

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: OLD STRATHKELLAR (GARDEN)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 461

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: THE GRANGE

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 13 **SECTION:** F **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432 E58; VicRoads 73 5C; located off the north side of Strathkellar Road about 2.0km south-west of the railway crossing on a rise and overlooking the Grange Burn to the south.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Driveway, Old Strathkellar

Image Date: 09/09/04

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All of the garden and all of the trees and all of the land within a 50m radius of any edge of the modern house (but excluding all of the modern house). All of the driveway and all of the trees in the driveway and all of the land on either side of the driveway to a distance of 20m on either side of the central point of the driveway.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The remnant garden of Old Strathkellar is located off the north side of Strathkellar Road about 2.0km south-west of the railway crossing on a rise and overlooking the Grange Burn to the south. The garden has a number of substantial mature trees arranged in a typical Victorian pleasure garden style. The main plantings are of conifers. A detailed tree survey is recommended to establish the exact species and range of trees within the garden. A modern house is located in the middle of the garden where the Old Strathkellar homestead once stood.

HISTORY:

Thomas McKellar purchased The Grange (now Old Strathkellar) in 1862, and he renamed it Strathkellar. McKellar was born in Argyllshire, Scotland in 1819 and migrated to Victoria in 1848. He purchased Hyde Park in 1849 "at first in partnership with James Cochran, whose interest in the property he very soon acquired" (HHC, research notes; B&K 223). In 1850, he married Catherine McColl, a sister of James McColl of Yat Nat, at the Presbyterian Church in Geelong (VPI, Reg. No. 2315). They had five sons and daughters, several of whom were born at Hyde Park" (HHC, research notes). It seems the family continued to live at Hyde Park and had a manager at Kenilworth, probably living in the pisé house. McKellar is described by Henderson as "one of the outstanding pioneers of Victoria ... a far-seeing man ... possessed of a natural Scottish shrewdness" (HHC, research notes). "Then only three years later, in 1858, having sold both Hyde Park and Kenilworth North Stations, he bought Kanawalla Station near Hamilton. In 1862 he also purchased The Grange and Croxton Stations, re-naming the former Strathkellar" (HHC, research notes).

Thomas McKellar was a highly respected pastoralist and member of the community. He was the first President of the Dundas Shire in 1863 (McKellar, in Forth, 105). McKellar embarked on a three year journey to Scotland in 1864, and it appears that after this time he spent little time at his Western District properties, the time he spent being taken up with "Meeting his relations and hunting" (ibid., 105). It is possible that the garden was laid out the period of McKellar's ownership. McKellar died in Melbourne in 1880, leaving Strathkellar to his family.

The original Strathkellar homestead was destroyed in the twentieth century by fire, and a modern home has been built on the same site.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

Good

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity to turn of the century

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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What is significant?

The garden located at Old Strathkellar is a substantial mature garden predominately of coniferous species, located at the site of the Old Strathkellar homestead. The homestead has been replaced with a modern house, located on the same site. The garden is arranged in a typical Victorian pleasure garden style, complete with sweeping lawns, specimen trees and clumps of plantings. There has been no designer associated with the layout or planting of the original trees. The garden is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Old Strathkellar (Garden) complex is of historical and aesthetic significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Old Strathkellar (Garden) complex is of historical significance for its long, intricate and representative sequence of associations with important pioneering individuals and families.

The Old Strathkellar (Garden) complex is of and aesthetic significance as the surviving garden from one of the more important homesteads in the Hamilton district.

COMPARISON:

119 Konongwootong Creek Homestead garden, Coleriane -Balmoral Road, Konongwootong

ASSESSED BY: aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

9/03/2004

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Anita Macdonald	Mariposa, a Story of the Learmonths of Western Victoria and Mexico, 1834-1930	1981	var.
Diana M Halmarick, comp.	Thos. Robertson & Sons "Mainstays of Our Earliest Days"	2000	214
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	var.
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Ian Black (ed.)	Early Byaduk Settlers	1994	
Ian Mackellar, in Gordon Forth, gen. ed.	The Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria	1998	105
J. J. Mouritz	The Port Phillip Almanac and Directory	1847	65
Lawrence Clarke	Allotments in the Parishes of North Hamilton and Warrayure, County of Dundas	1851	
Michael T Moore in Douglas Pike, ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 5	1974	72-73
R V Billis & A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	various