

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 296 Shrub End Road Wattle Hill 7172		UPI: 2904386	PID: 1611065
Name: HAREFIELD POW HUT			
Feature Type: Hut	Structure Type	Dating: 1916 - 1945	
	Site Feature Type	Access Restrictions: Restricted	
		Inspection Date: D Parham November 96	
		Style: Vernacular	
		Grid ref: 5426 550470 5266860	
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Military	
Material:	AC sheet	Listings:	
	Corrugated iron		
Condition:	Fair		
	Good		
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 C2 G1	Photograph Index: 20: 23	
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A single room hut constructed of asbestos cement sheets with corrugated iron roof and brick chimney. The interior was not inspected.

HISTORY:

Built during World War II to accommodate Italian POWs captured in North Africa and sent to Australia. Many of these POWs were assigned to farmers throughout Australia to work as agricultural labourers. The first two POWs assigned to the Madsen family at Harefield did not remain long, being removed from the district after 'woman trouble'.

The two that replaced them were Antonio (Tony) from northern Italy and Gabriel from southern Italy. They lived in the hut but ate meals with the family in the main house across the road. There was little supervision of the men from authorities although they were visited by the army once a week when they supplied with rations, tobacco and any mail. The two men maintained contact with Pasquale, another POW assigned to Glen Rae and are remembered as accomplished dancers at the local dances. 'Tony' has been described as being 'as strong as a horse and the finest fellow you would meet anywhere'. After returning to Italy at the end of the war he maintained contact with the Madsen's and was keen to emigrate to Australia although, reluctantly, the Madsen's were not able to sponsor him.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by Shrub End Road and a minimum 50 metre buffer zone surrounding the structure.

COMMENTS:

The hut demonstrates the living conditions afforded internees in rural areas during the war. This coupled with oral testimony contributes to an understanding of national security issues during times of strife and local reactions to the internees.

It meets Criteria A4, C2, G1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should 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:

Informants: Hilmer Madsen (tel: 6248 5960) & Mary Thornbury, Pawleena Rd, Sorell.

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