GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns [2], chimney & tramway tunnel
ADDRESS	1257-1267 Waipahi Highway (SH 1), Pukerau
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lot 1 DP 550983 & Sections 2 & 3 Block IV Town of Pukerau		
GDC FILE NUMBER	8104877, 3222192, 3282896		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	c.1946 & c.1954 [kilns], c.1915 [tunnel]		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	Norton family, owner/builders		
STYLE	Industrial vernacular		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey hipped roofed structure houses two brick kilns with arched openings. Timber cladding is set within panels created by railway rails. Brick chimney is set within ridge of gabled shed that extends to the east. Arched tunnel under roadway shows pattern of corrugated formwork in roof.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, timber, concrete, railway rails, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Pipe shed addition to north (post-1957). New shed erected to east of kilns and chimney following fire (c.1998). Tunnel extended to north? [date unknown].

SETTING

The pipe works are located on the north side of Waipahi Highway at the eastern entry to the village. A tramway extends in a south-westerly direction from the east corner of the works building and then traverses through a tunnel under the highway at its intersection with East Street. The scheduled setting is limited to the immediate environs of the kilns and chimney and to the dimensions of the tramway tunnel, rather than the subject land parcels as a whole.

HISTORY

John Norton (c.1857-1932) established a brick and pipeworks at Pukerau in 1883/84. He had immigrated to New Zealand from Leicestershire, England in 1875 and settled in Pukerau in early 1882, where he found a good location to establish a brick and pipeworks, close to the new railway line and with access to clay and coal deposits. The works were built by Norton on the south side of Waipahi Highway (1258 Waipahi Highway & 105 Middle Street) and then relocated to the present site, on the north side of the road, in 1915. Land for clay quarrying had been acquired on the east side of East Street in 1902 and with the relocation of the works a tramway tunnel was built under the road to access the quarry. The plant stopped producing bricks after a fire in October 1997 but continued to produce pipes (field tiles). A reunion of the Norton family and former customers was held in February 2017 at Camp Columba in Pukerau. At that time the four-generation, family-owned company was said to hold the oldest quarrying license in New Zealand. The brickworks closed in 2018 and the property was sold two years later. The site is currently being restored for future pipe manufacture.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have historic significance for their association with John Norton, his family and the brick and pipeworks that they operated for over 130 years.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have cultural value for the esteem in which they are held and as a demonstration of the way of life of the people who built and worked at the works.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have architectural value as vernacular industrial structures that were designed to be fit for purpose.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have technological and craftsmanship significance as early to mid-20th century industrial structures, designed and built by the Norton family to serve their longstanding and successful business.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have contextual significance as local landmarks and as a reminder of the significance of the Norton family business to the development and growth of Pukerau.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the kilns, chimney, other works buildings and the tramway tunnel post-date 1900, their site may have potential archaeological values relating to their early industrial use and development.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have overall heritage significance to Pukerau and to the district of Gore as a whole. The works' buildings and structures have historic significance for their association with John Norton and his

successful family business and cultural value for the esteem in which they are held. The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have architectural value as utilitarian structures designed by their owners to be fit for purpose and technological and craftsmanship significance as early to mid-20th century industrial structures. The former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel have contextual significance as local landmarks and as a reminder of the contribution made by John Norton and his family to Pukerau and district; their site has potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 20 May 1884, p. 2; 21 October 1884, p. 2; 9 March 1888, p. 5; 17 April 1888, p. 4; 31 August 1888, p. 6; 28 August 1915, p. 6.
- *Otago Witness* 14 January 1882, p. 13; 28 July 1883, p. 22; 6 July 1899, p. 29; 5 November 1891, p. 24; 17 August 1907, p. 7; 20 June 1917, p. 21.
- *Otago Daily Times* 25 July 1927, p. 2.
- *Southland Times* 10 July 1915, p. 5.
- *Quarry & Mining Magazine* 5 April 2017 (available online).
- *AgriHQ* 11 September 2014 (available online).
- http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d5-d51-d41.html

REPORT COMPLETED	13 May 2022
AUTHOR	Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services
REPORT REVISED	7 September 2022
AUTHOR	Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services

Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting of the kilns and chimney and the passage of the tunnel under SH1 [labelled sections outlined in turquoise], former Norton's Brick & Tile Company kilns, chimney & tramway tunnel, 1257-1267 Waipahi Highway (SH 1), Pukerau.

Tunnel under Waipahi Highway (SH 1).
1 September 2022.

Brick kiln.