

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Butchers' Sod Wall
ADDRESS 483-511 Fairview Road, Claremont

PHOTOGRAPH



(TDC)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. No. 97 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 3147 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lots 2, 4 & 3 DP 81603

VALUATION NUMBER 2486005200/2486005201/2486005203

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION later 1870s?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Edwin Butcher, owner/builder

STYLE Rural vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Sod wall, c. 300 metres in length.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Earth sods.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Gorse removed from atop the sod wall, replaced with post and wire fencing (date unknown).

SETTING

The sod wall defines the boundary between the road reserve and three land parcels on the south side of Fairview Road, west of its intersection with Barton Road. Three related scheduled heritage items (cool store/glasshouse, stable & washhouse, item #s 99A, B & C) stand on the other side of Fairview Road at its intersection with Barton Road. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the sod wall, rather than the subject land parcels as a whole. This is consistent with the Heritage NZPT list entry's map of extent.

HISTORY

Edwin Butchers (aka Butcher, 1840-1913) was born in Kent, England and emigrated to New Zealand in 1864. He commenced farming at Fairview in 1872, two years before he married Mary Ann Lawrence (died 1906). The couple had five children. Edwin Butchers farmed and established a commercial orchard on his property, which spanned Fairview Road and included a cob farmhouse and outbuildings. Butchers left an estate valued at £7575 when he died in 1913, at which time he was said to be the oldest resident in Fairview. The property was still in family ownership in the early 21st century, the orchard blocks having survived until the 2000s before they were largely redeveloped for housing and pasture.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Butchers' sod wall has historical significance for its association with the Butchers family and the development of horticulture in the area.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Butchers' sod wall has cultural value as a demonstration of the longstanding practice of horticulture in the district.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Butchers' sod wall has aesthetic value as a vernacular structure presumably 'designed' by Edwin Butchers, possibly drawing upon the vernacular building traditions of his home county in England.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Butchers' sod wall has technological and craftsmanship significance for its sod construction. Sod and gorse fencing was a common colonial method used to enclose and secure rural property; Butchers' wall is a notable survivor of its type and age.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Butchers' sod wall has contextual significance as a historic feature running along the roadway and in relation to three surviving cob buildings on the Butchers' farmhouse site further to the east.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the sod wall pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction, the development of the Butchers' property and, more generally, horticulture in the district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Butchers' sod wall has overall heritage significance to Claremont and Timaru district as a whole. The sod wall has historical significance for its association with Edwin Butchers and his successful orchard business and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of several generations of the same rural family. Butchers' sod wall has aesthetic value as a vernacular farm structure and technical and craftsmanship significance for its sod construction using material sourced on the property. Butchers' sod wall has contextual significance as a local historic feature and in relation to a cluster of cob buildings on the Butchers' farmhouse site. Butchers' sod wall has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 29 September 1906, p. 1; 31 May 1909, p. 2; 28 February 1913, p. 6; 1 March 1913, p. 2; 9 October 1913, p. 1.
- *South Canterbury Times* 30 December 1893, p. 3.
- *Press* 1 May 1896, p. 3; 17 November 1925, p. 12.
- *Sun* 6 September 1918, p. 8.
- *Ashburton Guardian* 2 September 1913, p. 4.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/9940>
- G Thornton *The New Zealand Heritage of Farm Buildings* Auckland, 1986.



Extent of setting, 483-511 Fairview Road, Claremont.