

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 177

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

NAME: VB Genetics. Victorian Artificial Breeders Co-operative Society Limited.**PREVIOUS NAME:** Melbourne Pig Market, Building.**ADDRESS:** Woolpack Road (NW, Parwan Park Road).**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** Artificial insemination.**PREVIOUS USE:** Market building.**SIGNIFICANT DATE:** 1961 **CONSTRUCTION DATE:** ? **SOURCE:****CRITERIA:** H1,5; Ar 3. **HISTORIC THEME:** Agricultural.**DESCRIPTION:** **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.****MATERIALS:** **WALLS** Iron **ROOF** Iron? **STRUCTURE** Frame**CONDITION:** ? **INTACTNESS:** ? **THREATS:** Sale**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

FORM.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL.**LEVEL:** LOCAL.**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** Nil**RECOMMENDED CONTROL:** PLANNING SCHEME.**MAP NO:** R2.05 **SURVEY:** RP **DATE:** 24.1.94 **NEGS:** 14.16 & 17

HISTORY: Purchased in 1959 from the estate of Sol Green, this property became the centre of operations for the Victorian Artificial Breeders' Co-operative Society Limited on May 1, 1961.¹ The property was known locally as the "Bull Farm", for activities included the collection and supply of semen from proven bulls, research, and herd evaluation for farmers.²

The complex includes a large timber and galvanised iron building, relocated from the Melbourne Pig Market by Sol Green and used as a hay shed and dairy. The Melbourne Pig Market was situated in Flemington Road, on the site now occupied by the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Considered a public nuisance by many citizens, the Pig Market buildings were removed from 1935 when the Melbourne Hospital in Lonsdale Street was given permission to move to Parkville. The new hospital, first used as a base hospital for the United States Army, was opened in 1942.³

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A large gambrel-roofed pavilion, surrounded by 1960s offices and many bulls. Not closely inspected.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: The Queen Victoria Market timber pavilion buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE: A timber (?) framed market building (date?) relocated here from the Melbourne Pig Market (?) in 1961.

The building is of local historical significance in demonstrating a changing sequence of usage and association with an extraordinary agricultural practice.

It is also for architectural significance as a representative example of a rare surviving building type.

INTACTNESS: Not closely inspected.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Not closely inspected.

¹ Moore and Oomes, *Bacchus Marsh: A Pictorial Chronicle*, p.134.

² Ibid; Camm, *Bacchus Marsh by Bacchus Marsh*, p.127.

³ Inglis, *Hospital an Community: A History of the Royal Melbourne Hospital*, pp.91 & 92.

