

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 1054 Nugent Road Wattle Hill 7172		UPI: 2901305	PID: 5937628
Name: ELLENBANKS			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: House	Dating:	1830 - 1890
	House	Access Restrictions:	Restricted
	Barn	Inspection Date:	D Parham November 96
		Style:	Vernacular
		Grid ref:	5426 556160 5265300
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Land selection and closer settlement Primary Production	
Material:	Timber siding Shingle	Listings:	
Condition:	Deteriorated Fair		
Integrity:	Disturbed or damaged		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B2 D2	Photograph Index:	21: 2 - 4
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☒
			Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The former nucleus of the Ellenbanks property. The site consists of a dwelling and barn, both extant, and the stone foundations of a blacksmiths shop all of which are accessed via a ford.

The dwelling consists of 3 separate timber structures positioned in the form of a 'C' with squared corners. The space between the buildings was covered over with a piece of rolled corrugated iron known as the 'tunnel' (now collapsed). Each of the buildings had its own function i.e., living area, kitchen and sleeping area with bedrooms. The kitchen may have been constructed on the site and the remaining two buildings were subsequently added having been transported from other locations. Each of the buildings had shingle roofs and a variety of techniques were noted; pit sawn timbers prevailed throughout and the living and sleeping areas were lined with pine with vestiges of wallpaper visible and heated by open fireplaces with sandstone slab hearths and chimneys constructed using hand made clay bricks (some reportedly exhibit broad arrow impressions and the others were sourced from the Wiggins' kiln). The kitchen is of board and batten construction with 2 fireplaces, one large open fireplace with a swing out bracket and the other with range in-situ.

The large barn is constructed from pit sawn timbers and hand wrought nails. Battens for shingles are visible underneath the existing corrugated iron sheets. Internal compartments within the barn have been retained and the former position of the chaffcutter is still visible. A corrugated iron skillion has been added.

A second, more recent (c1890 - 1915) dwelling is also located on the property.

HISTORY:

Located on David McKie's 1835 grant. In 1842 he lived there with nine others including 5 convicts and ticket-of-leave holders. At that time there was an unfinished timber house on the property occupied by a family of three. Later the property was acquired by the Hayton family and it remained an important part of their Wattle Hill holdings for many years. The earliest existing buildings on the property were constructed during the Hayton period of occupation.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the structures and remains comprising the former nucleus of the early Ellenbanks property and the barn.

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COMMENTS:

Ellenbanks is considered highly significant as an example of vernacular architecture and the art of improvisation. The three separate buildings (at least two of which have been relocated) each with a specific function linked by a covered passage demonstrates the rural ethic of making do with what was available.

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:

Informant: Noel White 1054 Nugent Rd Wattle Hill via Sorell 7172

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