

Bushy Park Homestead



Location: 791 Rangitatau East Road, Kai Iwi, Wanganui
Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga List Number: 157

Physical Description: The single storey timber framed house is designed in the Edwardian Free Classical style in an approximate 'T' shaped floor plan. It has an almost symmetrical front elevation with projecting bay windows at either end, each with shallow gabled imitating pediments, a central slightly protruding portico and an ionic colonnade either side forming a deep verandah. Openings onto the verandah are through high double hung sash windows acting as doors. Arts and Crafts styled chimneys extend above the ridge along the length of the main wing which is the style chosen for the interior timberwork.

The staff quarters, which project to the rear, are more utilitarian in design.

Other known names:

Current Use: Accommodation

Former Uses:

Heritage Status: Heritage NZPT List **District Plan Class:** Class A (Cat. 1)

Register Item Number:

18

Building Type:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Recreation
- Institutional
- Agriculture
- Other

Significance:

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological
- Cultural

Thematic Context

- Early Settlement
- Residential
- Industry
- Agricultural
- Commerce
- Transport
- Civic/Admin
- Health
- Education
- Religion
- Recreation
- Community
- Memorials
- Military

Built Heritage Inventory



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Architectural Style: Edwardian Free **Date of Construction:**

Classical

Materials: Painted timber rusticated weatherboards, coverboards, joinery, columns, concrete foundations, Marseille tile roofing

Registered owner:

Legal Description: Lot 2 DP 12732 (CT WN21C/689), Wellington Land District

History: Bushy Park Homestead, a twenty-two roomed residence, was designed by the notable architect Charles Tilleard Natusch for Frank Moore, a well-known Hereford cattle and racehorse breeder of Kai Iwi near Wanganui. It was built in 1906 by Messrs Russell and Bignell of Wanganui at a cost of £4,566. Bushy Park's design is more formal than most of Natusch's houses primarily due to the influence of Moore, who rejected Natusch's initial design preferring a more classical home of a Regency 'cum' American Colonial style, incorporating classical columns. The home is constructed in timber on concrete foundations with a tiled roof. The interior features some fine panelling and a magnificent carved mantelpiece in the dining room, the work of W. Andrews of the Wanganui Technical School of Design.

Upon Moore's death in 1962 the home and 220 acres [89 hectares] of surrounding bush was gifted to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest and Bird). The latter was formed in 1923 as the Native Bird Protection Society with the aim of protecting New Zealand's 'native flora and fauna, their habitats, and natural scenic values'. Over the years the Society has acquired more than 30 reserves throughout New Zealand, either through gift or by purchase. In 1995 the management of Bushy Park was handed to the Bushy Park Homestead and Forest Trust, but still remains under the auspices of Forest and Bird. The homestead now provides accommodation to the public and a venue for conferences and other functions. It also runs an education centre for learning experiences in science, technology and the environment.

On a local level Bushy Park Homestead has great significance as the past home of Frank Moore, and because it was constructed by local builders and craftsmen. On a national level Bushy Park has great significant for its association with one of New Zealand's most notable architects, Charles Tilleard Natusch, and for its association for the last 40 years with the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand.

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Architect/Designer: C T Natusch

History of changes:

Date Period: 1906

Rarity / Special Features: The house is a unique design based on the Free Classical style.

Integrity: The house appears to be in a reasonable condition, based on a cursory visual survey.

Representativeness:

Context/Group Value: The house is associated with the stables behind the house.

Diversity (Form and Features):

Fragility / Vulnerability: As has been shown in the history of the stables behind the house, the house is potentially vulnerable to fire.

Summary of Significance:

Archaeological Qualities

Being part of a farm developed in the 1860s, the land on which the house is built is an archaeological site.

Architectural Qualities

The house is an impressive and imaginative version of the Free Classical style designed by CT Natusch. The Natusch architectural dynasty is well known and highly regarded, with a number of CT Natusch's house designs registered with the NZHPT.

The architectural practice founded in Wellington in 1886 by Charles Tilleard Natusch later became the partnership of C.T. Natusch and Sons. After several name changes and three generations, it continues today as the Natusch Partnership.

C.T. Natusch, having completed his architectural studies in England in 1882, travelled in the United States and Canada. He returned to England in 1883 to become involved in the town planning and development of Southend-on-Sea. He then immigrated to New Zealand in 1886 and after a short collaboration with Atkins and Clere, established a Wellington practice as an architect and quantity

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surveyor. He then moved to Masterton, Pahiatua and finally to Napier, where he brought the architectural practice of Robert Lamb.

From 1908 until World War I, C.T. Natusch was in practice with his three sons Aleck, Rene and Stanley and offices were opened in Wellington, Pahiatua, Napier, Gisborne and Palmerston North. For a period during and after World War I, only the Wellington and Napier offices were kept open by C.T. Natusch until the three sons were able to re-join him for the busy commercial development period of the 1920's and the rebuilding of Napier following the 1931 earthquake. The firm received many domestic commissions from the farming community which favoured its Elizabethan style. Its well known houses include Bushy Park (Kai Iwi), Gwavas (Tikokino), Matapiro (Napier), Maungaraupi (Marton) and Wharerata (Massey University).

Historic Qualities

The house, stables, and property are associated with James Moore, who purchased the farm in the 1860s and his son, George Francis Maitland Moore, who left the property, including forest, homestead, stable and grazing paddocks, to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, with which the house has been associated for the last 40 years.

The farm was known for its livestock, Thoroughbreds and Clydesdales.

The property is now well known as a nature reserve with a predator proof fence to protect wild life.

Technical Qualities

The stables are constructed using typical materials and techniques of the time

Cultural Qualities

The function of the farm today, as a wildlife sanctuary has significant sentimental qualities.

Reference Source:

Associated Pictures:

Date of Survey: 2012

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