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# PYRENEES HIGHWAY BRICK CISTERN

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## Location

5558 PYRENEES HWY, ARARAT VIC 3374

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0098

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 28, 2024

### What is significant?

The site has some potential to yield information about daily life prior to the 1940s however due to the lack of historical evidence, this is limited to speculation. The site may provide insight into farming life in the early stages of the property. The site may be connected to Timothy Shea and "Durham Hill" further creating potential for archaeological significance.

### How is it significant?

The site has some potential to yield information about the daily lives of farming communities in an important agricultural region.

### Why is it significant?

The site has some potential to yield information about the daily lives of farming communities in an important agricultural region.

Interpretation of Site The site has an intact brick cistern filled with bottles and other household containers. The layer of bottles on the top are likely from the 21st century, however there are older bottles located beneath. Due to safety concerns, the cistern was not investigated beyond observation. The cistern is likely from the late 19th or early 20th century. The brick scatter may indicate an outbuilding such as a privy nearby but the historical evidence is poor and the historic aerial does not show a dwelling in place in 1947. The vegetation at the site appears to be largely suckers from non-indigenous trees, further supporting some occupation at the site. The site is currently a grazing property, and the animals have access to this area, utilising the small, newer trees as forage. The site may be connected to "Durham Hill", the adjoining property to the north-east and it's prominent second owner, Timothy Shea. The SPI where the site is currently located is used as farming land with some mature vegetation. Land use, including farming may have impacted historical archaeological deposits, if any.

Other Names BRICK CISTERN - SITE #23,

Hermes Number 212150

Property Number

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## History

On 5 February 1872, P. Monaghan became the owner of SPI 17~3/PP2020 (see parish map attached). The current aerial views show an increase in vegetation when compared to the historical aerial from 1947 which is almost completely cleared of mature trees. Since the original subdivision, this lot has been combined with two much larger lots, creating a significant holding that is clearly used today for farming, mainly grazing. There has been the introduction of man-made dams, and the creek appears very minor and almost dry in the current aerial images. There is reference to Patrick Monaghan being a pioneer grazier, however if this is the same person as the original owner of this parcel, it is likely he had more significant holdings at the time in Doctor's Creek and Stawell and that this creek-side parcel was for a specific purpose. There is no evidence from aerial images between 1947 and now, that this had a dwelling associated with the parcel nor is the original title grantee survey on the historical record.

This lot sits between Timothy Shea's property to the south-east and 'Durham Hill', both parcels that were purchased in 1874. There is no historical record to show that this site was owned by Mr Shea, however the site is now in the Shea family. "Durham Hill" and Timothy Shea were both important in the development of the region.

*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/>*