

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No.

HH050

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

'Currilea', former Ingram house [ka 'Redwoods']

ADDRESS

17 Main Street, Oxford

PHOTOGRAPH



(WDC)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

H044

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

3073 / 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 DP 22696

VALUATION NUMBER

2153200800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

c.1896

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Unknown

STYLE

Bay villa

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey dwelling with irregular rectangular footprint and centre-gutter hipped roof. Principal elevations face north and east; former has segmental pediment that breaks through the bullnose veranda and frames central entry to the house. Veranda has decorative brackets and frieze, pediment has fretted detailing; entry has side- and fanlights and is flanked by Chicago windows. Veranda returns along east elevation and is terminated to the south by a cross-gabled bay with segmental pediment; a flight of steps provides access to the terraced garden. Double-hung sash windows, bracketed eaves and corbelled chimneys.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Rear, south-facing addition, with hipped roof (2011).

SETTING

The dwelling stands on the south side of Main Street, roughly midway between Burnett Street in the west and High Street in the east. The house is screened from the roadside by mature vegetation but its presence is signalled by decorative entrance gates. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the house is located. It is noted that the HNZPT extent of list entry is as follows: *The extent is part of Lot 1 DP22696 (CT CB17F/827), Canterbury Land District and the building known as Redwoods thereon, with a buffer of approximately two metres around the house. The extent does not include the outbuildings, nor the addition*

at the rear (south) of the building which was constructed, in the same style as the original house, in 2011.

HISTORY

John Ingram (1848-1938), an Oxford auctioneer, was issued with title to a large block of land on the south side of Main Street in 1896. Previously the lot had been subject to a crown grant to (?) McMullen in 1860 and then passed through a number of hands, including Brittan in 1863 and Baxter in 1878. Ingram had emigrated from Scotland to South Africa in 1868 and then spent time in Australia before arriving in New Zealand in late 1869. He settled in the Oxford-Cust district in 1870 and worked for the Cust Road Board for about four years before starting business in Oxford as an estate agent and auctioneer. Ingram opened the first saleyards in the town in 1882. He married Mary Ann McEwan (c.1847-1936) in 1874, was secretary of the Oxford Domain Board for many years and served on the local road board and school committee. In December 1891 a public dinner was held in Oxford in John Ingram's honour; ten years later his business was taken over by his son Leonard, in partnership with Thomas Hunter. Ingram senior moved to Timaru after his retirement and 'Currilea' was reportedly used for a period as a private hospital until it was sold, minus a small portion taken for post office purposes in 1913, to Alexander Baxter, a retired local farmer, in 1919. Baxter undertook a number of small subdivisions along the roadside but retained the majority of the lot until his death in 1941. Thereafter his executors sold the property in 1944 to Pearl Stubbs, the wife of Reginald Stubbs, an Oxford council employee. The Stubbs further subdivided the lot and then sold the property, which was subdivided to its current extent by RH Rossiter in 1962. The house remains in private residential use.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has historical significance for its association with John Ingram and his family. Ingram was a respected local citizen and he represents the pursuit of commercial, political and social interests by a colonist that led to financial success and local appreciation.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early owner/occupiers.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has architectural significance as a late Victorian bay villa that retains a high level of authenticity and features ornate and distinctive architectural detailing on its two main elevations. The house's designer is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of late Victorian building materials and methods. The house's builder is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has contextual value for the contribution it makes to the historic character of its setting.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the house pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological values relating to the colonial development and use of the property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

'Currilea', the former Ingram house now known as 'Redwoods', has overall significance to Oxford and the Waimakariri district as a whole. The dwelling has historical significance for its association with John Ingram and his family and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early residents. 'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has architectural significance as a bay villa with a distinctive form and ornate detailing and technological and craftsmanship value for its construction methods and materials. 'Currilea', the former Ingram house, has contextual value for the contribution it makes to the historic character of its setting and its site has potential archaeological values in view of the dwelling's likely age.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 5 May 1883, p. 3; 10 May 1883, p. 2; 14 January 1888, p. 6; 14 March 1895, p. 6; 20 July 1936, p. 1; 28 January 1939, p. 22; 4 June 1941, p. 11.
- *Globe* 23 May 1882, p. 3.
- *Star* 9 January 1893, p. 2; 11 February 1896, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 13 November 1874, p. 2; 7 July 1875, p. 2; 6 December 1877, p. 2; 9 December 1880, p. 5; 12 December 1891, p. 2.
- *Oxford Observer* 21 March 1891, p. 2; 11 February 1893, p. 2; 29 June 1895, p. 2; 22 January 1898, p. 2.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3073>
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- OA Gillespie *Oxford – The First Hundred Years* 1953.

REPORT COMPLETED

26 March 2019

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East elevation.



Extent of scheduling, 'Currilea', 17 Main Street, Oxford.