

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name House
Address Part CA 5 Sec 8 Lyell Parish MYRTLE CREEK **Grading** 2008 Local
Building Type House
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

Fair

History and Historical Context

History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye

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

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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. Most of the area around the town of Axedale and the numerous small towns in its vicinity 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. A portion of Campaspe Plains was licensed to A. Jennings and George Playne in 1840 and the 67,000 acre station became known as Axedale. In the coming decade the holders of the license changed a number of times. By the time the leasehold over the land was cancelled in 1865, the run had greatly reduced in size.^[2]

Following the cancellation of leasehold, land holdings were of a smaller scale and pastoralists were gradually overtaken by farmers. The discovery of gold at Bendigo and the 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]

The Strathfieldsaye Road District was proclaimed in the Government Gazette on the 12th August 1861, and encompassed within it the parishes of Axedale, Strathfieldsaye, Eppalock, Mandurang, Sedgwick and Lyell.^[4] The process of election of the board was punctuated by rivalries between Catholic and Protestant faiths, a characteristic of the district which infiltrates much of its history. Strathfieldsaye met the criterion prescribed to become a Shire in 1863, a transition that was officially proclaimed on the 17th September of that year.^[5]

In 1864, Strathfieldsaye Shire was divided into three wards; Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.^[6]

History of CA 5 Sec 8 Bartys Road, Myrtle Creek

The house on Part CA 5 Sec 8 Bartys Road Myrtle Creek was built on land that was transferred to Stephen Pilcher on 5th September 1884, along with part of CA4 and the rest of CA5 Sec 8, in the Parish of Lyell ^[7]. This land consisted of 49 acres, 2 roods and 21 perches, and was bounded by Myrtle and Bendigo Creeks ^[8]. It is believed that the Pilchers were the first post contact occupiers of this land prior to this transfer, and are thought to have been the original settlers of the Pilchers Bridge area ^[9].

Following this transfer, on 10th September 1884 Stephen Pilcher took out a mortgage from a John Henry Menzies, which was assumedly for the construction of the buildings at Bartys Road. Stephen Pilcher was a farmer, and community consultation reveals that the smaller of the two buildings served as the kitchen, and the stone component was utilised as living area by Pilcher himself and his wife Mary ^[10].

Stephen Pilcher died on 26th April 1929 and probate of his will was granted to Alfred Pilcher of Pilchers Bridge on 1st November 1929. Alfred was also a farmer and was likely to have been Stephen Pilcher's son ^[11]. In September of that year Alfred took out a mortgage to the property the Bendigo and Northern District Trustees Executors and Agency Company Limited and Edith Lansell, which is possibly for alterations or new additions to the property ^[12].

Following Alfred Pilcher's death on 14th March 1932, probate of his will was granted on 21st July 1932 to Alfred Stephen Pilcher and George Henry Pilcher, both listed as farmers from Pilchers Bridge ^[13]. Following this, the property was transferred to George Henry Pilcher and Albert Hamilton Pilcher on 14th September 1949, and a portion of 3 acres on the southeastern portion of the property was transferred to Edward Morris Henry Jukes and Gladys May Jukes on 31 December 1952 ^[14]. This portion included the buildings thought to have been built by Stephen Pilcher c. 1884. The remainder of the land remained in the name of Albert Hamilton Pilcher until he died on 19 March 1981, and the probate of his will was granted to Albert Ambrose Pilcher on 23 February 1982 ^[15].

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Edward Morris Henry Jukes and Gladys May Jukes took out a mortgage from a Walter Carriethers(?) on 15 April 1955, and the property was again transferred back into the Pilcher family, with Albert Ambrose Pilcher of Pilcher's Bridge gaining ownership of the property on 19th September of that same year [16]. The property then transferred to Graeme Edward Bullock, storeman, and Rosemary Estelle Bullock, married woman on 12th December 1977, before transferring to its current owners, Kevin and Bernice Smith on 27th August 1979 [17].

- [1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, p. 1.
- [2] Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 150
- [3] Spreadborough & Anderson (1983), p. 31.
- [4] Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria, pp. 11 - 12.
- [5] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 18.
- [6] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 107.
- [7] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [8] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [9] Information received from draft citation feedback form, W Pilcher, 2008.
- [10] Information received from draft citation feedback form, W Pilcher, 2008.
- [11] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [12] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [13] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [14] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [15] Certificate of Title, Vol. 1596, Fol. 113
- [16] Certificate of Title, Vol. 8002, Fol. 157
- [17] Certificate of Title, Vol. 8002, Fol. 157

Primary sources

Certificates of Title

Information received from W. Pilcher - community feedback form, 2008

Secondary sources

Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria

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

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

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.0 Transforming the land

4.4 Farming

Description

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Physical Description

This house and outbuilding are situated at a crossing of Pilchers Creek. There are two buildings including a stone house of tall proportions and a single storey brick building with chimney. Information from the owner indicates that the height of the walls were raised. Both buildings are of a vernacular design and appear to be of relatively early construction. The larger building is of sandstone laid in a rubble pattern with small windows. The small building is of red brick with a large chimney at one end was used as a detached kitchen. The orange red brick is used in a number of early buildings in the study area, including Murrowood at Eppalock. The buildings are surrounded by a number of large trees, including a mulberry tree and peppercorns.

Physical Condition

Fair

Conservation Policy

None Specified

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The sandstone and brick buildings built c.1884 at part CA 5 Sec 8 Bartys Road are significant. The peppercorn trees and mulberry tree are also significant.

How is it significant?

The buildings at part CA 5 Sec 8 Bartys Road, Myrtle Creek are of local aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The buildings at CA5 Sec 8 Bartys Road are of historic significance for their association with the Pilcher family who are thought to have been the original settlers in the area, and after whom Pilchers Bridge is named. The Pilchers long association with the property was retained until 1952. The stone and brick buildings are representative of a farm complex built of local materials including sandstone and brick. The two storey form of the stone building is a good example of a vernacular sandstone house, although it has been altered by raising the wall height. The brick building is a good example of an early house with large chimney, and demonstrates the use of the local orange red bricks. Although there are a few examples of this brick, it is unusual in the study area. *Criterion D*

Assessment Against Criteria

HERCON CRITERIA

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

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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*

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

No

Incorporated Plan

Yes

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the house at CA5 Sec 8 Bartys Road, Myrtle Creek be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the Greater Bendigo City Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is the whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'