
WILDWOOD ROAD FARMSTEAD

Location

165 WILDWOOD ROAD BULLA, HUME CITY

Municipality

HUME CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2307

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The site is likely to have been the location of a dwelling since the construction of Wildwood Road and appears to have still been in use until the mid-20th century. A number of domestic building and small farms were located along Somerton Road in the late-19th century, and these are perhaps related to the subdivision of the Bulla parish common under the Land Act of the 1870s. The initial homestead might have been supplemented with a number of other buildings that can be seen on aerial photographs of the 1960s. Therefore, the site may have had a mainly agricultural purpose. A later feature, a brick installation with two integrated iron vats, is still standing, though this might date from the latest stages of the site, and is suspected to be no earlier than mid-20th century. The oldest recorded features at the site are areas of bluestone paving that probably date from the third quarter of the 19th century.

Archaeological Significance The site has low to moderate archaeological significance and potential at both a local and regional scale. Though buildings at this site have undergone demolition and the ground has been modified in recent times, it is possible that structural and artefact deposits are present, which is suggested by the remains of blue-stone paving and linear features that are visible on the surface, indicating the former locations of structures on the site.

Historical Significance There are few remains of the dwellings and farms that were established around Bulla from the mid-19th century and particularly after the subdivision of land in the 1870s. Though the identification of the site with the location of the farmstead is possible using aerial sources, this is not definite, and therefore the exact nature of the occupancy of the site and its chronology are uncertain.

Hermes Number 185970

Property Number

History

There is no known historical information on this site, however, maps and aerial photography indicate the presence and chronology of buildings at the site. A structure is indicated at this site on a map of 1916 (Sunbury, 1: 63,360; Great Britain. War Office. General Staff. Commonwealth Section) and again on a map of 1938 (Sunbury, 1: 63,360; Australian Section. Imperial General Staff). An aerial photograph dating from 1963 (Melbourne North Project, Run 5, Film 1513, Photo 40.) shows structures on the southwest corner of Wildwood and Somerton Road. At the southwest corner there is a square enclosure of bushes within which is a square building, thought to be the main dwelling. To the west and south of here are five smaller buildings, perhaps ancillary structures related to settlement and/or farming. A large structure to the south is likely to be a barn. There are currently no standing buildings at the site, so their demolition must date from the last fifty years.

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/>