

# DORFSTEDT



Dorfstedt homestead (2000)



Dorfstedt Barn (2015)



Dorfstedt kitchen wing (2015)



Dorfstedt (2015)



Dorfstedt stables and workers cabin (2015)



Dorfstedt entry detail (2015)



Dorfstedt front door leadlight name (2015)



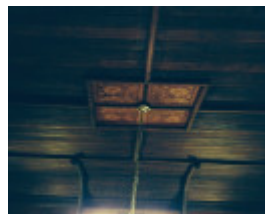
Dorfstedt bay window notched detail (2015)



Dorfstedt interior - hallway (2015)



Dorfstedt interior - hallway coat hook (2015)



Dorfstedt interior - living room ceiling detail (2015)



Dorfstedt interior - living room fireplace motto 2 (2015)



Dorfstedt barn (2000)



Dorfstedt outbuilding (2000)



2004

---

## Location

2785 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, POOWONG, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

### What is significant?

Dorfstedt, a farm complex at 2785 Main South Road, Poowong, constructed in 1898, is of significance. This farm site includes the homestead, the barn and dairy, the buggy house, and the smokehouse/ workshop.

**Transitional Homestead** - The homestead is of timber construction with large, ridged gip with two projecting hips at the rear. There is another off-centre gable to the West of the property. There is a straight roofed return verandah supported by simple square posts. The windows are single double hung windows with other exterior decorations including a shingle board dado and one chimney with rendered moulding and terracotta pots. Internal panelling on walls and ceilings are made of Californian Redwood and Kauri timber. Other decorations include dado panel friezes and ceiling coves.

**Milking Shed/Large Barn** – This is a symmetrical gable weatherboard structure with central aisle with loft, supported by hewn timber. The milking bays are set along the aisles with very low side eaves. The milking shed includes a stud frame, central end doors ledged and braced vertical boards, and small gable end door.

**Buggy House and groom room** – Positioned north of the open area, the Buggy House is a gabled structure, with a straight verandah partially covered by the south entry. The western end of the building contains the groom's room with a simple corbelled chimney, the harness room is in the centre of the building, and the buggy room is at the eastern end of the house. An early wagon is housed at the rear of this building.

**Workshop/Smokehouse** – The workshop is to the north of the house, in line with the buggy house to the east, with a gable roof and iron roof. There is an old dray and imported German farm wagon housed in this building.

Non-original alterations and additions are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The Dorfstedt farm complex is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, Dorfstedt is a locally rare example of an intact early farm complex and is one of the oldest farm complexes in the Poowong area. The property is significant in illustrating and interpreting the rural history of the South Gippsland Shire, and demonstrates the early settlement and development of the Poowong area. (Criterion A) Aesthetically, this site is a substantially intact farm complex, including a former milking shed of European origins. The significance of the property is enhanced by the early horse-drawn farm vehicles that are stored on the site and are linked to the origins of the farm. (Criterion E)

Dorfstedt has been owned by the same family, the Staben's, continuously since its construction in 1898. Henning Staben built the property in that year after selecting an area of 320 acres in 1877, twenty years after arriving in Victoria. Dorfstedt is one of only a handful of properties in South Gippsland that have been still occupied by the same family as the original selector. (Criterion H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1899, 1898, 1898,
Other Names	Staben homestead, house, stables, dairy, extra, thematic, -,
Hermes Number	30938
Property Number	

---

## Physical Description 1

The farm complex at "Dorfstedt", Drouin- Korumburra Road, Poowong comprises a transitional dwelling, a large barn/milking shed, a buggy house with groom's room and a workshop/smokehouse; set around three sides of an open area. Various later additions are attached to the sides of the buggy house and smokehouse.

The dwelling is of single storey timber construction with corrugated iron roofs. It is based on a large ridged hip with two hips projecting to the rear and an off centre gable projecting to the front (facing the open area to the west). The house has a straight roofed return verandah with simple square posts on the open sides. The fourth side separates a single gable kitchen building at the south by a conservatory/breezeway (now built in). Gable end decoration shown on the early sketch is now missing and the exterior, apart from single double hung windows and shingle board dado to the projecting bay, is very plain. There is one chimney with a rendered moulded cap and terra cotta pots.

The interiors to the living room and passage have remarkable panelling to both the walls and ceilings in what is believed to be Californian redwood and kauri, including dado panel frieze, ceiling coves, cupboards and central rose. There are also coat racks with original animal horn.

The barn/milking shed is a symmetrical gable weatherboard structure with a central aisle with a loft over, carried on hewn timbers and with milking bays in the aisles, which are contained under the very low side eaves. The end and side walls are of stud frame. The main central end doors (one of which remains) are ledged and braced vertical boards. A small loft door is contained in the gable peak and there are pass doors at either side.

The buggy house is to the north of the open area and is a gabled structure sheeted in vertical galvanised iron with a straight verandah partially covering the south (entry) side. The full original extent of this is uncertain. At the east end is the groom's/workers room with a simple brick corbelled chimney. The harness room is in the centre and the buggy house at the other end. At the back of this structure is a later extension in which a very early covered wagon is stored. Also stored within this building are family records and ephemera including diaries recording daily life on the farm from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

Located to the north of the house in line with the east side of the buggy house is the smokehouse/workshop,

which is also a corrugated iron structure with a gable roof. The interpretation of its detail requires further study. At its rear are later sheds containing an old dray and what is understood to be the original imported German farm wagon used by Henning Staben to come to Poowong.

The complex is accessed by a more recent driveway from the north. The original carriage drive to the south is marked by several remnant trees including pines.

## **Physical Conditions**

Non-Aboriginal Historic Site Gazetter HSG 61

*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/>*