

William Elder Kuruc-a-ruc House, Rokewood

Kuruc-a-Ruc Road, Ballarat Road, Rokewood

Lot No. **Plan No.**

Municipal Rate No.

Architectural Style

Designer(s)

1866 - 1866 Alexander Davidson

Contractor(s)



National Estate Register, 2003.

Legislative Registers	Nominated	Registered	Other Registers	Registered
Victorian Heritage Register No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	National Estate RNE - Database	<input type="text" value="15029"/>
Heritage Inventory No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	RNE Legal Status	<input type="text" value="Registered"/>
Precinct Heritage Overlay No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	National Trust (Vic.) File	<input type="text" value="B3528"/>
Precinct Heritage Overlay Nam	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Nat. Trust Classification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Heritage Overlay No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="HO29"/>		

Statement of Significance

National Estate Register:

Kuruc-a-Ruc homestead, with its original stonehut (c 1840s) and the current homestead with its sandstone section dating probably from the 1850s, is one of the oldest surviving rural residences in Victoria. This type of homestead, with the main roof continuing down over the verandah (in the style used in NSW in the 1830s and 1840s), is very rare in Victoria. The bluestone outbuilding and cottage west of the homestead, dating from 1864 and earlier, are among the oldest stone pastoral outbuildings in Victoria (Criteria B.2 and F.1).

The place has a strong association with the early grazing history of Victoria, exemplifying the homesteads of the first pastoral settlers of the Port Phillip district in the 1840s and 1850s (Criterion A.4).

National Trust:

CITATION

Homestead of the original Woody Yallock run, including the first stone hut of the Aitchison brothers, c.1840, of yellow silurian stone. The central section of the main house was built probably within the next decade of similar stone rubble, now roughcast, with roughly worked bluestone quions and trim. Both stones were quarried nearby. There are french windows and high quality joinery in reveals, doors, mantelpieces etc. Wings at each end were added probably c. 1863 of bluestone ashlar with similar joinery and high corniced ceilings, and a separate bluestone store of 1864. The verandah a round the front retains shingles under the iron. The Homestead was under the ownership of the Elder family from 1863-1963. Recent kitchen extensions are excluded from the Classification.

Golden Plains Shire Heritage Database DRAFT

Class: Local

Description

National Estate Register:

Kuruc-a-Ruc at Rokewood dates from the 1840s, 1850s and early 1860s. The exact history of the run and the buildings is, as yet, unclear. Kuruc-a-Ruc had its origins in either the Wardy Yallock Chain of Ponds run centred 6.4km east of Rokewood, or in the Kuruck Kuruck run centred 11.6km south of Rokewood. The various stone structures that comprise Kuruc-a-Ruc take two basic forms; the early structures are sandstone, while the latter are in bluestone. The original stone hut dates probably from the 1840s, the sandstone section of the homestead most likely dates from the 1850s, the bluestone extensions from the 1860s and the bluestone outbuildings were built in 1864 and earlier. Evidently the sandstone is found on the homestead side of Kuruc-a-Ruc Creek and the bluestone comes from the other side.

The Kuruc-a-Ruc homestead comprises a rectangular, projecting central sandstone section with coursed bluestone wings at each rear corner. The original sandstone section has a hipped, corrugated iron sheet roof which continues down over the verandahs on three sides, supported by timber posts (the roof's original shingles are still found under the iron). There is no front door, but French doors give access to the hallway and all rooms. Around these doors are roughly worked bluestone quoins. This section is remarkably intact, particularly in view of its age. The bluestone wings, presumably built around 1864, have finely detailed joinery, doors, architraves and mantelpieces. There is a mid twentieth century rear addition and to the north of the homestead a detached kitchen with walls and roof which have been heightened later.

The original sandstone hut is north-west of the homestead. Contained within the garden is a small turning circle while on the west boundary is a picket fence. West of that fence is the sandstone stable at the southern end, with the 1864 bluestone outbuilding at the northern end; both are hip roofed. Further west is a bluestone cottage, while to the east of the homestead garden are the sandstone walls (all that remains) of the old men's hut, another building which was heightened at a later date.

Condition and Integrity:

All buildings except the original stone hut are in sound condition and are essentially intact. The west wall of the stables was demolished some years ago. The original stone hut has suffered cracking and movement and the concrete slab floor may have contributed to this. Only the walls of the old men's hut now survive. The sandstone walls of the homestead were roughcast rendered at some stage, probably early this century. In 1982 several French doors and a mantelpiece were stolen; all these items, made of cedar, were considered irreplaceable. (May 1988)

History

Tenders wanted - new additions to Kuruc-a-ruc House, Rokewood, for William Elder. - MLI.

National Estate Register: Not Available.

Thematic Context

Recommendations

Local Government external paint controls apply.

Golden Plains Shire Heritage Database DRAFT



National Estate Register, 2003.



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