

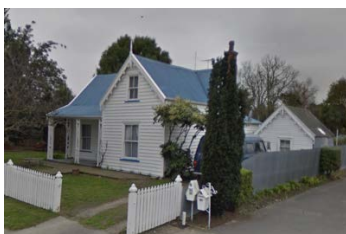
WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. **HH016**

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Keir house

ADDRESS 62 Ivory Street, Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



([www](#))

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H058 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 3769 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt Lot 2 DP 13945

VALUATION NUMBER 2165429600

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1866

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Thomas Keir, owner/builder

STYLE Domestic Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

One-and-a-half-storey dwelling with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Principal, west-facing elevation has straight veranda carried on paired, latticed posts and is terminated by a gabled bay. Decorative bargeboards and finals; double-hung sash and multi-pane casement windows. Rear, east-facing elevation has pair of gabled dormers. External chimney on south elevation pierces gable end.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

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

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Relocated from Victoria Street (early 1880s). Gabled addition to east elevation (later 1990s?). Post-EQ repairs (post 2010/11).

SETTING

The dwelling stands on the east side of Ivory Street, south of its intersection with Queen Street and Doggett Place. A picket fence defines the road boundary. The wider suburban residential setting contains a mix of later 19th and 20th century housing stock. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the house is located.

HISTORY

Thomas Keir erected a home on the site of his timber yard on the west side of Victoria Street near its intersection with High Street in c.1866. The expansion of his business in partnership with Hugh Boyd (see below) led to Keir relocating his dwelling to Ivory Street in the early 1880s. Thomas Keir was a Rangiora Borough councillor for 22 years and served two terms as Mayor of Rangiora (1894-97 & 1905-6). His wife Jessie (nee Niven, 1842-1939) signed the suffrage petition in 1891 and was, like her husband, actively involved in the temperance movement, Presbyterian church, and local affairs. Jessie Keir outlived her husband and all but one of her six children; she lived the last 12 years of her life in Christchurch. The property was subdivided by its second owner, GH Halfacre, in 1948. It has passed through other hands since that time but remains in residential use.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Keir house has high historical significance for its association with the Keir family and the contribution Thomas and Jessie Keir made to the political, civic and social life of colonial Rangiora. More generally the house is associated with the commercial growth and residential development of Rangiora in the latter half of the 19th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Keir house has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early owner/occupiers.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Keir house has architectural significance as a Domestic Gothic Revival style dwelling designed by local contractor and politician Thomas Keir. Keir (1837-1911) was born in Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand in 1864. After two years working as a carpenter in Christchurch he settled in Rangiora, where he was a builder and contractor in partnership with Hugh Boyd for over 40 years. Keir also designed the band rotundas in Rangiora (H048, 1906) and Kaiapoi (H011, 1908). The house was sympathetically enlarged at the rear in the late 20th century.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Keir house has technological and craftsmanship significance for the evidence it provides of mid-Victorian building materials and methods. Boyd and Keir were the major building company in North Canterbury in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Jessie Keir's August 1939 obituary paid tribute to the 'remarkable durability of the Rangiora bush timber' with which Thomas Keir had built his house (*NCG* 31 August 1939, p. 4).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Keir house has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of its suburban setting and the visual evidence it provides of the colonial settlement and development of Rangiora.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As Keir house was relocated to its present site before 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the early development and use of the property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Keir house has high overall significance to Rangiora and the Waimakariri district as a whole. The dwelling has high historical significance for its association with Thomas and Jessie Keir and their family and the major North Canterbury construction business of Messrs Keir and Boyd. The former Keir house has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early residents and architectural significance as a Domestic Gothic Revival style dwelling designed by Thomas Keir. The former Keir house has technological and craftsmanship significance for its mid-Victorian construction methods and materials and contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Ivory Street. The site of the former Keir house has potential archaeological values in view of the pre-1900 date at which the house was moved on to this property.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 4 July 1872, p. 2; 21 November 1895, p. 6; 16 December 1911, p. 2; 13 October 2001, p. 48.
- *Lyttelton Times* 9 November 1880, p. 4; 23 January 1903, p. 8; 30 November 1911, p. 10; 1 December 1911, p. 12.
- *Star* 8 September 1883, p. 3; 29 August 1912, p. 3.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 18 November 1932, p. 1; 31 August 1934, p. 1; 19 November 1935, p. 1; 31 August 1939, p. 4.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3769>
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- Archives New Zealand.
- DN Hawkins *Rangiora: the passing years and people in a Canterbury country town* Rangiora, 1993.
- DN Hawkins *Beyond the Waimakariri* Christchurch, 2001; available online.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/suffragist/jessie-keir>

REPORT COMPLETED

3 March 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, former Keir house, 62 Ivory Street, Rangiora.