

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 36 Henry Street Sorell 7172		UPI: 2902999	PID: 5933141
Name: SORELL CEMETERY			
Feature Type:	Structure Type	Site Feature Type	Cemetery
	Dating:		1800 - 1829
	Access Restrictions:		Unrestricted
	Inspection Date:		October 96 P Davies
		Style:	N/A
		Grid ref:	5426 545000 5262500
Indication of Significance:		High probable significance	
		Theme:	
		Phases of Life	
Material:	Stone		
Condition:	Deteriorated Ruins		
Integrity:	Disturbed or damaged		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 C2 D2 E1 F1 G1 H1		
	Photograph Index:		6:4-7
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☒

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This is the first cemetery in the area and is located on the shore of Orielson Lagoon in a boggy site. The yard is surrounded by a hedgerow of cypress pines which form a dominant landmark in the landscape even though the trees are now gapped and in poor condition. A post and wire fence surrounds the site. The cemetery is still in use and it appears to be less than half full although there are likely to be many unmarked grave sites or lost sites.

The earliest observed grave markers were from 1850 but the cemetery appears on a c1827 plan of the town and the ground was consecrated by Samuel Marsden in 1823 with the first recorded burial in 1825.

The funerary art is mixed with some very unusual sarcophagus belonging to the Gatehouse family and a range of more traditional monuments from 1850 to the present day. The layout of the cemetery appears to be irregular with burials along Henry St and along the top of the site and more recently on the southern side of the site.

The cemetery is in very poor condition and has been extensively vandalised. Urgent work is required to save headstones, the surrounding hedge and to generally maintain the grounds.

HISTORY:

Consecrated by Samuel Marsden in March 1823 with the first burial taking place in 1825. Marsden travelled around the colony at this time consecrating a number of cemeteries. Prior to this some interments of Sorell residents took place at St David's cemetery in Hobart.

BOUNDARY:

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

COMMENTS:

The cemetery is significant as part of the pattern of development of the area, for its relationship to the town adjacent and for the social value and links to the early community of Sorell. The funerary art is very fine on a number of graves and the layout, location and perimeter hedge planting form a very strong presence on the edge of the town and the lagoon. The site is important for its association with early families in the area and as the site of the first cemetery in the district.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2, E1, F1, G1, and H1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. 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.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

TERRY, Ian. 1996. Sorell Heritage Study Stage 1: Thematic History

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