

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name House
Address 148 Hargreaves Road EMU 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

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. 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 House, 148 Hargreaves Road, Emu Creek

The house at 148 Hargreaves Road is built on land that was leased by Patrick Brennan under Section 31 of the 1869 Land Act. Section 31 allowed license holders under Section 42 of the previous Land Act of 1865 to apply for Crown grants over their land. The Section stipulated that certain conditions had to be met in order to apply. Brennan was granted to land on the 14th of July 1875^[7], having met the conditions of his lease, indicating that the house at 148 Hargreaves Road was probably built before 1875. Brennan's grant incorporated allotment 2A and 30B2 of section 3 in the Parish of Strathfieldsaye and covered a total area of 60 acres and twenty nine perches.^[8]

Patrick Brennan transferred his property to Charles Brennan on the 26th February 1877.^[9] Charles Brennan continued to run the farm at the property. He took out a mortgage over the property on the 17th May 1879, which may have been a means of financing further construction on his holding.^[10] Charles Brennan lived at Hargreaves Road until his death in 1912, after which time letters of administration were granted to Anne Brennan, his widow. The property was transferred to Herbert Somerville on the 7th August 1925.^[11]

Horace Batchelder became the owner of the place in 1948, and sold it to William Kenneth MacKenzie on the 23rd June 1950. MacKenzie sold to Robert Curries on the 16th September 1954, who in turn sold to Thomas James Carr on the 8th January 1957.^[12]

[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

[3] Spreadborough & Anderson (1983), p. 31.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[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. 923, Fol. 418.

[8] Certificate of Title, Vol. 923, Fol. 418.

[9] Certificate of Title, Vol. 923, Fol. 418.

[10] Certificate of Title Vol. 928, Fol. 566.

[11] Certificate of Title, Vol. 4899, Fol. 654.

[12] Certificate of Title, Vol. 4899, Fol. 654.

Primary sources

Certificates of Title

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

4.3 Grazing and raising livestock

Description

Physical Description

148 Hargreaves Road comprises two gable roofed buildings sited perpendicular to each other. It is possible that this house is built from the combination of two houses as there appears to be two front doors. The chimneys at the rear are of an earlier and simpler design, however the chimney at the front is built to a later design with a cornice and use of patterned brickwork.

The timber framed, weatherboard building is surrounded by a convex profile verandah supported on timber posts. The forms of the building indicate that it may have an early date of construction; however the front chimney design does not

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

accord with this.

Physical Condition

Fair

Conservation Policy

None Specified

Comparative Analysis

There are a number of timber farmhouses in the study area and this one may be compared to 11 Argyle Street, Argyle, which is of a similar design.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house at 148 Hargreaves Road, Emu Creek, including all of the fabric of the pre-1875 timber framed, weatherboard building is significant.

How is it significant?

The house at 148 Hargreaves Road, Emu Creek, is of local historic and architectural significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The house at 148 Hargreaves Road, Emu Creek was probably built before 1875 by Patrick Brennan and his historically significant for its long association with the Brennan family, ending when the property was transferred to Herbert Somerville in 1925. *Criterion A*

The house is architecturally significant as an example of an early vernacular building, comprising two gable roofed buildings sited perpendicular to each other. It is possible that this house is built from the combination of two houses, with the house at the rear of an earlier and simpler design. Notable features include two front doors, the cornice to the chimney at the front and the patterned brickwork to each of the chimneys. *Criterion D*

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*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

Yes

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the house at 148 Hargeaves Road, Emu 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 as defined by a map. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'