

Place name Strathfieldsaye

Survey Date:

Other name

Id:

805

Street Strathfieldsaye Road

Last Update 9/07/2007

Locality Perry Bridge

Postcode

Official Locality

Property No HO46

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Property Info

Precinct: Not in precinct

Easting 524400

Northing 5789700

Map 8321

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer

Builder

Ownership

Built Date c.1879

Change Date

Description Strathfieldsaye comprises the homestead and a collection of early outbuildings including a machinery shed, shearing shed and workers cottages. It has a picturesque location overlooking Lake Wellington. For further information please refer to the Victorian Heritage Register citation for this property (H262).

Note: In 2006-07 a Conservation Management Plan was being prepared for this property.

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
House	Victorian	Weatherboard	Corrugated iron

Condition Good

Integrity Intact

Residential/Rural	Buildings Garden
National Themes	Local Themes
	2. SETTLING THE LAND 2.1 Phases of land settlement

History

Settlement of the Strathfieldsaye run on Lake Wellington was effected by NSW Grazier William O'Dell Raymond in 1842. He obtained pre-emptive right in 1854 and built the first homestead section of timber, weatherboard, corrugated-iron and hand made bricks in a graceful Colonial vernacular style mostly enhanced by the encircling verandah and Regency derived joinery. In December 1856 the property was transferred to the brothers Lemuel and Charles Bolden. In 1867 it was transferred to W.H. Disher. W.H. Disher developed the present complex from 1869-1879.

Strathfieldsaye homestead complex was bequeathed to the university of Melbourne in 1976 and is progressively being restored as a working property and research station. The various farm buildings and homestead are intact.

REFERENCES

Heritage Victoria File No. 601785
Register of the National Estate Place ID 004707
Certificate of Title Details: Vol 6925; Folio 922
62 (slides)

Period	Associations
	Disher family

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Trust Register	B608		Listed
Planning Scheme	HO46		Listed
Register of the National Estate	004707		Listed
Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8321-0001		Listed

National Estate**Research Required** Also considered in 1980 East Gippsland Study**Recommendations** Victorian Heritage Inventory listing means a permit is required from Heritage Victoria for any disturbance to place (including conservation works).**Fieldwork priority?****Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed & protected**Stage 2 priority**

No Action: Already include

Final Ranking State significance**Final Recommendation** Amendment C26**Statement of significance** Strathfieldsaye homestead is the oldest continuously inhabited house in Gippsland and is essentially as it was in 1879 and as the noted Disher family left it after 110 years of occupation. The complex of farm buildings, including selector Hartwicke's hut of mud and slab, is a superb continuum of Victorian colonial building traditions. Strathfieldsaye had a close relationship with the significant Moravian Aboriginal mission established on the run in 1862. The landscape quality of the property is paramount. (RNE 004707)

Strathfieldsaye was established as a cattle and sheep station by New South Wales grazier William O'Dell Raymond in 1848. Raymond was one of the first permanent settlers in Gippsland, establishing his first run at present day Stratford in 1842. In 1848 the Strathfieldsaye run, which extended to 64,000 leased acres, carried 18,000 sheep and 1,000 cattle. Raymond obtained a pre-emptive right for 320 acres in 1854. This section contained the earliest part of the current homestead, constructed of timber, weatherboard, corrugated iron and hand made bricks. This single storey building, located about 130 metres from the north shore of Lake Wellington, is now encircled by a verandah and has views over the lake. Later additions to the house date to the 1890s and 1920s

William Henderson Disher, with no apparent previous experience of farming, acquired the run in 1869. It had been reduced to 20,000 acres of land stocking 4,000 wethers and 1,100 superior bred Durham cattle. Disher developed the station into a diversified agricultural and pastoral property. It remained in the hands of the Disher family until bequeathed to the University of Melbourne in 1976 by Dr Clive Disher. Dr Disher was Deputy Director of Medical Services during the Second World War. The contents and furnishings of the house were bequeathed to the National Trust and remain in situ.

In addition to the homestead there is a large complex of nineteenth century station and farm buildings. There is a shearing shed, mustering shed, several storage sheds, a dairy, meat house, shearers' quarters and toilets. These buildings display a variety of construction techniques, including adzed vertical and horizontal slabs, bark ceilings, and stud frames clad with weatherboards. The manager's house and gardener's house were built in a consistent style in c1917. The outbuildings house a substantial collection of farm machinery, dating from early horse-drawn implements to later mechanised equipment.

The homestead garden is laid out primarily on the sloping land between the house and lake, with a simple kitchen service garden at the rear of the house. The garden was developed in two stages. The first was before 1892 (probably by 1870) and the second by further planting in the mid-1930s. Some of the layout has been attributed to the stonemason Ellis Stones.

Vegetation in areas adjacent to the homestead includes mixed conifer plantings along the driveway, some shore-line specimens to the east of the homestead and isolated trees and groups of trees in paddocks to the west of the homestead. Species along the driveway include Bunya Bunya Pine, Canary Island Pine, Silky Oak and Monterey Cypress. Close to the garden fence is a notable White Cypress Pine. In the paddocks the mature nineteenth century plantings include five Plane trees, eight Cypress, a Peppercorn, Cottonwood, Elm and two Pears.

Located about 1.5 kilometres from the homestead is Hartwick's Hut, a small one room timber hut built by a selector, Heinrich Hartwick, in the early 1880s. Adzed slabs are fixed vertically as an external lining to a framework of posts. Internally saplings are nailed horizontally to the posts and daubed with mud. The later corrugated iron roof was blown off in a storm in 1998 and the hut is in a dilapidated state. The remnants of a pear orchard, a popular form of agriculture for nineteenth selectors in this area, survive close to Hartwicke's Hut.

How is it significant?

Strathfieldsaye is of historical, architectural and scientific (horticultural) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Strathfieldsaye homestead is historically significant as the oldest continuously inhabited house in Gippsland. The farm remains essentially as it was in 1879, and the house remains as the Disher family left it after 110 years of occupation. The contents of the house illustrate this continuous period of ownership.

The extensive complex of farm buildings, including Heinrich Hartwicke's hut of mud and slab, are architecturally significant as a superb group of nineteenth century farm buildings that illustrate changing vernacular building traditions over a long period. Although the extent of the land holding has been reduced, many of the buildings constructed in the nineteenth century survive. The buildings and their contents are evidence of a diversified agricultural farm that emerged in the 1870s from an unsophisticated cattle and sheep station.

The landscape and garden are aesthetically and historically significant as evidence of mature exotic plantings at a remote pastoral station. The squared layout of the garden reflects the utilitarian needs of early settlement in contrast to later, more ornamental styles. This form is unusually intact and rare in eastern Victoria. The driveway plantings mark the entrance to the property and the species are typical of the nineteenth century. The shoreline plantings play a strong role in the views to the lake. The trees in the paddock are associated with closer cultivation and delineate boundary lines in these areas.

The remnant pear orchard trees at Hartwick's Hut are of scientific (horticultural) significance as a nineteenth century cultivar. They are evidence of more extensive orchards planted by selectors in this area during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Strathfieldsaye is historically significant for demonstrating the changing patterns of land acquisition on a large pastoral run. The pre-emptive right of 320 acres was an unusual quantity of land to purchase, as most squatters took advantage of the 640 acres they were entitled to. The pre-emptive right was the nucleus of the run and the first part to be acquired as freehold. Its scale is in contrast to the much smaller sections available to and affordable by selectors on the Strathfieldsaye run during the 1870s and 1880s as a result of the various Land Acts. Hartwick's Hut is evidence of one selector's purchase on the run, a section that Disher took the opportunity to acquire as freehold for his farm when the selector died in 1898 (Heritage Victoria)

Draft - not yet confirmed by the heritage council (early registration project)

Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography

East Gippsland Regional Planning Committee, (1980), Sites of Historical Significance in the East Gippsland Region, Town and Country Planning Board, Melbourne, 17
