

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WATTLE PARK (GERMAN COTTAGE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hartwich's Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 462

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** 11 **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432 E15; VicRoads 73 B5; located on the south side of Hartwich's Road, about 200m east of the intersection of Hensley Park Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Wattle Park, Hartwich's Road, Strathkellar, lehmwickle barn

Image Date: 14/05/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house but excluding its interiors, the lehmwickle barn, the timber stables, the timber barn and all of the land within a 10m radius of any edge of each of the significant buildings listed above.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WATTLE PARK (GERMAN COTTAGE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hartwich's Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 462

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Wattle Park comprises five main structures: the house built in two stages; the lehmwickel barn; the timber stables; the timber barn; and the timber laundry. There may have been other structures, such as the original dwelling, which have been demolished. The present house was originally a single-storey, brick building symmetrical about the front door with projecting wings at the side. The plan appears to have been conventional. It is not known what the original verandah was like. It was replaced, probably in the later 1930s, with a new verandah using a concrete floor, brick piers and short pressed cement columns. This is on three sides of the house. The original front door which was conventional with side and fan lights, has been replaced with double doors with an Art Deco motif in the glazing bars. At the rear, the original form survives with attic casement windows in the paired gables. Late twentieth century alterations have occurred at the rear. The roofs of the house have been re-clad in red 'Decramastic' pressed sheeting imitating roof tiles.

The barn is approximately 6m by 12m although the lehmwickle construction is only located at the northern end. It forms a room and is made up from three bays in the end or northern elevation and one bay on the front or eastern elevation which includes a ledge and brace door. The two outer sections of the end elevation have diagonal bracing. The framing is made up of dressed timber members, probably adzed rather than sawn. The panels are made up of roughly shaped, vertical split sticks with their ends pointed to fit into holes in the framing. These may have had a mixture of straw and mud rolled around them before insertion or, less likely, afterwards. The rough daubing has been finished with smooth coats of render. Importantly, the original half-round guttering survives on the lehmwickle section of the barn and is still supported by the original metal brackets. The rest of the barn is unremarkable with timber framed walls clad either with weatherboard or corrugated iron. The hipped roof is corrugated iron and has a very low pitch. A skillion has been added on the western side, apparently to create a motor garage, perhaps in the Interwar years. Other changes have occurred, such as raising the roof to accommodate larger machinery at the southern end. The building is in very poor condition and in need of urgent stabilisation.

The one and a half-storey weatherboard stables are conventional. The main entrance, with the traditional split door, is at the eastern end with ventilation provided by trellising along the side or northern elevation. A door to the loft opens above the main entrance and is half into the gable. There is a small glazed window in the western gable. There were two ledge and brace doors in the side elevation, one of which has been closed up with weatherboards. A single storey skillion has been added at the far end of the stables. The weatherboards are painted a dark brown. The gabled roof is corrugated iron. The building is in fair condition with some failure in the bottom plate on the side elevations causing subsidence in the middle of the wall but not the ridge line. Most of the western wall of the skillion is collapsed or missing.

Nearby there is a similar but smaller structure which appears to have been a grain store. It is single-storey but elevated on stumps. Its weather boards are also painted. The western wall has been replaced with corrugated sheeting, probably 'Zincalume'. There is a window in the western gable. The building is in fair condition.

There are several mature trees surround the complex. The Monterey Cypresses close to the house may have been planted as a hedge. There are several Canary Island Palms on the north-west side of the house where there is a side entrance. The garden immediately around the house is enclosed in a crinkle wire fence.

HISTORY:

J. C. Hartwich purchased allotment 1 of section of the Parish of North Hamilton in 1855. It comprised about 140 acres or 56.8ha. Johann Carl Hartwich, known as Carl, also purchased the adjacent allotment 2 at the

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WATTLE PARK (GERMAN COTTAGE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hartwich's Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 462

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

same time and allotment 5A of section 16 in 1880. His total freehold in the Parish was at least 140ha or 308 acres. Other members of the family bought other allotments including his son Johann Diengott Hartwich (1851-1932), known as John, who purchased the land adjacent to allotment 5A of section 16 in 1880. The land had been described by the surveyor, Lindsay Clarke (1818-1891) as generally "of average quality timbered with Gum, She Oak and Blackwood" (Clarke, 1851). A track, described as "Road from Skene's Station" passed through the centre of allotment 2, immediately to the west of a swampy area. Sheep yards are noted immediately to the south-west of allotment 1 and to the south-east of allotment 2 with a hut beside "permanent water" between them on allotment 6. These were almost certainly associated with the Upper Grange run, then held by Captain William Lonsdale, the first Colonial Secretary and former Mayor of Melbourne (B&K, 98). Lindsay Clarke himself bought a total of 316.97ha in ten allotments and established a villa on a hill overlooking nearby Lake Doling Doling. He was one of the first, and became perhaps the most important district surveyor in the south-west of the Western District, assuming the role of his superior, Henry Wade.

Carl Johann Hartwich (1812-1898), was a typical and very successful German Lutheran settler. He had married Anna Rosina Raschke (1818-1874) and they arrived in the Hamilton area by the mid-1850s because their daughter, Johanne was born there in 1857 (VPI, Reg. No. 11264). They had migrated from Germany in 1846 via South Australia where their sons Johann Diegoht and Johann Carl was born in 1851 and 1853 (V&R, 135-6). The latter died, at the age of 17 at Hamilton in 1870 (VPI, Reg. No. 9181). These three appear to be their only children. Johanne Hartwich married Johann Friedrich Lange in 1873 (VPI, Reg. No. 2304). They had one child, Johanne Christine who was born in Glenorchy, north-west of Stawell in 1874 which suggests that the young couple, like so many others, migrated into the Wimmera when land there was thrown open for selection (VPI, Reg. No. 2692).

Carl Hartwich prospered sufficiently to purchase more land. "He was one of the best known farmers in the Hamilton district, and, mainly due to his grit and capacity for hard work, he was able to hand to his sons a valuable estate" (V&R, 136). He also purchased the Hutcheson flour mill which had closed in 1886 after many difficult years. He appears not to have operated the mill (Garden, 132).

It seems certain that Carl and Anna built the first farm buildings at Wattle Park and, presumably, a dwelling now demolished using the same vernacular techniques employed by other German settlers at Gnadenthal and elsewhere. A single-storey barn survives which is built using a timber frame filled in with lehmwickel or wattle and daub. At some distance, there are weatherboard stables and another barn elevated on stumps and built in weatherboard. These buildings appear to date from the 1860s or later and may be replacements for earlier structures. The present house appears to have been built in two main stages. The older stage, evident from the rear and sides, indicates construction in the late 1880s, or even later, based on its form, scale, materials and detailing. A hand-made galvanised iron weather vane survives with the date 1869 cut into it. It is not known to which building this belonged but it seems most unlikely that it was the present house. It was modernised during the Interwar years, probably the mid-1930s, when a new verandah was added with pressed cement columns on brick piers. Much of the garden, including the Monterey Cypresses, Cupressus macrocarpa, the Canary Island Palms, Phoenix canariensis, and the paths and fences dates from this period. A laundry at the rear of the house appears to date from the Interwar period as well.

The construction of the new house may have been prompted by John Hartwich succeeding his father Carl Hartwich who died in 1898. His wife had predeceased him by 24 years. Both are buried in the South Hamilton Lutheran cemetery. Presumably John would have supported Carl in his later life and worked the farm. Wattle Park then passed to him. In 1933, just after he had died, he was "recognised as one of the most successful farmers and grazier in Hamilton, and by his practical knowledge of farming and his keen judgment he has been able to further increase his holding from 1400 acres to 3000 acres" (V&R, 136). John

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WATTLE PARK (GERMAN COTTAGE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hartwich's Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 462

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Hartwich and his wife had ten children. His death seems to have prompted the modernisation of the house in the mid-1930s.

During the Second World War, Leslie Hartwich (1915-1986) and his wife Sylvia Hartwich (1917-) nee Mibus, owned Wattle Park. "Their chief interest has been producing superfine wool, grazing cattle and growing cereal crops, mainly oats to supplement sheep feed. Flax, linseed, mustard, field and canning pea were grown during the war years" (Huf, 678). They had seven children and their fourth son, Timothy David Hartwich (1954-) now owns Wattle Park (Nagorka, 256-7).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 2 Peopling Australia

2.4 Migrating

2.4.1 Migrating to save or preserve a way of life

2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity

2.4.3 Migrating to escape oppression

2.4.4 Migrating through organised colonisation

2.4.5 Changing the face of rural and urban Australia through migration

2.5 Promoting settlement

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The house is in good condition. The Lehmwickle barn is in poor condition. The timber stables and barn are in fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity for all buildings

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Wattle Park, situated at the intersection of Hartwich's Road and Hensley Park Road, Strathkellar and about 5.0kms from the centre of Hamilton, dates from 1855 when the land was purchased by J. C. Hartwich. Johann Carl Hartwich (1812-1898), known as Carl and his wife Anna Rosina, nee Raschke (1818-1874) were German Lutheran immigrants who settled first in South Australia before moving to the Hamilton area via Portland. They probably built a traditional lehmwickle dwelling immediately, similar to those which survive in the community at Gnadenthal near Penhurst, as well as other working structures. A section of the original barn survives using the traditional construction, although in poor condition and somewhat altered overall. The timber stables and another timber barn are more conventional weatherboard framed buildings. They appear to date from the 1860s and survive in fair condition with only minor alterations. The present house appears to date from late in the nineteenth century. It was modernised during the Interwar years, principally by the replacement of the original verandah by a verandah using short cement columns on brick

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WATTLE PARK (GERMAN COTTAGE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hartwich's Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 462

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

piers. It remains in good condition. The exact date of the house is not certain but it may date from about 1898 when Carl Hartwich died, some 24 years after his wife. One son had died at the age of 17 in 1873 and their daughter married, who was born at Wattle Park in 1857, migrated to the Wimmera, a common event in the German Lutheran community in the mid-1870s. Their son Johann Diengott Hartwich, known as John, inherited and developed Wattle Park. By the mid-1930s he was considered one of the best farmers and graziers in the Hamilton District. Wattle Park has remained in the Hartwich family and is now held by the fifth generation.

How is it significant?

Wattle Park is of historical and architectural significance to the southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Wattle Park is of historical significance for its direct connections with five generations of the Hartwich family and its branches, and particularly with Johann Carl Hartwich, Johann Diegoht Hartwich, Leslie Hartwich, Ronald Hartwich and Timothy Hartwich and their wives and children. Specifically, it demonstrates the steady success of five generations of German Lutheran migrants in the area to the south and east of Hamilton in the face of great personal difficulties. The complex is of architectural significance as a group of traditional buildings and, in particular, for the vernacular Lehmwickle technique demonstrated in the barn. The mature garden setting of the homestead enhances the overall significance.

COMPARISON:

260 Burger Homestead Complex (Acacia), Springfield Lane, off Macarthur-Penshurst Road, Penshurst
441 Mirtschin's Homestead Complex, Springfield Lane, off Macarthur-Penshurst Road, Penshurst
455 Sylvan Grove, Mibus Lane, Croxton East

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

14/05/2003

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
	Johann Carl Hartwich, Obituary, 12 March 1898	1898	
	Victoria and Riverina, with which is incorporated Victoria 1930, Victoria and Riverina 1931 and Victoria and Riverina, 1931-1932, a biographical record ...	1933	135-6
Edna Nagorka garden	The Mibus Family in Australia 1847-1985	1985	var.
Lindsay Clarke	Allotments in the Parishes of North hamilton and Warrayure, County of Dundas	1851	
R. V Billis & A. S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	var.