
605 SUNBURY ROAD SITE

Location

605 SUNBURY ROAD, SUNBURY VIC 3429

Municipality

HUME CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2388

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 4, 2020

The site is historically significant as it could represent the early rural development of the Sunbury area. The remains located at the site are close to a weatherboard structure that was previously documented in the probate papers as being built prior to the 1860s (Mills, 2019). The site represents small scale rural settlement of the mid to late 19th century. The basalt path, wood fence remains, and drystone walls could be associated with the early weatherboard structure or stone outbuildings. No structural remains are visible from either the weatherboard structure or the stone outbuildings. The site has been abandoned since 1950 and has been used as a dump site by previous owners. Objects and debris from later periods can be found across the site, including the metal drums, plastic, glass and red bricks. Animal grazing and ploughing has likely disturbed the area. No artefact deposits were identified. The site could offer a broader insight into the rural settlement and development of Melbourne's inner western suburbs.

Interpretation of Site • Squatters Run; • Grazing land for livestock, historically and present; • Weatherboard house and associated rural structures; and • Debris site.

Hermes Number 206674

History

The subject site (Lot 2 Section 27 Parish of Bulla Bulla) was first purchased Thomas Grant at a Crown land sale in 1854. In September 1878, under the instruction of Thomas Richards (Thomas Grant's son-in-law), Lot 2 Section 27 was offered for sale. The property included a "substantial" weatherboard house, stabling, outhouses, and "all the necessary accommodation and appliances for working the farm" (Argus, 7 September 1878:2). This indicates that the Grants built the infrastructure on the property before it was sold in 1878. This is also suggested by Martin Dillon's (who rented the land) 1900 probate papers, in which the weatherboard house is described as being built before 1860 (Martin Dillon probate papers). Martin Dillon drowned on the property in June 1900 when crossing the ford over Jackson's Creek (SN&B&MA, 30 June 1900:2; Argus, 4 August 1900:15). The inventory in Martin's probate papers shows that on Lot 2 Section 27 there was a four-roomed weatherboard house containing six rooms and kitchen "erected over 40 years ago". There was also an iron-roofed and weatherboard stable with nine stalls, a coach-house, cow sheds, pigsties, weatherboard dairy with iron roof and a weatherboard men's hut. The property was fenced partly with post and rail and partly with stone walls. In 1953 Andrew Sloan, the new landowner, hosted a demonstration of a new type of forage harvester on his Bulla Road property, indicating that he was farming the subject land (Figure 6; Kilmore Free Press, 19 November 1953:4). Andrew was likely residing at Rockcliffe Park, which may account for the deterioration of the homestead on the subject land. The only substantial building visible in the old Clonpett/Dillon's Farm homestead area on a 1959 aerial photograph appears to be the homestead, which appears to be in a state of collapse (Figure 8).

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/>