

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 185 Arthur Highway Sorell 7172		UPI: 2901234	PID: 5935446
Name: THORN HILL			
Feature Type: House	Structure Type	Dating: 1916 - 1945	
	Site Feature Type	Access Restrictions: Restricted	
		Inspection Date: J McCarthy September 96	
		Style: Inter War Functionalist	
		Grid ref: 5426 547770 5263300	
Indication of Significance: Low significance		Theme: Primary Production	
Material: Brick & Timber siding Corrugated iron		Listings: National Trust	
Condition: Deteriorated Fair			
Integrity: Disturbed or damaged			
National Estate Criteria:		Photograph Index: 25: 6 - 9	
Risk: Excavation: ☐ Development: ☐ Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐			

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The National Trust listing refers to a part of the structure which was demolished in 1989 (see History below).

The structure appears to have been originally constructed in three phases. The first stage was either constructed of brick or brick nogged. It has been demolished.

The second and third stages are discernible by the internal roof structure. The northern part of the building appears to have comprised 2 rooms and a verandah. This was all reclad when the southern addition was built - probably in the 1940 period. An entire new roof was put on the structure and it was all clad/reclad in weatherboard. The roof is a mixture of gables and hips. The foundations are timber stumps and stone.

HISTORY:

Granted to Bartholomew Reardon in 1813 on land Governor Macquarie had earlier instructed be reserved for a future town. Reardon had built a brick house on the block by 1820 and entertained Governor Macquarie during his 1821 visit to the district when he proclaimed the current township of Sorell. Reardon was the district police magistrate during the 1810s until bushrangers fired his haystacks in 1815. This period may give rise to the local description of the 'court house' at Thorn Hill. The 1820 general muster was held at Thorn Hill with Rev Knopwood holding a ensuing church service in Reardon's barn. While at Thorn Hill Reardon solved the pressing problem of wheat rust, perhaps ensuring the extraordinary prosperity of the district for a number of years.

Reardon got into financial trouble in partnership with Edward Lord and was forced to relinquish the property in the 1820s. In 1825, when the property was owned by Robert Bethune, bushranger Matthew Brady took over the homestead for several days with Bethune and others as hostages. The local military officer, William Gunn, intervened, was shot and had to have his arm amputated for his trouble.

Later bought by George Read and then Richard Crocker who lived in a brick and timber house there in 1842. The two storey brick dwelling remained standing until its demolition in 1989.

BOUNDARY:

COMMENTS:

The surviving parts of the building have little significance.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

CEN 1/40/99

Hobart Town Gazette 22/4/1825, supplement

LSD 354/2/161, LSD 354/3/269

NICHOLLS, Mary (ed). 1977. *The Diary of Reverend Robert Knopwood 1803-1838, First Chaplain of Van Diemen's Land*. Hobart.

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