

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 218 Wiggins Road Forcett 7173		UPI: 2901425	PID: 5936879
Name: FARM COMPLEX & STONE WALLS			
Feature Type:	Structure Type House	Site Feature Type Drystone walls	Dating: 1891 - 1915
	Outbuildings	Machinery	Access Restrictions: Restricted
			Inspection Date: D Parham November 96
			Style: Vernacular
		Grid ref: 5426 554930 5263720	
Indication of Significance: Possible significance		Theme: Primary Production	
Material:	Timber siding	Corrugated iron	Listings:
Condition:	Fair	Good	
Integrity:	Altered, extended unsympathetically		
National Estate Criteria:		Photograph Index:	20: 29-34
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A site complex the central feature of which is a weatherboard house with infilled verandah and rear extension. Chimneys are constructed of bricks made locally by Tom Wiggins (some are reportedly impressed with the initials TW). The clay pit and kiln were located near the bridge over Wiggins Creek less than 500m to the south-east.

Outbuildings include a creamery, cowshed, tractor shed, barn, hen houses, dog kennels etc.

The most remarkable aspects of the property are the dry stone walls and the scattered remnants of redundant farm machinery evocative of an earlier era. The walls have been constructed using traditional techniques of placed stones infilled with smaller pebbles and covered with cope stones. A square enclosure now partially collapsed was once an established garden but no evidence of the form remain.

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.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is confined to the paddocks containing dry stone walls immediately to the north and west of the house and outbuilding complex.

COMMENTS:

Although collapsed in places the stone walls are possibly significant as fine examples of a labour intensive technique (seldom practised in the present day) that contributes to the Wiggins Town landscape. The stone walls should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

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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.

Informant: Gwen Wiggins 218 Wiggins Road, via Forcett Tas 7173.

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