HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Hawthorn Farm and Outbuildings		
Address	2406 Kyneton-Redesdale Road REDESDALE	**Grading**	2008 Local
Building Type	Homestead Complex		
Assessment by	Context Pty Ltd		

Recommended Heritage Protection

VHR No **HI** No **PS** Yes

Architectural Style   Victorian Period (1851-1901) Vernacular

Maker / Builder   Unknown

Integrity

Altered

History and Historical Context

History of the Shire of Metcalfe

Note: The following history is a series of excerpts from *Twigg, K. and Jacobs, W (1994)* **Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study Volume 1 Environmental History**, *Ballarat.*

The land around the former Shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor had a long history prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Jaara Jaara people are the original inhabitants of the area.

The area around Port Phillip was explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, and a large party in 1836, on the homeward leg of a journey to Portland Bay. Impressed by what he perceived as the bounty of the land, Mitchell named the area Australia Felix.

Less than a year after Mitchell's return to Sydney with glowing reports of the stocking capabilities of the land in the south, the first overlanders arrived in the district and soon thereafter laid claim to the rich basaltic plains of the Campaspe and Coliban Rivers. The pastoral occupation of the Shire was completed by 1843 and the process of shaping the landscape to fit the demands of white settlement, gathered pace.

Over the next decade many of the earliest pastoral runs were subdivided; Bowman's Run, for instance, was split in two to form Stratford Lodge and Sutton Grange [1]. It was also a period of improvements around homesteads.

During the 1850s the pressure of supplying sufficient food to the newly discovered gold diggings and the growing demand for land by miners led to the survey and sale of large areas of land in proximity to the gold fields.[2] At the time of the first land sales in the 1850s there were no restrictions on the amount of land an individual could buy and most squatters managed to purchase between 3,000 and 6,000 acres of the old leasehold. However the land sales also attracted wealthy entrepreneurs and successful miners. At Stratford Lodge almost the entire leasehold was offered for sale and between 1856 and 1857, William Degraves, successful flour miller and William Williamson created something of a stir by buying between 12000 and 13000 acres each.

In September 1851 the Mount Alexander gold rush exploded after a small notice in the Argus announced a discovery in the Mount Alexander Ranges. Serle has suggested the Alexander rush set the standard for all subsequent rushes and argues that at no other gold field was gold spread so shallowly and liberally over such a large area.[3] The temporary nature of many early gold rush workings is witnessed by isolated ruins or a cluster of buildings which once formed a small settlement. By contrast the townships which survive from this period still retain the layout, the commercial street design and many of the residences and solid public buildings of their gold field origins.

By the late 1850s it was clear that road making was needed and it was agreed that the responsibility for works should be given to each local district. The Metcalfe Roads board was proclaimed on 14 August 1860 and wasted little time in seeking money for road construction. At its first meeting it was moved that the Board 'with as little delay as possible.obtain a portion of the government grant for the present year.'[4] Rates were also levied on residents and by 1865 this must have amounted to over £1000 for this level had to be reached before a district could be proclaimed a Shire. The Shire was proclaimed in July 1865 and at this time its area was substantially increased by the voluntary addition of Elphingstone, West Faraday, Harcourt and Barkers Creek.

A seventeen mile branch line was opened to Redesdale in 1891 leaving the Melbourne-Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway at Redesdale Junction to the north of Kyneton, and then continuing through the stations of Green Hill, Edgecombe, East Metcalfe , Emberton and Barfold before terminating at Redesdale . The stations consisted of little more than a tin shed and a water tank but they rapidly became a focal point for the surrounding communities.

History of Redesdale

The first scattered buildings of the township of Redesdale grew up near Monro's Crossing (Campaspe River) on the Kyneton Heathcote Road, catering to miners en route to the Heathcote old fields. During the early 1860s telegraph coaches followed this route daily carrying mail between the gold fields and Kyneton. Nevertheless, Redesdale was scarcely considered a place of significance and when Mr Bain suggested making a road to Redesdale in 1860 there was much amusement with someone responding he might was well make a road to the moon.[5]

More extensive settlement of the area in the 1860s by the Catholic settlers prompted the survey of the Redesdale

Township and the sale of the first township blocks in 1871. Building work was characterised by the use of bluestone and by 1870 the main road boasted a police station, hotel, a Catholic Church, a post office, a bakery, a drapery and butchery with slaughter yards out the back.

During this period Redesdale established itself as a solid agricultural township. After the construction of a branch line railway in 1891 the township became an important railhead,

History of *Hawthorn Farm* and outbuildings, 2406 Kyneton Redesdale Road, Redesdale

Hawthorn Farm was established on allotment 59 and 60 in the Shire of Metcalfe. Allotment 59 was granted by the Crown to Thomas McLaren and allotment 60 granted to Michael McKenna. By 1872, Michael McKenna's holding had expanded to some 327 acres and he was in the process of purchasing another 96 acres under the 42nd Section of the 1865 Land Act. Michael McKenna probably acquired McLaren's land in the early 1870s, and he is rated for a house on his property in 1874, which was thought to be the farmhouse at Hawthorn. The McKenna family were loyal to the Catholic Chucrh and had played a significant role in the establishment of the Church of St. Laurence in the township of Redesdale. Michael McKenna donated land upon which the Church was built, and he was a trustee of the Church.[6]

[1] Randell, J. O. (1982), *Pastoral settlement in northern Victoria, Vol. 2: The Campaspe District,* Chandos, Burwood, p.138.

[2] Powell, J.M. (1970) *The public lands of Australia Felix; settlement and land appraisal in Victoria 1834-91 with special reference to the Western Plains* Melbourne, New York, Oxford University Press p .67

[3] Serle, Geoffery (1963), *The Golden Age: A history of the colony of Victoria 1851 - 1861,* Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, p. 23

[4] Metcalfe Roads Board Minutes, 10 September 1860

[5] *Taradale Express*, 16 December 1871

[6] Twigg, Karen & Jacobs, Wendy (1994), *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, Ballarat, Victoria, p. 92.

Primary Sources

Certificates of Title.

Metcalfe Roads Board Minutes, 10 September 1860

Taradale Express, 16 December 1871

Secondary sources

Benson, C. Irving (1935), *A Century of Victorian Methodism,* Spectator Publishing Co, Melbourne.

Lewis, Miles (ed),(1991) *Victorian Churches*, National Trust of Australia, Melbourne.

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Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.0 Transforming the land

4.4 Farming

Description

Physical Description

2406 Kyneton-Redesdale Road consists of a farm complex comprising a house and stable building. The house is built from bluestone with brick dressings to the window and door openings. Bluestone was quarried locally in several places at Redesdale and most buildings in the district were constructed of this material. The masonry has been painted so the effect of the contrasting materials is no longer evident. The house is double fronted with sash windows and a central door. The verandah is a later addition. There is also a timber section of the house that is of contemporary design.

The two storey bluestone stable is has a loft floor and a chimney, probably indicating that some accommodation was provided for labourers in the building. The stone masonry has been discoloured, possibly by one having a painted surface. There is a round window in the gable end and a variety of other narrow and wide opening framed by timber lintels and jambs. Some of the internal spaces have been whitewashed and rendered. The stable has a skillion roofed part at the rear and the roof cladding and original barge boards have been replaced.

Although somewhat altered in appearance, Hawthorn farm is a farm complex of note.

Physical Condition

Fair

Conservation Policy

Guidelines (Specific) -

Stonework to the barn is in need of stabilisation in order to conserve this structure.

Comparative Analysis

Hawthorn Farm is one of a number of farm complexes however it is less intact than Penarth at 2357 Kyneton-Redesdale Road and the property on Axedale-Kimbolton Road, Eppalock.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Hawthorn Farm stone and brick house and stone outbuilding (stable) dating from c.1870 is significant. The timber part of the house and the verandah is not significant.

How is it significant?

Hawthorn Farm is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

Hawthorn Farm, established by Michael McKenna in the 1870s is of historic significance for his association with the Redesdale district. McKenna was involved with the establishment of the Catholic Church of St Laurence at Redesdale through the donation of land on which the church is built. *Criterion A*

Hawthorn Farm is of aesthetic significance as a substantial farm complex comprising stone buildings of vernacular design. It is representative of a number of farm complexes in the study area. The outbuilding is of particular note for its two storey construction and design accommodating a number of uses. *Criterion D*

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

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

Criterion D Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

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

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

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	Yes
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the 2406 Kyneton Redesdale Road, Redesdale be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Grater Bendigo Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is defined by a map. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'