

# 294-306 Cambridge Avenue

Ashhurst

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NZHPT Registration Number:	1196
NZHPT Registration Type:	Historic Place – Category II
NZHPT Registration Date:	10/12/10
City/District Council:	Palmerston North City Council
District Plan Status:	Category 2



## Brief History

Constructed circa 1888, this semi-rural homestead on the outskirts of Ashhurst dates from the early stages of the town's growth. Ashhurst was founded in 1877, part of the Manchester Block developed by the Emigrants and Colonists' Aid Corporation. The house has much in common with the cottage at 1033B Napier Road, also Category II. Both houses represent a period of the town's development when settlers were encouraged to establish farms in the outlying rural areas. The farms were intended to support the town initially, and to grow to form the basis of the local economy.

The house is built of timber and, like the Napier Road house, is an example of a double box cottage. The simple design of the original house indicates the owner's focus on meeting their immediate practical needs, and may have been constructed by the original owner themselves. A second storey was added to the gabled section in 1902, and several further extensions were made during the twentieth century. The verandah and gable decorations are slightly later than the original building.

These embellishments to an otherwise modest building show the owners' awareness of international trends in architecture and their wish for their home to be more than purely functional.

The three sections which made up the original property were sold in 1888 by the Emigrant and Colonists' Aid Corporation to local labourer Thomas Whitehead, who appears to have been an early Manchester Block settler. The property was sold in 1892 to the Gardiner family who were farmers from Ashhurst and Pahiatua. The house changed hands again in 1902 when it was sold to Mary Wilkinson, a farmer's wife from Pohangina. Ashhurst farm labourer Cyril Peck purchased the property in the mid twentieth century. The house remained in the Peck family until the 1990s when the property was subdivided and the house sold as a separate section from the majority of the land which was retained by the Peck family. The house is currently being restored by the new owner.

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*Principal Source:*

*House*, NZHPT Register no. 1196, 25/8/2010, Karen Astwood, NZHPT.