
PARK HILL AND WALNUT TREE



52901 Walnut Park Hill
Cottage Strathdownie 069

Location

GRUBBED ROAD, LOT 3 TP847608, STRATHDOWNIE, GLENELG SHIRE

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Glenelg Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

NB Substantial new information has just come to light which will correct and amplify this SofS.

Park Hill, off the Myaring-Pieracle Road at Strathdownie, was built before 1876 on Limestone Creek, a tributary of the Glenelg River by the selector, George Henry Ball. It is a small, symmetrical vernacular, limestone cottage. Adjacent to the cottage there is a very large Walnut tree (*Juglans regia*) which almost certainly dates from the same time. The surrounding land was farmed by G. H. Ball and other members of his family. It was one of several small holdings occupied by selectors, usually young families, on both sides of the Glenelg River some of whom married into the Ball family. A rare plan, roughly drawn survives which names the families and states the number of children in them which accompanied a petition for a new state school. Land had been reserved for a state school on the east bank of the Glenelg. Eventually several small schools were provided but their history was chequered and all closed after the Second World War under the policy of consolidation. The cottage was abandoned in 1925. It remained in the Ball family until after World War Two. It came to be known as Cameron's

Cottage after a subsequent owner. It had become derelict and was not repaired until after the land was purchased by Safcor for a pine plantation in 1984. It is now used as a weekender. It is in good condition but retains only a fair degree of integrity, with the doors, windows and roofing replaced. A new verandah and deck now project forward from the cottage. The Walnut tree is of outstanding size with an excellent form and remains in excellent condition.

How is it Significant?

Park Hill with its associated Walnut tree is of social, historical, architectural and scientific significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it Significant?

Park Hill is of social and historical significance for representing the Selection period of land settlement in Victoria, particularly remote, tight-knit communities. It is of architectural significance as an example of the small, vernacular cottages first built by selectors. The Walnut tree is of scientific significance for its form, size and condition which are comparable with other specimens of *Juglans regia* on the Significant Tree Register.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002; Glenelg - Glenelg Heritage Study Stage Two (a), Heritage Matters, 2006;
Other Names	BALL'S COTTAGE, CAMERON COTTAGE,
Hermes Number	52901
Property Number	

Usage/Former Usage

weekend cottage

Physical Description 1

Park Hill is a small, symmetrical, vernacular building built of coursed random rubble from field limestone. The walls may have been lime washed in the past. It faces northeast, towards the nearby Glenelg River. It has a central ledge and brace timber front door opening onto a new timber veranda extending forwards to form a deck. The front windows are modern timber casements with small panes. The two front rooms are located under the main gabled roof and have no ceilings, the roofs being lined with modern pine boards. The roof is corrugated sheet metal. The single room under the rear skillion roof, also pine-lined appears to have been used as the kitchen. Quoins at the junction of the front and rear sections suggests that the skillion was an addition. There are very small four-paned windows and a ledge and brace back door in the skillion section. The two chimneys are built on the south east wall. Adjacent to the chimneys are a tank stand, a concrete rain water tank and a small timber shed, all of which are modern. Immediately to the north of the cottage there is an extremely large Walnut tree (*Juglans regia*) in excellent condition and importantly retaining its lowest branches. Its form, its size and its condition are unusual and comparable with any specimen on the Significant Tree Register of the National Trust of Australia (Vic.).

Physical Conditions

The cottage is in good condition. The Walnut tree is in excellent condition.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

3.9 Farming for commercial profit

3.16 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

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/>