

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH114

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln
[remains]

ADDRESS 29 Brick Kiln Road, Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. n / a **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 6 DP 77063

VALUATION NUMBER 2159138805

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1880

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Thomas Hills, owner & designer/builder?

STYLE Hoffmann kiln

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Circular vaulted structure divided into six cells with arched openings and circular roof vents.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Demolition/removal of kiln superstructure and chimney (post-1936). Residential development of the property (c.2004).

SETTING

The remains of the Hoffmann kiln stand on a residential property on the west side of Brick Kiln Road. Oxford Road is to the south and the town centre of Rangiora is to the east of the site. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate surrounds of the kiln, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

Thomas Hills, his wife Jane and their infant son Walter immigrated to New Zealand from England aboard the *Rockhampton* in 1858. Thomas (1833-1906) was described as a labourer from Suffolk in the ship's passenger list; in the 1860 jury list his occupation was also given as 'labourer'. Hills briefly spent time on the Otago goldfields, before returning to Rangiora in c.1862. After partnerships with brickmakers Alfred Morey (1863) and George Rowley (dissolved in 1872), Hills took over the Oxford Road brickworks site in his own name and manufactured both bricks and drain pipes. To meet increasing demand Hills enlarged his open kiln in 1877 and then constructed a Hoffmann kiln in 1880; the latter was capable of producing 35,000 brick per week. Later in partnership with his sons, Thomas Hills sold the business to Messrs Wigram Brothers (est. 1886 at Woolston, Christchurch) in 1900. The Wigrams advertised the Rangiora Brick and Pipe Yard for sale in April 1903. After a period of disuse, the Rangiora Brick and Tile Company was formed in 1923 to revive the brickworks. The five directors were Messrs Shankland, Harlow, Keir, McIntosh and Allison; the kiln was reroofed and new motive power installed at the time. Operations ceased in 1931 and the company's liquidators advertised the property for sale in mid-1936. The property remained undeveloped until in c.2004 a house was built on the site and the kiln became the centrepiece of the dwelling's driveway turning circle. Although the kiln has long been covered in vegetation it is still discernible as an historic industrial structure.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln have high historical significance for their association with Thomas Hills, colonial brickmaking at Rangiora and, more generally, the development of the district's industrial production. Although not as large or as intact as the Hoffmann kilns at Benhar in Otago (c.1894) or Palmerston North (c.1904), the remnant Rangiora kiln is older than these two Category 1 historic places. The earliest newspaper references to Hoffmann's kiln that can be searched on PapersPast date to 1878, suggesting that the Rangiora kiln may be one of the earliest examples of the kiln type in New Zealand.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln have cultural value as an esteemed local historic feature. The naming of the roadway after the brick kiln attests to local awareness of the historic structure.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln have architectural value as the principal component of an industrial structure that was designed to be fit for purpose. Thomas Hills may have been the designer of the kiln.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln have technological and craftsmanship significance for their brick construction, presumably using the brickworks own bricks. The Hoffmann kiln, patented in Germany in 1858, allowed for the continuous burning of bricks and was designed so that coal could be thrown through pipes in the roof in to the six chambers of the kiln below. Thomas Hills is assumed to have been the owner/builder of the kiln.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln has contextual significance as a local historic feature. The roadway on which the kiln is located was named in honour of the kiln in c.1997.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the kiln pre-dates 1900, and development of the brickworks commenced in the 1860s, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the industrial development and use of the property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln have overall heritage significance to Rangiora and Waimakariri district as a whole. The kiln structure has high historical significance for its association with Thomas Hills, an early North Canterbury brickworks, and the colonial development of Rangiora. The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln have cultural value as a valued historic feature and architectural value as the remnants of a Victorian industrial structure designed to be fit for purpose. The remains of the former Rangiora Brick and Tile Works' Hoffmann kiln remains have technological and craftsmanship significance for their brick construction by Thomas Hills and contextual significance as a local historic feature. The site has potential archaeological significance given the mid-19th century origins of Hills' brickworks.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 28 July 1900, p. 12; 22 April 1903, p. 11.
- *Lyttelton Times* 19 May 1860, p. 2; 12 July 1862, p. 4; 15 October 1863, p. 1; 20 February 1906, p. 3; 7 December 1910, p. 8.
- *Star* 19 October 1880, p. 2.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 19 May 1936, p. 5.
- DN Hawkins *Rangiora: the passing years and people in a Canterbury country town* Rangiora, 1993.
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d4-d10-d2.html>
- D Hills *Thomas Hills – A Brickmaker of Rangiora* Christchurch, 1977.
- <http://bickler.co.nz/bricks/canterbury.php?row=1>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoffmann_kiln
- <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/5179>
- <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/194>

REPORT COMPLETED

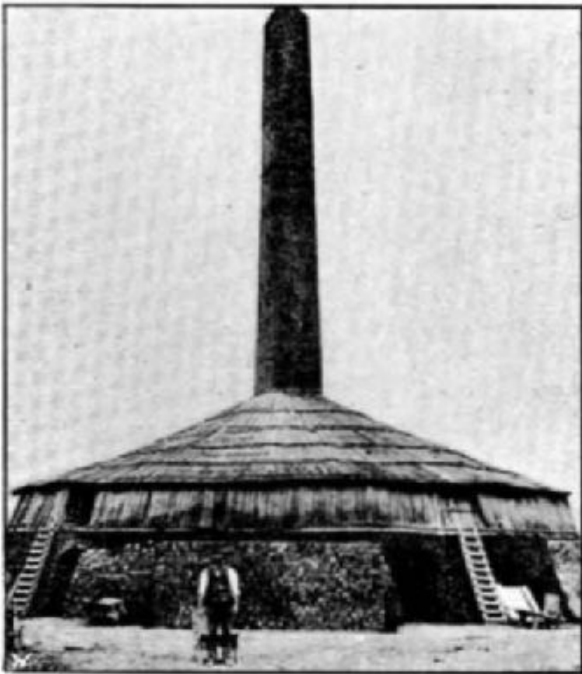
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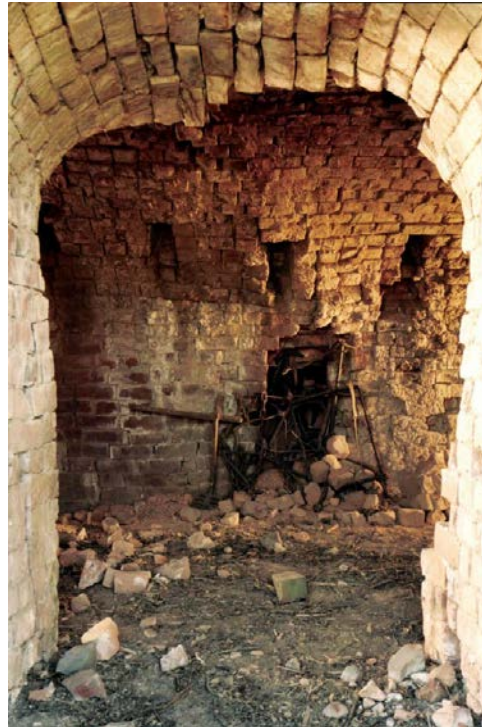


Extent of setting, limited to immediate setting, 29 Brick Kiln Road, Rangiora.



RANGIORA BRICK KILN.

Cyclopedia of New Zealand 1903; available online. Interior of kiln. Kete Waimakariri.



Detail of DP 10700, dated 3 October 1935, showing the kiln. LINZ