

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Former Walker & McDougall Lime Kiln Complex

ADDRESS Meredith Road, Kakahu

PHOTOGRAPH



(TDC)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. HHI173 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 7613 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 10910

VALUATION NUMBER 2467022100A

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1879-80

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Messrs Walker & McDougall, stonemasons

STYLE Industrial / Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Cylindrical random rubble pot kiln with flanking buttresses and arched opening at the base. Partly built into/cut out of the hillside. Remnant walls of house and stable; door and window openings remain. Shared wall between the two structures. Remnant stone base of brick kiln (c.1890?).

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Limestone, brick.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Decay of timber elements of house/stable, including roofing, doors and windows (date unknown).

SETTING

The former lime manufacturing site is located on the west side of Meredith Road (unformed), north of its intersection with Hornsey Road and Winchester Hanging Rock Road. The Kakahu River lies to the south and there are quarry sites to the south-east and west. The extent of setting is the parcel of land on which the former lime kiln complex is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site as a whole.

HISTORY

Kakahu once supported an extensive lime-burning industry based on the locale's good quality limestone and the availability of coal to fuel the kilns. The burnt lime was used for building and agricultural purposes. Lime burnt in the Kakahu district was being marketed from the mid-1870s and there were upwards of five kilns operating by the 1880s. The pot kiln and associated house/stable on Meredith Road were built in 1879-80 by Messrs Walker and McDougall. Another pot kiln built by Alexander Ferguson is located in Hall Road to the west (1881, heritage item # 66), whilst a much larger Hoffman kiln built by William Langdon in 1881 was not a success and was subsequently dismantled for its bricks. Walker and McDougall dissolved their partnership in June 1884 after which McDougall continued in his own right for a time. Local builder George Hornsey took over the Meredith Road kiln site in 1887. He reputedly sold it to Timaru brickmaker Benjamin Shears in 1895. Shears is believed to have used the brick kiln on site, likely built by Hornsey, until the 1920s even though the property was in the hands of local farmer William Mill (died 1914) in September 1893 (SO 1893). Since the 1970s the kilns in Meredith Road and Hall Road have been recognised, and conserved, for their historic and aesthetic values.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has historical significance for its association with Kakahu's lime burning industry and the Scottish stonemasons, including James Walker and Charles McDougall, who developed it.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has cultural value as a historic feature esteemed by members of the heritage community.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has aesthetic significance as a grouping of vernacular structures designed to be fit for purpose at the site from which their raw material was quarried.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has high technological and craftsmanship significance for its stone masonry construction. A pot kiln is loaded from the top and fired from the bottom, from whence the quicklime is also removed. It is unloaded after each burning of a single load of lime, which could take several days, and is typically located close to its source material. Burnt or quicklime was used to make plaster, mortar and whitewash for use in the construction industry, as well as fertiliser for the farming sector. James Walker and Charles McDougall (died 1907), were Scottish stonemasons who emigrated to New Zealand aboard the *Canterbury* in 1874.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has contextual value as a group of historic features, which includes one of two surviving pot kilns in the district. Kakahu's surviving lime-burning structures attest to the scale of the local industry in the late 19th century and the nearby availability of the limestone and coal needed in the manufacture of burnt lime.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the structures pre-date 1900 their site has potential archaeological significance relating to the development of lime manufacturing on the site.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has overall heritage significance to Kakahu and to Timaru district as a whole. The complex has historical significance for its association with Messrs Walker and McDougall and colonial lime burning in the district and cultural value as a historic site held in esteem by members of the heritage community. The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has aesthetic significance owing to its sculptural and picturesque appearance and high technological and craftsmanship significance for its construction and evidence of Victorian lime manufacturing use. The former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has contextual value as a local historic feature and in relation to other historic structures related to lime burning in the locale. The site of the former Walker & McDougall lime kiln complex has potential archaeological significance in view of the date of the structures' construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 29 June 1874, p. 2; 12 July 1875, p. 3; 3 November 1875, p. 1; 6 December 1875, p. 2; 26 January 1876, p. 4; 3 February 1876, p. 2; 12 April 1876, p. 3; 30 January 1877, p. 3; 31 January 1877, p. 3; 5 May 1881, p. 2; 3 June 1884, p. 4; 29 July 1885, p. 2; 9 December 1887, p. 1; 22 March 1889, p. 4; 26 April 1895, p. 4; 28 October 1897, p. 2; 24 June 1899, p. 1; 20 September 1910, p. 4; 18 March 1914, p. 6; 25 March 1914, p. 1.
- *Temuka Leader* 10 July 1884, p. 2; 18 July 1889, p. 3; 19 December 1896, p. 4; 28 March 1899, p. 2; 11 June 1903, p. 2; 5 July 1904, p. 3; 28 February 1905, p. 2; 2 February 1907, p.2; 12 November 1907, p. 2; 13 February 1913, p. 1; 8 August 1922, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 22 March 1879, p. 7; 2 December 1880, p. 5.
- *Otago Daily Times* 3 December 1877, p. 3.
- *South Canterbury Times* 30 January 1880, p. 2; 12 January 1884, p. 3; 2 July 1889, p. 3; 3 October 1890, p. 2.
- *Star* 3 February 1876, p. 2.
- *Press* 27 December 1887, p. 6; 26 September 1890, p. 2.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/315>
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Extent of setting, former Walker & McDougall lime manufacturing site, Meredith Road, Kakahu.