

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** PINUS SYLVESTRIS GROVE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

**STUDY NUMBER:** 470

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** THE GRANGE; UPPER GRANGE; STRATHKELLAR

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 E58 or 432K 16; VicRoads 73 5C; located off the north side of Strathkellar Road about 1.5km south-west of the railway crossing on a rise and overlooking the Grange Burn to the south.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Grove of Trees (*Pinus sylvestris*), Strathkellar Road, Strathkellar

**Image Date:** 03/01/00

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the trees (x15) and a circular area around the grove of 200m diameter centred on the hill top.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

A grove of at least fifteen *Pinus sylvestris* or Scots Pines planted on a substantial rise as a landscape feature. The grove, the best preserved and most obvious, is related to other groves of similar and different trees planted on both sides of the Strathkellar Road. The trees are native to western and northern Europe and Russia. Although now rare, a few native stands remain in Scotland but nowhere else in Britain. For this association and because they were endorsed by horticultural writers in the nineteenth century, they were planted nostalgically and picturesquely in the Western District.

## **HISTORY:**

Thomas McKellar purchased The Grange (now Old Strathkellar) in 1862, and he renamed it Strathkellar. McKellar was born in Argyllshire, Scotland in 1819 and migrated to Victoria in 1848. He purchased Hyde Park run in 1849 "at first in partnership with James Cochran, whose interest in the property he very soon acquired" (HHC, research notes; B&K 223). In 1850, he married Catherine McColl, a sister of James McColl of Yat Nat, at the Presbyterian Church in Geelong (VPI, Reg. No. 2315). They had five sons and daughters, several of whom were born at Hyde Park" (HHC, research notes). It seems the family continued to live at Hyde Park and had a manager at Kenilworth, probably living in the pisé house. McKellar is described by Henderson as "one of the outstanding pioneers of Victoria ... a far-seeing man ... possessed of a natural Scottish shrewdness" (HHC, research notes). "Then only three years later, in 1858, having sold both Hyde Park and Kenilworth North Stations, he bought Kanawalla Station near Hamilton. In 1862 he also purchased The Grange and Croxton Stations, re-naming the former Strathkellar" (HHC, research notes).

Thomas McKellar was a highly respected pastoralist and member of the community. He was the first President of the Dundas Shire in 1863 (McKellar, in Forth, 105). McKellar embarked on a three year journey to Scotland in 1864, and it appears that after this time he spent little time at his Western District properties, the time he spent being ken up with "Meeting his relations and hunting" (ibid., 105). It is likely that the grove of *Pinus* are in some way related to the garden and homestead at Strathkellar, following the English tradition of placing groves of trees within a landscape in order to draw the eye. The planting date, or the true purpose are not yet known. McKellar died in Melbourne in 1880, leaving Strathkellar to his family.

## **CONDITION:**

The trees are in mixed condition from good to fair.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The grove of fifteen *Pinus sylvestris* which are believed to be a landscape feature designed to be viewed from the garden of nearby Strathkellar (now Old Strathkellar) are located on a rise overlooking the site of the (old) Strathkellar homestead. It is thought that they were planted about the same time as the garden at Old Strathkellar, which was undertaken for the then owner, Thomas McKellar. The trees within the grove are in mixed condition from good to fair, but as a whole retain a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The grove of trees is of aesthetic and historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The grove of trees is of historical significance for its associations with the garden at Old Strathkellar, and through this, with Thomas McKellar. Aesthetically, the grove is a dominant landscape feature on the

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Strathkellar Road, and draws the eye to the dramatic visual of the trees silhouette on the skyline.

## COMPARISON:

054 The Gums ( broader landscape beyond homestead garden), Woolsthorpe Road, Penshurst.  
461 Old Strathkellar Garden, Strathkellar Road, Strathkellar

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

10-Mar-04

## 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
Anita Macdonald	Mariposa, a Story of the Learmonths of Western Victoria and Mexico, 1834-1930	1981	var.
Diana M Halmarick, comp. Don Garden	Thos. Robertson & Sons "Mainstays of Our Earliest Days" Hamilton, A Western District History	2000 1984	214 var.
Edmund Finn, "Garryowen" Ian Black (ed.)	The Chronicles of Early Melbourne Early Byaduk Settlers	1888 1994	var.
Ian Mackellar, in Gordon Forth, gen. ed.	The Biographical Dictionary of the Western Distrcit of Victoria	1998	105
J. J. Mouritz	The Port Phillip Almanac and Directory	1847	65
Lawrence Clarke	Allotments in the Parishes of North Hamilton and Warrayure, County of Dundas	1851	
Michael T Moore in Douglas Pike, ed. R V Billis & A S Kenyon	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 5 Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974 1974	72-73 variou s