

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH062  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Suffolk House, former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop  
**ADDRESS** 257 High Street, Rangiora  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 9 July 2019)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** H071      **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 3274 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 43552

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2166105300

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1871

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown

**STYLE** Colonial vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and centre gutter hipped roof. Lean-to at rear (south elevation) and veranda on north-facing façade. Multi-pane casement and double-hung sash windows. Convex veranda carried on cast iron posts with decorative brackets. Recessed entry at west end of principal elevation.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber framing and weather board cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Shutters added, chimney removed, ground floor shopfront altered (date unknown). External stairs to first floor installed on west elevation (c.1970).

**SETTING**

The building stands on the south side of High Street at the western edge of the Rangiora town centre. King Street is to the west of the site and Percival Street is to the east. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the building is located as well as that portion of the footpath (road reserve) in to which the veranda extends.

## **HISTORY**

Luke Hunnibell (1838-1913) emigrated from Ipswich in Suffolk, England in late 1864 and soon after opened Rangiora's first boot shop in a sod cottage at the corner of Victoria Street and Northbrook Road. Hunnibell and his wife Sarah had arrived with two children and had a further five once settled in Rangiora. Luke Hunnibell acquired Rural Section 53 on the Harewood Road (High Street) in June 1870 and subsequently relocated his business to new premises closer to the town centre on 8 May 1871. It is assumed that the High Street building was erected at this time. The Hunnibell family lived in King Street but the upper floor of the High Street store was reportedly used to accommodate their staff. Luke Hunnibell was an Oddfellow, serving as lodge treasurer for 42 years, and a keen musician. The business was continued until 1954 by Alfred Hunnibell after his father's death in 1913 and the building was held in family ownership until 1966. Having been put to a number of commercial and hospitality uses over the last 50 years or so, the building was recognised as a Rangiora Landmark in December 2012.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has high historical and social significance for its association with Luke Hunnibell and the early commercial development of Rangiora. It is believed to be the oldest surviving commercial building in High Street.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early staff and customers; it is esteemed by the community as a Rangiora landmark.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has architectural value as a vernacular commercial building that was designed to be fit for purpose. The designer is currently unknown.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of colonial construction methods and materials.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has contextual significance as a notable historic feature within the Rangiora town centre. The building's veranda and overall form is in contrast to the modern commercial buildings in its immediate environs, serving as a reminder of an earlier era of town centre development.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological value arising from its colonial use and development.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Suffolk House, the former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has overall heritage significance to Rangiora and Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has high historical and social significance for its association with Luke Hunnibell and the commercial development of the town centre since the early 1870s and cultural value as a heritage feature held in esteem by members of the community. The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has architectural value as a mid-Victorian vernacular commercial building and technological and craftsmanship

value for the evidence it provides of colonial construction methods and materials. The former Hunnibell's boot and shoe shop has contextual significance as a landmark within the Rangiora town centre streetscape and its site has potential archaeological value in view of the building's age.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 4 September 1872, p. 3; 21 August 1880, p. 2; 20 May 1886, p. 3; 10 June 1895, p. 5; 27 November 1913, p. 9; 7 February 1914, p. 16.
- *Lyttelton Times* 6 May 1871, p. 1; 2 April 1873, p. 2; 4 September 1885, p. 1; 21 January 1905, p. 2; 8 May 1912, p. 8; 27 November 1913, p. 4.
- *Star* 22 March 1881, p. 3; 8 April 1881, p. 2; 18 May 1886, p. 3; 20 October 1888, p. 3.
- *Sun* 23 August 1918, p. 9.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 23 September 1932, p. 6; 16 July 1937, p. 5.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3274>
- <https://landmarks.waimakariri.govt.nz/rangiora-heritage/hunnibells-building>
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/waimakariridc/sets/72157632184245173>
- DN Hawkins *Beyond the Waimakariri: a regional history* Christchurch, 2001; available online.
- DN Hawkins *Rangiora: the passing years and people in a Canterbury country town* Rangiora, 1993.
- Macdonald Dictionary of Biography, Canterbury Museum (available online).

## REPORT COMPLETED

4 April 2019

## AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of setting, including that part of the road reserve sheltered by the veranda, 257 High Street, Rangiora.



Building before ground floor modification and installation of shutters. [www.](http://www.)