

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Orari Gorge Station homestead

ADDRESS 991 Tripp Settlement Road, Orari Gorge

PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No. 60 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RS 3308

VALUATION NUMBER 2466002100

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1865-66 + 1873

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Henry Burton, builder (1865-66); William Marley,
architect (1873)

STYLE Domestic Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey dwelling with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Principal elevation faces east. Ogee shaped gabled dormers above veranda, flanked by faceted bay window on east elevation. Scalloped bargeboards, latticed veranda posts, finials. Double-hung sash windows.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and cladding on stone foundation, brick, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Bay window reconstructed (1992), new first floor dormer and sash windows (1994), replacement of service areas at the rear (1998).

SETTING

The homestead is located on a parcel of land towards the south-eastern boundary of a large rural property running along the western bank of the Orari River. Access is via a long drive that comes off the west side of Tripp Settlement Road, opposite its intersection with Howard Road and Andrews Stream Road. The woolshed (heritage item # 61) is located to the north-east of the homestead, with a closer group of historic farm buildings to the north-west. The extent of setting encompasses the garden setting of the homestead rather than the land parcel as a whole, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the entire property. It is noted that the woolshed and the covenanted farm buildings have their own settings, the latter is consistent with the HNZPT list entry (#7763, see below).

HISTORY

Charles George Tripp (1826-97) emigrated to New Zealand from England in early 1855 and within the year had taken up the Mount Peel, Mt Possession, Mt Somers and Orari Gorge runs. Initially in partnership with JBA Acland, Tripp, who had trained as a lawyer, retained the Orari Gorge station when the partnership was dissolved in 1862. He had married Ellen Harper, a daughter of Bishop Harper, in 1858 and the couple had eight children. According to Acland, Orari Gorge was let by Tripp and Acland to Robert Smith between July 1859 and 1862. Smith is reported as having built a dwelling on the homestead site that later became part of the men's hut. Meanwhile the Tripps lived at Mount Peel until 1861, then resided briefly at Mount Somers before making an extended visit to England. The family finally took up residence at Orari Gorge in September 1866. The earliest parts of the Tripps' homestead date to 1865-66; with a large extension undertaken in 1873. At its fullest extent the Orari Gorge Station extended from the Orari River to the Hae Hae Te Moana River. Over 20,000 acres of freehold land, and 50,000 acres of leasehold were stocked with more than 40,000 sheep. The property was taken over by Bernard Tripp after his father's death in 1897. In 1910 the government bought some of the freehold and resumed most of the leasehold land for small farm settlement. The property remains in Tripp family ownership today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station homestead has high historical significance for its association with Charles and Ellen Tripp, their family and descendants. One of Canterbury's early colonial sheep runs, Orari Gorge Station demonstrates the historical development and continuity of pastoralism in the region.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station homestead has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of generations of the Tripp family in New Zealand.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station homestead has architectural significance as an example of the Domestic Gothic Revival style, which was popular in the 1860s and 1870s. William Marley is reported as having designed additions to the house in 1873 and he certainly called tenders for 'stables and other buildings' at Orari Gorge in June 1876. Marley was a pioneer Canterbury architect and builder who had previously supervised the design of All Saint's Anglican Church at Burnham (1864). He was also responsible for the second stage of Riccarton House in 1874, the Homebush Station woolshed (1878-79), and, in Peel Forest, 'Waikonini' homestead for WE Barker (1881, heritage item # 58) and St Stephen's Anglican Church (1885, item # 57).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station homestead has technological and craftsmanship significance for its mid-19th century timber construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station homestead has contextual significance as the pivotal historic feature at Orari Gorge Station and for its relationship with both the woolshed (heritage item # 61) and the covenanted farm buildings (HNZPT list # 7763), as well as the Eleanor Howard Tripp Memorial Library at Woodbury (1936). The latter was built in memory of Charles and Ellen's daughter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the homestead pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and the early colonial development of the wider property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station homestead has overall heritage significance to Orari Gorge and Timaru district as a whole. The homestead has high historical significance for its association with the Tripp family since 1866 and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of several generations of an early settler family. The Orari Gorge Station homestead has architectural significance as a Domestic Gothic Revival style building that was designed in part by noted 19th century Canterbury architect William Marley. The homestead has technical and craftsmanship significance for its timber construction and detailing and contextual significance as the defining historic feature on the property. The Orari Gorge Station homestead site has potential archaeological significance in view of the homestead's mid-19th century date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 16 September 1865, p. 5; 1 December 1866, p. 1; 2 January 1867, p. 4; 10 August 1867, p. 2; 23 June 1876, p. 1; 8 July 1897, p. 3; 16 March 1898, p. 1; 9 January 1908, p. 6; 31 January 2009 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 13 January 1880, p. 2; 1 December 1885, p. 2; 14 January 1908, p. 1; 13 April 1926, p. 1.
- *Press* 27 May 1939, p. 18.
- *Lyttelton Times* 14 June 1876, p. 1.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7763>
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- HW Harper *Letters from New Zealand, 1857-1911* London, 1911.
- LGD Acland *The Early Canterbury Runs* Christchurch, 1946 (available online).
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/1966/tripp-charles-george>
- B Harper *The Kettle on the Fuchsia – The Story of Orari Gorge* 1967.



Extent of setting, limited to immediate garden environs, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values across the entire site. Larger oval denotes extent of setting for Orari Gorge farm buildings (HNZPT list # 7763).



Land parcel as a whole with homestead marked by star.



Orari Gorge Station homestead in the early 20th century. 1/1-0097456-G, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.