

Heritage Overlay No.: 038
Citation No.: 061
Place: Stone Cottage, 189-193 Blackhill Road

Other Names of Place: ‘Shepherd’s Cottage’, Foard’s Shepherd’s Cottage
Location: 189-193 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale (Lot 1 LP135563)
Critical Dates: Construction: by late 1860s. Destruction of timber portion by fire: c.1945. Repair, c.1970 – 1990.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL¹



Statement of Significance:

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as an altered example of a Victorian vernacular style small cottage, one of few surviving buildings in the Shire associated with the Selection era, and possibly also a rare place associated with the earlier squatting era. The building dates from at least the 1860s, and may be as early as the 1840s.

¹ If further evidence can be found to indicate that it was a squatting era shepherd’s cottage, this level of significance should be reviewed

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is of architectural interest. Although altered, the cottage still demonstrates some original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form, random rubble wall construction, single storey height and the modest scale. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the random stone chimney breasts, single door and window openings and the location and form (if not the extent) of the front skillion verandah. The corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding is also appropriate, although not original or early.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is a scarce example of a surviving building in Melton Shire associated with the Selection Acts, and a rare example of a reasonably intact stone dwelling from that period. There is some evidence that the building dates to the earlier period (1840s) of John Aitken's *Mount Aitken* squatting run. Aitken has been credited as being Victoria's first inland settler. He was the second settler (after John Batman) to bring sheep to Port Phillip, and was the colony's leading flockmaster in its early decades, revered for having improved merino sheep more than any other. The timber portion of the dwelling was destroyed in a fire c.1945, and the remaining stone portion is testament to the major role of bushfire in the Shire's history and heritage. An incomplete ring of stone walls that survives, in poor condition (some non-professionally repaired) around the crown of the hill to the south (on an adjacent property), associated with either the selection or pastoral eras, is contributory to the significance of the place.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is socially significant at the local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study, and was visited in an early Melton and District Historical Society excursion. Since c.1970 its heritage values have been recognised by successive owners, who have conducted various repairs to the place, and by photographers and artists.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The cottage and dry stone walls may provide archaeological evidence of local historical significance regarding early pastoralism.

Overall, the Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is of LOCAL significance.

Description:

The small Foard's Shepherd's Hut, at 189-193 Blackhill Road, retains its open rural setting, with uninterrupted views of the surrounding pastoral land. The cottage garden is surrounded by a recent timber post and rail fence with random rubble corner and gate piers, which have been constructed in the past two decades. The fence is approximately 1400 mm high and there is a tubular steel gate with scrolled top. The garden is rudimentary, largely comprising open grassed areas punctuated by a few plantings, including agapanthas towards the rear.

The single storey, random rubble, Victorian vernacular styled cottage is characterised by a simple gable roof form, with an introduced wide skillion verandah at the front. These roof forms are clad in recent corrugated Colorbond. The gable end on the western end has a wide overhang, suggesting that the roof originally extended to form another space at this end. Other early features include the single door opening (although the door has been introduced) and a small window opening flanking the doorway on the east side. This façade is unusually asymmetrical, again suggesting that a western space has been demolished. Further evidence is found in the western wall that appears to have been reconstructed, as indicated in the variation in mortar colour and texture and the mortar joints at the front corner. The random

rubble chimney breasts and fireplace may be early, although the face brick chimneys appear to have been introduced, replacing earlier stone chimneys.

The interior of the building consists of a single room, to which a loft has recently been added, making use of an existing small window at the eastern end.

An original underground tank, now excavated to its original depth of over three metres, remains near the cottage. There are some stone foundations of outbuildings that were burnt in the c.1945 fire that swept through the district.

Partly on the site, and across the boundary of the adjacent property, around the crown of the hill, is an incomplete ring of dry stone walling, forming a ring some 150 metres in diameter. This is mostly in poor to ruinous condition, but portions have been rebuilt by the owners in recent decades. Part of the wall appears to have been professionally constructed conventional double wall. Some parts appear to have been extended to c.1 metre wide at the base; this is likely to be the result of later clearing of paddocks (ie, the wall is partly a 'consumption' wall).

History:

The cottage has been known amongst older generations as the 'Shepherd's Cottage', probably associated with the Clarke pastoral estate.² The local tradition that it was a squatter's shepherd's cottage is supported but not completely confirmed by documentary evidence; it may date to the selection era.

If it was a shepherd's cottage, it is more likely to have been associated with the 1836 *Mount Aitken* squatting run of John Aitken, rather than having been part of WJT ('Big') Clarke's 1851 'Red Hill' (Sunbury Special Survey) pastoral run. WJT Clarke did not own land in this district until his 1851 Sunbury Special Survey, and subsequent Crown Land purchases in 1852. This particular property was never owned by him, and while it may have formed part of his 'grass-right' (entitlement to lease unalienated crown land adjacent to his freehold allotments), it is highly unlikely that he would have built a stone shepherd's cottage or boundary rider's hut on a property for which he did not own, when he owned a vast amount of property immediately adjacent.

The cottage is situated on what was originally John Aitken's *Mount Aitken* pastoral run. It is approximately 1.6 kilometres west of Aitken's homestation.³ John Aitken was not only the first European settler in this locality, but apparently the second pastoralist, after John Batman, to land sheep at Port Phillip. Aitken is said to have began planning to cross Bass Strait as early as 1833.⁴ On 20 July 1835, the day before Fawcner's *Enterprize* departed to lay claim to the foundation of Melbourne, Aitken left Launceston in the *Endeavour* to prospect the pastures which John Batman had discovered across the Strait. His party returned to Launceston on 29 August 1835. On 22 March 1836 Aitken again set sail for Port Phillip, this time to settle. Some 1600 sheep were loaded aboard the brig *Chili*. It ran aground on a sandbank off Arthur's Seat, where the surviving sheep were landed and driven (with the help of local Aboriginal people) around to the embryonic settlement of Melbourne on the Yarra. On May 6 1836 Aitken

² Mrs Mary Tolhurst (personal conversation, 17/5/2002) obtained this from a former generation of the nearby Beaty family, who have lived in the area since c.1850. The Hardimans and Foards, owners of the property in the post war era, have also inherited the local lore that the property was a shepherd's cottage situated on the boundary of WJT Clarke's Sunbury Special Survey estate.

³ Lands Victoria, Historic Plan: 'Roll 113' (10/9/1839). 'Aitken's woolshed' by contrast, was situated some 3.5 kilometres from his homestead (SLV, T Bibbs, 'County of Bourke, Corrected up to 1857')

⁴*The Argus*, 14/7/1945

drove the 600 remaining sheep to the uplands between Sunbury and Gisborne where he had previously chosen to settle.

In March 1837 John Aitken acted as a guide for Governor Bourke's party on its climb of Mount Macedon. Bourke was impressed by Aitken, and named the hill at his station Mount Aitken.⁵ Both Bourke and Captain King recorded the fine pasture and water in the area to the east and north of Aitken's station.

John Aitken's settlement at *Mount Aitken* has been described as Victoria's '...first inland occupation of sheep country.'⁶ The improvement of Victoria's merino sheep up to the 1860's owed more to Aitken than to any other sheep breeder.⁷ 'No pioneering enterprise was more useful to Port Phillip', one historian concluded of the *Mount Aitken* pastoral run.⁸ For several decades Aitken was revered as the colony's leading flockmaster. Each year some two hundred buyers attended his annual sale of Saxon sheep, which was preceded by a lavish champagne lunch and followed by an all-night carousal.⁹

A taciturn Scot, Aitken was strong and powerful although then in his late fifties. There are several accounts of his encounters with the local Aboriginal people. The most dramatic account, by a contemporary, has him locked in hand to hand combat with a single native intent on his provisions, from whom he managed to escape by mounting his horse and fleeing.¹⁰ Another describes an incident in which he was attacked by 40 blacks, and narrowly escaped being hacked to death by a black armed with a tomahawk.¹¹ These may have been versions of an officially recorded incident - apparently a deliberate act of resistance by local natives to the occupation of their land - of April 1838. A party of 40-50 ranged widely around the territory, going first to John Aitken, who managed to dispossess them of two of their three guns. The next day (with women and children) they visited George Evans and camped at Jackson's (at Sunbury), threatening a shepherd, spearing sheep and setting their dogs upon the flock, driving up to 50 away. They continued on to other squatting stations towards the Werribee where similar 'depredations' took place.¹² On 19th May the speared and disembowelled body of shepherd Samuel Fallon was found near Mt Macedon.¹³ A party of seven natives were captured and taken to Sydney for trial.

⁵ Boys, RD, *First Years at Port Phillip* (Robertson and Mullens, Melbourne, 1935), pp.68-9. Also:- Dixon, HP, 'Early Settlement of the Gisborne "Bush Inn" District: 1802 to the Gold Rushes', (typescript, 1981), p.5; Milbourne, J., *Mt. Macedon: Its History and Grandeur 1836-1978* (self published, Kyneton, 1978), pp.26-7.

⁶ Boys, *op cit*, p.49; Anderson, H (ed.), Gurner, HF, *Chronicle of Port Phillip*, (Red Rooster, Melbourne, 1978), p.30.

⁷ Pike, D (ed.), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, (Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1977), Vol. 1, p.4.

⁸ Sayers, CE (ed), Bride, TF, *Letters From Victorian Pioneers*, facsimile edition (Lloyd O'Neill, Melbourne 1983), p.47.

⁹ Clarke, Michael, 'Big' Clarke (Queensberry Hill, Carlton, 1980), p.108

¹⁰ Brown, PL (ed), *The Narrative of George Russell of Golf Hill*, (Oxford University Press, London: Humphrey Milford, 1935), p 111.

¹¹ Symonds, IW, *Bulla Bulla: An Illustrated History of the Shire of Bulla*, (Spectrum, Melbourne, 1985) p.16

¹² Cannon, M, *Historical Records of Victoria: The Aborigines of Port Phillip, 1835-1839*, Vol 2A, (VGPO, Melbourne, 1982), pp 291-4, 299-301. Presland, G.(ed) *Journals of George Augustus Robinson, January-March 1840*, (Records of the Victorian Archaeological Society, No.5,1977) p.4. This was similar to an incident involving a shepherd described in Symonds (p 16), said to have occurred on the same day as the mass attack on Aitken.

¹³ Symonds, *op cit*, p 16.

Another view of Aitken and the natives during these episodes is recorded by Batey. Original pioneer Kenneth Scobie Clark, of the Great Lake Company, had told him:- ‘Aitken would not permit the aborigines to trespass upon his run, and also that the blacks feared him. One of his [Clark’s] items was to the effect that Aitken, grappling with a native, did his best to break the mans neck.’ While Batey conceded that Clark was not the most reliable witness, his account of the blacks’ attitude to Aitken was corroborated by a reliable witness. He also recounted that an old lubra, referring to Aitken, had asked whether ‘Debbil debbil was dead.’¹⁴

Aitken’s own account of the relations with local Aboriginal people was expressed in a letter to Governor La Trobe in 1853. When the ‘Mt. Macedon tribe’ came to his tent soon after his arrival at Mt. Aitken:

‘... I did all in my power to conciliate them, by giving them rations of rice, sugar, flour etc. while they remained about the place’. The tribe in the Mount Aitken area however was ‘... more savage than the Western Port tribe, a neighbour of mine (Mr Franks) and his servant being murdered by serving out food to them... I had great reason to be thankful that I succeeded in saving myself and shepherds from sharing a similar fate’.¹⁵

Unlike most squatters Aitken married and raised a family while on the property, and maintained 23 servants there.¹⁶ By the early 1840s his own residence was described by visitor Rev. John Dunmore Lang as a ‘sylvan cottage’, with vines, orchard and flower garden.¹⁷ This was a much more established or permanent homestation than others in the area. According to Isaac Batey, ‘Evans (George Evans of *Emu Bottom*) and Aitken our way were the only men that put up stone buildings.’¹⁸ It is possible then that his outstations were similarly built on more substantial lines.

An undated early map marks, in handwriting, a ‘Shepherds Cottage’ (or ‘Shepherds Cottages’) on the same allotment as the present cottage, although a few hundred metres to the south, nearer the junction of the two creeks.¹⁹ This is quite an early map, and geographical features such as streams are not plotted to a final degree of accuracy, so it is possible that the reference is to the current property. The ‘end date’ of the map is early c.1852, as the most modern reference on the map show a few allotments alienated to WJT Clarke on 29th January 1852.²⁰ The cottage reference appears to pre-date these references, and is likely to be earlier than 1850. Another undated early map marks ‘Shepherd’s Huts’ in the same position.²¹

Usually notations such as ‘hut’ or ‘outstation’ were made by surveyors as they conducted the original surveys along waterways in the late 1830s and early 1840s. While this area was surveyed by contract surveyor WW Darke in 1842, the waterway itself had been surveyed by 1839.²² While it is possible that the cottage was marked on an 1842 or even 1839 map, its

¹⁴ Batey, *Pioneers*, *op cit*, pp 16-17.

¹⁵ Sayers, *Bride*, *op.cit.*, p.50.

¹⁶ Clarke, Michael, ‘*Big’ Clarke* (Queensberry Hill, Carlton, 1980), p.108

¹⁷ Lang, John Dunmore, *Port Phillip, or the Colony of Victoria*, (Glasgow, 1853), p 97.

¹⁸ Batey, Isaac, RHSV Manuscript, 27/1/1910, p.125

¹⁹ Lands Victoria, Put Away Plan: ‘G 47’

²⁰ Parish Plan, Parish of Yangardook; This was one of many crown allotments purchased by Clarke adjacent to his 28,000 acres Sunbury Special Survey granted on 1st May 185 (Clarke, Michael, ‘*Big’ Clarke* (Queensberry Hill, Carlton, 1980), p.112)

²¹ Lands Victoria, Historical Map: ‘Feature 483’ (Buttlejork).

²² Scurfield, G & JM, *The Hoddle Years: Surveying in Victoria, 1836-1853* (Institution of Surveyors, Australia, Canberra, 1995), p.79; also Lands Victoria, Historical Plan: ‘Roll Plan 113’ (10/9/1839). If the surveyors field notes survive these might provide further information regarding the exact location of the hut, and also other descriptive information (eg sheep yards).

construction of stone makes it very unlikely to be of such early date. The first shepherd's huts were mostly constructed of sod, pise, wattle and daub, bark, slab, or combinations of these (as were their employer's first dwellings). 'Permanent' stone buildings did not generally appear until c.1848, with implementation of the 1847 Land Regulations allowing squatters to obtain security of tenure over their pastoral runs (or at least the homestead stations, as part of a pre-emptive right). Local memorialist Isaac Batey reports that George Evans (*Emu Bottom*, c.1848) and John Aitken were the only squatters known to have erected stone buildings in the district in the 1840s.²³

It is highly unusual for a shepherd's dwelling to be described as a 'cottage' (rather than 'hut', or 'outstation') in such an early plan, which would support the possibility that the huts described on the c.1852 map were of a more substantial structure, such as the stone cottage on the site today. The *Mount Aitken* squatting run was unusual in having been built on substantial lines, with stone buildings, from the 1840s, and this may have been one of Aitken's improvements. And given the vulnerability of shepherds, and the apparently tense relations between the local Aboriginal people and Aitken, it is also conceivable that he built stone shepherds' cottages to provide his employees some protection from natives. However, it is also possible that the present cottage is reconstructed, or was built around an earlier building in which stone was only used for the hearth and chimney. It may date to the later selection era.

Around 1851 everything changed for Aitken and other local squatters. In the wake of the unparalleled drought of 1850, and then the 'Black Thursday' fires, on 6 February, WJT 'Big' Clarke had grabbed some 183 square miles of their prime land as part of his Sunbury Special Survey.²⁴ Although not completely absorbed, Aitken lost most of his pastoral land, but was able to purchase a relatively small station by purchasing crown land in the vicinity of his homestation that had not been part of the Special Survey.²⁵ This included large allotments on the opposite side of Kororoit Creek to the present cottage.

Some of the land along the creeks, including Crown Allotment 1, Section 22, Parish of Yangardook, on which the cottage is situated, was not alienated by the Crown at this time, and became available for selection a little later. The current property, of 57 acres 1 rood 25 perches, was taken up under the Land Act 1865, and freehold title to it was granted under the Land Act 1869. T McGuiness obtained title on 22nd December 1871.²⁶

McGuiness, who was illiterate, applied for the property in May 1866. By September 1871 his 'improvements' were listed as:

30 chains stone walling	£ 45
90 chains post & rail & log fence	£ 50
30 acres cultivated	£120
House, Yards, etc	£ 65

He obtained freehold title on 22nd December 1871.²⁷ There is no indication whether any of the buildings or yards were already on the site when he took up the selection.

In July 1888 Thomas McGuiness sold the property on account of illness. The auction notice describes the property as '57 acres, land, house and other improvements, horses and cattle, farm

²³ Batey, I, 'Pioneers of the Sunbury District' (1907), SLV Manuscript, MF 506, p.125.

²⁴ Clarke, *op.cit.* pp.110-4.

²⁵ Parish Plans, Parish of Holden; also PROV, Pastoral Run Papers, Run No.843 'Mount Aitken', correspondence 3/6/1851.

²⁶ Parish Plan, Parish of Yangardook

²⁷ PROV, VPRS 627/P0/Unit 90 (8073/31)

implements, stacked hay and straw etc'. The dwelling was described as 'good cottage of stone and wood'. There was also a 'barn, stable, dairy etc, and underground tank adjoining.' The property was subdivided into 6 paddocks by stone and timber fencing, of which some stone walling remains. There was 22 acres of wheat and oats planted at the time of the sale.²⁸

The cottage then was part stone and part timber. We know that one half was timber and the other half stone, so it is very possible that McGuinness had extended the existing shepherd's cottage. If the (former) timber portion was the original part of the cottage, it is very likely that the existing stone hearth and chimney at the west end is a relic of the original shepherd's cottage (ie, pre 1852). It is also possible that the present stone portion of the building was the original part of the cottage, and perhaps the original shepherd's cottage. Use of stone for a modest building would be very unusual in squatting runs in the early years (pre mid 1840s), but as discussed it is possible. Use of stone was less unusual after c.1848. But use of stone for selectors' cottages was also much less common than machine-sawn timber, which was accessible (especially in this area, close to Melbourne) and preferred by this time.²⁹ Detailed archaeological investigation of the cottage's fabric is likely to contribute further information which might resolve the question of whether the present building was the original part of the McGuinness cottage, and perhaps its era.

The 1888 advertisement also claimed that McGuinness had lived on the property for 30 years, meaning he would have taken up residence in the late 1850s. This is either a mistake, or else he was previously occupying or renting the property (living in the cottage), which may then have been leased from the Crown by the *Mount Aitken* estate, which would have claimed it as one of its earlier improvements.

In 1892 a 'Diverau' is shown as the owner of this allotment, of c.57 acres, which was apparently still used for small farming.³⁰ This was no doubt 'Deverall', a gardener at the Sunbury Asylum who had purchased the farm in 1888. The family worked the property, walking from Sunbury; son Jim stayed in the cottage.³¹ The present cottage shows in its present location by 1916.³² A fire that swept through the area c.1945 (destroying the Thompson's farmhouse opposite) destroyed the timber part of the cottage and all outbuildings.³³

When Mr and Mrs R Hardiman purchased the property opposite in 1951 the cottage was a 'wreck', with only the walls standing. They purchased the cottage property itself from Mr Tim McKellar in the mid 1970s, and began repairing it. They sold the property in the mid 1970s to Mr and Mrs J Cross on the proviso that the cottage be preserved not destroyed. The Crosses roofed it, and made it into a guest room.³⁴

The property was purchased by Ian and Bev Foard in 1981. They removed a deteriorating pine paling roof that had been added by the previous owner, and replaced it with the present colourbond roof. To provide some protection to the weak mortar, they also added the verandah. A metal strap was placed around the whole building to help stabilise the walls, which are

²⁸ HR Dixon (Gisborne), Auction Notice, 24th July 1888

²⁹ This statement is based on research of Land Files for Selections in both Melton and Hume Shires.

³⁰ Shire Map Series, Parish of Yangardook (1892)

³¹ Mr WT Deverall, personal conversation, 11/1/2006

³² Army Ordnance Map: Sunbury (1916)

³³ Mr Ian and Mrs Bev Foard, personal conversations, 11/1/2006, 17/1/2006. The Foard's acquired the property in 1981, and obtained this information from older neighbours.

³⁴ Mr and Mrs Hardiman, personal conversation, 18/1/06.

jeopardised by the expanding and contracting clay soil. The Foards cleaned out the debris in the underground tank, which was some 3 metres deep, and is now in use.³⁵

The Melton and District Historical Society visited the cottage on an early excursion, when Mary Tolhurst took a photograph of it in its pre-restored condition.³⁶ Since c.1970 its heritage values have been appreciated by successive owners, who have undertaken various repairs to it. Many passers-by have photographed it, and local artists painted it, in recent decades.³⁷

According to local lore, the partly intact ring of dry stone wall (mostly ruinous), forming an incomplete circle some 150 metres in diameter around the crown of the hill immediately south of the cottage, may be the remains of a shepherd's enclosure for corralling sheep at night.³⁸ This cannot be confirmed; it might simply be related to the McGuinness selection, as both a paddock wall and a consumption pile in what is a stony part of the property. It would also appear to be very large for an enclosure intended only to keep a flock at night. However the presence of early shepherd's huts / cottage on the property, and its unusual shape and location, does support the possibility that it is a rare relic of the early pastoral era. And another site (Place No.81) that local tradition has it is the remnants of a shepherd's enclosure, is a primitive dry stone wall about 150 metres long, on top of an escarpment overlooking the East Branch of the Kororoit Creek; if completed by a pigsty or brush fence or hurdles, this would also have constituted a large enclosure. Detailed archaeological investigation (for example, evidence of size and design of other early enclosures, and close examination of its construction technique), and historical research on early shepherds' corrals, would provide evidence that might help resolve its origins.

Thematic Context / Comparative Analysis:

Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Pastoral', 'Farming', 'Water/Fire'

Comparable Places in Shire of Melton:

The bluestone dwelling off Blackhill Road represents one of very few surviving nineteenth century stone Victorian vernacular buildings in the Melton Shire. Such comparable places include:

- The restored bluestone cottage on Melton-Gisborne Road (Place No.037);
- The abandoned bluestone cottage on the former *Mt Kororoit Farm* property, west of Kororoit Creek (Place No.144). A Victorian vernacular styled bluestone dwelling with a steeply pitched hipped roof clad in galvanised corrugated steel. The openings in the building are missing, but there is also considered to be sufficient surviving original fabric to justify its architectural significance;
- Payne House, 638-688 Greigs Road, Rockbank (Place No.373). This random rubble Victorian vernacular styled building has a long simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Half of the roof to the early northern end is missing and the rear projecting wall of this section is ruinous. The bluestone dwelling off Mt Kororoit Road appears to be more intact.

³⁵ *ibid*

³⁶ Mrs Mary Tolhurst, personal conversation, 11/1/2006. The photograph is held by the M&DHS.

³⁷ Foard, *op cit*

³⁸ Foard, *op cit*; Hardiman, *op cit*

- The considerably altered former *Fulham Park*, on Beatty's Road, Rockbank (Place No.316);
- The small cottages on *Glen Elgin* (Place No.039) opposite *The Elms*, also of sedimentary stone, were apparently built in the mid twentieth century;
- The stone cottages and outbuildings that are part of the large pastoral stations of *Rockbank* (Place No.428), *Exford* (Place No.269), and *Eynesbury* (Place No.281);
- The Honey Shack, 7-9 High Street Melton (Place No.221). Restored and altered town cottage;
- *Evansdale*, 678 Boundary Road, Truganina (Place No.327): a now uninhabitable early stone cottage and earlier stone outbuildings. The stable at Evansdale farm complex has a gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and bluestone wall construction.
- *Dunvegan* (Place No.228): a relocated and altered township dwelling.
- Outbuilding, 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road (Place No.019). Although the southern wall has been repaired, this random rubble Victorian vernacular outbuilding, with its gabled roof form and surviving walling, is a representative example of a surviving nineteenth century farm building in the Shire.

This is a rare dwelling built of sedimentary stone in the Shire, reflecting the 'schistose' ranges nearby. The most comparable buildings in the Shire, in terms of this material, are the small cottages on *Glen Elgin* (Place No.39).

The house is also one of only nine known surviving places in the Shire associated with the Selection Acts. At least 113 Selection Act allotments were allocated in the Shire, in the Parishes of Kororoit (65) and Yangardook (48).

Selection Act places for which heritage overlay controls are proposed in this study:

Place No.061	Former McGuinness Cottage, Blackhill Rd (c.1860s)
Place No.460	No.? Western Highway (c.1895).
Place No.462	2341 Western Highway (1898).
Place No.009	Chapmans Road, Paines (c.late 1860s-1892, c.1890?)
Place No.144	'Mt Kororoit Farm', stone cottage; important dry stone wall context (late 1860s)
Place No.457	Water Reserve Road, Rockbank (c.1900, c.1913)
Place No.041	Hjorth dam etc (no dwelling; see also dams)

Selection Act places for which heritage overlay controls are not proposed in this study:-

Place No.316	Fulham Park (much altered but locally prominent bluestone)
Place No.315	House, 1232 Beattys Road (much altered)

No other shepherd's cottage is known to survive in the Shire. The most historically equivalent buildings would be the bluestone outbuildings associated with pastoral homestations at *Exford*, *Rockbank (Deanside)* and *Eynesbury*, although these are much more substantial and professionally constructed, and later (with the possible exception of *Exford*).

Place No.81, a remnant drystone wall c.150 metres long, and small cave, overlooking Kororoit Creek is thought by local tradition to be the remains of an early shepherd's sheep enclosure and dwelling.

Condition:

Fair-Good

Integrity:

Altered

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion in the Melton Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay.

Recommended Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls:

External Paint Controls:	<i>Yes – random rubble walls</i>
Internal Alteration Controls:	<i>No</i>
Tree Controls:	<i>No</i>
Outbuildings and/or Fences:	<i>No</i>

Other Recommendations:

- Further investigation might resolve whether the place was an early Shepard's cottage. This would include archaeological investigation of the construction of the building, and of construction of the semi-complete dry stone wall around the crown of the sill on this and the adjacent (south side) of property. Research of the surveyor's field notes might also provide further historical information and is desirable.