


TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Keane cottage and outbuilding

ADDRESS Keane Road, Levels Valley, Pleasant Point

PHOTOGRAPH

(TDC)



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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 3 DP 28541

VALUATION NUMBER 2484003804

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION early-1870s?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** James and Ellen Keane, owner/builders?

STYLE Colonial vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single storey cottage has rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Principal elevation faces north-east, gable ends are filled with boards and small, 4-pane casement windows flank off-set entry. North-west gable end has cathead above loft door. Brick chimney on gable ridge. Outbuilding has rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Gable ends and part of north wall are clad in boards.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Cob (earth), timber, brick, corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Restored (later 1980s?).

SETTING

The cottage and outbuilding stand within a partially fenced garden in the south-west corner of a paddock on the north side of Keane Road, near its intersection with Pleasant Point Highway. There are other remnant cob structures (possible Cartwright cottage and outbuilding?) on the other side of Keane Road, directly opposite the Keane cottage, which can be seen in the distance from the highway. The extent of setting is the immediate garden environs of the cottage and outbuilding, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

In the 1870s a number of Irish settled in the Pleasant Point area. Many of them had come to New Zealand as assisted immigrants and worked initially on the construction of the railway line from Washdyke through Pleasant Point and on, eventually, to just beyond Fairlie. County Kerry was a common source of these migrants, hence the name given to Kerrytown to the east of Pleasant Point. James Thomas Keane (aka Kean or Cain, 1837-1918), his wife Ellen (1841-1878) and their daughter Deborah were assisted migrants from County Kerry, arriving in Canterbury in July 1861. The couple had a number of other children after their arrival. After a period spent in Christchurch, they moved to Pleasant Point. James Keane initially held the property (RS 13743) as leasehold but he was freehold by 1896, at which time he was described as a farm labourer. By 1928 the property was owned by AS Watson; the parcel on which the two buildings stand was subdivided in 1970. The cottage was restored by the South Canterbury branch committee of the NZ Historic Places Trust, as it was then, in the later 1980s.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Keane cottage and outbuilding have historical significance for their association with the Keane family and the settlement of the Pleasant Point area by Irish immigrants from County Kerry. The road that runs past the property was known as Keane's Road by 1900, if not earlier.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Keane cottage and outbuilding have cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of its original occupants and the esteem in which it is held as a historic place.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Keane cottage and outbuilding have architectural value as colonial vernacular buildings that were designed to be fit for purpose.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Keane cottage and outbuilding have technological and craftsmanship significance for their cob construction and timber detailing. Cob was a popular colonial building material and the cob cottage and outbuilding on the Keanes' property are notable survivors of their type and age.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Keane cottage and outbuilding have contextual significance as local historic features that are visible from the Pleasant Point Highway. They are related, by virtue to their building material, to the group of cob buildings on the former Butchers' property in Fairview Road at Claremont (heritage items # 99A, B & C).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the cottage and outbuilding pre-date 1900 their site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structures' construction and the development of the rural property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Keane cottage and outbuilding have overall heritage significance to the Levels Valley, Pleasant Point and Timaru district as a whole. The cottage has historical significance for its association with James and Ellen Keane and their family and cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of colonial Irish immigrants and as a valued place of historic

interest. The Keane cottage and outbuilding have architectural value as colonial vernacular structures and technological and craftsmanship significance for their cob construction using material sourced on the property. The Keane cottage and outbuilding have contextual significance as local historic features and their site has potential archaeological significance in view of the buildings' pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 22 August 1877, p. 4; 12 May 1896, p. 3; 25 July 1900, p. 1; 21 February 1905, p. 3; 24 May 1906, p. 2; 27 April 1909, p. 3; 1 September 1910, p. 4; 27 April 1912, p. 1; 20 August 1918, p. 4; 16 March 2013 (available online).
- *South Canterbury Times* 18 November 1899, p. 2.
- *Temuka Leader* 30 August 1906, p. 2.
- *Lyttleton Times* 24 July 1861, p. 4.
- NZ Electoral Rolls, available online.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/irish/page-4>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/files/documents/peopling4.pdf>



Extent of setting, Keane Road, Levels Valley.



Land parcel as a whole, with cottage site marked by star.