

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** COBB AND CO DEPOT & STABLES (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Scott Street extension CAVENDISH

**STUDY NUMBER:** 447

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Cavendish

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 2      **SECTION:** 1B

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 C; VicRoads 228 7H; located in the western end of the extension of Scott Street on the floodplain beside the Wannon River about 1.5kms west of the centre of the township.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Cobb & Co Depot and Stables, Scott St extension, Cavendish

**Image Date:** 3/04/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All of the stables and all of the land, being allotment 2 of section 1b in the township of Cavendish.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The depot and stables are located on the edge of the town, on the western boundary of the site and close to the river flats. The structure is a long rude timber building comprising five main stalls for horses and other spaces for the storage of tack and possibly for coaches. The roof is gabled with a skillion extension at the front and is covered with corrugated iron. The roof is supported by massive timber posts and the stalls are divided by timber rails. For the most part, the building is open to the east. It is likely that the horses grazed both in the yard and on the river flats.

## **HISTORY:**

W. Hadden Junior purchased allotment 2 of section 1B of the Township of Cavendish in March 1913. He also purchased the adjacent allotment 1 which is at the intersection of Scott Street with the Hamilton Road, now the Henty Highway. William Hadden, the son of William and Mary Hadden, nee Mortimer, was born in Cavendish in 1880 (VPI. Reg. No. 14385). It is not known if William Hadden Junior was associated with coaching.

The name Cobb & Co is still famous for more than sixty years of service, especially in the more remote parts of the colony of Victoria. Don Garden writes "In 1853 four young Americans led by Freeman Cobb began a carrying business from Melbourne to Port Melbourne and in January 1854 introduced a service to the goldfields. Using imported lightweight and well-sprung American coaches, best quality horses, and experienced and generally American drivers, Cobb and Co. soon outstripped most of its rivals. ... As railways were built coaches lost business on some of Victoria's main routes ... eventually Cobb and Co. became a loose federation of lines using the same name, rather than a single company, and operated throughout the eastern colonies" (Garden, 1984, 88). In fact Cavendish was serviced by two coach lines. The Bailliere's Gazetteer of 1865 states "Hoyle's coaches run twice a week between Cavendish, Hamilton and Balmoral. There is no communication with Dunkeld or Coleraine, except via Hamilton. Cobb and Co.'s coaches run twice a week from Cavendish via Hamilton, and to Ballarat daily, whence trains run to Melbourne, 193 miles" (Bailliere's, 84). The railway finally arrived at Cavendish in 1915 and the line passed directly past the Cobb and Co. depot.

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~~It is unusual for coaching stables to be distant from the main hotel in a town if not directly serviced by the hotel.~~

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.8 Moving goods and people

## **CONDITION:**

The building is in fair condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The former Cobb and Co. Depot and Stables are located in the western end of the extension of Scott Street on the floodplain beside the Wannon River about 1.5kms west of the centre of the township. The structure which remains is a long rude timber building comprising five main stalls for horses and other spaces for the storage of tack and possibly for coaches. The roof is gabled with a skillion extension at the front and is covered with corrugated iron. The roof is supported by massive timber posts and the stalls are divided by

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timber rails. For the most part, the building is open to the east. It is believed that the structure was built between 1855 and 1865. The building was part of the famous Cobb and Co. which linked the remote townships of Victoria for over sixty years. The buildings are in fair condition and retain a high degree of integrity

**How is it significant?**

The former Cobb and Co. Depot and Stables are of historical significance to the township of Cavendish and the Southern Grammarians Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

The structure which remains of the former Cobb and Co Depot and Stables is a relatively rare example of an original Cobb and Co. stable. The rude construction technique is also of historical significance as it provides us with a view of a previous traditional building practice. Of further historical significance is that the surviving structure represents the once important service of Cobb and Co. which served Victoria for over sixty years, and was particularly significant to isolated townships such as Cavendish, as the only method of transport for many years.

**COMPARISON:**

252 Penshurst Motors, 106 Bell Street, Penshurst

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

8/04/2003

**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 |
|----------------------------|--|------|------|
| Don Garden                 | Victoria, a History                            | 1984 | 88   |
| Robert P. Whitworth, comp. | Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide | 1865 | 84   |

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