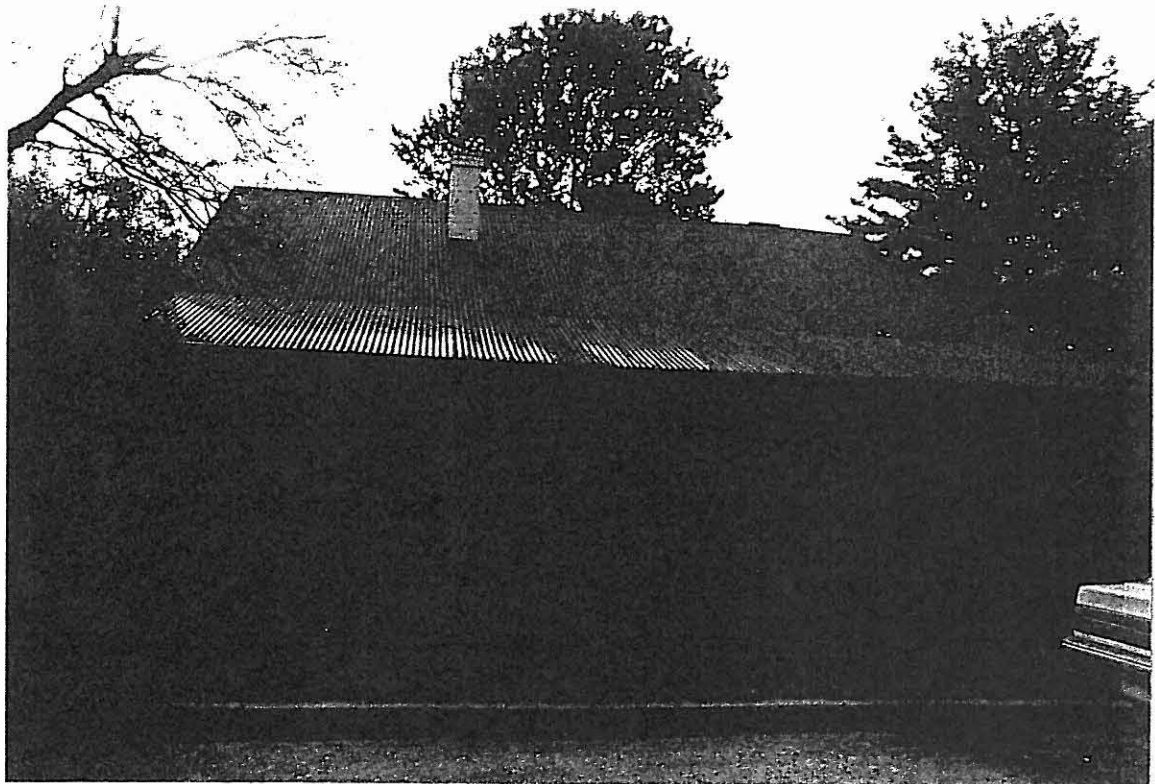


BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 105

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

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|---|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| NAME: Ellerslie. | | | |
| PREVIOUS NAME: Ingliston | | | |
| ADDRESS: McGrath Street and Pilmer Street (east end). | | | |
| TITLE DETAILS: | | | |
| USE: House | | | |
| PREVIOUS USE: Homestead. Outstation. | | | |
| SIGNIFICANT DATE: | | CONSTRUCTION DATE: After 1855 | |
| SOURCE: 1 | | | |
| CRITERIA: H1,2,3,6; Ar1/ H5, So1. | | HISTORIC THEME: Pastoralism/Conserving | |
| DESCRIPTION: | STYLE: Early | STORIES: 1 | DETACHED. |
| MATERIALS: | WALLS: Brick | ROOF: Iron | STRUCTURE: Lb |
| CONDITION: Good | INTACTNESS: Fair | THREATS: - | |
| SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS: | | | |
| MATERIALS. FORM. VERANDAH. ROOF FORM. | | | |
| CHIMNEYS. | | | |
| OUTBUILDINGS. | | | |
| MARKER. | | | |
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE. | | | |
| GARDEN. TREES. | | | |
| SIGNIFICANCE: | | | |
| TYPE: HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL. | | | |
| LEVEL: STATE. | | | |
| DESIGNATION EXISTING: HBCR. RNE. PLANNING SCHEME. NT. | | | |
| RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION: HBR. RNE. PLANNING SCHEME. | | | |
| MAP NO: U4.08 | SURVEY: DC & RP | DATE: 7.1.94 | NEGS: 8.23, 9.7-16 |



HISTORY: Ellerslie is situated on land occupied from 1838 by Captain W.H. Bacchus. In 1839-40, the valley known as Bacchus Marsh was surveyed for pre-selection, and in 1842, three allotments of the Captain's run were purchased by a Scottish merchant, Peter Inglis. Captain Bacchus later regained much of the land lost to him through pre-selection, but Inglis steadfastly refused to sell that section of Portion 8 and 9 that lay south of Main Street. Perhaps the land was the most fertile for grazing, certainly the portion on which Ellerslie was erected was the highest section of land for a radius of one half mile (.8km) and therefore impervious to the flood waters of the Werribee River.

Peter Inglis later acquired a pastoral run at Ballan and by 1851, he had made this property, Ingliston, his permanent residence. Thereafter, he used the property at Bacchus Marsh as an outstation and a 'stopover' *en route* to Melbourne. In 1855, Inglis sold this land to a nephew, Archibald Fiskin, who leased the property to a fellow Scotsman, Robert Langmuir.

The cool-store, the oldest building on the property, would appear to date from this period. Certainly, there were buildings on the land that Fiskin purchased in 1855, but these may not refer to existing structures. The physical evidence, particularly the use of sawn laths in the ceiling of the cool store, indicates a date of construction no earlier than 1854, possibly 1855-56, when Inglis sold to Fiskin, and Fiskin leased to Langmuir.¹

In May 1867, Robert Langmuir purchased the property now known as Ellerslie for the sum of £350 (\$700).² He then mortgaged the property for £200 (\$400). In May 1870, the mortgage was discharged but two months later, the property was again mortgaged, this time for £220 (\$440).

Following Langmuir's death in 1883 his three daughters inherited the property. They leased the 35 acre (14.3 ha) farm to a local chemist, William Marsh.³ In 1895 the property, now called Ellerslie, was purchased by Patrick McGrath.⁴ Apparently, McGrath planted the apricot trees which have left visible mounds at the back of the allotment. Ellerslie remained in the ownership of the McGrath family until 1983, when it was purchased by Jennifer Hibbens and Michael Royle.⁵

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: An early brick homestead complex. The unpretentious house is rectangular in plan with a gable roof across, which continues at broken pitch as a skillion verandah. There is one internal chimney.

¹ Submission to the Historic Buildings Council for the Registration of Ellerslie by the owners J.F. Hibbens and M.A. Royle, 21 November 1984; Building File 5548, National Trust of Australia (Victoria). No documentation of sources are cited in this submission, although photocopies of various documents are included.

² Shire of Bacchus Marsh, Rate Book, 1867-68.

³ Ibid., 1890-91.

⁴ Ibid., 1894-95.

⁵ Submission, op. cit.

A brick outbuilding behind has also a gable roof across with a double-fronted symmetrical elevation and with a skillion addition at the rear. There is a hip-roofed (cool?) store-room at the left, with a skillion verandah in front of it. It is also known as the dairy. The store is earlier and is constructed of rare Silverlock's (or Rat-trap) bond wall construction. This is a form of Flemish bond with bricks on edge and through bricks breaching a quasi-cavity. The bricks are 230 x 110 x 68 mm. The gable and hip roofs of the outbuilding retain timber shingles beneath the corrugated iron. On the end wall of the outbuilding is a rare fire insurance mark for the Standard Company.

The garden has various remnant nineteenth century fruit trees, and indications of the former location of others.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: On the Manor House (ref. 218) is directly comparable as a Selector's house. Greystones (ref. 31); and also Staughton Vale (ref. 19A), Bullengarook Park (ref. 325) and Exford (ref. 369) each have points of comparison but are all located outside the municipality. Vallenge's Farm (ref. 75) has a dairy, located underground, as does Millbank (ref. 132).

SIGNIFICANCE: An unpretentious early Selector's brick homestead complex, probably built after 1855, with a brick outbuilding of 1854-6. This incorporates a cool or store room constructed of rare Silverlock's (or Rat-trap) bond wall construction and a rare fire insurance mark.

It is of state historic significance as a representative embodiment of the pastoral way of life and of an unusual settlement pattern. It has also associations with the early development of agriculture in the community life of the district. It has associations with the significant local figure of Captain Bacchus and his relationships with the indomitable Peter Inglis, an historic fact still affecting the layout of the town. It is a building complex pioneering to the Bacchus Marsh locality.

The coolroom outbuilding has state architectural significance as an extraordinary example of building technology in its brickwork bond type and fire-mark.

Finally the complex is of local social significance for being known and valued by the community as part of its identity and hence for having inflamed debate regarding conservation action.

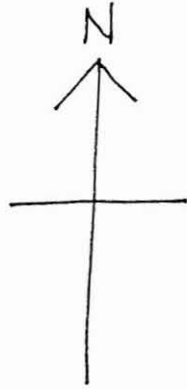
INTACTNESS: The house has been altered and has various additions, particularly at each end. There are 1950s windows and French doors. The brickwork has been painted. The store is relatively unaltered.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Each of the buildings needs maintenance attention. The house's verandah is supported by props. There is structural cracking and vegetation damage to the outbuilding, which lacks downpipes and has spouting blocked with vegetation. Roofing is corroding. The storeroom's bricks are eroding.

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105.

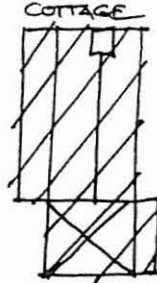
PILMER STREET →



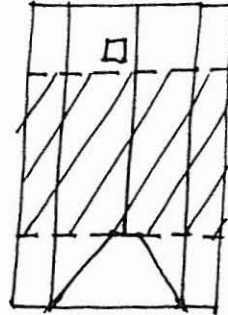
OUTBUILDING

HOUSE

COTTAGE



STORE



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← MCGRATH STREET

MCGRATH CAUSEWAY

