

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Arowhenua Station woolshed (incl. cow byre)

**ADDRESS** 269 Station Road, Temuka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(TDC/HNZPT)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No.** 87/88    **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 1953 & 1954 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 23188

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2468013900

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** c.1853-54

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** William Hornbrook, owner/builder

**STYLE** Rural vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

One-and-a-half storey woolshed with flared gable roof and rectangular footprint; has L-shaped open shed with monopitch roof attached to its southern side. Eastern gable end inset with loading door to access loft. North elevation has shed dormer. Sheep yards on north and west sides.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Pit sawn timber framing and weatherboard cladding (woolshed); post and rail structure with board and batten or corrugated iron cladding (cow byre); corrugated iron roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Woolshed shingle roof reclad in iron (date unknown); shed dormer on north elevation built to accommodate machine shearing stands (1900s).

**SETTING**

The woolshed stands on the western edge of a cluster of farm buildings, near the southern boundary of a rural property that is located on the south side of Station Road. The north bank of the Opihi River is to the south. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate setting of the woolshed and cow byre, rather than the land parcel as a whole, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the wider site.

## **HISTORY**

In July 1851 Major Alfred Hornbrook applied for a squatter's license in Timaru district. The 12,000 hectare run, which became known as Arowhenua, was the second to be taken up in South Canterbury. Whilst Hornbrook remained on his Mount Pleasant station near Lyttleton, his brother William settled at Arowhenua in early 1853 to manage the sheep farm. Farm buildings, a cob cottage and then a homestead were built near the north bank of the Opihi River, using timber cut on the property. William Hornbrook (1822-82) had married Margaret Smith (c.1828-1912) in 1843 and the couple had nine children, of which their son Richard was said to be the first European baby born in South Canterbury in November 1854. Margaret Hornbrook was later to lay the foundation stone of a memorial obelisk dedicated to the pioneers of Temuka district in November 1897. Bishop Harper is said to have preached for the first time in South Canterbury at the woolshed in 1857. Large-scale farmer and politician Alfred Cox held the station between 1863 and 1878, by which time it had been freeholded, and it was then owned by JT Ford & Co until the Bank of New Zealand took over the property in 1883. The bank subdivided the estate into smaller farms in 1897. The property was acquired from Robert McCallum by John Lyon in 1919 and subdivided to its present extent by RM & IJ Lyon in 1963. Members of the Hornbrook family celebrated a family reunion in 2015. The Lyons have conserved the remnant native forest on the property since the 1970s.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has high historical significance for its association with William Hornbrook and the beginnings of pastoralism in South Canterbury. The building is the largest in one of the oldest groups of farm buildings in New Zealand. Geoffrey Thornton identified the woolshed as the earliest in the country, as well as the oldest remaining, although it may share that honour with the Coldstream Station woolshed in Ashburton district (1854, HNZPT list entry # 1756). Thornton also considered that the cowshed at Arowhenua was the oldest extant building of its kind in New Zealand. Both the woolshed and attached cow byre demonstrate the scale of farming operations on the property, including how many cows were milked to supply the needs of the family and their workers. In c.1855/56 William Hornbrook was helped on the station by Charles Rippingale, who reportedly built the first house in Geraldine in 1855, and five Maori men, along with a Maori woman who cooked for them.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of pioneering colonial farmers and their workers.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has architectural significance as a vernacular farm building designed to be fit for purpose. The woolshed is similar in style and form to the Coldstream woolshed, demonstrating the conventional design for such structures in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has high technological and craftsmanship significance for its pit-sawn timber construction and detailing. Using material sourced on the property, both structures reveal the building methods applied to mid-19<sup>th</sup> colonial farm buildings.

## CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has contextual value as a local historic feature within a cluster of colonial farm buildings on the property.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the woolshed and cow byre pre-date 1900 their site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and the development of agriculture in Arowhenua.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has high overall heritage significance to Arowhenua and Timaru district as a whole. The building has high historical significance for its association with the Hornbrook family and the development of sheep farming in South Canterbury and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former users. The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has architectural significance as a vernacular mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farm building and high technological and craftsmanship significance for its timber construction using material sourced on the property. The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has contextual value as a local historic feature and in relation to other contemporary farm buildings in the vicinity. The Arowhenua Station woolshed, including the cow byre, has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

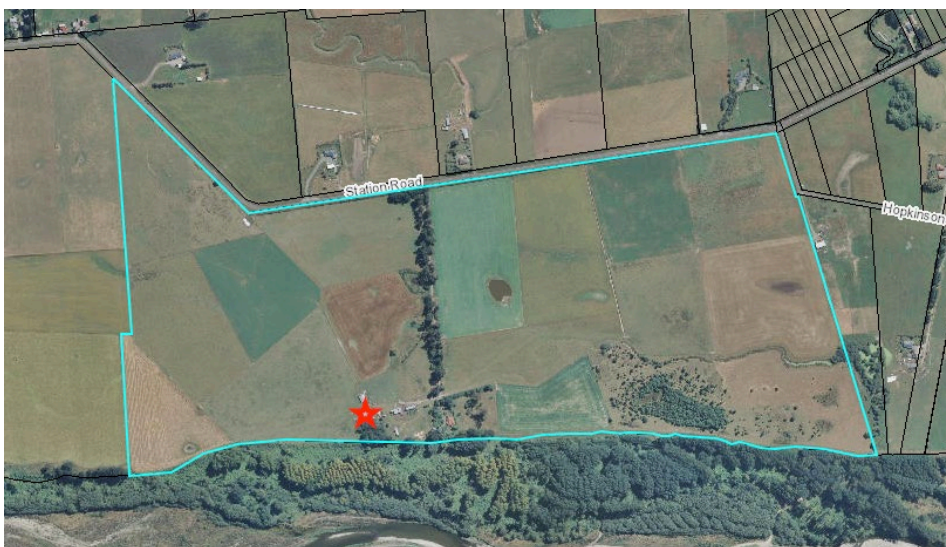
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## REFERENCES

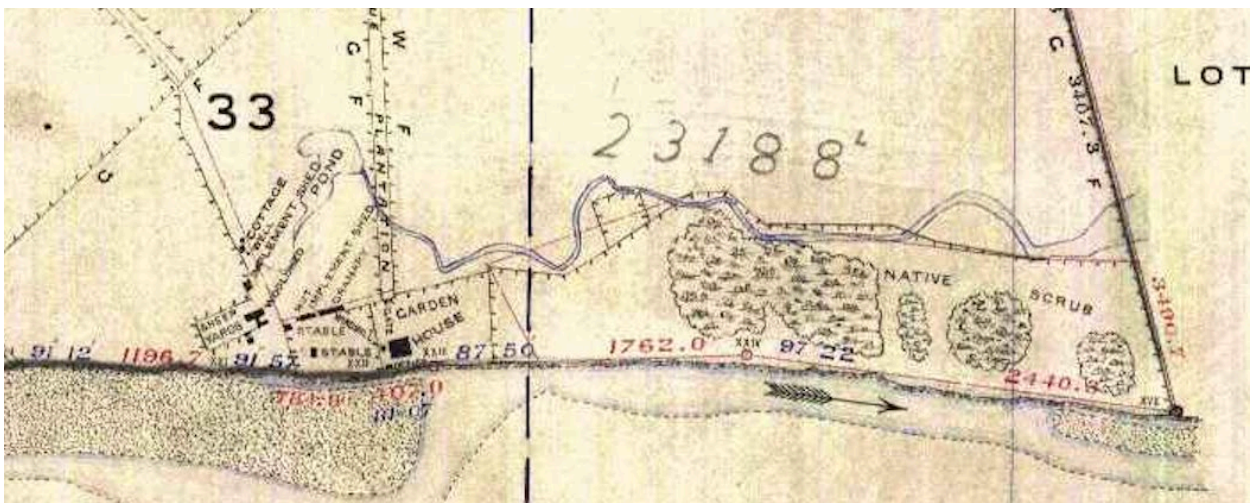
- *Timaru Herald* 22 October 1864, p. 3; 27 October 1866, p. 4; 14 November 1866, p. 2; 21 October 1872, p. 4; 9 June 1876, p. 3; 17 May 1878, p. 4; 14 January 1909, p. 4; 29 September 2015 (available online).
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- *Lyttelton Times* 30 August 1851, p. 2; 30 July 1853, p. 6; 15 October 1853, p. 5; 22 April 1854, p. 6; 23 October 1858, p. 4; 13 April 1859, p. 4; 24 March 1860, p. 4; 1 May 1861, p. 6; 23 April 1862, p. 3; 18 April 1871, p. 2.
- *Temuka Leader* 3 November 1904, p. 3; 12 March 1912, p. 3; 21 August 1926, p. 2.
- *Nelson Examiner & NZ Chronicle* 17 April 1852, p. 32.
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- LGD Acland *The Early Canterbury Runs* Christchurch, 1946.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1953>
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- [http://bts.nzpcn.org.nz/bts\\_pdf/Cant\\_1984\\_18\\_72-78.pdf](http://bts.nzpcn.org.nz/bts_pdf/Cant_1984_18_72-78.pdf)



Extent of setting, limited to immediate environs, 269 Station Road, Temuka.



Land parcel as a whole, with woolshed and cow byre marked by star.



Detail of SO 1431, dated 31 March 1897, showing woolshed, house, farm buildings and native scrub. LINZ.





Extant buildings labelled as per SO 1431. Whole site constitutes an archaeological site under the HNZPTA 2014.