

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 20 Bridges Road Pawleena 7172		UPI: 2901179	PID: 5938342
Name: WOOD'S FARM			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: House	Site Feature Type: Chimney Garden	Dating: 1891 - 1915 1898
			Access Restrictions: Restricted
			Inspection Date: November Ian Terry
			Style: Victorian Georgian
		Grid ref: 5426 546900 5266930	
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Early Settlement Arts and Sciences	
Material:	Timber siding Corrugated iron	Listings: National Trust SMC Schedule 3	
Condition:	Good		
Integrity:	Altered, extended sympathetically		
National Estate Criteria:	H1	Photograph Index: 17: 17-19	
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A very plain weatherboard cottage with a corrugated iron hipped roof and bull nosed verandahs at front and rear. The roof form has a lateral hip at the front with two parallel hips projecting to the rear. There is a skillion addition to one side. The cottage is very small with just four original rooms and no corridor. It has two fireplaces with external chimneys, Baltic pine lining and double hung sash windows with porcelain knobbed window catches.

There is a asbestos cement shed at the rear with a convict brick chimney thought to be from the original kitchen. The cottage is pleasantly situated with remnants of early gardens visible.

HISTORY:

Located on a property known as Burnside until the turn of the century, the existing cottage was built by Val Wood in 1898 on William Wood's original 1818 location of 80 acres. It was adjacent to an earlier brick-nogged dwelling which became the kitchen for the new cottage and then fell into decay before being demolished in the 1930s.

The cottage is best known as the home of Tasmanian journalists and writers Roy and Hilda Bridges. Brother and sister, they moved to their old family home in 1930 and were prominent writers in the first half of the twentieth century. A number of their works were set in the Sorell district.

Roy Bridges described the newly built 1898 cottage as a,

four-roomed block . . . with bright pine-lined, simply-papered rooms, a little front verandah, and a picket fenced front and side gardens, the new block was charming . . .

Following their return to live permanently in the cottage in 1830 Roy Bridges noted that he and Hilda,

cleared the rubbish from the four-roomed cottage . . . sold off the household goods lacking in interest or association . . . cleared, cleaned and painted, . . . fly-wired doors, hearth and windows . . . In time we were to add a new verandah, two small rooms, and a new bathroom.

Roy Bridges demolished the dilapidated 100 year hut built by William Wood in 1830-31, saving only the chimney and laying garden paths with the convict-made bricks. They also restored the garden and at the same time began calling the property, Wood's.

The property is also the location of one of Governor Arthur's camps during the so called Black Line, the 1830 attempt by the colonial government to drive the island's Aboriginal population into the Forestier Peninsula.

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BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the Sorell Rivulet, Bridge Rd and the fences to the east and west of the house.

COMMENTS:

Wood's Farm has high historic significance as the residence of two prominent Tasmanian writers in the first half of the twentieth century. The property and cottage figures largely in Roy Bridge's *That Yesterday Was Home*. The property also has significance as the site of one of Governor Arthur's campsites during the attempts to drive Aborigines into the Forestier Peninsula in 1830.

It meets Criterion H1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should continue to be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

BRIDGES, Roy. 1948. *That Yesterday Was Home*. Australasian Publishing Company, Sydney.

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