

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** 'Kapunatiki', former Rolleston Farmhouse

**ADDRESS** 950 Parke Road, Clandeboye

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(TDC)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** New      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 3 DP 17528

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2471007500

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** c.1879

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown

**STYLE** Domestic Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey dwelling with T-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Principal elevation faces north-west and features a veranda framed by gabled bays. Scalloped bargeboards, double-hung sash windows with sunhoods. Three sets of French doors open off veranda. Brick chimney.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing, brick.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Some windows replaced with aluminium casements (north-east elevation); extension to south-east elevation (early 1970s?).

**SETTING**

The farmhouse is set within a large rural property, which is accessed via a driveway off the eastern terminus of Parke Road. The settlement of Clandeboye is to the south-west and the Rangitata River is to the north-east. The south-eastern boundary of the land parcel is formed by the coastline. The setting is limited to the immediate environs of the farmhouse, rather than the land parcel as a whole and notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the wider setting.

**HISTORY**

William Rolleston (1831-1903) was the last superintendent of Canterbury Province (1868-76) and a minister in Sir John Hall's government. He had emigrated from England in 1858 and took up the Mount Algidus run (1859-65) before establishing his political career, serving in both national and provincial governments. Rolleston held the Avon electorate from 1868 until 1884 and then won his home constituency of Geraldine. He finally left parliament in 1899. In 1879 he had purchased a farm north-east of Temuka, taking up residence there in 1884. Rolleston died at 'Kapunatiki' on 8 February 1903; his obituary recorded his long political career and hailed him as a 'model farmer' (*Press* 10 February 1903, p. 5). The farm was being run by Rolleston's youngest son John at the time of Williams' death; three of his daughters were also living in the farmhouse with their parents at that time. On 3 May 1904 a memorial street lamp dedicated to William Rolleston was unveiled in Temuka. Funded by public subscription, the memorial street lamp preceded a bronze statue of Rolleston, which was erected in Christchurch in 1906. Mary Rolleston (nee Brittan, 1845-1940) outlived her husband by many years. William and Mary had married in 1865 and had nine children. 'Financial difficulties in 1884 forced her to leave William in Wellington and live in the primitive house at their South Canterbury farm, Kapunatiki. She now baked bread, made candles and soap, sewed clothing, and managed the farm in order to free William for his career' [DNZB biography of Mary Rolleston, available online]. All of the livestock, farming equipment and furniture at 'Kapunatiki' was put up for auction by Mary Rolleston in August 1910, the property having already been sold to LJ Grant (Lachlan John, 1886-1963). Grant married Nellie Ashwell of Holme Farm in March 1912 and the Grant family farmed 'Kapunatiki' in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The house remains in rural residential use today.

### **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has high historical and social significance for its association with William and Mary Rolleston and their family. Historian WJ Gardner described Rolleston as 'one of the country's first professional politicians' (DNZB entry). The farmhouse illustrates the personal and pastoral life of the Rolleston family and its distance from both Christchurch and Wellington suggests the physical challenges that must have faced the whole family as they travelled for work and family reasons. William Rolleston's obituary noted that the farm was a place of great enjoyment, social interaction and refreshment for the busy politician.

### **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of an early Canterbury settler family. It is also esteemed by members of the Grant family for their long association with the property.

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has architectural significance as a Domestic Gothic Revival style colonial farmhouse that has retained a high level of external authenticity since it was built. The designer/architect of the farmhouse is currently unknown. Given William Rolleston's class and social status it is to be expected that he commissioned a Christchurch architect, possibly someone like WB Armson or BW Mountfort, to design his country home.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has craftsmanship value for the quality of its timber construction and detailing.

### **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has contextual significance as a historic feature within its rural setting, as the principal building in association with a cluster of contemporary farm buildings, and for its association with the William Rolleston memorial lamp at Temuka (1904, heritage item # 122) and the Rolleston statue in Christchurch (1906). The farmhouse would appear to be the only residential building strongly associated with any of Canterbury's four provincial

superintendents; JE Fitzgerald's 'Springs' farmhouse at Lincoln having burnt down in 1877 and Samuel Bealey's relatively brief New Zealand sojourn being represented by a woolshed at Haldon Station near Hororata (c.1870), which was built after he returned to England.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the farmhouse pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the colonial development of 'Kapunatiki' farm.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

'Kapunatiki', the former Rolleston farmhouse, has high overall heritage significance to Clandeboye, Temuka and the district of Timaru as a whole. The dwelling has high historical and social significance for its association with William and Mary Rolleston and their family and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of an early settler family with both farming and political interests. 'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has architectural significance as a Domestic Gothic Revival style farmhouse that retains of high level of external authenticity and craftsmanship value for the quality of its timber construction and detailing. 'Kapunatiki' farmhouse has contextual significance as a local historic feature and for its association with other heritage items linked to William Rolleston in Timaru, Selwyn and Christchurch districts. The farmhouse's site has potential archaeological significance given the age of the building.

## **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

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## **REFERENCES**

- *Timaru Herald* 9 February 1903, p. 3; 10 February 1903, pp. 2 & 3; 18 April 1903, p. 2; 20 April 1903, p. 1; 19 June 1903, p. 4; 3 March 1909, p. 7; 5 March 1909, p. 7; 16 August 1910, p. 8; 17 July 2009, available online.
- *Lyttelton Times* 10 February 1903, p. 5.
- *Temuka Leader* 18 January 1894, p. 2; 22 November 1894, p. 2; 10 February 1903, p. 2; 19 May 1903, p. 2; 25 February 1904, p. 2; 8 April 1904, p. 3; 5 May 1904, p. 4; 13 September 1906, p. 2; 8 April 1909, p. 3; 21 March 1912, p. 2; 4 April 1912, p. 2; 15 April 1913, p. 2; 16 April 1925, p. 3; 16 August 1927, p. 2.
- *Star* 22 September 1891, p. 3; 26 December 1893, p. 3.
- *Otago Witness* 18 May 1904, p. 36.
- *Press* 10 February 1903, p. 5; 4 May 1904, p. 8.
- *Manawatu Standard* 15 October 1938, p. 11.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1r17/rolleston-william>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1r16/rolleston-elizabeth-mary>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2039>
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- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/rolleston-william-rolleston-1809-1903-pronounced-rolston/>
- WD Stewart *William Rolleston: A New Zealand Statesman* Christchurch, 1940; available online.
- Archives New Zealand.
- <http://www.scaledown.co.nz/under-construction>
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-AclEarl-t1-body-d8-d6.html>



Extent of setting, limited to immediate garden environs, 590 Parke Road, Clandeboye, Temuka.



Land parcel as a whole with farmhouse marked by star.



William and Mary Rolleston and eight of their children at 'Kapunatiki'. 1888. PAColl-0713-01-2-4, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.



'Kapunatiki' in 1895. WD Stewart *William Rolleston: A New Zealand Statesman* Christchurch, 1940, p. 176.