

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name Farm Complex
Address 197 Red Tank Road EMU CREEK **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

High

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 Farm complex, 197 Red Tank Road

Heinrich Wilhelm Schaeche Louis Schmidt bought the twenty two acres two roods and twenty three perches of allotment 6 section 3 in the Parish of Strathfieldsaye from the Crown on the 15th March 1853. He paid a total of £46.8 5 for the block.^[7]

Schmidt was probably responsible for much of the early development of the farm complex at Red Tank Road, however development was probably gradual, with new buildings constructed in accordance with the needs of the farm. He sold the property to Franz Mueller circa 1857, who took out a mortgage over the place to Henry Backhalt. The mortgage may have been a means of financing further development of the property. It is thought that Mueller either sold the property to Freiderick Kraemer, or owned it in partnership with him.^[8]

Circa 1868, Henry Backhalt became the owner of the property, which may have occurred due to a default on the mortgage he had previously financed. It appears that Backhalt sold the property on to Johann Carl Ulbrick almost immediately after acquiring it.

Hinnrich Petersen became the owner of the place circa 1871, and he took out a mortgage over the property circa 1880. Circa 1910 Gustav Pieper was the owner, and he lived there until selling the place to William Wirth circa 1920. The property then changed hands a number of times, and was subject to a number of mortgages, before being acquired by Gerald Thomas and George Alfred Truscott circa 1934. The property remained in the Truscott family until 1980, when it was sold to Joseph Michael and Mary Alison Tobin. It is currently in ownership of descendants of the Truscott family.

[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

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[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] Old law search application 113344. Note: the research notes for this property do not include dates of conveyance etc, so all dates have been estimated using proximus memorial book numbers.

[8] Old law search application 113344.

Primary sources

Old law search application 113344, Lands Office Victoria.

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

Description

Physical Description

197 Red Tank Road is a farm complex comprising a house, barn open sided sheds and stone walls. The property is situated in undulating agricultural land at Emu Creek. Some surrounding small farms are being subdivided into large residential allotments and new houses are being built in the area. The paddocks around the house and barn have sandstone drystone walls dividing them and bordering Red Tank Road. These stone walls are in a deteriorating condition and are partially collapsed.

The house is built of stone but has undergone numerous alterations including partial rendering. It is not immediately apparent that is contemporary with the barn. The house is of secondary interest as the alterations to the roof form, porch and external walls have obscured much of the original design.

The barn is built of sandstone and is over 30 metres long. It is built of random rubble sandstone with one smooth face. The interior of the barn has a loft floor built of palings and divisions for animals of palings and split vertical planks. The roof structure appears to have been reconstructed and the roof cladding is not corrugated iron, although this may not have been the original roof cladding. The barn is of particular interest for its high degree of integrity, particularly in the interior features, its exceptionally long length and its relationship to the house and stone walls.

Physical Condition

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Good

Conservation Policy

Guidelines (Specific)

The following specific conservation actions are recommended, should the opportunity arise:

Historic photographs may reveal the original appearance of the house, and further investigation of the house is recommended prior to changes to this building.

Comparative Analysis

This is the most intact outbuilding assessed by the study. It may be compared with the Chateau Dore Winery buildings.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The stone outbuilding at 197 Red Tank Road built c.1860 including the interior, is significant. The house, although of a similar date of construction has been significantly altered and is of lesser interest.

How is it significant?

The stone outbuilding and house is of local historical and architectural significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The stone outbuilding and to a lesser extent the house, at 197 Red Tank Road is of historical significance for its direct links to the farming traditions of the German immigrants who came to Australia firstly in search of gold, then to establish agricultural and viticultural activities in the district. It was owned by a number of the German families including originally Heinrich Schmidt in 1853, followed by Franz Mueller in 1857 and Henry Backhalt in 1868. *Criterion A*

The stone barn is an extremely long construction and was possibly extended several times, although the same stonework was used each time and there are only faint clues as to where additional work was constructed. It is the largest and most intact barn in the study area and has a highly intact interior with a loft floor constructed of palings, and timber divisions for animals some of which are of split timber. The roof structure has been altered and the roof cladding is of corrugated iron, although it is likely that shingles or palings were the original roof covering. The barn is rare in the study area, and is one of the best examples of German construction. The setting has stone walls throughout the paddocks, and a stone house that has been altered substantially. *Criterion E, B*

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria:

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

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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

No

Internal Alteration Controls

Yes

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

Yes

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that 197 Red Tank Road, Emu Creek be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the Greater City of Bendigo Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is as defined by a map. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'