

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 727 Arthur Highway Forcett 7173		UPI: 2902395	PID: 7849189
Name: DODGES STORE (FORMER)			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: House	Site Feature Type: Mature trees	Dating: 1891 - 1915 1898
	Shop		Access Restrictions: Restricted
	Granary		Inspection Date: October 96 P Davies
	Shed		Style: Victorian
	Garage		Grid ref: 5426 551800 5260200
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Retailing Building Settlement and Towns	
Material:	Timber siding	Corrugated iron	Listings: National Trust SMC Schedule 3 AHC
Condition:	Fair	Deteriorated	
Integrity:	Altered, extended sympathetically		
National Estate Criteria:		Photograph Index: 5:11-15	
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The house and store, built by Abe Reardon, warden of the municipality at the time, was located at the eastern end of the town and was the second store in the town he operated. The main building is rectangular in form with a rear skillion and a bell -cast verandah extending around two sides. The form of the verandah was highly decorative with crossed timber infill panels under the railing and elaborate valence work. This has recently been removed as it was in poor condition and a concrete verandah built in place of the stone edged verandah. The windows to the front are the shop windows and an impressive door and sidelights fronts the building. The rear wing was added as was the skillion behind with its back to back chimney and this was used for many years as the kitchen. Chimneys to the building are brick

The site contains a shed, a garage that dates from the time of the house construction and a granary also from around 1900. There was a stable building which has now gone.

The granary is built on stumps with vertical timber siding and although leaning badly is propped and still in use. The garage is also vertical slab construction and leaning. The shed is in very poor condition and has horizontal boarding.

The granary was used to store the grain from the various land holdings of the family and has a door to the street for loading.

There are several large trees on the lower portion of the site near the creek which are of high landscape value and form part of a network of very substantial and mature trees through the township and along old Forcett Road that are of high visual and heritage significance.

The owners have early photographs and the ledger book from the shop use dating back to around 1888. The outbuildings are in very poor condition and require substantial work to avoid collapse. The house has been in poor condition and is currently being upgraded. The loss of the front verandah and its replacement in concrete is unfortunate and will present problems for the remainder of the structure. Verandah detail should be encouraged to be reinstated as this is a key house on the main road that played an important role in the development of the area.

HISTORY:

Constructed around 1898 by Abe Reardon, first Warden of the municipality as a residence and store; the building has remained in the family. Reardon conducted the business from at least 1888 on other premises in the town and purpose built the buildings on the alignment of the later road to the peninsula. The site once comprised many more structures and holding yards for horses, etc.

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BOUNDARY:

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

COMMENTS:

An historically significant building in the development of the area, providing stores to local settlers and aesthetically important as a fine late Victorian building indicating the prosperity of the business and the confidence in the future. It is the finest building in the main street of the town, despite its recent loss of verandah detail which should be reconstructed.

It should continue to be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and the Register of the National Estate and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

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