

Woolahra

781 Rangitikei Line, RD 5, Palmerston North

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| NZHPT Registration Number: | 1273 |
| NZHPT Registration Type: | Historic Place-Category II |
| NZHPT Registration Date: | 25/11/82 |
| City/District Council: | Palmerston North City Council |
| District Plan Status: | To be confirmed following recent district boundary change |



Brief History

In 1876 Thomas Cooper bought a block of native forest and about 1882, during the stumping period, a local carpenter built a lean-to pioneer cottage on the property. This was retained for nearly one hundred years and until 1989 was the last remaining pioneer dwelling on Rangitikei Line. In 1888 the land was sold to Sibbit John Podevin, in 1897 to Edward Turner and Jessie Ann Skerman, in 1900 to Arthur John Podevin and then in 1901 to Alex McCulloch JP, a farmer from Trentham. He bought 211 acres extending from Rangitikei Line through to Gillespies Line. In 1901 a new front section, designed by H C Collinson, Clerk of Works for the Palmerston North Borough Council, was added to the cottage. The house was given the name Woolahra but from 1912-1920 it was known as Holly Lodge. In 1907 McCulloch retired from farming and employed a series of managers until 1922, when his son Alex McCulloch junior took over the farm. On his retirement in 1962, the farm was divided and the section on which the house stood was sold to Kevin O'Donnell.

In 1963 the old pioneer cottage part of the house was modernised but it was finally demolished in 1989, and a new rear section to the house was built in the same style.

The front part of the house has important heritage value. The house is beautifully constructed and its rafters are 6in by 2in matai or totara. It is an example of the double gable villa, symmetrical with a central door flanked by two symmetrical eight-pane windows. A verandah sweeps round the house on three sides and has a central gable over the entrance. The decoration on the bargeboards is simple and some Victorian details such as the finials have been removed. The front part of the house is on a higher floor level than the lean-to at the rear. The house is in good repair, has been repiled and retains the original wooden shingles under the iron roof.

Principal Sources:

Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua Record 120008.

Wright, E R & Woodhouse, E D, *Colonial Homes of Palmerston North*, Wellington, AH & AW Reed, 1975.

Palmerston North City Library Photograph Collection: Bur 93.