

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 340 White Hills Road Forcett 7173		UPI: E2584	PID: 5940069
Name: MUSGROVE			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: House	Dating:	1830 - 1890 1860
	Barn	Access Restrictions:	Restricted
	Garage	Inspection Date:	November Ian Terry
		Style:	Vernacular
		Grid ref:	5426 555940 5260960
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Land selection and closer settlement Primary Production	
Material:	Timber split slabs Shingle	Listings:	
Condition:	Excellent Deteriorated		
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria: A4 C2 D2		Photograph Index:	19: 25-30
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A complex of cottage and farm buildings relating to selection of the land following the 1858 Waste Lands Act.

The dwelling is a double hipped cottage with a front verandah and set on a stone base, with the stone quarried locally. It is clad in asbestos sheeting with the sheeting concealing the original slabs of the front half and sawn timbers of the rear. Windows in the cottage have been renewed with modern cedar windows. The cottage has been restored.

There is a fine timber barn below the cottage. It is of slab construction, set on bush stumps, and features a shingled gable roof. The massive adzed tie beams are braced with large section braces. Part of the barn has been refitted as a shearing shed. The shed is in poor condition with several stumps at the end of their lives.

The third structure of interest is a small timber garage with a shingled roof. There is also a mid twentieth century dairy and a c1960 studio/cottage behind the early cottage.

HISTORY:

The complex is situated on William Murray's 50 acre selection, made in 1860 under the 1858 Waste Lands Act. It was named Musgrove, probably relating to William Murray's Scottish background. The cottage was constructed totally out of the resources of the property with pit sawn timber, roof shingles and squared sandstone blocks from a nearby quarry. The barn and stable was added later and an orchard was planted near the cottage. William and his wife, Charlotte, raised nine children on the property. In 1866 a hut and land with a ratable value of £10 was recorded.

The Murray family owned and farmed the land until 1988, raising sheep for wool and milking cows to produce butter and cream for their own use. The farm was added to with further land purchases in 1919 and 1938 making a total of 401 acres. It declined after World War II with the increased mechanisation of rural industry. Tractors were not purchased until 1969 and electricity and the phone connected until as late as 1973.

BOUNDARY:

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

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COMMENTS:

Musgrove has high significance as an almost intact farm dating from the 1858 Waste Lands Act. It has great potential to yield information about non mechanised farming practices on a small family farm for over 100 years.

It meets Criteria A4, C2 and D2 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

Margaret Haines. Musgrove 1860-1988. (historic notes)
1866 Assessment Roll.

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