

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: Wiggins Road Wattle Hill 7172		UPI: EZJ10	PID: 5936860
Name: WIGGINS TOWN COTTAGE & BARN			
Feature Type: House Barn	Structure Type	Site Feature Type	Dating: 1800 - 1829
		Chimney	Access Restrictions: Restricted
		Hedgerow	Inspection Date: J McCarthy September 96
		Orchard	Style:
Indication of Significance: Probable Significance		Grid ref: 5426 554680 5264460	Theme: Early Settlement Primary Production
Material:		Listings:	
Condition:			
Integrity:			
National Estate Criteria: A4 B2 C2 D2		Photograph Index: 26: 5 - 8, 19: 11-14	
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☒	Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

House (Colonial Georgian)

This is a simple hip roofed cottage with skillion roofed additions front and back - very early but now clad with cement sheeting. It previously had a loft and large kitchen chimney.

Material: AC Sheet, Corrugated Iron

Condition: Good

Integrity: Altered, extended sympathetically

Barn (Vernacular) c1820

An early slab barn with a gabled shingled roof, bush posts and plates, pit sawn battens and split rafters. Nails are both handmade and rose headed. The barn is located beside a hedgerow of hawthorn and nearby to a chimney built of very early bricks. There is also the remnant of an orchard.

Material: Timber Split Slabs, Shingle

Condition: DEMOLISHED 1998

Inspection Date: November 1996, Ian Terry

Grid Reference: 5426 55496 526410

The site has various early timber sheds and a dairy plus early plantings of hawthorn hedges, oak, walnut, mulberry and pear trees.

There may be significant archaeological deposits on the property.

HISTORY:

Built on Samuel Wiggins' grant of 80 acres. Wiggins arrived as a marine on the 'Calcutta' (the ship which brought David Collins' party to Tasmania) but died soon after in 1811. His widow married Thomas Pennington who, like most grantees found life difficult on small lots. As a result creditors advertised his farm for sale in 1816 unless his debts were cleared. Samuel Wiggins' son, Thomas, was born on the 'Calcutta' and by 1842 lived in a timber house on the land with eleven other people, all of whom were free. This probably gave rise to the term Wiggins Town.

The chimney butt is said to be the remains of the house of Thomas Wiggins, although it lies on a grant to Mungo Somerville surveyed in 1842. Wiggins received an 80 acre land grant adjacent to this parcel. The Property has been in the Wiggins family for many years.

The barn was demolished by the owners in 1998 (personal communication, December 1999).

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BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the title boundary for the property.

COMMENTS:

The property has high significance as a very early landscape associated with the initial settlement of the district by 1820. The hedgerows and simple timber buildings are evocative of early farming practices on a small and often struggling holding. It demonstrates these early practices and the hardship endured by under-capitalised settlers.

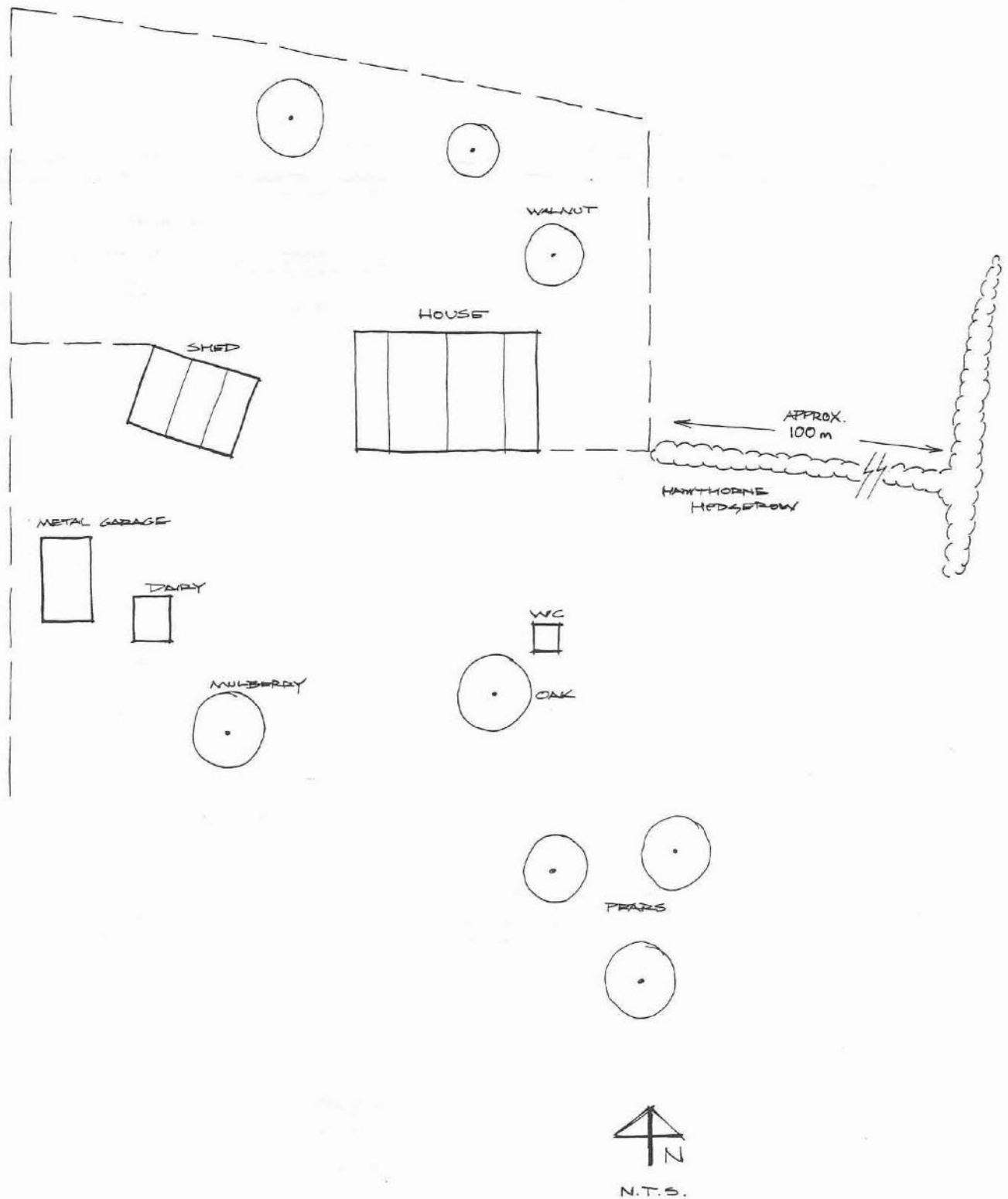
It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2 and D2 for inclusion on the Register of the National Estate. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

CEN 1/41/1

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.

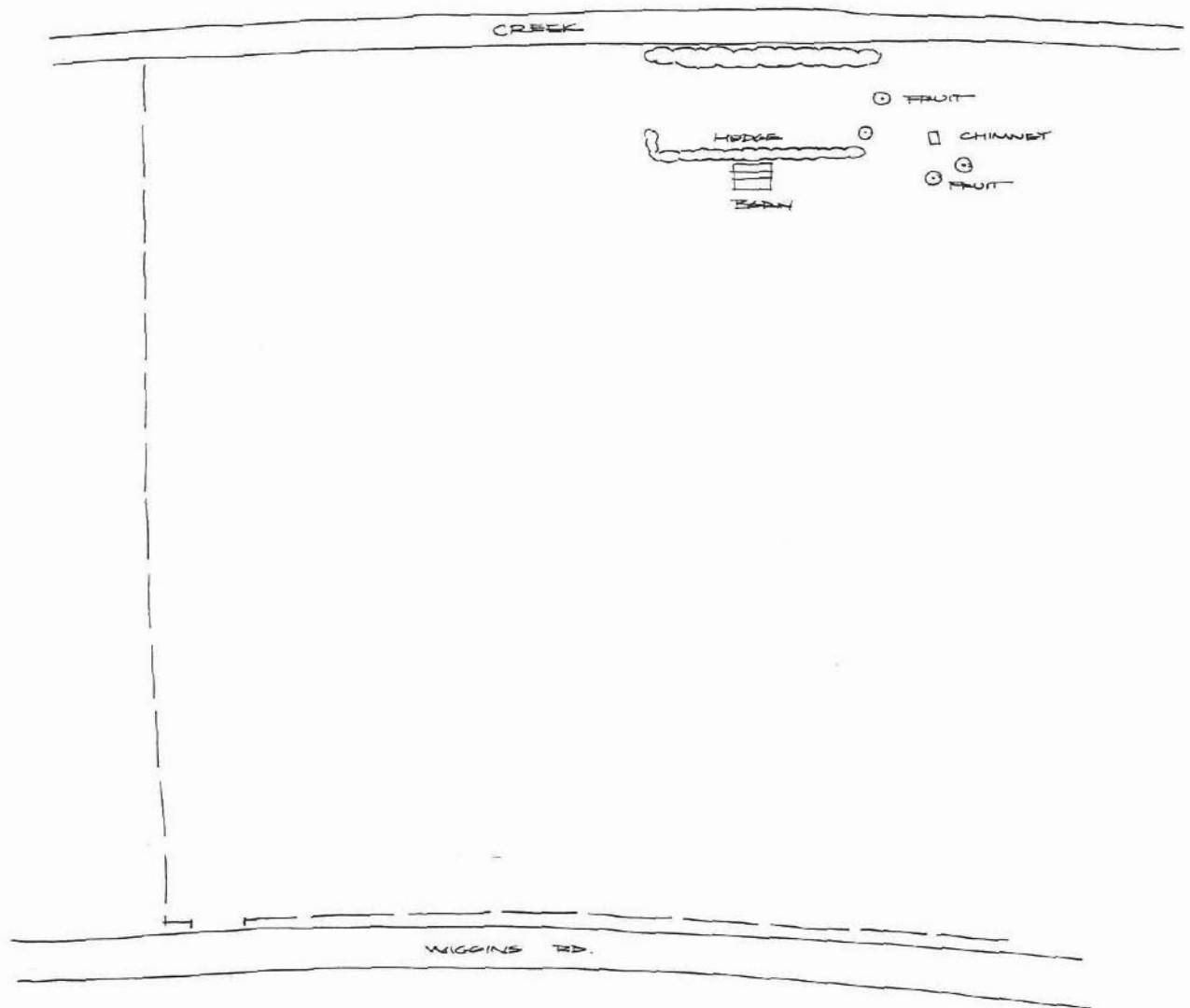
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WIGGINS TOWN LANDSCAPE (MAPSHEET 5426)