

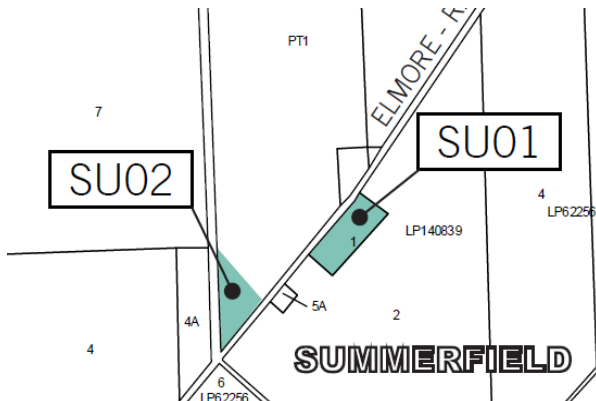
Name	Viewbank (ruin)	Reference in 1998 Marong Study	SU2
Address	2856 Elmore-Raywood Road , north-east of intersection with Ludemans Road, Raywood ¹	Map reference	VicRoads 44 F2
Building type	Timber ruin, presumed to be a food store	Survey date	August 2010
Date of construction	After 1882	Recommendation	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	The log ruin is of local historical and technological significance.		



Left: South side of the former store, with the fireplace of the former house at right. Right: The entry to the former larder (east face).



Left: Embanked earth at the rear of former food store. Right: Detail of south face.



Left: Aerial view, 2010, with the approximate site of the timber ruin indicated (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown as SU02. Note, the extent of the property boundary is indicative only.

Intactness Good Fair ✓ Poor

History

The area of open, gently undulating farming country approximately eight kilometres east of Raywood was first settled in the 1860s, by William Waugh.² The only road through the area was the Kamarooka Road, now the Elmore-Raywood Road. Subsequent settlers, including the Frazier, Hocking, Brown and Farnald families, named the settlement Summerfield.³ It was renamed Neilborough North in 1901, reverting to Summerfield in 1924, in response to an outcry from residents.⁴ The timber school at Summerfield was constructed in 1876, and a church (demolished) was constructed in 1888.⁵

Thomas Hocking (1836-1896) was born in Cornwall and arrived in Victoria in 1852, initially mining at White Hills.⁶ He was an early selector at Summerfield, taking up 130ha (320 acres) in 1882.⁷ He subsequently built this log building, a presumed food store, on his selection and named the property *Viewbank*. He also built a house on the landholding. It remained in the Hocking family until its purchase from Miss Florence Hocking by Peter Ludeman in the 1990s.⁸ Hocking and his wife Margaret also selected land at Tandarra, where they built another house of bark and mud.⁹

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 4.1: Living off the land
- 5.8: Working
- 6.8: Living on the fringes

Description & Integrity

The collapsed log structure at *Viewbank*, a property on the north side of the Elmore-Raywood Road at Summerfield, is of massive construction, and comprises double thickness logs walls with the cavities filled with earth. There is a rammed earth embankment at the rear (west). The logs have chocked corners fixed with iron pins. The corner posts have U shaped terminations accommodating cross beams. There is evidence of notches cut for a cross beam to carry the roof in the centre of both sides. The remnant roof structure comprises beams oriented east-west. It is possible that the roof was pugged with earth as a sealant. No evidence survives of the original entry.

The location of the former farmhouse (demolished) is indicated by the brick fireplace approximately three metres from the entrance to the larder. Former farm outbuildings survive in poor condition. An avenue of gums leads to the former farmhouse from the Elmore-Raywood road at the south.

Comparative Analysis

In the early years of European settlement, log construction was the preferred method of building police lock-ups in Victoria. In situations where brick or stone were unavailable, it was a means of constructing secure buildings. Surviving Victorian log lock-ups include an example at Eaglehawk, approximately 25km south of Summerfield. Miles Lewis, Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning at the University of Melbourne, suggests that the use of log construction by the police was a factor in log buildings gaining some currency on the goldfields.¹⁰ A number of log-built diggers' huts are recorded at the Bendigo goldfields in 1852. A contemporary description records the structures as, '... built of solid trunks of trees laid horizontally ... The logs are notched at the corners, and the interstices daubed with clay ... The roofs of these are almost flat, covered with sheets of bark, with logs on the bark to keep it down'.¹¹ Other recorded log cabins in the area include an example built by William Sinclair at the junction of Derwent and Long gullies in 1854¹² and another at Neilborough East, built by brothers Harry and John Mountjoy (undated).¹³ Professor Lewis notes that log construction became more common after 1870, following the Land Acts (Selection Acts) which forced settlers into heavily forested land. The requirement of the selection leases to clear sites for habitation and cultivation was a factor in the increasing use of timber as a construction material from this time.¹⁴

Extant examples of log constructions in the Bendigo region include Francis Harritable's log buildings at Sebastian and the Eaglehawk lock-up. Harritable's stores (also in a ruinous condition) were originally gable roofed buildings with logs laid horizontally, the corners formed by notches cut out of the ends and gaps between the logs pugged with mud and broken bricks. The lock-up is of comparatively

refined construction and survives in good condition. The former food store at *Viewbank* is a comparatively crude construction, of massive proportions.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

The log ruin at Viewbank (built after 1882), on the Elmore-Raywood Road at Summerfield, is historically significant. It provides evidence of a farmstead at Summerfield, a small farming community east of Raywood, which was settled from the 1860s. The property was occupied by Thomas Hocking and his family from 1882, and the Hocking family retained ownership of the site until the 1990s. The ruin demonstrates an innovative approach to the building of a food store on an isolated farm, making use of available materials and vernacular construction. Thomas Hocking, although apparently a settler of limited means, was inventive and resourceful in his approach to this building. This is demonstrated through the use of the massive timbers and other construction techniques which remain evident, such as the double thickness log walls with earth-filled cavities, and the use of the rammed earth embankment to the rear. Hocking also built another house of bark and mud at Tandarra.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

The log ruin at Viewbank is significant as a rare surviving example, albeit in a depleted state, of a log structure in the Bendigo goldfields region. Log construction was recorded in the region from the early 1850s. Aside from the timber lock-up at Eaglehawk, only one other complex of log structures is known to survive (Harritables at Sebastian). The subject ruin is also rare for the use of such massive timbers in its construction and as a surviving (and assumed to be) purpose-built food store originally associated with a 1880s selection.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.

N/A

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

The Viewbank ruin, presumed to have been a food store, is of technical significance in demonstrating an approach to the use of locally available materials (timber and earth) in the construction of a domestic farm building in the 1880s; and for the use of particularly large timbers in the construction, as well as earth-filled cavities and the utilisation of the rammed earth embankment. These aspects of the design would also have provided insulating benefits.

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

N/A

Criterion F: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.

N/A

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The collapsed log structure at Viewbank is of massive construction, and comprises double thickness logs walls with the cavities filled with earth. There is a rammed earth embankment at the rear (west). The logs have chocked corners fixed with iron pins. The corner posts have U shaped terminations accommodating cross beams. There is evidence of notches cut for a cross beam to carry the roof in the centre of both sides. The remnant roof structure comprises beams oriented east-west. It is possible that the roof was pugged with earth as a sealant. No evidence survives of the original entry.

How is it significant?

The log ruin is of local historical and technological significance.

Why is it significant?

The log ruin at Viewbank (built after 1882), on the Elmore-Raywood Road at Summerfield, is of local historical and technological significance. It is historically significant (Criterion A) for providing evidence of a farmstead at Summerfield, a small farming community east of Raywood, which was settled from the 1860s. The property was occupied by Thomas Hocking and his family from 1882, and the Hocking family retained ownership of the site until the 1990s. The ruin demonstrates an innovative approach to building a food store on an isolated farm, making use of available materials and vernacular construction. Thomas Hocking, although apparently a settler of limited means, was inventive and resourceful in his approach to this building. This is demonstrated through the use of the massive timbers and other construction techniques which remain evident, such as the double thickness log walls with earth-filled cavities, and the use of the rammed earth embankment to the rear. Hocking also built another house of bark and mud at Tandarra. The log ruin at Viewbank is also significant as a rare surviving example (Criterion B), albeit in a depleted state, of a log structure in the Bendigo goldfields region, where log construction was recorded from the early 1850s. The subject ruin is additionally rare for the use of the massive timbers in its construction and as a surviving (and assumed to be) purpose-built food store originally associated with a 1880s selection. Technologically (Criterion F), the Viewbank ruin is significant for demonstrating an approach to the use of locally available materials (timber and earth) in the construction of a domestic farm building in the 1880s and for the use of particularly large timbers in the construction, as well as earth-filled cavities and the utilisation of the rammed earth embankment. These aspects of the design would also have provided insulating benefits.

Recommendations

The log ruin at Viewbank is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. While the map above illustrates an extent of Overlay coverage (following indicative allotment boundaries) it is recommended that this be reduced to the historic ruin with a curtilage around it of in the order of 10 metres. The focus of significance is on the ruined log structure. In preference, maintain the log ruin in its existing condition, although 'benign neglect' may be a reasonable future outcome. In this situation, where the ruin will likely continue to deteriorate, it is recommended that the structure be photographically recorded. Ruinous structures, including those on sites with the potential to yield artefacts and other material remains relating to the historical use of the property, can also be considered for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI). The process of recommending a site for the VHI is typically undertaken by an archaeologist, who inspects the site and completes a 'Heritage Inventory Site Card' to be filed with Heritage Victoria. Details of the process are at, www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage, 'Archaeology and Heritage Inventory'.

External Paint Colours	No
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Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

References

Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

Specific:

- ¹ Changed suburb from Summerfield, from *Heritage Policy Citations Review*, 2011. November 2011.
- ² Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 345.
- ³ Marie Manning, *Back to Raywood and District*, Raywood and District Back To Committee, 1973, p.12.
- ⁴ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 345.
- ⁵ Marie Manning, *Back to Raywood and District*, Raywood and District Back To Committee, 1973, p.12.
- ⁶ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 352.
- ⁷ Shire of Marong rate book, 1882.
- ⁸ Pers comm., Peter Ludeman, interview with Ray Wallace, 14 August, 1998.
- ⁹ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 352.
- ¹⁰ Miles Lewis, 'Lock-Ups,' Section 2.02 of *Australian Building: A Cultural Investigation*, viewed online at mileslewis.net, accessed 16 July 2010.
- ¹¹ William Howitt, *Land, Labour and Gold, or Two Years in Victoria*, Longman Brown, London, 1858, p. 377, cited in Miles Lewis, 'The Goldfields,' Section 2.02 of *Australian Building: A Cultural Investigation*, viewed online at mileslewis.net, accessed 16 July 2010.
- ¹² Ralph W Birrell and James A Lerk, *Bendigo's Gold Story*, Golden Square 2001, p. 59.
- ¹³ Marie Manning, *Back to Raywood and District*, Raywood and District Back To Committee, 1973, p.12.
- ¹⁴ Miles Lewis, 'Other Log Buildings,' Section 2.02 of *Australian Building: A Cultural Investigation*, viewed online at mileslewis.net, accessed 16 July 2010.