

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 21 Delmore Road Forcett 7173		UPI: 2904361	PID: 7566461
Name: GREEN HILLS			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: House	Site Feature Type: Orchard	Dating: 1800 - 1829 c1820
		Mature trees	Access Restrictions: Restricted
		Well	Inspection Date: November Ian Terry
			Style: Colonial Georgian
		Grid ref: 5426 552530 61330	
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Early Settlement Primary Production	
Material:	Brick	Corrugated iron	Listings: SMC Schedule 3
Condition:	Deteriorated	Fair	
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B2 C2 D2 H1		Photograph Index: 18: 32-36
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A fine small brick house with a corrugated iron gabled roof with an adjacent brick lined well, an asbestos cement sheet clad cottage and a small nineteenth century orchard. The brick cottage is rectangular in plan and dates from approximately 1820. It features Flemish bond brickwork, stone lintels over the doors and windows and shingles concealed below the corrugated iron roof. One of the two doors appears to be the original door to the cottage. A fireplace in the end wall has been removed. The adjacent well is said to be over 100 feet deep and is currently enclosed in a small timber structure for safety reasons.

The asbestos cement sheet clad cottage is actually a very early cottage with a corrugated iron hipped roof and a verandah at the back. Originally timber, it has been reclad since World War II but still demonstrates the early form of the dwelling. The precinct includes two mature oak trees and a small nineteenth century orchard with pear and mulberry trees.

HISTORY:

The existing structures at Green Hills were some of the first constructed on Bartholomew Reardon's 1823 grant of 200 acres after he moved from nearby Thornhill. The property was very productive although by 1820 Reardon was in debt to Edward Lord and threatened with foreclosure several times over the ensuing twenty years. At that time it was noted that Reardon had 'Title to a brick Dwelling House, [and] a weather-boarded ditto'. By mid-1824 Reardon was advertising beer being made on the estate, noting that 'the ensuing Harvest will present such a Scene in the field of Labour, as hitherto has not appeared. The site of the brewery is now occupied by a new dwelling on a neighbouring property.

The property has been in the Reardon family since its acquisition in c1820.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the driveway and the fences around the early homestead and early orchard.

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COMMENTS:

The original homestead and its immediate precinct, including the oaks and orchard are of very high historic significance. The brick cottage is one of the earliest extant buildings in Sorell and was built by a very prominent early figure in the district's history. It has been continuously occupied by the same family since the 1820s.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2 and 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:

Hobart Town Gazette 8/11/1823

Pem 2/44 (survey plan)

REARDON, Arnold. *The Wheel Rolls On*.

WOOD, Trish. 1990. *The Convict and the Carpenter. A History of Mary Springham and William Hambly and their Descendants*. R.G. & P.V. Wood, North Hobart.

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