

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building

ADDRESS 53 Pleasant Valley Road, Geraldine

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. HHI139 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 1980 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 16672

VALUATION NUMBER 2467026700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1884

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** CJ Toxward, architect; RB Sibley, builder

STYLE Industrial classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Northern wing runs parallel to the roadway; three wings at right angles create a triple gabled façade on the south elevation. Random rubble bluestone walls with limestone quoins, door and window surrounds. Double-hung, multi-pane sash windows.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Bluestone basalt & limestone; concrete, brick, timber & corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Door installed on north elevation? (date unknown).

SETTING

The former dairy factory stands on a triangular rural residential property that is formed by the intersection of Craig and Pleasant Valley Roads. The former factory stands closest to the latter but is largely obscured from view by vegetation. Geraldine lies to the north-east of the former factory site. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate setting of the former factory, rather than the land parcel as a whole, notwithstanding the potential for archaeological evidence elsewhere on the property.

HISTORY

The Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd (aka the Geraldine Dairy and Bacon-Curing Factory Company Ltd) was established in June 1883. The company had been proposed as a 'branch' of the Temuka Dairy Factory (1883) in order to meet the needs of local farmers who were too distant from Temuka. Tenders were called for a factory in stone and brick in January 1884. By May the building was complete and tenders had been called for a manager's house and revolving shelving in the cheese room. The factory commenced operation in the 1884-85 season and its cheddar cheese was praised in June 1885 after it had been exported to England. After a new butter factory was built at Timaru the Pleasant Valley building was converted to use as a creamery in c.1906. The factory was later used for cheese production once more and was registered by the Geraldine Co-operative Dairy Company Ltd as a dairy factory between 1908 and 1961. Since that time it has been privately owned and in use as a workshop.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has high historical significance as one of the oldest surviving dairy factories in New Zealand. Company and co-operative dairy factories began to proliferate in New Zealand in the early 1880s but as most were timber buildings they were typically rebuilt or replaced at a later date.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former workers and of the colonial dairy farmers who would cart their milk by dray to deliver it to the factory for processing. As a result early dairy factories and creameries often served as a social hub for local farmers.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has high architectural significance as a design by noted Wellington architect C Julius Toxward. Toxward (1831-91) was born in Denmark and he arrived in New Zealand, via the Australian goldfields in c.1861. Fine arts study in Denmark led to his architectural career in New Zealand. By 1866 he was resident in Wellington where he designed a wide range of building types. In 1883 the government printer published Toxward's 'detailed designs and specifications for dairy factories' at the behest of Premier Frederick Whitaker (DNZB biography, see below). Little of Toxward's Wellington work is still extant, making the Geraldine dairy factory a notable survivor. Mr [William?] Annand of Timaru was reported to have adapted Toxward's drawings in light of the decision to build in stone, rather than use timber as the architect had specified.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has technological and craftsmanship significance for its locally quarried, stone masonry construction. The building's stone construction is unusual because typically dairy factories in New Zealand have been of timber or, later, concrete construction. The stone was reported to have been provided free of charge by the Geraldine Road Board. Richard Sibley built the factory and Mr Henderson built the revolving cheese shelves, as well as the manager's house.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine dairy factory has contextual value as a local historic feature. Craig Road, which was formed in 1918 (SO 5555), was likely named for James Matthew Craig, who was factory manager in the early 20th century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former factory pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and the industrial development of the district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has high overall heritage significance to Geraldine and Timaru district as a whole. The former factory has high historical significance as one of the oldest surviving dairy factories in New Zealand and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the factory's workers and the farmers who supplied it. The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has high architectural significance as the work of noted Wellington architect CJ Toxward and technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally quarried basalt and limestone. The former Geraldine Dairy Factory Company Ltd building has contextual value as a local historic feature and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the building's pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 1 January 1883, p. 3; 5 August 1884, p. 3.
- *South Canterbury Times* 30 June 1885, p. 3; 1 October 1885, p. 3.
- *Temuka Leader* 28 December 1882, p. 2; 9 June 1883, p. 2; 14 June 1883, p. 2; 23 June 1883, p. 2; 28 June 1883, p. 2; 12 July 1883, p. 2; 14 July 1883, p. 2; 19 July 1883, p. 4; 4 August 1883, p. 3; 5 January 1884, p. 2; 15 January 1884, p. 2; 29 April 1884, p. 2; 10 May 1884, p. 2; 22 May 1884, p. 3; 11 October 1884, p. 2; 29 December 1885, p. 2; 6 November 1917, p. 4; 18 September 1924, p. 3.
- *Lyttleton Times* 26 January 1884, p. 3.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1980>
- Archives New Zealand.
- J Sawers *The Dairy Industry of New Zealand* Wellington, 1891 (available online).
- <https://admin.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2t47/toxward-christian-julius>
- C Julius Toxward *Specification for the erection of a dairy produce factory [800, 400, and 200 cows]* Wellington, 1883.



Extent of setting, limited to immediate environs, 53 Pleasant Valley Road, Pleasant Valley, Geraldine.



Land parcel as a whole.



The Creamery.

Historic photo, the Co-op Dairy Factory, Pleasant Valley, Geraldine. (From the Geraldine Historical Society) nd.

South elevation, HNZPT list report, c.2003.