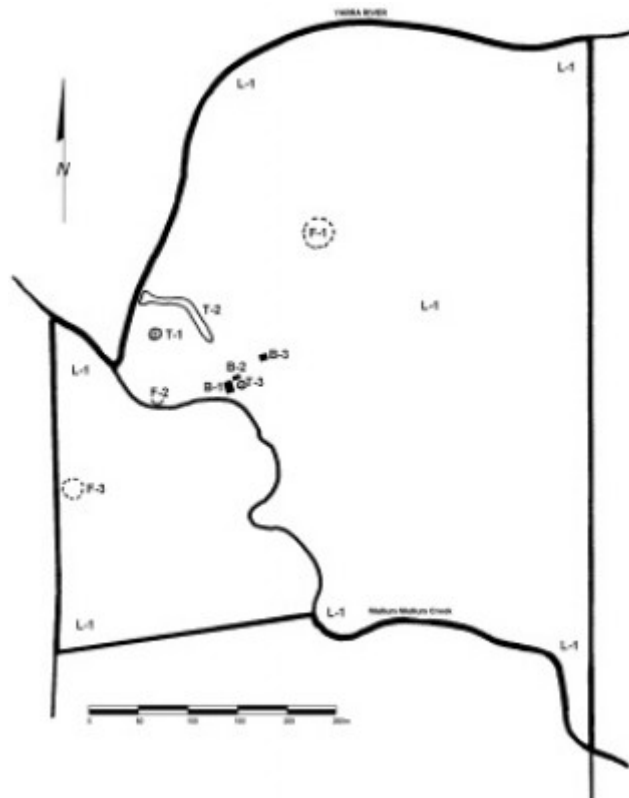


PONTVILLE



1 pontville yarra valley metropolitan park
templestowe rear view nov1996



pontville templestowe plan

Location

16-20 WEBSTERS ROAD TEMPLESTOWE, MANNINGHAM CITY

Municipality

MANNINGHAM CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1395

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO18

VHR Registration

December 11, 1997

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 14, 1999

What is significant?

Pontville Homestead was constructed in the 1840s on part of a large 1830s pastoral holding at the confluence of the Yarra Yarra River and the Mullum Mullum Creek by the pastoralist Major Charles Newman (1795-1866). Newman claimed that he and his family were the first white settlers at Deep (or Mullum Mullum) Creek and at the time were the furthest settlers east of Melbourne. The remains of his first dwelling, a turf hut, have not yet been located but are most probably quite near the confluence of the creek and river. Pontville now comprises a house constructed c.1843-50 and extended in the 1870s, remnant plantings, cottage foundations, outbuildings, bridge foundations, tracks, and a range of other features associated with the farming use of the area since the 1830s. Pontville was acquired by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works in 1978, and Melbourne Parks and Waterways now manages the property as part of Paddle Reserve.

How is it significant?

Pontville Homestead is of historical, architectural, archaeological, aesthetic and social importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Pontville Homestead is historically and socially important as the one of the last 1840s pastoral selections on the Yarra River within the metropolitan area, and for its associations with the earliest development of the Templestowe area. It is also important for its association with Major Charles Newman, a former British Army officer in the service of the East India Company, and his family, who occupied the land until 1950. Newman, one of only two ex Indian Army officers resident in Victoria at the time, was influential in the development of Australian colonial society, and his Indian experience strongly influenced the architectural form of the Pontville homestead. Newman was also associated with early district gold discoveries, which were among the first in colonial Victoria.

Pontville is historically and aesthetically important because its landscape contributes to the greater understanding of 1840s agricultural and garden history. Pontville is significant for the survival of its formal garden terracing and its remnant plantings including the *Cupressus torulosa*, *Crataegus monogyna* hedges and *Morus Nigra*. The surrounding remnant grasslands are important for understanding the early pastoral settlement of Pontville.

Pontville is architecturally important for the evidence surviving from the original homestead building, such as its distinctive Indian Bungalow form (a core of three interconnected rooms surrounded by a broad verandah formed by the continuation of the main hipped roof slope, within which the ends were built in to create further rooms) and elements of the original fabric which are of great technical interest. Important items include a displaced hearth of a stone clearly imported from outside the Port Phillip District, possibly English millstone grit, some unexplained sallow cream bricks, probably of local manufacture, pit sawn hardwood ceiling joists, and a stair opening in the ceiling trimmed with tusk tenon joints. Other significant elements are the plaster finishes and remnant ruled lime stucco - the oldest such surface finish in authentic condition to be identified in Victoria, if not Australia. Indian influenced houses are a significant element in Australian colonial architecture, but are extremely rare in Victoria. Associated with the homestead building are the farm outbuildings which are important for their ability to contribute to the historical understanding of the homestead property.

Pontville is archaeologically important for the below ground remains inherent in the location of, and the material contained within the archaeological deposits associated with Newman's turf hut and the subsequent homestead building, cottage, associated farm and rubbish deposits. The structures, deposits and associated artefacts are important for their potential to provide an understanding of the conditions in which a squatting family lived in the earliest days of the Port Phillip settlement. The survival of sites associated with early pastoral settlement in Victoria which have not been subsequently disturbed is rare.

Permit Exemptions

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS: (Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995) General Conditions: All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable. No permits are required for the following classes of works provided they are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Policy prepared by Context Pty Ltd and Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken Pty Ltd in 1995. Exterior Minor repairs and maintenance to existing buildings (not archaeological features) which replace like with like. Regular garden maintenance. Fire suppression duties Weed and vermin control Public safety Interior Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme. Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping. Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ. Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Construction dates 1843,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 1586

Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1395 in the category described as a Heritage and Archaeological Place:

Pontville Homestead, Websters Road, Templestowe, Manningham City Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the land marked L1 on Diagram Number 600539 held by the Executive Director being part of the land described as Book 805, Memorial 520 and including all archaeological remains not specified below.

2. All of the buildings, trees and features marked as follows on Diagram Number 600539 held by the Executive Director:

B-1 Homestead

B-2 Kitchen

B-3 Outbuilding and well

T-1 Mulberry Tree (*Morus nigra*)

T-2 Hawthorn Hedge (*Crataegus monogyna*)

T-3 Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*)

F-1 Webster's Cottage (remains)

F-2 Bridge abutment (remains)

F-3 Clay Pit.

Dated 4 December 1997

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G49 11 December 1997 p.3436]

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/>