
WALLAN SOUTH HUT

Location

175 NORTHERN HIGHWAY WALLAN, MITCHELL SHIRE

Municipality

MITCHELL SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7823-0084

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 8, 2022

What is significant?

The Wallan South Hut site has the potential to contain features, artefacts or deposits associated with the mid to late 19th century and early 20th century occupation of the Wallan area. The site is most likely associated with William McLeod, one of the early settlers of the Wallan region and archaeological investigations could reveal further information regarding this period of early settlement.

The site comprises the remain of a potential chimney breast (labelled basalt remains) and red brick floor (which appears handmade) located southwest of the Inverloch Castle Hotel. The foundations are approximately 4.6 metres in length and 3.3 metres wide. The remains are not intact and comprise sporadically placed basalt remains and red brick. The remains are not currently utilised and are located in an open paddock used for grazing. There are no visible intact artefacts or deposits associated with the site, however, small fragments of ceramic and glass were present. There are no modern alterations to the site visible.

The site has local historical significance to reveal information regarding the early occupation and settlement of regional Victoria. Additionally, the Inverloch Castle Hotel which is located approximately 1.8km east, was located along a major route to the goldfields and the hut may have been used by landowners during this period of movement and expansion.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site

The construction date of the structure is unknown, however, it was likely constructed during William McLeod's ownership of Portion 80 in the mid to late 19th century. The visible remains are relatively small (4.6m by 3.3m approximately) and there is no known or recorded use of the site. The site may have been used as a temporary home or outhouse during the agricultural use of Portion 80. Subsequent owners of Portion 80, such as the Laffan family, may have utilised the structure during their occupation. The site has basalt remains, red brick and small fragments of ceramic and glass scattered across what may be the footprint of a remaining structure. The site has the potential to contain intact archaeological deposits associated with the remains. There does not appear to be extensive sub-surface disturbance. The site holds archaeological potential to reveal artefacts or deposits associated with the mid to late 19th century and early 20th century occupation of the Wallan area. During this time the area was largely used for agricultural and pastoral means and any artefacts, deposits or remains associated with the site will relate to these activities. The site does have the potential to reveal a link between the Iverlochy Castle Hotel and the Laffan occupation of the Wallan area. The remains are not currently utilized and are located in an open paddock used for grazing. For this reason, the site has potential to contain artefacts, deposits or further structural remains beneath the ground surface.

Heritage Act Categories

Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number

208833

Property Number

History

The site is located on Portion 80 of the Parish of Wallan Wallan. Portion 80 was surveyed and sold to William McLeod of Wallan Wallan on the 21st of April 1858. MacLeod sold the southern portion of those 117 ½ acres to John and Mary Ann Sutherland on the 18th of October 1875 and the northern portion to Henry Cuthbert and Sarah Munro on the 31st July 1883 (Payne, 1981, p.116). In 1885 Portion 80 was purchased in 2 parts by John Laffan, owner and operator of the Iverlochy Castle Hotel. There was no recording of improvement to the land after the Laffans purchased Portion 80.

The site was recorded on an 1862 survey map of the Wallan and Donnybrook Districts. For this reason, the brick hut is likely associated with William McLeod's occupation of Portion 80. There is no known construction date of the site. The site may have been used by subsequent owners of Portion 80.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>