

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MAJOR MITCHELL'S TRACK AND BLAZED TREE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Woodacres Lane NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 234

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

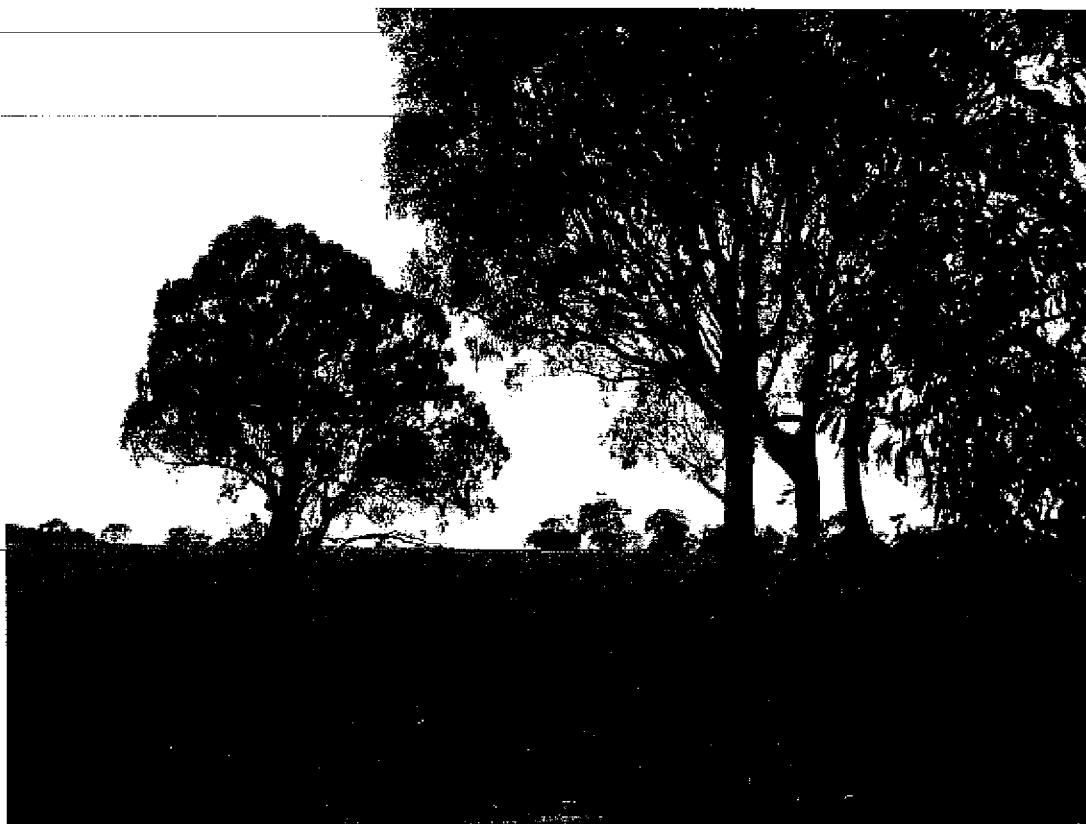
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 76 **SECTION:** A **PARISH:** PARISH OF KOOLOMERT

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 386 D-29; VicRoads 53 J7; located on the eastern side of Woodacres lane, approximately 4.5kms north-west of its intersection with the Chetwynd -Nareen Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Heritage Inventory



Major Mitchell Track, Woodacres Lane, Nareen

Image Date: 02/09/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. The blazed tree and its surrounding plantings and all the land from the edge of the road surface and into the adjacent paddock including an area of 10,000sqm.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Depressions left in the ground from the wheels of the bullock wagons used by Major Mitchell and his party in their exploration of Australia Felix. Nearby, and located on the roadside, is a blazed tree (which may have no connection with the exploration) bearing the marks 4/5/48 or similar.

HISTORY:

The history of Major Mitchell's exploration is well known and documented. The party crossed what is now Woodacres Lane at this spot between their camps on the 4-5 August and 6 August 1836. That day is summed up as "The higher ground was, however, still soft and the cart wheels sank in. Progress was slow, especially across extensive marshy area full of reeds or rushes where the drays sank to the axles. The soil was so liquid that it lapped around the struggling bullocks" (Eccleston (1990), 60).

The land on which these marks and the tree are located have been used for primary production for over 150 years, mainly for grazing purposes and the soil has never been ploughed or mechanically disturbed (Edgar, 2001).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 2: Peopling Australia
2.5 Promoting settlement

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.3 Surveying the continent
3.3.1 Looking for inland seas and waterways
3.3.4 Looking for land with agricultural potential

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.7 Honouring achievement
8.9 Commemorating significant events

CONDITION:

The depressions are in poor condition, and the tree is in good condition

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The site known as Major Mitchell's Track is located on private property 'Cuyuac', in a paddock on the east side of Woodacres Lane. It is approximately 4.5kms north-west of its intersection with the Chetwynd -Nareen Road. There are distinct areas of ground which appear to be disturbed, with large parallel depressions in the earth. There is also a tree located nearby which may or may not be related. The tree is a River Red Gum which has been blazed at some time, although the blaze is indistinct.

How is it significant?

The tracks of Major Mitchell's expedition and the associated blazed tree in Woodacres Lane, Nareen are of historical and scientific significance.

Why is it significant?

The track and blazed tree are of historic significance as remnants of one of the most important explorations

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in Australian history and the resulting opening up of the country which came to be known as 'Australia Felix'. They are of scientific significance as evidence of the way explorers and surveyors travelled through unknown country and left their mark.

COMPARISON:

Other examples of Major Mitchell's tracks, if they can be located and other blazed trees such as that removed to Brie Brie Homestead

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE: 4/12/2001

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
Allan Edgar	Personal Communication	2001	
Gregory C. Eccleston	The Major Mitchell Trail - Exploring Australia Felix	1990	58-62
Gregory Eccleston	Major Mitchell's 1836 'Australia Felix' Expedition: A Re-Evaluation	1992	
Major T. L. Mitchell	Three Expeditions Into The Interior of Eastern Australia - Volume Two	1839	