

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WINNINBURN HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Heenan-Ferrier Road TARRENLEA

STUDY NUMBER: 047

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** WHINNINBURN,

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 139- **SECTION:** LP **PARISH:** PARISH OF HILGAY
143 4789

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 D 36: Vicroads 72 C4; access is from the Heenan-Ferrier Rd at its junction with the Winninburn Rd, with the woolshed sited on top of the hill and the homestead nearby, both being on the north-est bank of the River Wannon.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



Winninburn Homestead - Rear Elevation

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. A)all of the exterior of the house, the mature plantings and the brick ruins within a 50m radius of the house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The homestead at Winninburn is single storey, largely timber in construction with a low pitched hipped iron roof. The present verandahs on most sides replaced the original simple timber verandah, parts of which had been enclosed to form conservatories. The original front door is panelled and has sidelights, very much in the tradition of the pre-Separation colonial Georgian style. Other surviving external and internal details and the use of cedar for joinery betray the very early date of construction of the core of the house. Small bay windows, one of which survives at the rear, are of interest. There was a roofed well close to the rear of the house. The former men's quarters, possibly the earliest dwelling at Winninburn, has been demolished. There are only remnants of the original garden. Few trees survive from the original gardens but those which may include a Peppercorn (*Schinus molle*), English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) and a Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) although this is not a particularly mature specimen.

HISTORY:

The squatting run Winninburn was originally part of the larger Tahara run, which consisted of 24,000 acres and ran 1,100 head of cattle and 10,00 sheep (B&K, 284-5). George Winter held the lease from 1838, one of the earliest in the area. The Tahara lease was owned by George and Samuel Winter together from 1847 and they sold their interest to J. N. McLeod in March 1849 (B&K, 285). The squatting lease for Winninburn was cancelled in 1874.

The Winninburn run was separated from Tahara in November 1853 when the lease was held in the names of William Young and Dr Adam Turnbull (1803-91), who held the Mount Koroite and Dundas runs at the same time (B&K, 230). In Van Diemen's Land, Dr Turnbull (1803-1891) was an a public servant holding several part-time positions including treasurer, private secretary to Governors Arthur and Franklin, various medical posts, and, while an MLC, clerk of the Executive Council. He was also a Presbyterian clergyman and a substantial pastoralist with land at Campbell Town where he died (Finlay, ADB, 2, 541-2). William Young was related to the Turnbull family through marriage, migrating to VDL with them (Finlay, ADB, 2, 541-2).

Adam Turnbull Junior (1826-1905) became a partner in August 1858, he married his cousin, Margaret, the daughter of William Young. He was a foundation member and elder of the Presbyterian Church in Coleraine. When the first district cricket club was formed in the early 1850s, it was captained by Adam Turnbull. With Edward Henty of Muntham, he was a joint presidents of the Coleraine and Western District Agricultural Association when it was formed in 1864, with Turnbull continuing as President for many years. Turnbull was also a Justice of the Peace, and, when the Shire of Wannon was formed, he was the first Shire President, holding the office for many years. He and his wife had eight children (de Serville, 491). Adam Turnbull Junior died at Winninburn.

Winninburn was one of only two stations to survive the disastrous bushfires of February 6th, 1851. A gala race meeting was being held at Portland, and many landowners returned to find their stations burnt out. The wind changed just before the fire reached Bryant's Creek, sparing the township of Coleraine, and the squatting runs of Winninburn and Hilgay. This is important because much of the original detailing of Winninburn that survives can be compared directly with Tasmanian precedents. It may be that the core of the present house was George Winter's principal residence and that possibly it dates from his occupation as early as 1838. More probably it dates from the early 1840s before George went into partnership with his brother Samuel. Samuel's interests were always focused on Spring Valley, later called Murndal.

Judging by its form of construction, the materials used and its detailing, the front wing of the house appears to have been built at a very early date. Indeed, the cedar joinery of the doors and windows, already made up, seems likely to have been imported from Tasmania. The long low bungalow form of the house, apparently

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with interconnected rooms opening off a long verandah, is also indicative of a very early date. Alternatively, the house may date from 1853 when the run was separated from Tahara. The house was subsequently extended, probably in the 1860s. This wing created a second entrance and hall, which were perpendicular to the original. The hall includes a simple masonry arch and a board and batten ceiling. Later alterations may have included the enclosure of some of the verandahs to form a conservatory and the addition of bay windows if these did not date from the original 1840s construction. These were all removed during the renovations undertaken by the present owners soon after they took possession in the 1990s. Also demolished were the roof of the water tank at the rear, the stables and the men's quarters. The latter were of interest because they may have been the first dwelling on the site but, also interesting, the plan of the building was of four equal rooms each with a corner fireplace which joined to form one central chimney.

It is not known when the fourteen stand shearing shed was built. It dates from at least the 1890s and probably from much earlier. It is believed that James Ferrier invented the famous "Ferrier wool press", in the Winninburn Woolshed while in ownership of the Ferrier family. James Ferrier was born in 1810 and died at the family home, Calton Hill in 1884. In his lifetime, Ferrier was renowned for his skill at agriculture, and for his innovative inventions to make living and working on the land easier for the pastoralist, including the wool press as well as the first reaper and binder for baling fodder. Humble and Nicholson, engineers and boilermakers, of Geelong manufactured more than 1,200 of the Ferrier brand wool-presses (Smith, 462).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.17 Inventing devices

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The homestead is in good condition, and the homestead curtilage may have archaeological potential.

INTEGRITY:

Poor integrity after late 1990s alterations.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is Significant?

The squatting run Winninburn, as part of the Tahara run, was one of the earliest in the Portland Bay District, being taken up by George and Samuel Winter. The Winter brothers and the Whyte brothers were the next and the most important pioneers after the Henty family. It seems that George occupied the present homestead, possibly from the early 1840s. A symmetrical single storey weatherboard house, Winninburn had a bungalow form, a shallow pitched roof, now covered with iron and a surrounding verandah (now replaced). It was one of the very few homesteads to survive the 1851 bushfire and is, therefore, a rare example of the scale, form and setting of the earliest homesteads. From 1853, Winninburn was owned by Dr Adam Turnbull, one of the most important people in the Van Diemen's Land, and subsequently Tasmanian governments' administrations. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law, William Young and his son, Adam Turnbull Junior. The latter became an important person in his own right, being the first and long term President of the Shire of Wannon. The Ferrier family was the next to own and occupy Winninburn. James Ferrier is famous for inventing a revolutionary wool press made by Humble and Nicholson, engineers and boilermakers of Geelong. The house was extended sympathetically in the later nineteenth century and the verandah was partly enclosed. The original verandah was removed along with other distinctive details

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and the house renovated after change of ownership in the late 1990s. An earlier building, perhaps the first homestead and later used as men's quarters, was demolished at the same time. Although its integrity has been comprised the homestead is in good condition and retains the nexus with its historical setting.

How is it Significant?

The Winninburn Homestead complex is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Winninburn Homestead complex is of historical significance for its associations with the earliest period of squatting and for its direct link with Van Diemen's Land and especially for its long association with the Winter family and the Turnbull family. It is also significant historically for its association with the Ferrier family. Although altered and extended, including changes in the late 1990s, the homestead is of architectural significance because it retains substantial fabric and detailing from the earliest times and demonstrates a direct influence from Van Diemen's Land, the origin of the first squatters in the area.

COMPARISON:

Murndal,
Hilgay
Mount Koroite (Original),

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE: 11/11/2003

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
	Victoria and Riverina, with which is incorporated Victoria 1930, Victoria and Riverina 1931 and Victoria and Riverina, 1931-1932, a biographical record ...	1933	108-109
G McGaffin	The Wannon Shire Centenary 1872-1972: a brief history of the Shire of Wannon	1972	26, 35, 36
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Leslie Emerson	A Short History of the Early Days in the Coleraine District	c	2
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees, the Upper Class in Victoria 1850-80	1953	
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1991	
		1974	151, 162, & 284-5