

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former musterers' hut / Richmond Hut
ADDRESS Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park, Rangitata Gorge Road, Peel Forest

PHOTOGRAPH



(DoC)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 2 SO 17867

VALUATION NUMBER 2464000800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1907

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Unknown

STYLE Vernacular hut

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Small, single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Window in north-west gable end opposite external chimneybreast on south-east elevation. Panelled door on longer, north-east elevation flanked by small, four-pane window.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and corrugated iron cladding.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Chimney cap and timber bargeboards installed; interior refurbished (2019).

SETTING

The hut is located near the east bank of Bush Stream, a tributary of the Rangitata River, within the Two Thumb Range. Royal Hut, which is located on the Te Araroa Trail, is 2.2 kilometres to the north of the Richmond Hut. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the hut, rather than the land parcel as a whole, notwithstanding the potential for pre-1900 archaeological evidence across the whole property.

HISTORY

Richmond Station, to the south of Samuel Butler's Mesopotamia, was taken up by Thomas Augustus Purnell in 1857, four years after he had emigrated to New Zealand. Purnell, who was also associated with Raincliff Station, died in 1861 and the run later passed to Arthur Hope; it was managed for almost 20 years in the later 19th century by John Ross, formerly of Scotland. William Pringle acquired Richmond in 1900 and during his tenure an existing musterers' hut was replaced with a new, iron one in c.1907. Following the 1911 creation of the Mt Gerald run, at the north end of Lake Tekapo, the Richmond hut became part of that property. With the formation of the Canterbury Mountaineer Club in 1925, the musterers' huts on Mt Gerald and Mesopotamia were also accessed by recreational groups. Now located within the Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park, the four-bunk trampers and hunters' hut was refurbished by volunteers under the direction of the Proutings of Mesopotamia Station in 2019.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hut has historical significance for its association with Richmond Station, one of Canterbury's early colonial sheep runs. The hut represents the day-to-day management of the property during its long history as a sheep station; it is also associated with high country recreation in the district.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hut has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the shepherds who worked on the Richmond and Mt Gerald sheep stations.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hut has architectural significance as an early-20th century vernacular hut that retains the basic form of colonial-era huts and cottages. It was likely built by the shepherds who worked the run.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hut has technological and craftsmanship significance for its early 20th-century construction and detailing. The use of corrugated iron for the roof and walls may have been a response to the loss by fire of the hut it replaced.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hut has contextual significance as a historic feature within Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park in the South Canterbury high country. There are several trampers' huts in the park. The former Mount Peel musterers' hut (scheduled item 53), which remains in private ownership and use, is on the neighbouring property.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the hut post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to earlier hut on the site and the colonial development of the wider property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hut, a former musterers' hut, has overall heritage significance to the South Canterbury high country and Timaru district as a whole. The hut has historical significance for its association with the pastoral development of the South Canterbury high country and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the shepherds who lived and worked on Richmond and Mt Gerald Stations. Richmond Hut has architectural significance as an early 20th-century vernacular high-country hut and technical and craftsmanship significance for the

quality and authenticity of its corrugated iron construction. Richmond Hut has contextual significance as a historic feature in the high-country landscape and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the early colonial development of the wider property.

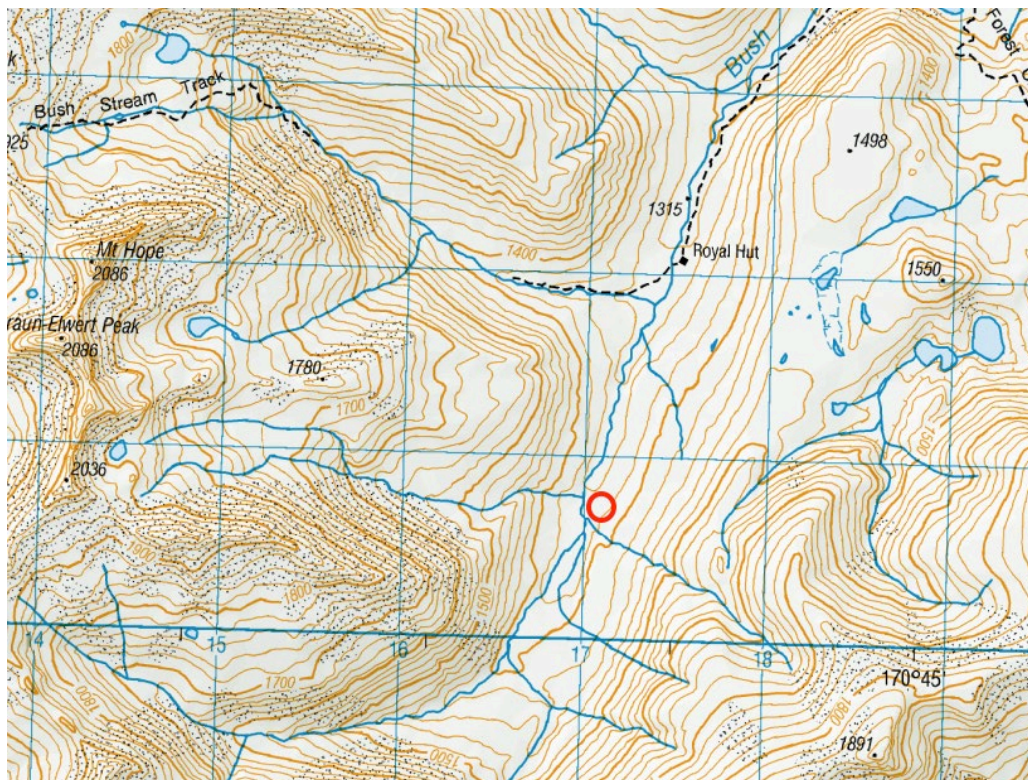
HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 7 September 1932, p. 6; 2 October 2012 (available online).
- *Ashburton Guardian* 16 October 1937, p. 10; 2 March 1948, p. 4.
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- LGD Acland *The Early Canterbury Runs* Christchurch, 1946.
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- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/2thumbs.htm>
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REPORT COMPLETED	11 June 2021
AUTHOR	Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services
REPORT UPDATED	XX
AUTHOR	XX
PEER REVIEWED	XX
REVIEWER	XX



Hut site marked (red circle) on NZ Topo map.



Land parcel within the context of the wider setting. [Pin does not mark hut site].