
FORMER MCATEER FARMING COMPLEX

Location

375-389 BARWON HEADS ROAD, CHARLEMONT VIC 3217

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0540

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 8, 2020

What is significant?

The Former McAteer Farming Complex site is located within land purchased by Frances McAteer in 1866 and occupied by the McAteer family until 1924. The site has been assessed as having moderate-high archaeological potential within sections 1 and 3, with architectural remains relating to early rural settlement and occupation by members of the McAteer family (c.1866-1924). While subsequent activities have undoubtedly resulted in subsurface disturbance (e.g. service emplacements, landscaping, rabbit burrows, roadworks), it seems likely that in situ nineteenth-century structural remains and associated deposits remain at the site (e.g. 1866 cottage, rubbish pit). Given that the c.1867 cottage appears to retain its original floorboards, it seems likely that sub-floor deposits are preserved beneath this building (GHMH 2020b: 10).

Despite the poor condition of the c.1867 cottage, this building and its associated features are assessed as having architectural significance due to the increasing rarity of these types. The locally rare use of bluestone as a construction material suggests that the stone used at the property (cottage, outbuilding, garden bed edging) may originate from surplus stone associated with works at the nearby Australian Tannery during the 1860s (see Rowe & Jacobs 2014: CHA01).

The location of the c.1867 bluestone cottage - fronting the location of a historically important roadway - is particularly evocative of Victoria's early farming lifeways. The c.1920 bluestone outbuilding, gardens, and mature trees contribute to the aesthetics of its setting.

How is it significant?

The Former McAteer Farming Complex site is of aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, historical, and scientific significance at a local level.

Why is it significant?

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Interpretation of Site	1. Pastoralism & Township development (c.1835-1865) • Removal of vegetation. • Landform modification. 2. Residential & Farming (1866-2003) • Construction of structures/features and fencing. • Grazing and/or agricultural activities. • Service emplacements. • Realignment/widening of Barwon Heads Road. 3. Cafe & Art Gallery (2004-2010) • Restoration/occupation of the c.1866 residential complex. 4. Residential (c.2010-2020) • Minor grazing activity
Hermes Number	206986
Property Number	

History

1835-1865 vacant land

- clearance of vegetation (c.1840-1855)
- road/track (pre-1855)
- surveyed (c.1855)

1866 residential & farming

- weatherboard dwelling: 2 rooms (1866)
- garden (1866)

c.1867-1920s [McAteer family]

- bluestone dwelling: 4 rooms (c.1867+)
- garden/plantings, including exotic trees (elm, pine)
- bluestone outbuilding (c.1920)

c.1930s-1950s residential & farming

- construction of buildings east of the c.1867 cottage (pre-1947)
- subdivision (1957)
- post-and-wire fence along northern and western property boundaries (1957)

c.1960s-2003 residential & farming

- driveway and possible outbuildings associated with the c.1867 residence
- demolition/removal of structures east of the c.1867 cottage (as visible in the 1947 aerial image)
- construction of residence, outbuildings, and driveway east of the c.1867 cottage (c.1960s)

c.1964-1968 Barwon Heads Road realignment

- land gazetted for Barwon Heads Road widening (1964)
- land gazetted for Barwon Heads Road realignment (1968)

2004-c.2010 cafe & art gallery

- restoration of the c.1867 cottage
- re-roofing of the c.1920 bluestone outbuilding

c.2010-2020 residential -

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/>