robert Hay in December 1899 and sold it to Arthur Elworthy in 1905. The estate was then subdivided and Gladstone acquired a parcel of some 500 acres from the larger block on which he built 'Oakwood' in 1906. Robinson retired in 1921, by which time he had subdivided the farm; keeping a small block while the government developed the rest as a soldier settlement. Robinson died at 'Oakwood' in 1936. His obituary records he had a keen interest in art, made a large number of trips to England during his lifetime, and was an active member of St Mary's Anglican Church in Timaru. Eva Robinson was on the committee to erect the Timaru World War I memorial. She died in 1954. The property was further subdivided by subsequent owners on several occasions until it reached its current size in 2003. It remains in residential use.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Oakwood' has historical significance for its association with Gladstone Robinson and his family and the development of farming in the area. The property represents the changing pattern of farm ownership and subdivision on the outskirts of Timaru in the early 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Oakwood' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the families who have resided in the dwelling since its construction.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

'Oakwood' has architectural significance as an example of the residential work of Timaru architect James Turnbull (1864-1947). Turnbull trained in Australia before arriving in Timaru in c.1895. He was also the designer of the Chalmers Presbyterian Church (1903-4, heritage item # 38) and the Olympia Hall (1910), both in Timaru.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

'Oakwood' has technological and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Oakwood' has contextual value as a historic feature within its mature garden setting. A number of other large houses are located in the area, including 'Otumarama' on Pages Road, which was the home of the Robinson family before they built 'Oakwood'.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the house post-dates 1900 any potential archaeological significance its site may have would likely relate to the colonial development of the 'Otumarama' estate.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

'Oakwood' has overall heritage significance to Hadlow and Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical significance for its association with Gladstone Robinson and the development of farming in the area and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. 'Oakwood' has architectural significance as an English Domestic Revival

style house designed by Timaru architect James Turnbull and technical and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. 'Oakwood' has contextual value as a local historic feature and in relation to 'Otumarama' and other large 19th and early 20th century houses in the area. As 'Oakwood' post-dates 1900 its site may have limited archaeological value.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 18 December 1899, p. 2; 20 December 1899, p. 3; 25 January 1900, p. 2; 25 January 1901, p. 1; 10 July 1901, p. 2; 19 October 1905, p. 1; 6 March 1906, p. 4; 7 April 1906, p. 3; 30 January 1909, p. 2; 1 November 1909, p. 4; 3 November 1909, p. 4; 15 July 1913, p. 3; 11 October 1913, p. 16; 28 October 1913, p. 7; 7 March 1914, p. 8; 7 July 1920, p. 7; 17 April 2007 (available online).
- *Press* 25 January 1900, p. 3; 28 October 1915, p. 10; 29 September 1928, p. 1; 11 July 1936, p. 1; 13 July 1936, p. 10.
- *Clutha Leader* 13 April 1883, p. 4.
- *Mount Ida Chronicle* 1 October 1885, p. 2.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- Macdonald Dictionary of Biography, Canterbury Museum.; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2066>
- South Canterbury Museum.



Extent of setting, 307 Gleniti Road, Hadlow.