
1200 SOMERTON ROAD HOMESTEAD

Location

SOMERTON ROAD, OAKLANDS JUNCTION VIC 3063 - Property No 1200

Municipality

HUME CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2414

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 11, 2022

What is significant?

The historical archaeological deposits, artefacts, and features associated with the 1200 Somerton Road Homestead, gardens and outbuildings.

How is it significant?

The site is of local historical and archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

The site was likely first developed for farming or pastoral use and as a private residence c.1850s with the clearing of the land and establishment of the homestead. This pastoral/farming and residential use of the site continued until 1984. A building is indicated in 1916 and 1938 maps. 1968 aerial imagery shows a main house, rectangular in shape with fences enclosing the house and a large front yard up to Somerton Road. A pathway leads from Somerton Road to the front of the house. There are a series of small outbuildings on the western and northern sides of the main house, and several large trees on the eastern side of the property. It is not known when the homestead was demolished except that it was sometime between 1984 and 2004. A new home was constructed on the site, to the north of the original homestead location in 2017.

A site survey revealed basalt/bluestone linear alignments (wall footings) forming a U-shape were visible but were mostly covered by turf. Also present were the remains of the original gate posts, a single whiteware ceramic sherd close to the bluestone footings and piled up bluestone blocks and bricks around the base of two trees. The site card states there is high potential for archaeological features and deposits to be present in the site, such as

building footings and cesspits, dating from the early 1850s period since there has been little redevelopment of the area.

The site has the potential to provide high-integrity archaeological deposits and reveal information about the development of the Oaklands area throughout the nineteenth century.

Hermes Number 209236

Property Number

History

In c. 1850 land sale, the original Allotment 3 was bought by William 'Tulip' Wright (Hoddle, 1850 – see Figure 7). It was then subdivided in 1852 into 10 smaller allotments, which were purchased by some notable families, including the Daniels and the Musgroves (Moloney 1998: 48). Jim Daniel described this location north-east of the Bulla township as a beautiful spot with an English 'gentleman's park' quality, as the land was more fertile than the stony plains to the west, with rolling hills and mature red gums (Moloney 1998: 48).

A building is shown in this location on both the 1916 and 1938 Sunbury Imperial General Staff Maps (Figure 8 and Figure 9), confirming its presence at least as early as 1916.

The homestead is clearly visible in a high-resolution aerial photograph taken in 1968 (Figure 3 and Figure 4), so it was in existence until at least this date. This photograph shows the main house, rectangular in shape with fences enclosing the house and a large front yard up to Somerton Road. A pathway leads from Somerton Road to the front of the house. There are a series of small outbuildings on the western and northern sides of the main house, and several large trees on the eastern side of the property. There appears to be a fence to the north of the house and outbuildings that separate these structures from a large open paddock to the north. An animal pen is visible on the western side of this fence (to the west of the northernmost outbuildings). The roof form indicated the building was constructed in the nineteenth century.

The homestead is still standing and in use for small-scale farming and as a private residence in the 1979 and 1984 aerial photos of the area (Figure 5 and Figure 6).

It is not known when the homestead was demolished except that it was sometime between 1984 and 2004.

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/>