

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse

**ADDRESS** Tuhawaiki Point, Scarborough

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr John Wilson, September 2018)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** coastal reserve adjacent to Pt RS 3753

**VALUATION NUMBER** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1865/1904

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Attributed to Messrs McLean & Stilman, civil engineers; Chance Bros, lighthouse engineers [1865 fabric]

**STYLE** Maritime vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Three-level tapering lighthouse with octagonal footprint and lantern roof. Encircling balcony at upper level is supported by decorative angle brackets and has pipe balustrading.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Concrete, cast iron, flashing beacon.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Relocated and reassembled on concrete base (1904). Automated (1929). Caretaker's cottage removed (date unknown). Conversion to electricity (1972).

**SETTING**

Jack's lighthouse stands on part of the coastal reserve at Tuhawaiki Point. The point is south of Timaru, with Ellis Road to the south and Scarborough Road to the north. An unsealed road provides vehicle access to the site from both Ellis and Scarborough Roads. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the lighthouse, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

Land owned by William Seyden Armitage was taken under the Public Works Act for a lighthouse at Jack's Point in 1903 (SO 1122). Originally the light was to have been installed at Patiti Point, after some years of agitation for a lighthouse to the south of the port of Timaru. Instead Jack's Point was selected and consequently the 1866 lighthouse from Somes Island, which had been superseded by a new light in 1900, was relocated to this site. The light was lit at Jack's Point on 1 July 1904, the first keeper being John Frederick Ericson who had had 30 years' experience as a keeper by the time he took charge of the Tuhawaiki Point lighthouse. At first the light was powered by a Kitson incandescent oil burner, the first such use of this burner in New Zealand. By September 1904 the burner had been removed, however, as it was too powerful for the lens installed in the lighthouse. Early in its history the lighthouse was criticised for its distance from Timaru and the strength of its light; being described in March 1905 as 'absolutely useless' by local mariners (*Timaru Herald* 18 March 1905, p. 2). The lighthouse was demanned in 1930 after the light had been automated. It still provides a maritime function as a navigation aid and is remotely monitored by Maritime NZ from Wellington.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has high historic significance for its association with the early colonial installation of lighthouses in New Zealand and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the port of Timaru. When it was first erected on Matiu-Somes Island, the lighthouse was one of eight in New Zealand and the first inner harbour light. Its component parts had been imported from England and it appears to have been a cost-saving exercise by the Timaru Harbour Board to reuse the lighthouse at Tuhawaiki Point.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has cultural value as a place of historic continuity and as a demonstration of the way of life of the lighthouse keepers (Messrs Ericson, McGahey, Murray, Greig, Quinn, and Leighton) and their families who lived and worked at Jack's Point.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has aesthetic significance as a mid-Victorian lighthouse that was designed in England by Messrs McLean and Stilman and then shipped for assembly to New Zealand in 1865.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has technological significance as a demonstration of mid-Victorian maritime technology and construction. Chance Brothers were glass manufacturers in England; the company was founded near Birmingham in 1824 and after 1851 it became a major international supplier of lighthouses. The Chance Brothers undertook the glazing of the Crystal Palace and the Houses of Parliament in London, England, the White House in Washington, DC (USA) and also made the lantern components of the Cape Brett lighthouse (1909-10).

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has contextual significance as a historic feature at Tuhawaiki Point, as one of New Zealand's historic lighthouses and for its visual impact from the marine environment.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the lighthouse post-dates 1900 on this location, any potential archaeological values of the site would likely relate to its earlier use and development of the property.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has high overall heritage significance to Timaru and the district as a whole. The lighthouse has high historical significance for its association with both Matiu-Somes Island and the development of the port of Timaru and cultural value as a place of historic continuity and as a demonstration of the way of life of its keepers between 1904 and 1929. Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has aesthetic significance for its design by English specialists McLean and Stilman and technological significance for its mid-19<sup>th</sup> century lighthouse technology by Chance Bros and also its early 20<sup>th</sup> century reuse. Tuhawaiki Point (Jack's) lighthouse has contextual significance as a historic coastal feature; any potential archaeological values would likely relate to the site's pre-1900 use and development.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 28 February 1903, p. 2; 8 October 1903, p. 1; 4 December 1903, p. 2; 22 December 1903, p. 2; 15 June 1904, p. 2; 12 September 1904, p. 2; 18 March 1905, p. 2; 28 July 1905, p. 4; 17 August 1905, p. 4; 19 April 1909, p. 4; 14 March 1911, p. 4; 13 April 1911, p. 4.
- *Press* 2 October 1865, p. 2; 20 March 1905, p. 6; 18 July 1913, p. 7; 24 November 1928, p. 4.
- *Nelson Examiner & NZ Chronicle* 14 October 1865, p. 2.
- *Star* 10 March 1904, p. 2; 23 June 1904, p. 3.
- *Manawatu Times* 11 Aril 1904, p. 2.
- *Poverty Bay Herald* 20 August 1907, p. 5.
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- <https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/public/history/lighthouses/Tuhawaiki-Point/default.asp>
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/wellington-kapiti/places/matiu-somes-island/historic-matiu-somes-island/the-lighthouse/>
- <https://chancebrothers.com>
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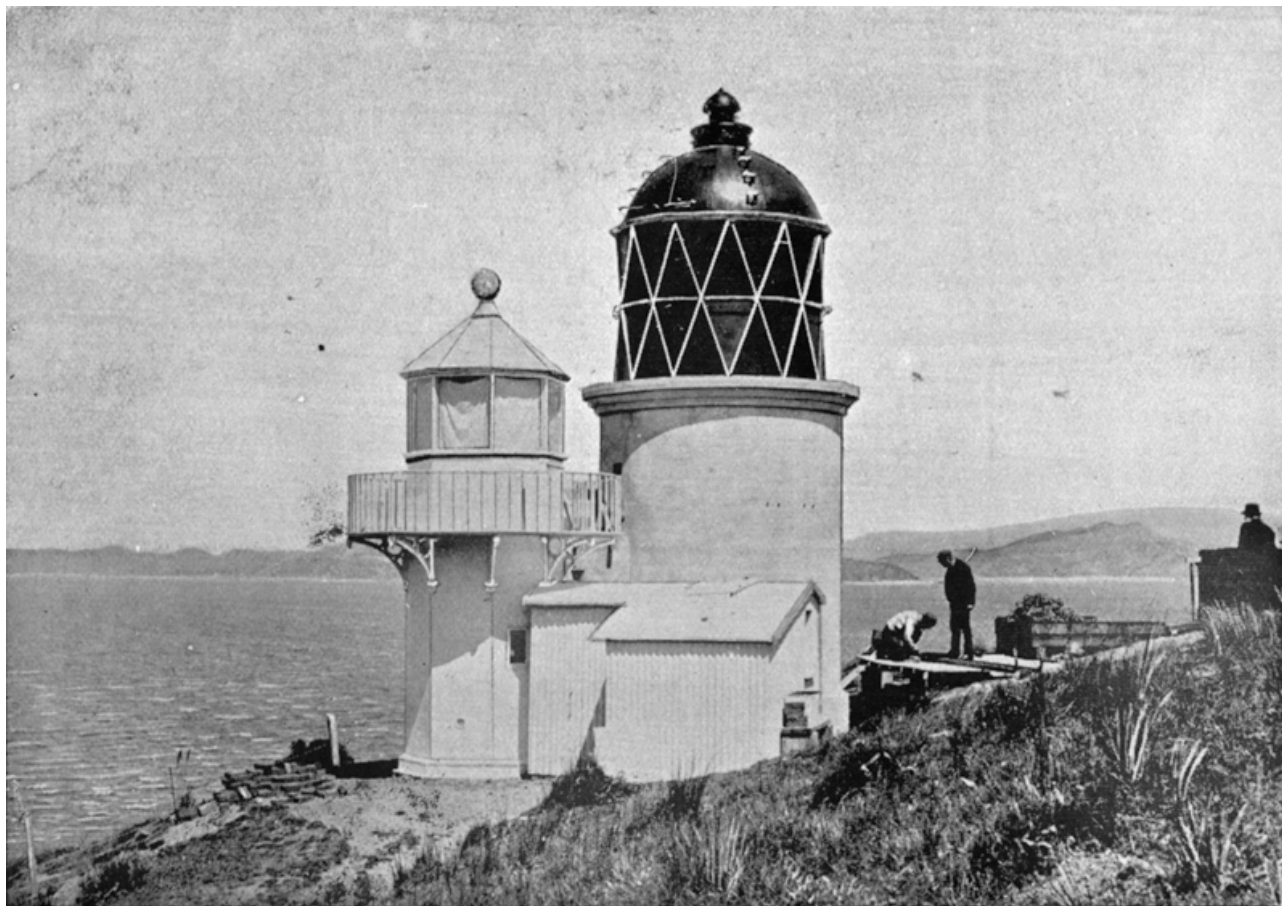
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<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dr Ann McEwan
<b>PEER REVIEWED</b>	xx
<b>REVIEWER</b>	xx



Extent of setting, limited to immediate surrounds, Tuhawaiki Point, Scarborough.



Land parcel as a whole with lighthouse site marked by star.



Somes Island Lighthouse—Old and New Towers.  
(New light, 2nd order dioptric, fixed light. Focal plane of light, 95 ft. above sea-level.)

Auckland War Memorial Museum.

