

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MARITIME PINES PLANTATION

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Chatsworth Road WOODHOUSE

STUDY NUMBER: 432

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: CA 5 SECTION: Sec E PARISH: PARISH OF COREA
Pt 4 Kay

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475 B 11-12; VicRoads 73 H6; located at the north side of the Hamilton-Chatsworth Road between Woodhouse West and Woodhouse Lane

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



Copy of 4373 Pinus Maritima Woodside

Image Date: 10/03/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the tree in the plantation and an area of land from the property boundary along the Hamilton-Chatsworth Road and 50.0m wide.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

A plantation of Maritime Pines, located on the north side Hamilton-Chatsworth Road. The plantation appears to be only *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime or Cluster pine) and extends for 1.2 kilometers along the road in a linear plantation. The majority of the trees appear to be in very good condition.

The trees stretch for 1.2kms on the north side of the Hamilton-Dunkeld Road.

HISTORY:

It is thought that the plantation of Maritime pines located on the Hamilton Chatsworth Road may be associated with the adjacent historic pastoral property, Woodhouse.

The Woodhouse squatting run was first taken up by Adolphus Scales in March 1848. Located at the head of Muston's Creek about 12kms north-east of Mount Rouse, it comprised 16,000 acres and had 8,000 sheep. Scales died in 1854, aged 45 (VPI, Reg. No. 5906). Consequently, in June of 1854, the run passed to James Ritchie who passed it on to his brothers, Daniel and Simon Ritchie in September 1858 and, from February 1860, Simon Ritchie held the licence on his own (B&K, 302). The Ritchie brothers were in partnership with James Scales, the brother of Adolphus in the neighbouring Blackwood run. The Scales who were from Perthshire and the Ritchies had emigrated on the same ship. In 1856, Adolphus Scales' widow Jane, nee Paton married Robert Hood of Merrang, north of Warrnambool (VPI, Reg. No. 3810).

Margaret Kiddle states that James Ritchie arrived from Scotland in 1841. In November 1842, Ritchie, his brothers and James Scales "purchased the station on the Deep Creek with 16,000 sheep for 400 pounds. The sheep was [sic] in a shocking state with scab, poverty and foot-rot" (Kiddle, 139). By 1844 that partnership was dissolved and the Ritchie brothers formed Blackwood from the larger run of Deep Creek, the licence being transferred in 1845. In 1846 the brothers parted and became independent owners, Daniel staying at Blackwood and Simon moving to take up the adjacent run, Woodhouse. Simon Ritchie was born in Scotland in 1820. He married Jane, the daughter of James Sanderson and they had six children (De Serville, 484).

The Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Book of 1870 names James Alexander, sheepfarmer, as the occupant and Simon Ritchie as the owner of the Woodhouse Estate, Dunkeld for three sites with a total nett annual valuation of 1,625 pounds (SMRB, 1870, No. 4). The rate book of 1872 names only James Alexander and gives a total area of 8,146 acres with a nett annual valuation of 1,626 pounds on which he paid a rate of 81 pounds 6 shillings (SMRB, 1870, No. 1). De Serville, on the other hand states that the Woodhouse Estate totaled 14,203 acres (De Serville, 484).

Elise Clabburn states that "From 1854, "Woodhouse" stayed in the Ritchie family until 1928, when the owner, Major Ritchie, sold it, then 12,000 acres, to Mr. John Baillieu. In the large bluestone homestead, understood to have been built by the Ritchies, Scales' [sic] original 3-room homestead was retained as the kitchen. In the fashion of the time, this kitchen was a long way from the dining-room" (Clabburn, 40) The first extension beyond the original kitchen wing dates from 1857 (Plowright, pers. comm.) In March 1868, James M. Knight called tenders in the Warrnambool Examiner for four building projects for James Alexander (Tonkin, 69). The first was for additions to the dwelling, the second was for the masonry work of the woolshed, the third for a men's hut and the fourth for constructing a water tank. About 1900, based on stylistic grounds and the materials used, there were more substantial additions and renovations to the house with a full remodeling of the roof. The small bluestone coachhouse appears to date from the mid-1860s while the timber stables with their drop slab construction may be earlier although later modified about 1900. A sheep wash also existed to the west of the homestead complex but, after subdivision, is now located on a separate property.

The other important nineteenth century development was the landscaped garden around the homestead. This was a sophisticated exercise which included the construction of a large dam for practical and ornamental

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purposes, the planting of extensive groves of conifers and the planting of conventional trees and shrubs close to the house. About 1900, possibly as part of the reworking of the house, a very large plantation of Maritime Pines, *Pinus maritima* was established in an L-shape along Hamilton-Chatsworth Road and McPhea's Lane but, after subdivision, this is also now located on a separate property. The plantation is believed to be the largest of its type and species in Victoria.

Claburn continues "After the 1939-45 War, the Soldier Settlement Commission acquired all of "Woodhouse", with the exception of a block taken up by the Station Manager, Jock Desailly and now known as "Woodhouse West", and cut up into 25 lots for soldier settlement. The block containing the original bluestone homestead, shearing shed, stables and coachhouse was allotted to Mr. W. C. Wawn." (Claburn, 40). According to the Corea Parish Plan of 1966, the pre-emptive right was subdivided under the Soldier Settlement Act 1946. In 1948, after sub-division soldier settlement, the owners were the Baillieu family (Plowright, pers. comm.). The next major ownership was the Plowright family. Extensive plantings of Radiata Pines, *Pinus radiata* occurred which compliment the earlier plantations.

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:

The majority of the plantation is in very good to good condition

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The plantation or windbreak of Maritime or Cluster Pines, *Pinus pinaster*, which stretches for over 1.2kms on the north side of the Hamilton-Chatsworth Road is associated with the Woodhouse squatting run. The plantation curves sinuously with the road and is several trees across. It is not known for certain when or by whom the trees were planted. There is the usual range of pines, including many Maritime Pines planted around the homestead, which dates mostly from the 1850s and 1860s. Alternatively, they may have been planted as late as 1928 when the Ritchie family sold Woodhouse after 74 years of occupation. It is likely that the trees were planted both as a windbreak and for aesthetic reasons, the choice of species being unusual. The plantation stands out as a landmark, especially in silhouette, across a relatively flat and featureless plain. The species is native to the Mediterranean region and fast growing. It is one of several species of exotic pine which were planted in the Western District in gardens and as windbreaks, of which the Monterey or Radiata Pine, *Pinus radiata*, was by far the most common. This appears to be the biggest plantation of Maritime Pines in the State. The plantation is generally in good condition although some trees are missing, dead or stressed.

How is it significant?

The Maritime Pines Plantation is of aesthetic and scientific significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Maritime Pine Plantation is of aesthetic significance as a landmark which makes an important contribution

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to the landscape though is size, form and particular species and as a foil to the nearby garden of the Woodhouse Homestead complex.

The Maritime Pine Plantation is of scientific significance as the most extensive in the State of Victoria.

COMPARISON:

H1422 Cunnacks Volonia Oak Plantation, Elliot Street, Castlemaine.

None found within the study area

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

24-Mar-03

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
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	130, 302
