
145 OAKLANDS ROAD HOUSE AND CISTERN 2

Location

145 OAKLANDS ROAD, BULLA 3090

Municipality

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2412

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 11, 2022

What is significant?

The site is the location of a former home and extant cistern/well. The first evidence of a house on the site is in 1892-1893 in rate books. The house therefore dates from at least this time. By 1938 it does not appear on a local map, indicating it was demolished by this time.

A site inspection identified several mature exotic species present and that the ground is slightly higher than the surrounding land has several small mounds, seemingly the location of the homestead. A circular cistern/well is located approximately 5m from the eastern property boundary along Oaklands Road, and it is approximately 4.4m diameter. The site card states that the site is of archaeological significance as there is high potential for features and deposits to be present in the site, dating from the 1870s. There are no other listed small rural house-type archaeological sites in the Bulla area and the site has potential for archaeological remains to be present from this period.

How is it significant?

the site is of local historical and historical archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

The site is of local historical significance as one of the small farming residences that was present in Bulla from the 1870s to early 20th century.

Interpretation of Site	<p>The site was part of the “Bulla Common”, reserved for public use initially after European settlement in the Bulla area, and subdivided and made available for public sale in 1873. Allotment 17 of the site was purchased by J. Ralston in 1877 and Allotment 18 was purchased in 1880. The allotments were likely cleared and fenced around that time. The type of farming practiced by Ralston is unknown, but it seems likely to have involved animals rather than crops. The circular cistern or well is fairly large in size and was probably installed to water cattle or sheep given its distance from the house site in the next allotment to the south (c. 85m). Its construction date is unknown, and it is shown on the 1938 Sunbury map (Figure 14). The circular well or cistern is still present and although it may not have been primarily for household use, it may have been close to working sheds or barns and may contain remains of farming activities from the late 19th and early 20th century period. According to the Bulla shire Rate books, the earliest documented date of a house on the site was in 1892-1893 and the building is shown on the 1916 Sunbury map (Figure 13). The house would have been used for the usual core domestic activities of a small rural farmhouse. Since the demolition of the house between 1916 and 1938, the site appears to have been used as paddocks for animals and has not been redeveloped. The circular cistern/well may have remained in use for longer than the house.</p>
Hermes Number	209240
Property Number	

History

The site was first part of the ‘Bulla Common’, the government reserve of land to the east of the Bulla Bulla township (Allotment 1 shown on Figure 11). The ‘Bulla Common’ was not subdivided until 1873, when the allotments were made available for sale (see the 1873 plan of subdivision, Figure 12). A Bulla Bulla County of Bourke map drawn in 1901 shows that a J. Ralston owned the two allotments (Allotment 17 and 18) near the south-western corner of the intersection of Oaklands and Somerton Roads (Figure 15); a 1973 version of the map dates Ralston’s ownership of Allotment 17 from 30 April 1877 and Allotment 18 from 19 August 1880 (Figure 16). J. Ralston is described as a farmer and is listed as the owner in the Bulla Shire Rate Books from 1877 until 1885. From 1877 to 1891 the property is described in the Rate Books as “Land, Bulla...” or “Land, 30 acres, Bulla”. J. Ralston passes away between 1887 and 1888, as in the 1888-1889 Bulla Shire Rate Book, the owner changes to “Property of the late J. Ralston”. The occupier is listed as David Ralston at that time, but two years later, in the 1892-1893 Bulla Shire Rate Book, the occupier is listed as “Margaret Ralston” and the property is described as a “House and Land, 30 acres, Bulla.” In summary, this information from the rate books informs us that the site was first owned and farmed by J. Ralston from c.1877 for Allotment 17, then 1880 for the northern Allotment 18. It is not clear if J. Ralston lived on the property, but he appears to have farmed it from that time. Upon J. Ralston’s death, c. 1887/1888, the occupier is a relative, David Ralston. The first clear evidence of a house on the site is in 1892-1893 when Margaret Ralston is the occupier and the house is first mentioned in the rate books. The house therefore dates from at least 1892/1893 and is shown on the 1916 the circular cistern/well, but is not present on the 1938 Sunbury map, indicating that it was likely demolished by that time.

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/>