

**BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.**

Ref: 172

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

<b>NAME:</b> ---		
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 304(?) Avenue of Honour.		
<b>TITLE DETAILS:</b>		
<b>USE:</b> Derelict.		
<b>PREVIOUS USE:</b> House.		
<b>SIGNIFICANT DATE:</b> 1848-1995	<b>CONSTRUCTION DATE:</b> 1848-9	
<b>SOURCE:</b>		
<b>BUILDER:</b> James Mahoney	<b>SOURCE:</b> 1,2.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b> H1,3,6/ Ar 1	<b>HISTORIC THEME:</b> Agriculture	
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>STYLE:</b> Early	<b>STORIES:</b> 1 <b>DETACHED.</b>
<b>MATERIALS:</b>	<b>WALLS</b> Render and stone	<b>ROOF</b> Iron <b>STRUCTURE</b> Lb
<b>CONDITION:</b> Fair	<b>INTACTNESS:</b> Reasonable	<b>THREATS:</b> Neglect
<b>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:</b>		
FACADE.		
CHIMNEYS. WALL DECORATION. WINDOWS. PAINTWORK SCHEME.		
GARDEN.		
<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b>		
<b>TYPE:</b> HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL.		
<b>LEVEL:</b> STATE.		
<b>DESIGNATION EXISTING:</b> Nil		
<b>RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION:</b> HBR. RNE. PLANNING SCHEME.		
<b>MAP NO:</b> U5.07 & R2.05	<b>SURVEY:</b> RP, JS.	<b>DATE:</b> 24.1.94
<b>NEGS:</b> 13.27A & 14.1/1021-		



**HISTORY:** This farmhouse was erected in 1848-49 by James Mahoney. A native of Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, Mahoney emigrated to Van Diemen's Land in 1837, with his wife, Ellen and their sons, Cornelius, James and William.<sup>1</sup> The family arrived in Melbourne on 24 May 1838. James Snr., a stonemason and bricklayer by trade, worked on the construction of Cole's Wharf, in Flinders Street.

As part payment, he was given land at Bacchus Marsh that Alexander McCrae had purchased when Captain Bacchus' "Lardedark" run was opened for preselection. McCrae, a nephew of George Ward Cole, purchased two portions of land, 103 and 101 acres (40.5 & 41.7ha), in 1842 following his remission as a captain of Her Majesty's 84th Regiment of Foot.<sup>2</sup> In 1844, Mahoney took possession of the 101 acre allotment on the north side of the Portland Road (Main Street). The family lived in a stone hut south of the Portland Road, then a slab hut further east, and from 1848-49, in the brick and stone house erected by builder-turned-farmer, Mahoney.<sup>3</sup>

The property has remained in this family's ownership since 1844. James Mahoney died in 1887, leaving the property to his son, Cornelius. A member of the first Road Board, Chairman and Correspondent of the School Board of Advice, and Captain of the Bacchus Marsh Troop, Cornelius rose to a position of influence in the social and political life of the township.<sup>4</sup> Cornelius died, aged 94, in 1914. The property passed to his wife, Mary (née Hogan), and following her death in 1925, to Cornelius James McFarlane.<sup>5</sup> The farmhouse has been vacant since McFarlane's death in ??.

**VISUAL DESCRIPTION:** An asymmetrically four-bay rendered masonry cottage, with a hip roof across. It has the entrance porch in the second bay, a gable facing supported on masonry piers. It has (brown) basalt quoins, three brick chimneys (two symmetrically on the ridge and one in the rear, right corner), and four 12-pane double-hung early windows. There is a skillion extension at the rear. An open shed at right, rear, is constructed on unsawn pole timbers with a low pitch roof.

#### The Garden.

This is a now-derelict garden, with a variety of older exotic plant species and younger native trees. The majority of the plants are shrubs with some trees towards the rear of the house.

Older plant species include:

<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peppercorn Tree
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive

<sup>1</sup> Osborn, *The Bacchus Story*, p.36.

<sup>2</sup> Crisp, F. (Ed.), *Bacchus Marsh Centenary Celebrations*, p.11.

<sup>3</sup> Osborne, op.cit, p.36.

<sup>4</sup> Moore and Oomes, *Bacchus Marsh: A Pictorial Chronicle*, p.28.

<sup>5</sup> Crisp, F. (Ed.), op. cit, p.11.

<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Mirror Bush
<i>Acmena sinithii</i>	Lilly Pilly
<i>Agave sp.</i>	
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon
<i>Pittosporum sp.</i>	
<i>Wistaria chinensis</i>	Chinese Wisteria
<i>Camellia japonica hybrids</i>	Camellia

Newer plant species include:

<i>Ulmus procera</i> -	English Elm (suckers or self seeded from street trees). (possibly plantings in last 20 years).
<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i> -	
Reeds -	completely invaded throughout the garden, due to lack of maintenance.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:** There are an extraordinary total of seven pre-gold rush buildings in Bacchus Marsh, (refs: 153, 174, 191, 218, 249 & 354) with others surviving as archaeological sites. However amongst these this house is remarkable for having been in the ownership of the one family for 150 years. This is very rare statewide.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** A characteristic early rendered stone cottage, built by the stonemason and bricklayer, James Mahoney in 1848-9. The family had settled there in 1844 and the property has remained in their ownership for the 150 years since.

It has state historical significance as a pioneering cottage and one of the very few pre-gold rush buildings in Victoria. It represents an embodiment of the way of life of 150 years ago. It also represents a remarkably long and unbroken association with the pioneering Mahoney (McFarlane) family.

Finally, it has state architectural significance as a representative early settler's cottage, only the basalt quoins perhaps indicating its construction by a stonemason for himself.

**INTACTNESS:** Reasonable. The porch and rear addition appear to be 1920s.

**CONDITIONS & THREATS:** Fair, although neglected and derelict. The garden is overgrown.