
BEVERIDGE BLUESTONE FEATURE

Location

STEWART STREET BEVERIDGE - PROPERTY NUMBER 75, WHITTLESEA CITY

Municipality

WHITTLESEA CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7823-0086

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 15, 2022

What is significant?

The visible remains of a bluestone stone circle (cobbed surface) around a central depression – measuring ~10m in diameter; and any associated archaeological features, deposits and historic modifications to the landscape that relate to the occupation and use of the site, potentially during the period c. nineteenth to early-twentieth century. Previous investigations at the site indicate that the feature may form part of a horse-works circle; however, the precise construction date, period of use and function of the installation remains uncertain.

How is it significant?

The site is of historical and archaeological significance at a local level.

Why is it significant?

The site is historically significant as it:

- Demonstrates a key historic phase of Beveridge's history – the development of freehold farms on land within the immediate vicinity of the developing township of Beveridge during the nineteenth and early-twentieth century.
- Has the potential to contribute to the established occupation history, particularly as it relates to the nature of historic agricultural activities carried out within the property (present-day 75 Stewart Street, Beveridge).

The site has archaeological significance for:

- Its potential to contain historical archaeological features, deposits and artefacts associated with the construction and use of the site's primary feature – a visible stone circle (possible horse works) – and the occupation of the land for agricultural purposes from the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Interpretation of Site	No historic documents specifically relating to the site's date of construction, period of use and historical function/s were identified as part of this assessment. However, the occupation history of land encompassing the site, the preliminary identification of the feature as a 'horse-works', and the known history of agricultural machinery in rural Victoria, all suggest a nineteenth to early-twentieth century construction and occupation period for the identified site. Additional details are provided in the attached Supporting Documentation (Crotty and Dolling, 2022a; see also Crotty and Dolling, 2022b).
Hermes Number	209298
Property Number	

History

No historic documents specifically relating to the site's date of construction, period of use and historical function/s were identified as part of this assessment. A summary of background research relevant to the identified site is provided below:

- The identified site is located within the boundaries of an original Crown Section (CS 15; present-day 75 Stewart Street), which was first purchased in 1840.
- CA 15 was occupied under lease conditions during the remainder of the nineteenth century by several individuals, all of whom occupied the land for farming purposes. In 1900, the property was purchased by James Stewart. Members of the Stewart family owned/occupied the land until 1973.
- A house is evidenced within the property (CA 15; 75 Stewart Street, Beveridge) during the period 1881-1906; and by 1906 – during the ownership of the Stewart family – a timber house, stable, dairy, milking sheds and additional outbuildings are recorded within the property's boundary. - The precise location of these buildings has not been established; however, the identified bluestone feature likely dates from the nineteenth to early-twentieth century, and it is possible that it is associated with (i.e., may be in the vicinity of) and is likely contemporary with the nineteenth-century buildings described above.
- No historic maps or images showing the location of a structure at the location of the bluestone feature during the nineteenth or twentieth century have been identified. - A 1913 (DLS, 1913) map depicts land encompassing the site as vacant farmland, and no standing structures are evident at the site in an aerial image dating to 1946 (RASC, 1946).

Additional details – including details pertaining to the land use history for the broader Beveridge township, and primary and secondary source materials and references relevant to the identified site as outlined above – are provided in the attached Supporting Documentation (Crotty and Dolling, 2022a).

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/>