
FORMER NOLAN HOUSE SITE

Location

MOYSTON-GREAT WESTERN ROAD GREAT WESTERN, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0103

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 21, 2024

What is significant?

The subject site displays a construction method that is rare, uncommon and endangered. As this is considered a basic construction style, it may provide insight into a part of Victoria's cultural history that is documented seldomly.

The site meets Threshold A as it is a likely 19th century dwelling utilising local stone and mud mortar. The site meets Threshold B as it represents a unique and rare opportunity to learn more about simple construction methods in the region.

How is it significant?

The construction method of likely local stone of various sizes with mud mortar as well as the potential age of the ruins may provide insight into a neglected class of people from the historical record.

Why is it significant?

While there is a lack of information in the public record with regard to the ownership history of the site, it provides physical fabric and likely archaeological remains that will contribute to our understanding of how smaller farm buildings are constructed, and an insight into the lives of regular, less wealthy people. The plan of the site is well documented providing the opportunity for targeted research into the day to day lives of European settlers in this region from this site.

Interpretation
of Site

On 2 July 1906, Catherine Nolan became the sole proprietor of the site. As the house, outbuildings and garden were shown on the attached land survey at the time of the original grant application, it is likely that the house was built in the 19th century. This theory is bolstered by the fact that Catherine Nolan was in her mid-70s when she applied for title and passed away 6 years later. Due to this, the dwelling may be significantly older than other homesteads or houses in the region. It is unclear if she had any children and, given the house was in ruins by the 1947 aerial imagery, it is possible that no one lived in the site after the death of Catherine Nolan. This might be for several reasons but could be due to the relatively poor method of construction and small size of the home, with very haphazard stone placement and use of mud mortar. It is this construction methodology that is more unique about this property. Given the focus over the years on preserving and investigating buildings with higher quality construction, there is a lot we might learn from this particular site and how people with less wealth and status may have lived day to day and how they constructed their homes. The survey from 1905 provides a clear site plan and shows that there has been significant loss at the site through collapse and decay. It is still possible to learn from this site and it has significant archaeological potential. Land use, including subsequent farming activities may have impacted historical archaeological deposits, if any.

Other Names SITE #43 - DWELLING RUINS,

Hermes
Number 212215

Property
Number

History

SiteCard data copied on 21/06/2024: On 2 July 1906, Catherine Nolan became the owner of SPI 79~15/PP2020 (see parish map attached), being the original title grantee. The attached survey of the site, completed in 1905 shows that the dwelling and outbuildings as well as a fenced garden were in place by this time. As they are referred to as "Nolan's House and Garden" it is likely that the Nolan family built the home in the 19th century. The aerial image from 1947 shows considerably more mature vegetation that is currently present at the site on the recent aerial view. The dwelling was clearly already in ruins by the 1947 aerial image. The farm has evolved since the mid-20th century and is now part of a much larger holding. There was a reference to the site possibly being an outbuilding to "Westgate" within the Heritage Victoria feedback notes, however this is considered unlikely to be related to this property due to the distance from Westgate and the lack of historical association between that homestead and the Nolan family. The farm is now considerable and highly maintained. There is evidence that vehicles have been driven to the location of the ruins, likely to show visitors or perhaps to check on the structure. These do not appear to be the original access tracks to the property.

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/>