
JOY ALLOTMENT 21A SITE

Location

1190 MURRUNGOWAR ROAD CABBAGE TREE CREEK, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8622-0011

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 21, 2021

Joy Allotment 21A, is of local historical and archaeological significance. The abandoned site, situated amongst regrowth forest contains a broad range of features, artefacts and archaeological deposits clearly reflects the rise and fall of the Murrungowar farming settlement. The features of the dwelling and out-building demonstrate layout and functionality of small scale farming. Positions of garden layouts may be indicated by low rock walls.

Historical Significance: The site is historically significant in demonstrating the demise of a small farming community that developed small selections on the promise of access to regional and Melbourne markets through the proposed extension of the railway from Orbost. Broadly, the Murrungowar settlement is the sad story of many years of hard-labour in clearing land, cultivating soil crops and stock, building homes, raising families and ancillary business, to abandon their hopes, dreams (and in some cases buried family members). Murrungowar settlement is evocative of an abandoned small-scale farming enterprises of the late 19th early 20th century in the regrowth forest of the Murrungowar area, an area that has largely returned to natural forest harvesting and state forest reserves.

Technological Significance: The site includes a significant range of archaeological and artefact remains from the late 19th and early 20th century, including farming implements/components demonstrating small-scale farming practices in the mountain country of remote Victoria. Understanding of conditions and type of farming may be demonstrated in range, type and wear of implements.

Interpretation of Site	The site contains a range of features and artefacts that clearly demonstrate early settlement and the opening of remote mountainous regions of Victoria during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Features and archaeology of the site demonstrate domestic, daily life in the new farming settlement. Agricultural/framing implements demonstrate types and methods of farming practice on small scale selections. More detailed analysis of the archaeological features and historical record may reveal personal information and detail about the Joy family and their relationship to the site and the broader Murrungowar settlement and community. Post forest harvesting activity has occurred in the area, particularly on the verges of the site. B This appears to have had little impact upon the features and archaeology of the site, but has caused ground disturbance in areas outside the surveyed area. The reclaiming of remaining sites features by the regrowth of large mature eucalypt forest is a potentially evocative and powerful geographic experience of abandonment and a way of life long gone.
Hermes Number	208205
Property Number	

History

Murrungowar Settlement

The forested hills of Murrungowar were settled in the 1890s, with the promise of a railway from Orbost and access to markets for produce. Selected land was cleared for mixed farming of dairy, beef, pigs, potatoes, maize and other enterprises. A township site and farming allotments surveyed. The new farming settlement initially flourished from the early to mid 1890s. Many families selected and cleared land, built homes and began farming. In the early decades, a small community supported an upper and lower school, post office, hotel and store. It was estimated that the population of the area was approximately 100.

However, an inadequate road network and poor connections to Orbost over the Brodribb River continued into the early 20th century. Combined with the non-eventuation of the railway, many of the farms were gradually abandoned from the First World War and into the 1920s.

Historically, Murrungowar was referred to as Upper and Lower locals appear to have referred to Murrungowar Lower and Upper. It also appears there were schools in both localities.

Allotment 21a (J. Joy) Parish of Murrungowar

Historic features are located within the former Murrungowar Parish allotment, 21A, originally held by J. Joy. A search of the online historical record of Trove newspapers and Public Records Victoria shows a John and a Joseph Joy living in the Murrangowar area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

An in-depth history of the site has not been undertaken, however from preliminary research, it would seem that the block in question was owned by John Joy.

John Joy was one of the pioneer residents of Murrungowar. He undertook many varied activities, and was an active member of the pioneering community. In 1906, Joy had contacted Orbost Shire Council regarding an outbreak of Mayweed in the adjacent Block 20, which was rapidly spreading. He was a member of the Orbost Railway league that was lobbying action on the railway extension. He also was active in raising funds for the building of the Lower Murrungowar School. Joy's occupation activities included farming, shearing, mining and a business in carting.

John Joy passed away at Orbost Hospital aged 84 in February 1942. His obituary claimed he was the first white man to settle at Murrungowar, where he took up land in 1882.

Like many of the selections in the locality, Block 21a appears to have been abandoned sometime in the 1920s, and would have certainly been abandoned by the time of John Joys death in 1941. Buildings on the site may have been utilised for later forestry activities.

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/>