
FORMER COLVINSBY SCHOOL

Location

518 HILLSIDE ROAD DOBIE, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7523-0090

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

Site was located using primary and secondary historical references including a geo-referenced map c.1 91 0 showing a small allotment marked as a state school. A field survey confirmed the presence of physical remains at the state school location identified during background research. Physical remains comprise elongated mounds and are likely those of a small two roomed structure. Artefactual material identified in and around the mounds is domestic in function including glass, ceramic and metal. A small ceramic plate, possibly from a toy tea set was identified in the artefact scatter and is potentially indicative past activities involving children at the site.

Archaeological
Significance

Physical remains at the site include several -N-S, E-W mounds forming the possible outline of a small, two-roomed structure. A line of large granite stones is partially visible contained in the outside edge of the eastern mound. It is likely that in situ archaeological features and deposits are retained within the mounds. Artefactual material present within the surrounding scatter is consistent with the period of the school as identified in background research.

The site is of medium archaeological significance for its potential to contain intact archaeological deposits and features relating to 19th century educational and domestic activities at a now abandoned , rural community

Hermes
Number

191845

Property
Number

History

The parish of Colvinsby, surrounds the Great Western Highway along the southern border of the Langi-Ghiran State Park. At the foot of Mount Langi-Ghiran (named Mount Mistake by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836), was a small settlement which no longer exists. Local community consultation led to the identification of this community, known as Colvinsby. Prior to its better documented settled period, the Colvin sby locale was a staging point for miners making their way either to Ararat or into the forested area surrounding Mount Mistake / Langhi Ghiran to explore quartz leads similar to those previously discovered at Mt Ararat (*The Argus* 7 November 1855). As such, it had a considerably more knockabout and raw character than under subsequent settlement. In August 1858 the owner of the Mount Mistake Hotel (later Fay's) a Mr Jonathan ('known by a remarkable cognomen' (nickname)) Smith was charged with the brutal murder of his wife, 'a woman of about 40 years of age'. She was 'unfortunately much addicted to habits of intemperance' -as apparently was Smith. The witness to the murder who informed the local police was so offhand in his reporting of the incident, merely stating that he had seen a woman die suddenly, that prior to viewing the ghastly scene the constabulary assumed natural causes (*The Argus* 2 September 1858). Timber cutting and milling was a further local industry, possibly fuelled by the demands of miners for shoring their deep-leads. Small scale and alluvial mining dropped off, with deeper mining left to larger concerns.

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/>