

NELSON CITY COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME 'Hillwood', former Collins / O'Beirne homestead

ADDRESS 51 Hillwood Drive, Wakapuaka, Nelson

PHOTOGRAPH



[www]

DISTRICT PLAN CATEGORY A

HNZPT LIST No. 1638 **HNZPT LIST CATEGORY** 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 20412

NCC FILE NUMBER 1947008103

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1866 + early 1870s?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** William Beatson, architect; James Henry, contractor
(1866)

STYLE Villa

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey villa with rectangular footprint and hipped and gabled roof forms. Return veranda on north-west and north-east elevations. Paired veranda posts, exposed rafters, quoins and decorative apron beneath central window above flared veranda roof. Principal entry has sidelights. Multi-pane double-hung sash windows in first stage of house, cross-gabled addition has faceted bay window beneath triplet window with hood set within gable end. South-west elevation also features a large, faceted bay window. Corbelled chimneys; gabled service wing at rear.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and rusticated weatherboards, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Gabled addition (early 1870s, J Scotland, architect?). Chimney removed (2003).

SURROUNDINGS & EXTENT OF SCHEDULING

The property is located within a mature garden on the east side of Hillwood Drive and is bordered to the west by Hillwood Stream. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate garden setting of the house, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

Arthur Shuckburgh Collins (later Collyns, 1832-1911) was resident at 'Hillwood', in the Suburban North district of Nelson by the spring of 1858. Collins was married to Catherine Isaacson in 1855 and, after her death in 1864, Erica Mackay in 1866; in all he fathered 13 children. Arthur Collins, who immigrated from England with his parents in December 1849, served as a member of parliament between 1868 and 1873 and then again in 1881. Plans for a large, two-storey farmhouse with Italianate detailing at 'Hillwood' were prepared by Nelson architect William Beatson in January 1866. The property was run by a manager from 1882 and offered to let by Collins in 1885; by which time the family had relocated to their new home 'Rockwood' (John Scotland, architect, 1883) on the Mount Fyffe Station at Kaikoura. When 'Hillwood' was offered for sale in 1894 it was occupied by SM Neville. Purchased by Hugh O'Beirne (c.1834-1909), who continued its run it as a sheep farm, 'Hillwood' remained in the same family ownership until the later 20th century. The property was subdivided to its current extent in c.2000; the house remains in private residential use.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has historic and social significance for its association with Arthur and Erica Collins and their family. The house demonstrates AS Collins' success as both a farmer and politician and, more generally, the colonial development of Wakapuaka.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has high architectural significance as a residential building retaining a high level of external authenticity and designed, in part, by noted architect William Beatson. Beatson (1807-70) was a London-trained architect who arrived in Nelson in 1851 and became one of the preeminent colonial architects of his day. He also designed houses in Nelson for WM Stanton (1862-63, 214 Collingwood Street) and Stanton's mother and mother-in-law (1865, 224 Collingwood Street), both of which are scheduled heritage items. Beatson was also responsible for the first Nelson College building (1859-61, burnt down 1904), St Barnabas' Anglican Church in Stoke (1864), and the former N Edwards & Co warehouse in Bridge Street (1864). As John Scotland designed 'Rockwood' for AS Collins in 1883, it might be the case that the gabled addition to 'Hillwood' was also built to his design.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its mid-Victorian construction methods and materials. Local carpenter and builder James Henry (1830-1908) undertook a number of projects with William Beatson, including the Edwards & Co Warehouse at 1 Bridge Street (1864).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The property has potential archaeological significance in view of the age of the house and the site's colonial development.

SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has scientific value for its potential to provide further information about its staged design and construction, and the way of life of its early inhabitants.

GROUP, LANDMARK AND CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has contextual value in relation to its setting and for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Wakapuaka.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

'Hillwood' has high overall heritage significance to Nelson district. The house has historic and social significance for its association with Arthur and Erica Collins and their family and cultural value as an expression of the way of life of its early inhabitants. 'Hillwood' has high architectural significance as the work, in part at least, of preeminent Nelson architect William Beatson and technological and craftsmanship significance for the Victorian methods and materials used in its construction. 'Hillwood' has potential archaeological significance in view of the mid-19th century development that occurred on this site. The house has contextual value in relation to its setting and for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Wakapuaka.

REFERENCES

- *Nelson Evening Mail* 15 March 1894, p. 3; 2 September 1909, p. 2; 15 January 1929, p. 3.
- *Nelson Examiner & New Zealand Chronicle* 11 September 1858, p. 1; 17 September 1859, p. 2; 30 January 1866, p. 2; 13 November 1866, p. 2; 28 October 1871, p. 14; 26 July 1873, p. 3.
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- *Pelorus Guardian & Miners' Advocate* 3 October 1911, p. 4.
- *Greymouth Evening Star* 28 September 1911, p. 5.
- *Nelson Photo News* No. 89, 6 April 1968, p. 58.
- <https://collection.nelsonmuseum.co.nz/objects/72386/william-beatson-a-colonial-architect>
- <https://www.geni.com/people/Arthur-Collins/6000000072895357940>
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- I Bowman *William Beatson – A Colonial Architect* Auckland, 2005.

REPORT COMPLETED

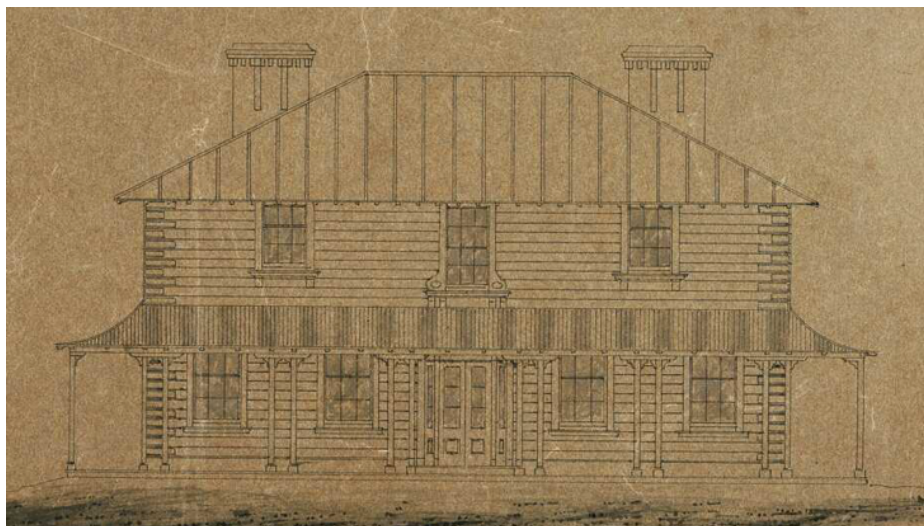
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Dr Ann McEwan / 5 May 2024



Beatson design for 'Hillwood', 1866. Plans-99-020-017, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.



RESIDENCE OF MR. H. G. O'BEIRNE, HILLWOOD.

The house at the turn of the 20th century. *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Nelson, Marlborough & Westland Provincial Districts*, Christchurch, 1906; available online.



Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate garden setting, 51 Hillwood Drive, Wakapuaka, Nelson.