

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 88 Pearces Road Pawleena 7172		UPI: 2901251	PID: 5938225
Name: HORSECROFT			
Feature Type:	Structure Type	Site Feature Type	Dating: c1826+
	House		Access Restrictions: Restricted
	Barn		Inspection Date: J McCarthy September 96
	Shed		Style: Colonial Georgian
		Grid ref: 5426 548280 5265580	
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Early Settlement Primary Production	
Material:	Stone & W'board	Corrugated iron	Listings: SMC Schedule 3 National Trust
Condition:	Good	Good	
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B2 C2 D2 F1		Photograph Index: 24: 23-33
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The main complex features a house, a substantial garden, a barn with a loft, a stone walled sheep fold and a small wooden shed. There are two separate buildings nearby - a shearing shed and a former stables.

The main house is constructed of stone and weatherboard with a CGI hipped and gabled roof. It has obviously been built in a number of stages. The front verandah has a stone flagged floor and the posts and post tops are turned. There is a single storey hipped section and a double storey gabled section to the main house. There are four chimneys and five fireplaces. The house's floors are of pit sawn blackwood boards. The north end hipped section of the house has a closed in verandah. The windows in the front wall are of 10 panes. The front door features a fan light. Much of the interior of the house appears to be true to original construction phases.

The garden contains many old plant and shrub varieties - especially English varieties according to the owner. There is a large mature pine tree which was planted c1900.

The barn is of rendered stone construction with brick quoins to doorways. It has a gabled CGI roof which was formerly shingled. It contains 2 pane windows which have obviously been recycled from another building. It has a lower storey now used for general storage and an upper loft. The building has been poorly patched with Portland cement in places. The loft has a high door on the east side with a separate small cowled roof.

The fold adjoins the barn. It consists of stone walls up to a metre in height.

There is also a small wooden shed constructed on a levelled stone platform. It has a skillion cgi roof.

The shearing shed is constructed of pit sawn weatherboards with a gabled CGI roof. It has a skillion board and batten addition at one end.

The stables building appears to be very old; it is of composite construction and evidences many ad hoc repairs and alterations. It has flat external boards to one wall, some boards over slab with a bottom plate (log) on the south side, a slab rear wall and external boards at the northern end. Internally it features 3 to 4 loose boxes plus hay storage and a tack room. The mangers and cobbled floors are still in situ. The roof is constructed of cgi over bush timber rafters and bearers.

There is a circular well approximately 5 m deep located in the centre of the building complex.

Other elements scattered across the property include lime kilns (see separate listing), the low level ruined remnants of two cottages, and some planted fence lines.

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HISTORY:

Built on land acquired by Capt WH Glover after his arrival in the colony in 1824. The house was built by 1826 using convict labour. Construction materials included brick, timber and stone, and the interior was lined with cedar. The journals of the land Commissioners record that Glover had 'fenced his farm and built a neat cottage'. There was also a barn and a brick cool room. In 1842 nine people lived on the property, of whom only two were free. Glover died in 1856, and , when put up for sale in 1861, the property included a 'capital Dwelling House', a 'well built barn of sawn timber, and framework of extensive ranges of sheds of the same material'.

The property changed hands a number of times in the the late nineteenth century before being acquired by R Pearces in 1927. It has remained in the Pearce family since.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary encompasses the main house and outbuilding complex including the sheep fold, associated mature tree plantings and the gardens.

COMMENTS:

Horsecroft appears to have been continuously occupied for over 170 years. The original dwelling (incorporated into a later form) and some outbuidlings still stand and have extremely high significance as rare surviving examples of early 19th century rural vernacular architecture. It demonstrates construction techniques and the use of locally available materials in what would have been an isolated rural area. Features such as the sheep fold and the barn with loft reflect the utilitarian requirements of early rural life. The remainder of the complex also contributes to an understanding of the nature of development through time on primary production sites.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2 and F1 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.

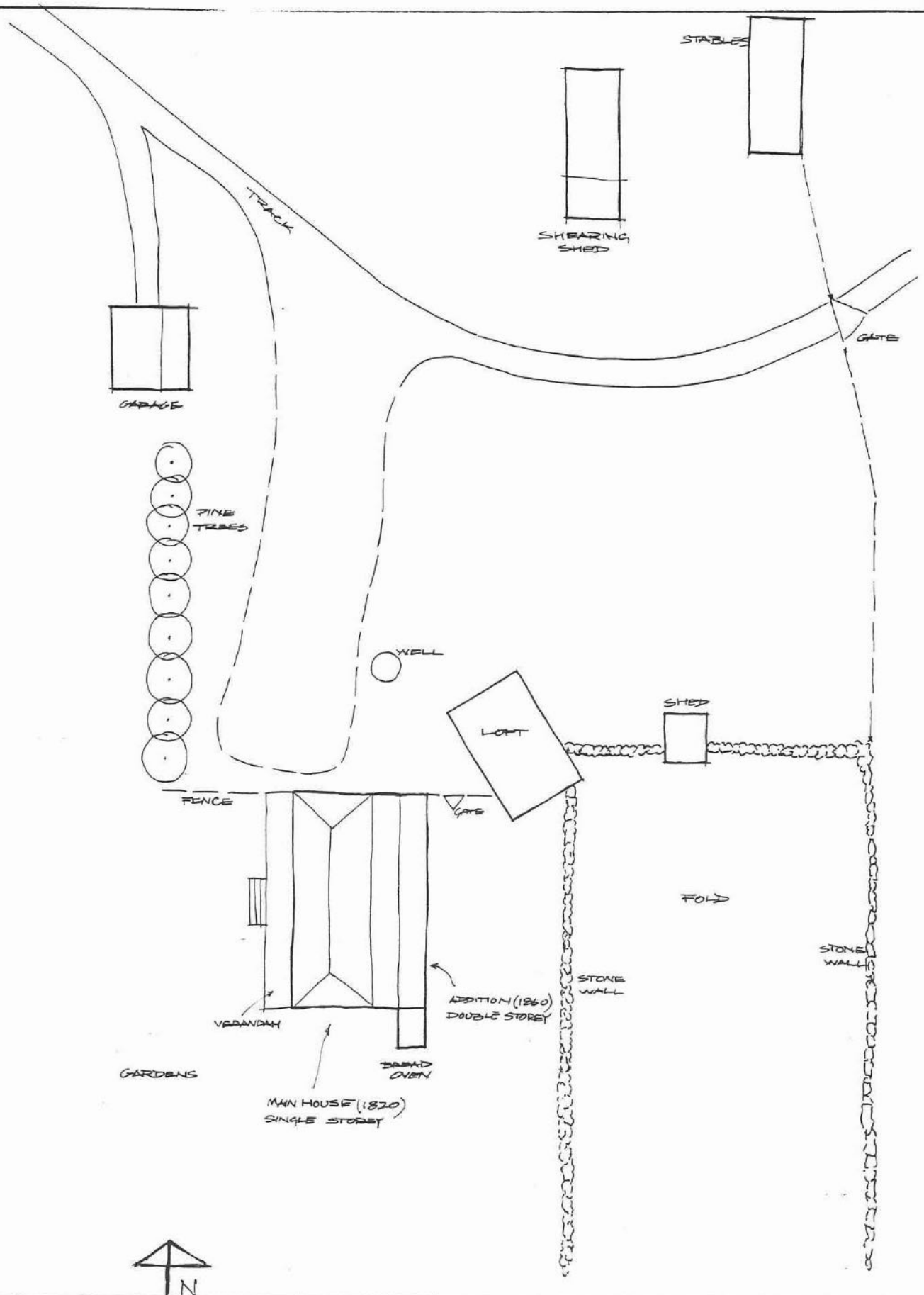
BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

McKAY, Anne (ed). 1962. *Journals of the Land Commissioners for van Diemen's Land 1826-8*. University of Tasmania and Tasmanian Historic Research Association, Hobart.

The Mercury 13 July, 1861, p4 & 14 July 1861, p4

Informants: Max and Joan Pearce.

SORELL HERITAGE STUDY



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