
BRICK RUIN

Location

off Coleraine-Nareen Road NAREEN, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

Sunnyside is located about 500m off the Coleraine-Nareen Road on the eastern side and about 750m north of the intersection with McDougall's Lane. The complex consists of the ruins of a substantial brick house and timber woolshed, set in the remains of a large garden, with several surviving mature trees and an orchard. Sunnyside was developed by the Neeson family, who purchased the land as selectors in 1865, building the house when they settled on the land after 1867. The land has been retained in the Neeson family for over 130 years. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design of the house or woolshed.

How is it significant?

Sunnyside is of historical and archaeological significance to the community of Nareen and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Sunnyside is historically significant as a representative example of a successful selectors homestead dating from the late 1860s. The close proximity of house, orchard and woolshed demonstrates the self sufficiency of those who came looking for land in the 1860s and 1870s after the Land Selection Acts. Sunnyside has further historical significance for its long history of ownership by an important local family, the Neesons, who have been in continuous ownership of this property since 1865. Sunnyside has archaeological significance for its potential to yield further artifacts and information which will provide us with a better understanding of our past and the way we once lived.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1867,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	SUNNYSIDE?,
Hermes Number	23780
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The house is ruinous, and in very poor condition.
The woolshed has been abandoned for some time and is in fair condition.
The garden and orchard are in fair condition.

Physical Description 1

The ruins of Sunnyside suggest that it was a single storey asymmetrical brick house. Several rooms survive with four brick walls, some of which have been rendered. although many have been destroyed. There are two large chimney stacks which survive, and the remains of fireplaces. The ruins are located in the remains of a typical late nineteenth century homestead garden. The garden retains some of the original plantings including several Italian Cypress (*Cupressus semprevirens*), a row of Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*), an Irish Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and other mature trees. Beyond the homestead garden an orchard survives with a number of different types of fruit trees, including Pear (*Pyrus comminus*), Apple (*Malus* species) and Plum (*Prunus* species). Adjacent to the ruins of the house a timber woolshed survives in poor condition.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.5 Developing primary production
3.5.1 Grazing stock
3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working
5.8 Working on the land

Usage/Former Usage

Ruinous

Integrity

Low level of intactness, but may be high archaeological potential.

Physical Description 2

The Neeson family

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/>