

FORMER STABLES - WONGA PARK HOMESTEAD

Lakeview Nurseries

Place No. 282

ADDRESS	5 Lower Homestead Road Wonga Park	Last Update
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DESCRIPTION Former stables building associated with the property on the other side of Lower Homestead Road (where a farmhouse, hawthorn hedge, large River Red Gum remain); now used for storage.

The timber stables building comprises loose boxes, tack and feed rooms. The stables are built in timber, with vertical palings to dado level and horizontal weatherboards above. There is a brick floor remaining in parts of the stables.

Condition Deteriorated **Integrity** Altered

Threats Deterioration **Key elements**

Designer

HISTORY These old timber former stables which stand on the east side of Lower Homestead Road, most probably date from the 1930s. This was after William Henry Stocks, Ashburton dairy farmer, bought the Wonga Park homestead property in 1936. According to Mrs Lithgow, the former Elizabeth Stocks, daughter of W. H. Stocks, the present building was there when her father purchased the property. The Stocks kept up these stables and at one time found old stable doors in the rafters of the building.[1]

This property, together with land on the opposite side of Lower Homestead Road, is associated with the early history of Wonga Park when the Brown family of graziers held the 640 acres in Crown Allotment 8. William Brown ran a noted horse stud, which provided stables for Tim Whiffler and other important race horses in the pre-1880s period.[2]

The earlier Victorian stables that housed Tim Whiffler, winner of the 1867 Melbourne Cup, have long since gone. Mrs Lithgow, who was born in 1937, says that these stables were on a different site on the east side of Lower Homestead Road. Mrs Lithgow holds a photograph of the earlier stables, a timber structure that was much smaller than the later one.[1]

Other buildings once located near the former stables were demolished some years ago. These included an old woolshed, and a dairy demolished about 25 years ago when the Stocks ceased dairying.[1]

The old Wonga Park homestead, located on the opposite side of Lower Homestead Road, survives. Although renovated in the 1940s, it still retains some of its ripple iron interior walls that date from the 1890s ownership of the property by the Mutual Life Association.[1]

The property is currently owned by the Gambles. Peter Gamble, son of the present owners, first owned the property and established the nursery. The property was transferred to the present owners in 1991.

Creation Date 1930s

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

William Henry Stocks

5.01 - Squatters, selectors & small farmer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE This building has local significance as a timber structure of 1936 or earlier, used as stables by W.H. Stocks, dairy farmer, who purchased the Wonga Park homestead property at that time, and one of two early stables buildings remaining in Wonga Park that provide evidence of the past importance of horses for farming and commercial purposes in the district. (Criterion B2, H1)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register

Reference

Zoning

Status

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY [1] Pers. comm. Mrs Lithgow.
[2] Border Country, p.33.
[3] Ian Gamble, correspondence 13/7/96 and 15/2/97.