

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name Mount Camel Homestead
Address 770 Heathcote-Rochester Road MOUNT CAMEL **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)
Italianate

Maker / Builder Unknown

Integrity

Not Known

History and Historical Context

History of the Shire of McIvor

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

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

the land, Mitchell named the area *Australia Felix*.^[1]

The Port Phillip district was opened up for settlement soon thereafter, and much of the land in the Western districts of Victoria, including the former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye, was subsequently dominated by a series of pastoral runs. Much of the former Shire of McIvor was licensed to David Jennings as part of the Campaspe Plains run. The run covered an area of more than 144,900 acres and was populated with an estimated 12,000 sheep. Campaspe Plains was subdivided in 1852, and John Hunter Paterson established Derrinal Station on a portion of the land. His license was transferred to William Speed in 1853, and then Alfred Leonard Wilton in 1865. The license was eventually forfeited in 1880.^[2]

The discovery of gold at Bendigo and surrounding areas changed the face of the district and brought about new patterns of settlement and expansion. William John Bulling claimed to be the first man to discover gold at McIvor, and he was granted a £400 reward for the find. By 1853, over one hundred prospectors had assembled at Wild Duck Creek in the hopes of striking it rich. This number expanded the following year, and included some 2,000 Chinese immigrants.^[3]

Development of the McIvor district was led by Heathcote, where facilities emerged in conjunction with an increasing population brought on by the gold rushes. The town site of Heathcote was surveyed by Phillip Chauncey and first land sale at Heathcote held on the 24th January 1854.^[4] The Heathcote and Waranga District Road Board was formed in 1861, and became the Shire of McIvor in 1864, encompassing a number of the small towns in the district.

Religious and educational facilities were established early in the development of the Shire, initially at Heathcote, then gradually spreading to other small towns in the district. Following the cancellation of leasehold, land holdings were of a smaller scale and pastoralists were gradually overtaken by farmers. Pre-emption rights allowed squatters to purchase up to 640 acres of their pastoral leases and many took advantage of the opportunity to establish smaller holdings. Grazing, agriculture, dairying and viticulture were mainstays for the region. Alongside agriculture, the timber industry was of vital importance to the district and a number of sawmills were established. Gold and alluvial mining continued in the district for a number of years after the height of the gold rushes.

Construction of the railway from Wandong to Bendigo took place in three stages and was officially opened in October 1888. The railway encouraged further development of the region and provided an easy means of transportation of both goods and people to and from the district. The development of the Eppalock weir in the 1930s, and its incorporation into Eppalock Reservoir in 1960-65, provided local farmers with an accessible water source for their crops^[5].

In 1994 the Shire of McIvor was amalgamated with nearby Shires to form the City of Greater Bendigo.

History of Mount Camel

Mount Camel was a 40,000 acre sheep run licensed to Margaret Hyde on the 4th October 1848. The station was originally known as Mount Campbell, but by the 1870s its name had changed to Mount Camel.^[6] She sold the license to J. D. and H. T. Robertson in 1861, but by 1863 Hugh Taylor Robertson was the sole owner of the license. In 1865, Robert William Nutt and Robert Willan were the owners of the license, and they sold it to Charles Degraives of Hobart in 1869. Charles Parry Davis acquired Mount Camel in 1875.^[7]

History of House, 770 Heathcote-Rochester Road, Mount Camel

Margaret Hyde selected 320 acres at Mount Camel as part of a pre-emptive right under the 1847 Land Act, that enabled tenants of pastoral runs to freehold areas of up to 640 acres. The license for the Mount Camel run was granted to William Keith in 1842, though it was then known as Calbinibbin Creek. Keith did not undertake substantial development of the land, and it was not until later in the 1840s, under the ownership of Margaret Hyde, that it was established it as a sheep station.^[8] Margaret Hyde was the widow of George Hyde, who had arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Ariadne* on the 8th

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

January 1841. Prior to their arrival, the Hydes had lived in Honduras, where George had worked as a magistrate.[9] The Hydes' bought *Greenhills* Station from John Hunter Patterson and lived there until after George Hyde's death in 1844.

Margaret Hyde employed John Hays as her overseer when she purchased Mount Camel Station from Keith circa 1848.[10]

On the 2nd June 1853, Robert L. Paterson wrote on the behalf of Margaret Hyde in application to purchase 320 acres under pre-emptive right, which was to include the 'homestead and valuable improvements' at Mount Camel.[11]

After a series of disputes over land and the boundaries of Margaret Hyde's parcel of land, Mount Camel Station was sold to James Daniel Robertson and Hugh Taylor Robertson, brothers from Launceston, Tasmania, in 1861.[12] Following the death of his brother in 1864, Hugh Robertson sold Mount Camel to William Degraives in 1865. The following year the pastoral lease for Mount Camel was transferred to Robert William Nutt and Robert Willan, Melbourne solicitors, who represented Degraives' banking interests.[13] Degraives sold the station to his nephew, Charles P. Davis, though the place continued to be run by George Oliver, who had been employed as overseer by the Robertson Brothers.

Much improvement of the station was undertaken during the late 1860s, as the station gradually shifted from a grazing sheep to paddocks. John Begg was employed first as the overseer of Mount Camel, then later as the manager. By the early 1900s he had been overtaken in this position by Arthur Begg, his son.[14]

Charles P. Davis owned the station until it was acquired by the Victorian Government in 1921 as land for soldier settlement. The 12,300 acres of Mount Camel Station was divided into twenty blocks of varying sizes and distributed amongst returned servicemen from the First World War over the subsequent years. A block of 415 acres including the Mount Camel homestead was granted to Major Frederick George Code, a veteran of the Boer and First World Wars.[15]

This property has been in the Safstrom name from 1944 when it was purchased from Major Code's estate.[16]

[1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, p. 1.

[2] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 31.

[3] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 31.

[4] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 21.

[5] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 195.

[6] Heritage Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock Weir*, Hermes entry 6482

[7] Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 173

[8] Randell, J. O. (1982), *Pastoral settlement in northern Victoria, Vol. 2: The Campaspe District*, Chandos, Burwood, Victoria, p. 462.

[9] Randell, J. O. (1982), p. 467.

[10] Randell, J. O. (1982), p. 468.

[11] Randell, J. O. (1982), p. 472.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[12] Randell, J. O. (1982), p. 474.

[13] Randell, J. O. (1982), p. 478.

[14] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1880 - 1898.

[15] Randell, J. O. (1982), p. 499.

[16] Feedback from current owner, Dec.2008.

Primary Sources

Shire of McIvor Rate books

Secondary sources

Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor

Heritage Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock Weir*, Hermes entry 6482

Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale

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Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.0 Transforming the land

4.3 Grazing and raising livestock

Description

Physical Description

No inspection of this house has been made however it appears that it is a large Italianate house with return verandahs of cast iron and a lantern roof in the centre of the house. It is without any direct comparison in the study area. The setting includes a driveway of trees and a number of mature exotic trees around the house, including palms.

Physical Condition

Not Known

Conservation Policy

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Guidelines (Specific)

The following specific conservation actions are recommended, should the opportunity arise: An inspection of this property is recommended and this citation reviewed as per findings.

Comparative Analysis

There is no comparative house in the study area.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house, landscape setting, driveway and possibly other outbuildings. (Needs inspection)

How is it significant?

The house at 770 Heathcote-Rochester Road, Mount Camel is possibly of state significance but certainly of local historical and architectural significance to the City of Greater Bendigo. (An inspection is required).

Why is it significant?

770 Heathcote-Rochester Road, Mount Camel is of historic significance as part of the Mt Camel Estate which was a pre-emptive right granted to William Keith in 1842. It was under the ownership of Margaret Hyde that the property was established and a homestead and presumably other improvements were made.

Further work needs to be done on this after an inspection which has been refused (October 2008).

Assessment Against Criteria

HERCON CRITERIA

Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion A*

Possession of uncommon rare or endangers aspects of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion B*

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion C*

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments. *Criterion D*

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. *Criterion E*

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

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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 the continuing and developing cultural traditions.
Criterion G

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history. *Criterion H*

Recommendations 2008

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

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that 770 Heathcote-Rochester Road, Mount Camel be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater 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.'