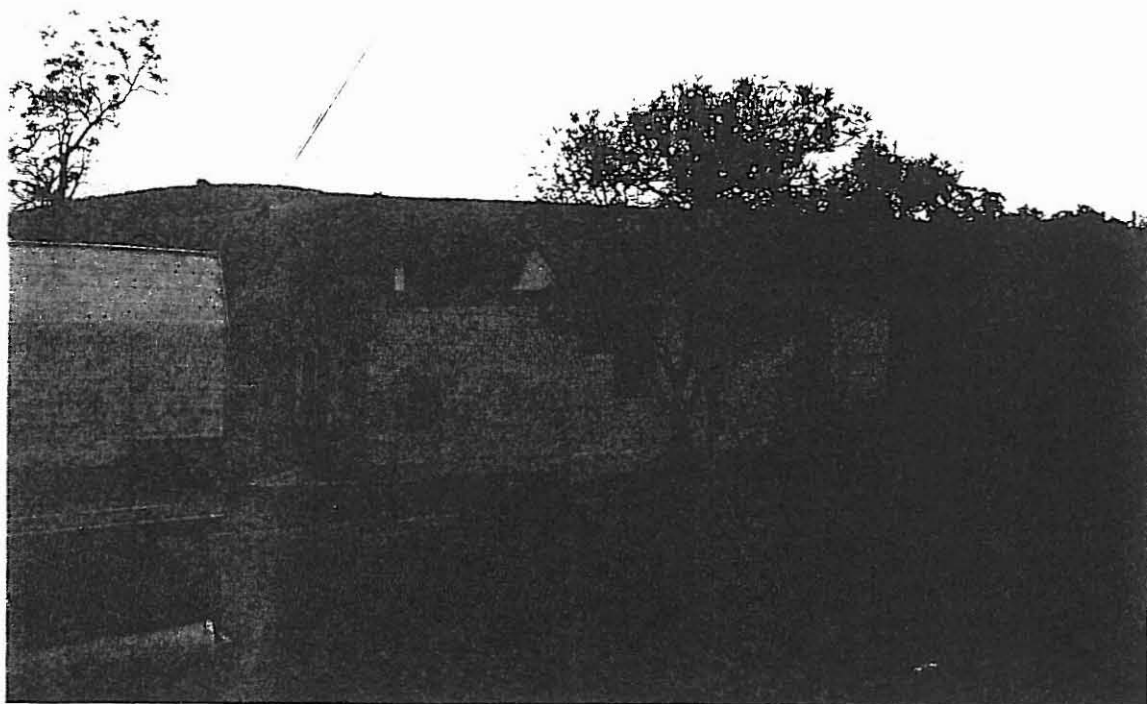


**BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.**

**Ref: 352**

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

<p><b><u>NAME:</u></b> "Bacchus Marsh Roadhouse" Shell Restaurant (Residence). <b><u>PREVIOUS NAME:</u></b> W. Symington's house &amp; brewery site. <b><u>ADDRESS:</u></b> Western Highway, (Hopetoun). <b><u>TITLE DETAILS:</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>USE:</u></b> House. <b><u>PREVIOUS USE:</u></b> House &amp; brewery. <b><u>SIGNIFICANT DATE:</u></b> 1862-86    <b><u>CONSTRUCTION DATE:</u></b> c1858-62 <b><u>SOURCE:</u></b> 1 <b><u>CRITERIA:</u></b> H1, 2,3,6; Ar3; Sc2. <b><u>HISTORIC THEME:</u></b> Townships.</p>
<p><b><u>DESCRIPTION:</u></b>        <b><u>STYLE:</u></b> Early        <b><u>STORIES:</u></b> 1    <b><u>DETACHED.</u></b> <b><u>MATERIALS:</u></b>    <b><u>WALLS</u></b> Brick (&amp; stone?)    <b><u>ROOF</u></b> Iron        <b><u>STRUCTURE</u></b> Lb. <b><u>CONDITION:</u></b> Reasonable    <b><u>INTACTNESS:</u></b> Additions. Fair <b><u>THREATS:</u></b> Traffic. Closure.</p>
<p><b><u>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:</u></b> FORM. ROOF FORM. USE. CHIMNEYS. WALL DECORATION. CONTEXT: 353, 354, 380. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL. RUIN. ROUTE.</p>
<p><b><u>SIGNIFICANCE:</u></b> <b><u>TYPE:</u></b> HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SCIENTIFIC. <b><u>LEVEL:</u></b> REGIONAL.</p>
<p><b><u>DESIGNATION EXISTING:</u></b> Nil <b><u>RECOMMENDED CONTROL:</u></b> PLANNING SCHEME. AREA 5.</p>
<p><b><u>MAP NO:</u></b> R3.05    <b><u>SURVEY:</u></b> RP &amp; GV    <b><u>DATE:</u></b> 2.4.94    <b><u>NEGS:</u></b> 28.1 &amp; 2-1033</p>



**HISTORY:** William Symington and his family settled in Bacchus Marsh in 1858, building this brick and stone house which was next to his brewery, including cellar and malthouse. A civil engineer by profession, Symington 'constructed his own vats and casks, and in fact everything required for the business'.<sup>1</sup> Licensed from 1862 to 1886, the brewery produced an average of sixteen hogsheads (3,632 litres) of beer per month.<sup>2</sup> The Symington family lived in the house until the 1940s.<sup>3</sup>

Symington's brewery was a major feature of Hopetoun providing employment and attracting interest from around the area.

**VISUAL DESCRIPTION:** An early brick house with a gable roof and L-shaped plan. The base and quoins at corners are expressed. It has tall diamond-plan chimneys with brick mouldings. There is a recent addition in front. Beside the highway, is a Shell service station and roadhouse. There is a brick outbuilding at rear.

The remains of Symington's Brewery are also located behind the service station adjacent to the surviving Symington house (G.R. 277940-5826080). While there are only a few ruins of the actual buildings, there appears to be a strong potential for surviving related archaeological evidence. (Refer: map).<sup>4</sup>

The surviving parts of the brewery complex are sections of the north and west walls of the malthouse, including parts of two chimneys, which are evident in the nineteenth century illustrations. The west wall stands to about one metre high, over a length of about three metres, although footings can be discerned for a further three metres. This appears to be partly a retaining wall against the hillside, and has been buttressed on the outside. The north wall has been reconstructed with concrete and in the north-west corner of the building, are the remains of the chimneys, with a cylindrical recess, possibly for a small boiler or copper at the base of the smaller of the two chimneys which is skewed at a 45° to the building. Immediately south of this is the larger chimney, of which only two sides stand, to about one metre. There is some concrete infill between the two chimneys.

The south end of the building has been completely demolished but brickwork appears to define the floor area of the building, with two steps at 45° dropping down to a lower level. Early illustrations show this structure as having a brick lower section and possibly a brick furnace room at the north end, with the main malting floor constructed over this in timber, with full-width opening panels in the walls and louvred lantern vents on the shingle-covered gable-roof. It is understood that there was some form of roof, but probably not the original upper level, over this area until about twelve months ago.

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<sup>1</sup> Williams, *A History of Bacchus Marsh and its Pioneers* p.105.

<sup>2</sup> Moore & Oomes, *Bacchus Marsh: A Pictorial Chronicle* p.34.

<sup>3</sup> Camm, *Bacchus Marsh by Bacchus Marsh* pp.43,66 & 296.

<sup>4</sup> Map was traced from an aerial photograph supplied by VicRoads.

North of the malthouse remains is an excavated area which was probably a half cellar or store. Remnants of a timber retaining wall are along the west and north walls against the hill side which is excavated to a depth of 2 to 3 metres. The front, or south wall survives only as a short section of 1 metre high brick wall attached to the back of the malthouse. This is at an angle of about 30 degrees off the alignment of the malthouse, corresponding with the building depicted in the nineteenth century illustration.

The ground surface is generally earth, but this appears to be a result of soil washing down from the hill behind and covering brick paving, which is evident to the south of the area. A number of other buildings existed on the brewery site. The main brew-house was evidently along the road frontage, about where the present service station office and shop is located. Another small house was located to the east, in the area of the present car-park.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:** There are seven surviving nineteenth century industrial buildings in Bacchus Marsh and a further seven sites, including this one. This is the only surviving brewery works site. (Gary Vines?)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** An early brick house and the ruins of early brewery buildings built by local figure, William Symington, in c1858-62. These now consist of two chimneys, a malthouse and a half cellar (or store). The family lived there for 90 years.

This complex is of regional historical significance, for its association with the development of the brewing industry in the town and as a representative embodiment of the industrial process of brewing; also for its association with William Symington; finally, as pioneering to the locality.

It is of regional architectural significance as example of an early surviving brewery and of scientific significance for its potential as a site for archaeological research.

**INTACTNESS:** The house. Visibly fair, but the entire front is obscured by the addition. All masonry is painted gloss white. Windows have been inserted.

**CONDITIONS & THREATS:** The house. Reasonable. Traffic and potential redevelopment of the site threaten.