

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Orari Gorge Station farm buildings (slab cottage/cadet building, blacksmith's shop, saddlery/coach house, whata & stable)

ADDRESS 991 Tripp Settlement Road, Orari Gorge

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT; stable)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. New **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 7763 / 1
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RS 3308

VALUATION NUMBER 2466002100

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1859-60, 1865-67, 1876

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Robert Smith, occupier/builder (1859-64); Jim Radford, bricklayer/stonemason (blacksmith's shop foundations, 1866-67); William Marley, architect (stable, 1876)

STYLE Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

1859/60 + 1865/73 slab cottage/cadet building: Single-storey building with truncated T-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Timber slab and board and batten cladding, multi-pane windows. External chimneybreast and stair to loft in end wing. Thatch and shingled roofs.

1866-67 blacksmith's shop: One-and-a-half storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Vent and chimney on ridgeline. Multi-pane windows and stone foundations. Multiple door openings.

c.1860 whata (aka phuta, see below): Small single storey building with rectangular footprint and hipped roof. Brick infill at ground floor level, weatherboard cladding above. Multipane windows and boarded door openings.

c.1865 saddlery/coach house: Single-storey building with square footprint and gabled roof. Weatherboard cladding. Brick chimney.

1876 stable: two-and-a-half storey building with square footprint and saltbox roof. Multi-pane windows; ground and first floor loading bay doors with cathead above on north/south elevations.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, brick, stone, concrete, and corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Brick infill around timber framed base of whata (late 1860s). Lean-to addition to stable (date unknown). Slab cottage/cadet building largely rebuilt by HNZPT; smithy and whata restored (late 1960s-early 1970s).

SETTING

The farm building cluster 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 station homestead (heritage item # 60) is located to the south-east of the buildings. The extent of setting is consistent with the HNZPT list entry, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the entire property. It is noted that the homestead has its own setting.

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; the lease was later extended until the end of 1864. Smith built a dwelling and a storehouse (whata) on the homestead site; the former 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. By this time William Hudson was the manager of the property, having taken over from Smith. 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. In 1885 it was reported that the woolshed could hold 2000 sheep and had room for 28 shearers. The property was taken over by Bernard Tripp after his father's death in 1897. In 1898 Tripp junior called for tenders to paint the station buildings; the notice itemising a dwelling-house, men's house, blacksmith's shop, phuta, cowshed, shearers' hut, stables, woolshed, five cottages and a ram house. In 1910 the government bought some of the freehold and resumed most of the leasehold land for small farm settlement. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust became involved in conserving the group of historic farm buildings on the property in the later 1960s and the complex was first opened to the public in the summer of 1983/84. Heritage covenants were placed over four of the five farm buildings in 1990 (the stable was excluded), and a number of open days are held each year. The property remains in Tripp family ownership today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station farm buildings have high historical significance for their association with Charles Tripp, his descendants and the men who worked on the station. 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 farm buildings have cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of those who worked on the station, including Charles Tripp who was well-known for his active involvement in the running of the station. Heritage NZ's involvement with the property since the later 1960s attests to the esteem in which the buildings are held.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station farm buildings have high architectural significance as a group of vernacular farm buildings dating to the mid-19th century. The whata is a rare surviving example of a building type that melds Maori and European built form and materials. William Marley 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). Marley is believed to have designed additions to the Orari Gorge homestead in 1873.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station farm buildings have technological and craftsmanship significance for their mid-19th century timber, brick and stone construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station farm buildings have contextual significance as inter-related historic features at Orari Gorge Station and for their relationship with the homestead (heritage item # 60) and other farm buildings on the property.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the buildings pre-date 1900 their site has potential archaeological significance relating to the buildings' construction and the early colonial development of the wider property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Gorge Station farm buildings have high overall heritage significance to Orari Gorge and Timaru district as a whole. The farm buildings have high historical significance for their association with the Tripp family since 1859 and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the station's workers. The Orari Gorge Station farm buildings have high architectural significance as a group of mid-19th century vernacular farm buildings, one of which was designed by noted 19th century Canterbury architect William Marley. The farm buildings have technical and craftsmanship significance for their construction and detailing and contextual significance as a group of related historic features on the property. The site of the Orari Gorge Station farm buildings has potential archaeological significance in view of the buildings' mid-19th century date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

A

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.
- G Thornton *The New Zealand Heritage of Farm Buildings* Auckland, 1986.
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/woolsheds.htm>

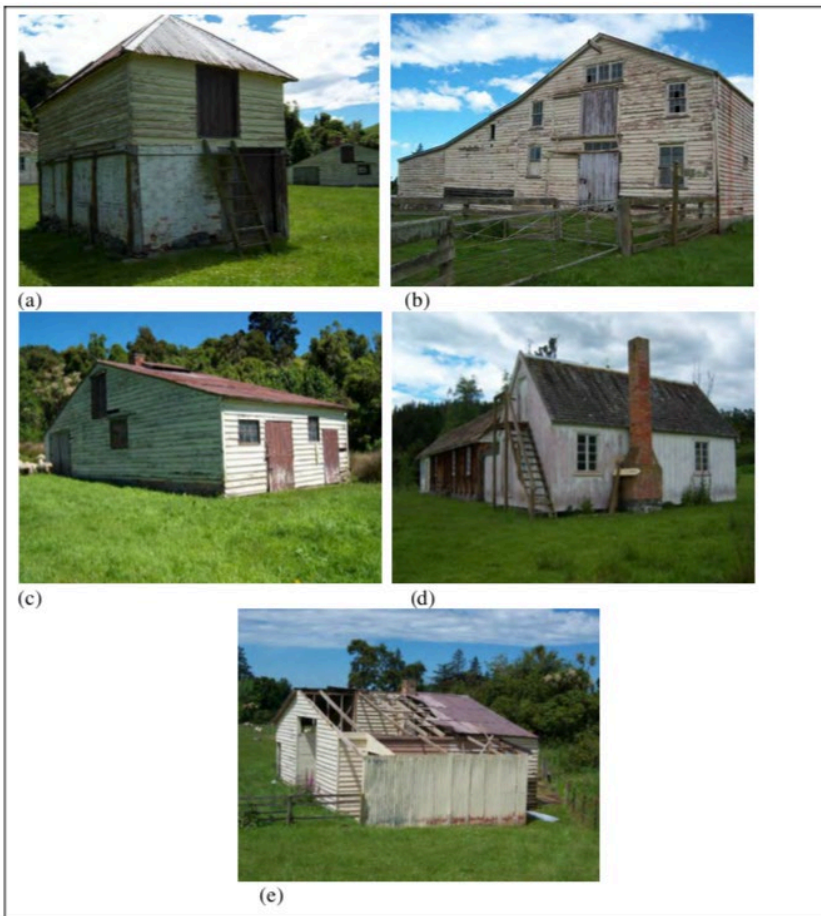
REPORT COMPLETED	7 September 2018
AUTHOR	Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services
REPORT UPDATED	XX
AUTHOR	XX
PEER REVIEWED	XX
REVIEWER	XX



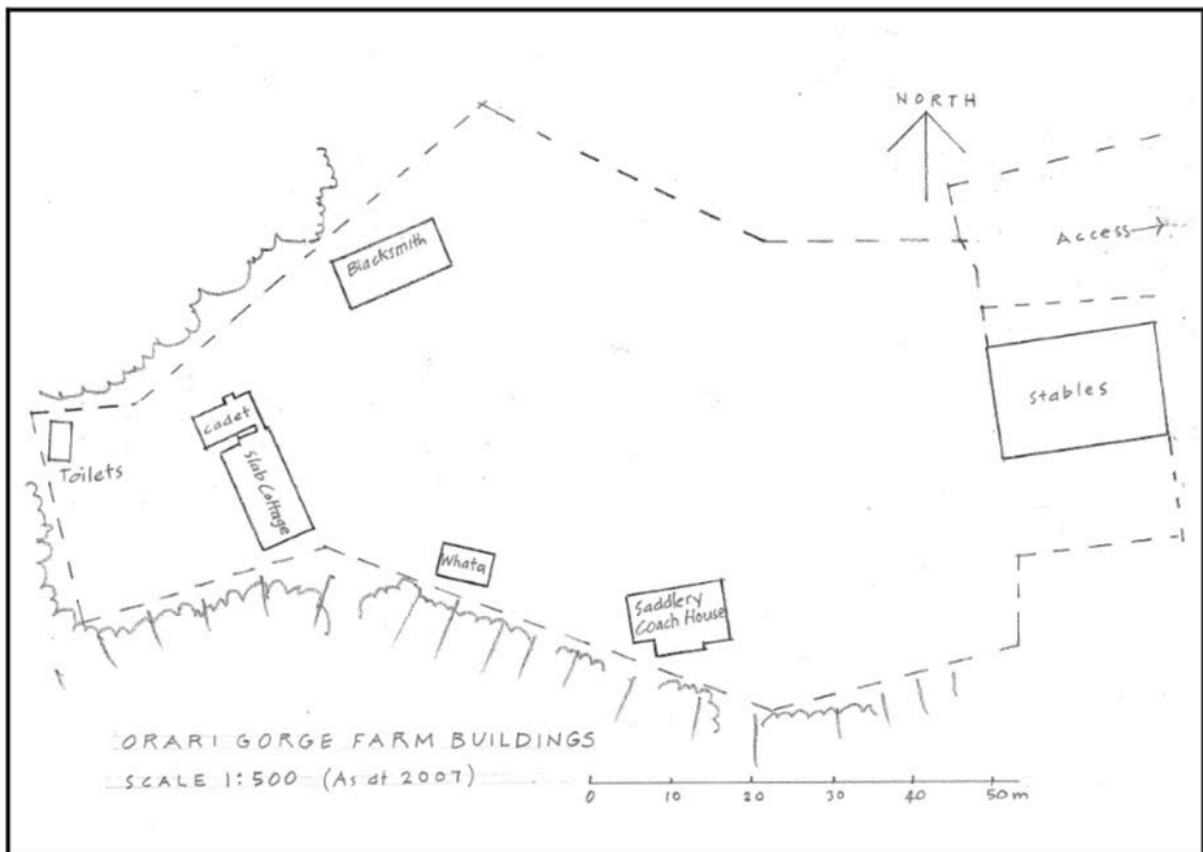
Extent of setting, consistent with HNZPT list entry, notwithstanding potential archaeological values across the entire site. Smaller oval denotes extent of setting for Orari Gorge Station homestead (heritage item # 60).



Land parcel as a whole with farm buildings circled.



Burgess, R. Orari Gorge Farm Buildings: (a) Whata, (b) Stables, (c) Blacksmith's Workshop (d) Slab Cottage/Cadet Building; (e) Saddletry/Coach House. November 2007, NZHPT Southern Region.



Site plan, 2007. Heritage NZPT.