

MILBROOK HOMESTEAD

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

**PAPERS
1973-1997**

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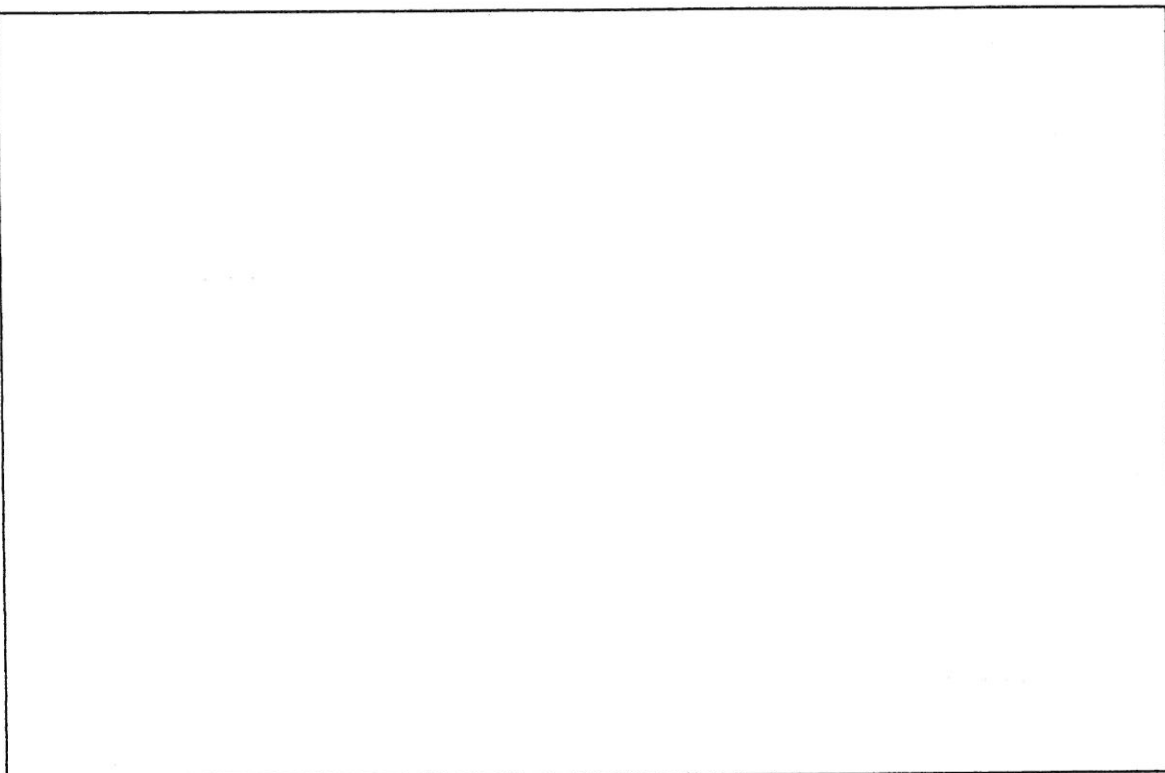
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Place:

Milbrook Ruin

Place ID No.-

Photograph No.-

Type: Ruin of small farm complex.**Location:** Off Coopers Road, above Organ Pipes**Map Reference:****Critical Date(s):** c1856-7 construction; c 1890 extension?**Historical Theme(s):** The Land: Producing; Social and Civic Life.**Previous Heritage Registration(s):** None**Recommended Level of Significance:** State**Statement of Significance:**

The ruinous remains of an early small farm complex, which is amongst the most intact of the similar examples in the shire. It is located on the side of the Jackson Creek valley, above the famous "organ pipes", overlooking a craggy escarpment. Its size, condition and setting are expressive of the farming aspirations of poor early migrants, of the difficulties experienced by these small farmers in adapting to and surviving in adverse Australian soil and climatic conditions, and of their use of small alluvial flats.

The original site, and perhaps the dwelling, was the product of John Pascoe Fawkner's 'Victoria Co-operative Freehold and Land Investment Society', wherein people with little finance were enabled to take up land. This is expressive of Fawkner's anti-squatter sentiments, and of contemporary yeomanry ideals. It confers a high historical significance upon the place. There were numerous other lands which were similarly purchased by Fawkner on behalf of the co-operative and then subdivided into small lots, but it is not known what, if any, fabric or other evidence survives elsewhere.

The public ownership of the place and its association with the Organ Pipes Park enhances its potential for long-term protection and interpretation, and improves its heritage significance relative to most other similar ruins in the shire.

Description:

The stone and brick ruins of a house and outbuildings, situated on the side of the hill above the Organ Pipes, about 200 metres north of Jacksons Creek. There is a small flat beside the creek which was apparently once used for orchards, but which now contains only one large gum tree and quite thick native vegetation planted since the site became a part of the Organ Pipes Park.

The ruins are considerable in extent and integrity. There are remains of a house, which seems to have been built in several stages. Its south end consists of bluestone outer and inner walls about 7.5 by 3.5 metres, up to 1.5m high. Two bluestone outer walls extend this section another 3.5 m north, but there are walls missing that might have been the mud brick mentioned in oral records. Walls and a hearth within this extended area are built with bricks which seem to be both handmade and machine (Hoffman) made, perhaps from very late in the nineteenth century. These too may have replaced an original mud part of the house. A large fig tree survives in front of the house.

About 7 metres away is a smaller outbuilding - a barn, stable or dairy - which is unusually intact. It is more primitive in construction than the residence, using all sorts of irregular stone, including porous field stone, and chips of stone that have been quarried somewhere in the vicinity of the organ pipes. It is likely that the rough stone of this building has saved it from being plundered for its materials. Its four walls are almost completely intact, approaching 3 m high at its west facade, and with an intact timber door lintel. It is built deeply into the side of the hill, and its east wall is bulging inwards to the point of collapse. Its walls retain the last few traces of whitewash. As with the house, the different mortars are exposed and deteriorating, especially the silt formerly protected by lime mortar and render. If it is not to be lost, the building urgently needs stabilisation and repair.

Between the outbuilding and the house is a well, with corrugated and concrete rendered interior. Further away is a small stone retaining wall, and near it the remains of what may have been a stockyard, with broken dry-rubble walls; further clearing might reveal a pitched pavement. Along (or near) the eastern boundary of the site is a c100 metre length of deteriorated stone wall, possibly that which has been on the site since about 1860. It is nevertheless intact enough to show that it had been professionally constructed, with large stones for the base, battered outer walls, and small rubble within. There are a few growths of aloe and prickly pear which are remnants of this era of European occupation.

The recent planting around the house is historically inappropriate and obtrusive in terms of the European cultural heritage of the site. The natural setting of the complex, within an especially craggy section of the Jacksons Creek valley, has the rugged beauty typical of ruin environs in the shire. But the original setting and historical context of the farm, the gaunt character of its setting, and much of the ruin's visibility from other parts of the site have been lost in the thick native planting. Remnants of the former orchard may survive in the area now thickly planted with native vegetation.

In the early 1970s the remains of posts for the swing bridge and of foundations of engines and pumps used to irrigate the orchard were on the property, and they may still survive.

History:

In about 1850 John Pascoe Fawkner purchased Section 10 of the Parish of Tullamarine at the Crown sales, 448 acres with a frontage to a very winding stretch of Jacksons Creek. Towards the end of 1852 Fawkner conveyed three small parcels of this land, lots of about 20 acres each to Thomas Collins, a "carter" from Collingwood, John Jones, a "labourer" from Melbourne, and another named Charles Boon whose occupation is unknown. In view of a former agreement, the conveyances were for the nominal amounts of 10 shillings each.¹

These arrangements constitute a rare fragment of Victoria's history. The purchase of Section 10 may have been an instance of the operation of Fawkner's 'Victoria Co-operative

¹ PRO, VPRS 460, Application No 26569s. Contains indentures of land transactions prior to 1890.

Freehold and Land Investment Society', a co-operative to which members contributed a joining fee and weekly instalments. Fawkner was then able to purchase the larger allotments in which Crown lands were sold at that time, and which most aspiring farmers could never hope to even bid for. The land was then subdivided into small blocks and apportioned to the Society members in accordance with their contributions. In this way the "working man" could acquire land, in the 'suburb' or 'town' as well as the 'country', that he would never otherwise have been able to afford.² Fawkner operated the scheme successfully for a few years in the late 1840s and early 50s.³

Fawkner's efforts to assist the small people to obtain some land in the new colony was consistent with his democratic attitudes and attempts to thwart the power of the pastoralists. The emblem of the Co-operative is an etching of an arcadian scene, a picture of rural progress, with bullock carts busy amidst a community of small cottages. This scene is set within a bountiful primitive landscape, which includes a hill from which two aboriginal people gaze down. Perhaps they are much edified, as the whole scene is set under a banner with the words "Advance Victoria".⁴ This image seems to have informed the development of Section 10 at Tullamarine, which was subdivided into about 45 allotments, many as small as 6 acres, and incorporated land for a school.⁵

However, none of the Tullamarine purchasers in the vicinity of the Organ Pipes, persisted on their new land. Despite the creek frontages the land was very small, stony, and steep, and probably impossible to make a living from. In 1855, Charles Boon sold his northernmost block for £84, probably a substantial profit, to William Bedford, "farmer" of Tullamarine. In 1856 Bedford also purchased the middle block from Thomas Collins, but he had to wait until 1867 to buy Jones' block, which had the best creek frontage. (Jones was not living on the land by this time, describing himself as a "builder" of Melbourne).⁶ This scenario, of failure and subsequent title consolidation, is indicative of the fate of many attempts to establish a European styled yeomanry of small farmers in Australia.

In a statutory declaration made in 1890, William Bedford's widow Caroline states that she and her late husband had resided on this land since their 1856 purchase. William had died in 1869, but she continued to live there until selling the whole property to HE Hall in 1889.⁷ The ruin's location about 200 metres from the creek puts it on the southern boundary of the portion originally taken up by Collins. This is the block which the Bedfords bought in 1856, the year that Caroline Bedford states that they took up residence on the land, so it would appear that the ruin would date at least from Bedford's occupancy in 1856. It may date from Collins' prior occupation.

Oral history sources report that the property was known as *Milbrook* by the turn of the century, so this was probably the name given by the Bedfords. There is conflicting oral information about the subsequent occupation of the property. The following reconstruction is an estimate of subsequent history, based upon oral and title information in the Department of Conservation and Natural Sources files, and research of the earlier titles.⁸

Henry Ernest Hall, a Melbourne tea broker, purchased the amalgamated three sites in 1889-90, and then acquired other nearby allotments over the next 15 or so years. Although at the time the house and orchard became known as "Hall's", it seems that he never lived on the site or in the house. While one reconstruction claims that he raised his family on the site from the 1870s to 1920, this conflicts with other evidence and memories of the area. Miss Kate McLeod remembers that her father rented and farmed up to 200 acres of the *Milbrook* property. Mr Hall's son, she said, occasionally used it as a country house. At some stage a manager lived on

² SLV, Manuscript Collection, Fawkner Papers, Box 3660/Folder 3.

³ Billot, CP The Life and Times of John Pascoe Fawkner (Hyland House, 1985), p 266.

⁴ PRO, VPRS 460, Application No 5518, Receipt for William Trotman, for land in Section 13B, Parish of Tullamarine.

⁵ SLV, Manuscript Collection, Fawkner Papers, H 986 MC 1 Dr 9.

⁶ VPRS 460, op cit.

⁷ ibid.

⁸ DCNR Files:- 7/22; F/C/3/3

the property (perhaps in the house, or else in another dwelling on the extended property).⁹ This is consistent with Jim Lyons 1973 memory of the house being empty 1896-1902 when he and his brother fossicked around the area as boys, sometimes camping overnight in it. He described it as "basically a mud house, with some stone".¹⁰ There is no extant mud wall at the ruin, although the gaps with earth mounds may once have been mud walls. Other parts of the mud section may have been replaced with the brick walls which survive in the ruin.

Milbrook was well known for its orchard of apricots, almond, walnut lemon and cherry plum trees. Like many other small alluvial flats on bends of the three creeks in the shire, it was irrigated at some stage, the foundations of its pump and engine surviving in the early 1970s. The original orchardist is unknown, but it was possibly the Bedfords. Jim Lyons remembers one of his uncle's leasing the orchard as a commercial enterprise.

Another well known feature of the property was the suspension foot-bridge, just downstream of the organ pipes, small remnants of which may also survive. A Mr Bedford, possibly a son of William, was the builder of the catenary bridge at the Bulla school (Place No..insert..), firstly in the late nineteenth, and then in the early twentieth century.

The Hayes family, a widower and eight daughters, occupied the building for two years in the early 1920s. Mrs Carroll, one of the daughters, had some memory of a Mr W Keast living on the property as a caretaker before their arrival.¹¹ Hayes was primarily engaged in dairying, and also had hay, stud stallions, and the orchard. Mrs Carroll's memory was of a bluestone house, with a bluestone hearth, so perhaps some remodelling of the mud portions had been done by the caretaker since the 1890s. (Note that this description doesn't appear to match the current building, which has the remains of the brick hearth.) Her memory is that the house was pulled down after they left. This accords with other memories of the subsequent period, which refer only to a house, (or perhaps two) on that part of the property near to the Calder Highway, occupied by the Bartletts and others. After the Hayes left the property it was purchased by Stanley Keast, "grazier" of Caulfield, and then passed to BH Edwards, "gentleman" of Hawthorn. Perhaps these absentee owners were not keen to see the house become an abode for squatters and the weekend rabbiters and fishermen who frequented the area.

Unlike the former Randall house, on Loeman's Road above it, and Heaghney's *Overpostle*, also on Loeman's Road, the site has survived relatively intact. Perhaps the position of the *Milbrook* ruin, out of sight of the road, has helped protect it. Many early cottages appear to have had their materials (especially bluestone) pilfered once they became disused. The ruin urgently needs a Conservation Management Plan, to further investigate its fabric and history, to plan the stabilisation works required, and to outline an appropriate landscape schedule for the site.

⁹ *ibid*, Interview, 9/8/1973.

¹⁰ Edwards, GP, Transcript of "Meeting at the home of Mr J Lyons.....21 June 1973" (National Parks Authority).

¹¹ Mrs AC Carroll, interviewed 25/6/1972. In Irving, C, Hatch, D, Garzole, E, "The History of the Organ Pipes" (Melbourne Teachers College), in DCNR, *op cit*.

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR
'MILBROOK' HOMESTEAD
ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

VERITY KEAN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site of 'Milbrook' homestead is on the Keilor plains, part of a vast area of basalt plains. Since the last major lava flows over a million years ago, Jacksons Creek has cut down through the plains, carving a deep valley and exposing many basalt formations and varying soils. The history of the land preceding this shows various changes, from being beneath the sea to supporting dozens of volcanoes (Kemp 1994, pp. 171-172). Aboriginal occupation of the area could date back as far as 40 000 years. The Marin-Bulluk clan, of the Woiworung tribe (of the Kulin Nation), inhabited this area at the time of European arrival, until 1850 or so (Craig Bray, pers comm. 1996). Jacksons Creek and the surrounding plains provided them with plentiful food, water and shelter.

It is well referenced in several histories of Victoria that this area was one of the first in Victoria to be settled, from 1835 onwards (one example is Symonds, 1985, p. 5). It was close to Melbourne, perhaps a day's ride by horse, then a new settlement, and the settlers looked at the abundant grasses on the rolling plains as an ideal place for grazing their sheep. The area of the park was alienated from the Crown in 1851 (Department of N.R.&E., 1995, p.2), section 10 of which was purchased by John Pascoe Fawkner, who then subdivided the land and sold small plots, about 20 acres, to farmers as part of his 'Victorian Co-operative Freehold and Land Investment Society' (appendix A) (National Trust, 1995, p.2). The documentary evidence concerning the Milbrook homestead is somewhat fragmentary and inconclusive regarding when it was actually built and by whom. What is known for certain is that it was in existence by 1856, when Mr. William Bedford and his wife lived there. It is possible that the building was constructed earlier than this as the land was previously owned by a farmer by the name of Collins, having bought the land from Fawkner (National Trust, 1995, p.3).

This report will outline the avenues needed to be pursued to gain information on the Aboriginal history of the area, the flora and fauna, geology and the prior ownership of the land, from 1879 to 1972, including the resources to be accessed for details of this ownership.

1.1 OWNERSHIP

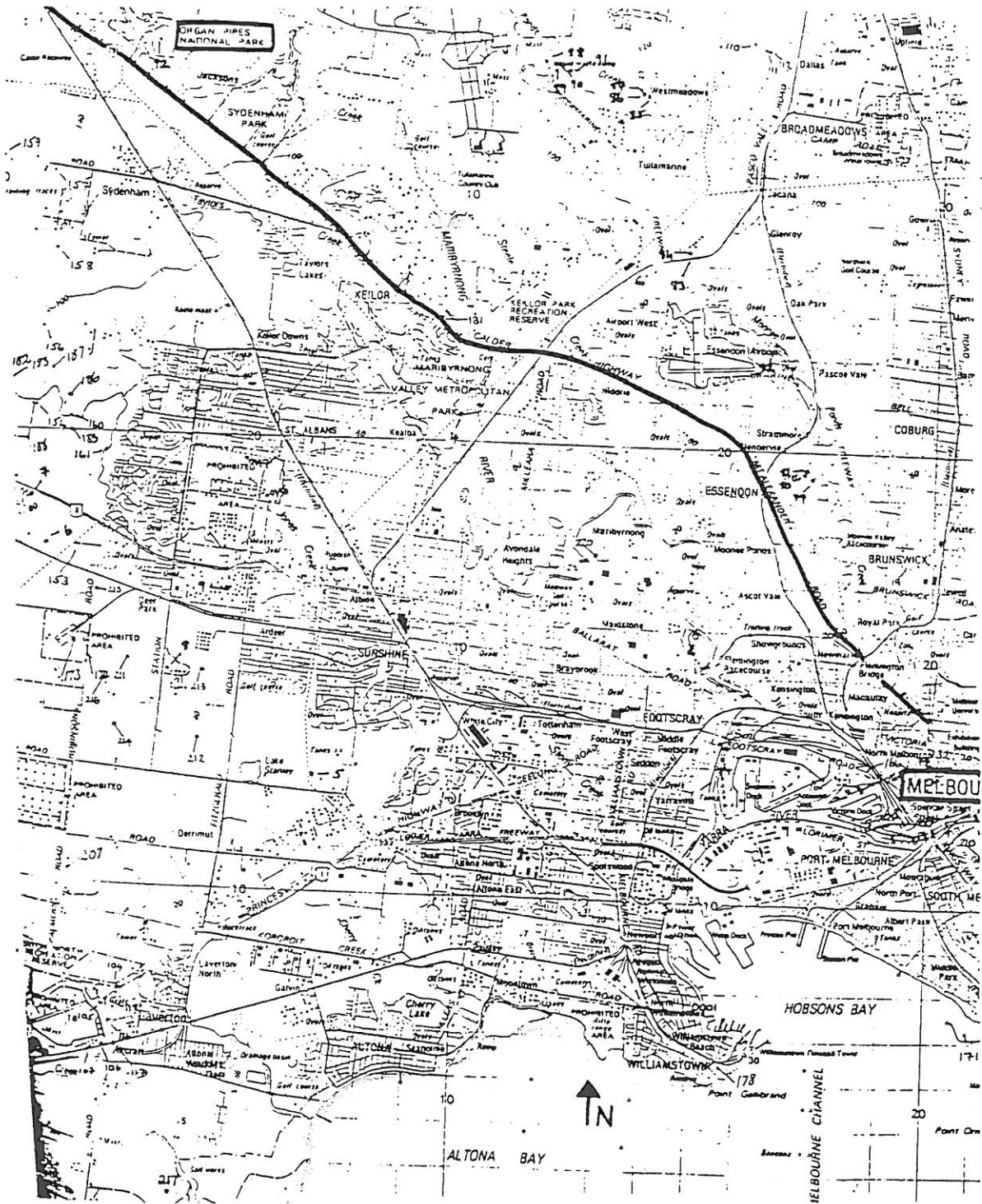
Because the site falls within the boundaries of the National Park it is owned by the Victorian Government, to the benefit of all people, through public access and the opportunity for involvement in its well being, through the Friends group. The history of the ownership of the land prior to 1972 is quite complicated and as yet the research on this topic is incomplete.

1.2 PROTECTION

As part of the National Park, the site is protected by legislation, as is the native flora and fauna. The park has been classified by the National Trust (1983), and as such "those parts of the physical environment, both natural and man-made [sic], which in the Trust's view are essential to the heritage of Australia and must be preserved" (National Trust 1983). A Heritage Study was conducted by the National Trust in 1995 on the homestead and subsequently a recommendation that the site be registered at state level of significance was made (National Trust 1995).

1.3 LOCATION

The Milbrook homestead and surrounding land associated with this report lies within the boundaries of the Organ Pipes National Park, just 20 KM north west of Melbourne along the Calder Highway (Map A, page 4).



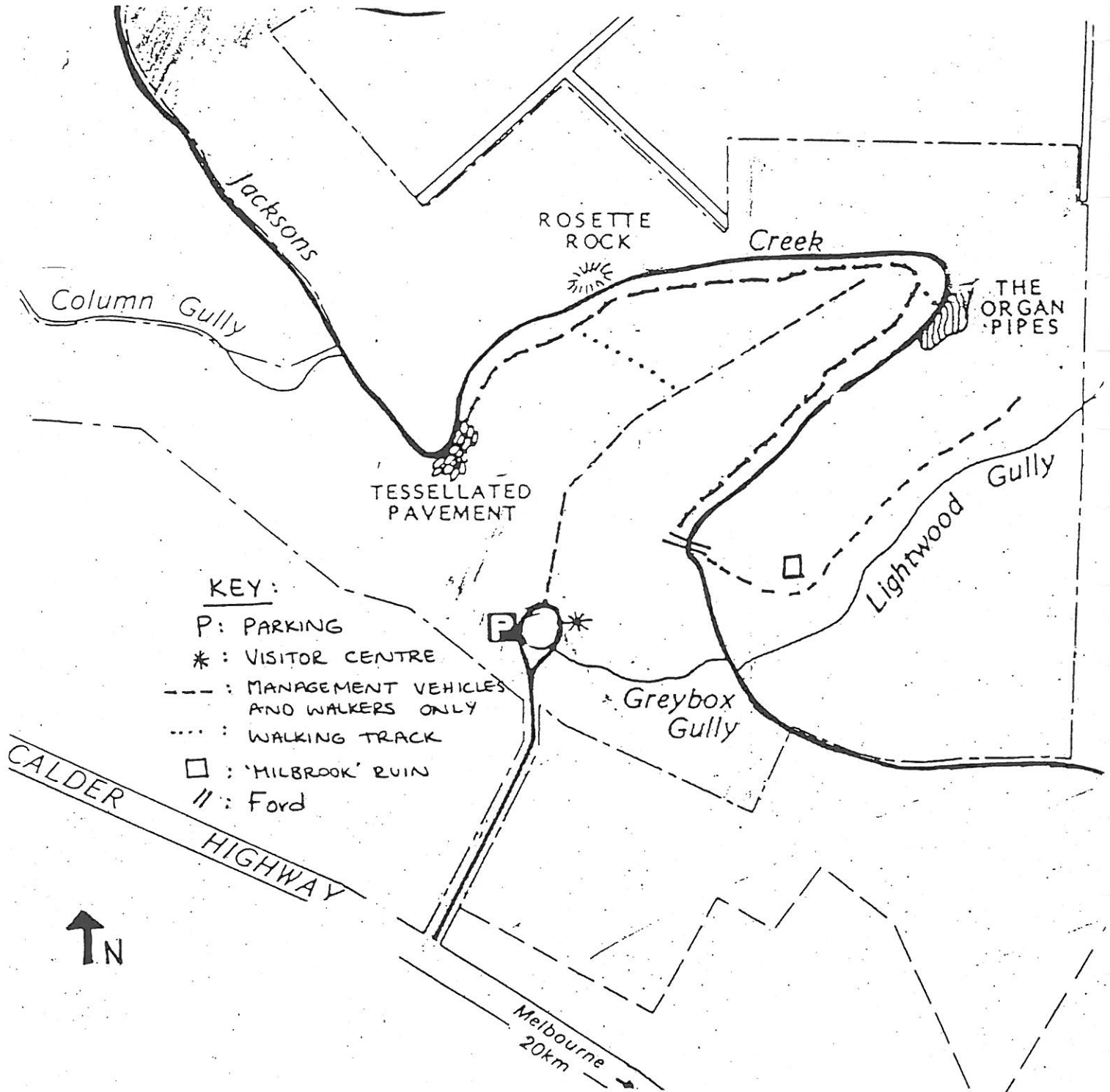
MAP A

SOURCE: COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA NATMAP 1984 EDITION 1.

SCALE - 1:100 000. #7822

1.4 ACCESS

Prior arrangement for gaining access to the site must be made with the Rangers at the park (phone: 03 - 93901082) as it lies within a restricted access area. Turn off the Calder Highway on to Organ Pipes road, which is well sign-posted. From here you must park in the carpark at the National Parks' visitor centre, then make your way down into the park on the management vehicle road. Cross the ford and travel up the track for about thirty-five metres. The ruin is on the left beside the track. (Refer to map B, page 5).



MAP B

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT, DRAFTING SERVICES BRANCH, 1989. SCALE: 3CM=300M.

2.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following is the statement of significance established by the National Trusts' Shire of Bulla Heritage Study of 1995, the first heritage study conducted on this site;

The ruinous remains of an early small farm complex, which is among the most intact of the similar examples in the shire. It is located on the side of the Jackson Creek valley, above the famous 'organ pipes', overlooking a craggy escarpment. Its size, condition and setting are expressive of the farming aspirations of poor early migrants, of the difficulties experienced by these small farmers in adapting to and surviving in adverse Australian soil and climatic conditions, and of their use of small alluvial flats.

The original site, and perhaps the dwelling, was the product of John Pascoe Fawkner's 'Victoria Co-operative Freehold and Land Investment Society', wherein people with little finance were enabled to take up the land. This is expressive of Fawkner's anti-squatter sentiments, and of the contemporary yeomanry ideals. It confers a high historical significance upon the place. There were numerous other lands which were similarly purchased by Fawkner on behalf of the co-operative and then subdivided into small lots, but it is not known what, if any, fabric or other evidence survives elsewhere.

The public ownership of the place and its association with the Organ Pipes Park enhances its potential for long-term protection and interpretation, and improves its heritage significance relative to most other similar ruins in the shire.

The Victorian Archaeological ^{Society} Society report of 1991 similarly found that the site had significance because it is the only homestead from the 1830's [date questionable] still left in a reasonable condition within the area.

These two statements outline the major significances of the site, and I have added some more;

Its social and cultural significance as part of the National Park, soon to be made accessible to and interpreted for the public.
Its cultural significance to the local people, as a symbol of the history of the region.

Its architectural significance as an indication of the types of buildings constructed by the early settlers in the face of lack of resources such as money and machinery.

Its historical significance in its reminder of the aspirations of our forefathers, bringing to question the dreams and goals of the early settlers in contrast to ours now.

It is aesthetically significant in its position overlooking the creek, the surrounding plains and valley.

It is an interesting contrast to nearby "Woodlands"; a prefabricated homestead brought out by the wealthy Greene family, complete with all their servants.

3.0 TOPICS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This site provides many avenues for interesting research, all of which combined will give a whollistic understanding of the site. The inter-relationship of the historical factors that make a site is vital if one is to understand it. In turn, understanding a site is essential in order to interpret it effectively and may well lead to support for conservation. In the investigation of this site several areas need to be covered and they are listed below;

3.1 GEOLOGY, FLORA AND FAUNA

The history of this particular site is long, it being necessary to investigate the physical attributes of the land in order to understand the original vegetation and animal types, the lifestyle of the Marin-Bulluk, the difficulties the earlier settlers had with making a living off the land, the success of European vegetation and animals and so on. Finding the answers to these questions will provide a picture of the changes in the site over time, and the reasons behind these changes. The structure of the land, combined with the weather, is the basis of all the other features of an area.

3.1.1 RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON GEOLOGY, FLORA AND FAUNA

COLLECTION: The Organ Pipes National Park

ADDRESS: Organ Pipes Road, Diggers Rest. 3427

TELEPHONE: 03 - 9390 1082

The office contains a reference library which is accessible by the public. This is an excellent starting point for any research on the area. The three main references there, pertinent to this topic are;

Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 1995, Organ Pipes National Park Draft Management Plan,

Conservation and Environment (now Department of Natural Resources and Environment), 1992, Organ Pipes National Park - A Guide for Teachers and Visitors. Geraldine Richards, editor.

Kemp, B. 1994, Organ Pipes National Park - A Natural History. Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park.

Each of these contain sections on the above topics and refer specifically to the pre-European period. Much of this material is the result of research done for the revegetation program in the park, the primary objective of which is to recreate as closely as possible, the pre-European environment (Ecology Australia 1994, p.1).

COLLECTION: State Library of Victoria, LaTrobe Collection

ADDRESS: 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne. 3000

PHONE: 03 - 9669 9888 or 03 - 9669 9923

Early paintings and sketches of the area show aspects of the early landscape and indicate to us how the settlers viewed this country. Paintings, photographs and illustrations can be located by using the Pictoria catalogue. This image database allows you to view the titles of the pictures, the same way as you access a book in a catalogue, and to bring the image up on to the screen. It is also possible to get print outs of the pictures. In the library also are the complementary illustrations and local history indexes. These enable you to locate which publications the illustrations can be found in, whether it be newspapers, books and so on. Some artists to begin researching are; Samuel Calvert (1828 - 1913) artist, Robert Bruce (1868 - 1898) engraver and Mark Daniel, photographer. In the library also can be found another resource which would be useful; early editions of the 'Victorian Naturalist' magazine, specifically volume 24, August 1907, which gives a thorough account of the native flora and fauna of the Sunbury area in the 1840's.

COLLECTION: National Gallery of Victoria, the Australian Section

ADDRESS: 180 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. 3000

PHONE: 03 - 9208 0222

Two well known artists of this era are Eugene von ^{UQ}Geurard and S.T. Gill. Examples of von ^{U2}Geurards' work can be seen in the National Gallery of Victoria, and also in the Adelaide Gallery. The latter houses a painting titled 'William Lang's Camp on the Saltwater River' 1840, which is believed to be of a section of Jacksons Creek, formerly Saltwater River (refer to map B).

There has been a considerable amount of research conducted on the topics of geology, flora and fauna of this region, much of it published, giving a comprehensive overview of the species originally inhabiting the area and the changes in the species types and numbers. Some examples are:

Triggs, B. 1989, Mammal Tracks and Signs A Field Guide for South-Eastern Australia. University Press.

Birch, W.D. 1994, Volcanoes in Victoria. Royal Society of Victoria.

Dennis, C. 1990, Landscapes Recycled The Changing Environment of Melbournes' West. Melbournes' Living Museum of the West.

Department of Conservation and Environment 1990, Remnant Native Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands of the Melbourne Area - An Action Plan for Conservation Based on Biological Values.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Keilor Plains Group. 1995, Plants of Melbournes' Western Plains A Gardeners Guide to the Original Flora.

Department of Conservation and Environment 1992, Derrimut Grassland Reserve Draft Management Plan. This contains a fauna species list also, from which it can be assumed that the same species would originally have occurred in the grasslands in the area of this study, they being of the same region.

3.2 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Much of the culture of the Aboriginal people was never understood or recorded by early European settlers and was subsequently lost as the people were displaced in various ways. Further research is needed into the relationship between the Marin-Bulluk and the settlers to discover under what circumstances the clan was displaced. It is known that they inhabited the area until about 1850, after which only remnants of the clan remained. Many people have since returned and it is thought that these people have had the longest continual occupation of a site in Victoria (Craig Bray, pers comm. 1996). One factor to remember when researching Aboriginal history is the conflicting use of clan and tribal names. It is important to select and document the source of your information and keep it consistent.

3.2.1 RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON THE MARIN-BULLUK

COLLECTION: ATSIC (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission)

ADDRESS: 8/399 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000

PHONE: 03 - 9604 4400 or 1800 034 403

For published material on this topic it is probably best to start with ATSIC, who have a comprehensive stock of reference material, some of it on specific clans and tribes. In conjunction with the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, ATSIC have also produced a resource folder Aboriginal Australia, Aboriginal people of Victoria, 1992. This includes many brochures

covering topics such as bush food, hunting and gathering, fibrecrafts, rock art and Australian languages.

COLLECTION: Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

ADDRESS: 2nd floor 115 Victoria parade, Fitzroy, 3065.

PHONE: 03 - 9412 7777

They have at least one report of Aboriginal sites in the area in their collection, possibly more. In 1991 Annette Xiberras conducted an archaeological survey of the Organ Pipes National Park and recorded several sites of previous occupation by Aboriginal people in the area. In this collection also is the Victorian Roads Commission historical and archaeological survey report conducted prior to the widening of the Calder Highway.

SOURCE: The Heritage Services Branch of AAV

ADDRESS: 29-31 Victoria avenue Albert Park, 3206

PHONE: 03- 96905322

This organisation would also be helpful in this research.

SOURCE: Victorian Archaeological Survey (VAS), Historic Places Branch, Department of Natural Resources and Environment

ADDRESS: 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

PHONE: 03 - 9412 4011

The VAS is responsible for the location, documentation and protection of Aboriginal sites. Currently on record they have 10 000 sites, an estimated less than 2% of the total number of sites in Victoria. Together, these reports should provide a good idea of the number and location of Aboriginal occupation sites in the area.

SOURCE: Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 293 Doveton, 3177

The approval of the Council should be sought for any more detailed location of sites within the National Park. They would also be of tremendous value in gaining detailed information on the Marin-Bulluk.

SOURCE: Museum of Victoria

ADDRESS: 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000.

PHONE: 03 - 9669 9997

The Koorie Heritage Trust display at the Museum displays important aspects of pre and post European contact and has a good photographic collection. The Trust itself may also have some publications or oral information pertinent to this research;

SOURCE: Koorie Heritage Trust

ADDRESS: 328 Swanston street, Melbourne, 3000

PHONE: 03 - 9669 9058.

SOURCE: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (Victorian Chapter)

ADDRESS: 30 Kerrimuir street, North Box Hill, 3129

PHONE: 03 - 9898 3784.

Some pertinent publications are listed below;

Barwick, D.E. 1984, Mapping the Past: An Atlas of Victorian Clans 1835-1904. Aboriginal History 8(2): 100-131.

Mitchell, S.R. 1949, Stone-Age Craftsmen Stone Tools and Camping Places of the Australian Aborigines. Tait Book Co. Pty. Ltd. Melbourne. This book gives a specific reference to a camp site on Jacksons Creek which corresponds to the Xiberras report (1991), and refers to sites in central Victoria generally, chapter xiv p. 131.

An excellent resource guide has been published by Anne Brown, ed, 1990, Aborigines in the Environment for VAS and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. It contains some illustrations dating to 1863 and a comprehensive resource list relating to Aboriginal people in the pre-contact period, specifically in south eastern Australia.

Other avenues to pursue are;

SOURCE: Melbournes' Living Museum of the West - Larry Walsh, Koorie Project Officer

ADDRESS: Pipemakers Park, Van Ness Boulevard Maribyrnong

PHONE: 03 - 93183544.

The Koorie gardeners at the Museum care for a garden containing flora of pre and post-European settlement in the area, so would also be of assistance in research on the previous topic.

3.3 EUROPEAN HISTORY

In order to understand the site in relation to its European history one must research the ownership of the land and the different uses the land has been put to. This research will then lead to the questions of why those uses were made of the land, was it a result of the land itself, the economy, the particular family? The researcher can also look at the house itself, what was it made of and why? Actually, it was constructed of bluestone with a mud mortar, these being the most available materials to the poor settlers. The process of tracing the occupation of the site can become rather involved and sometimes costly if obtaining documents such as birth and death certificates.

3.3.1 RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON EUROPEAN HISTORY

SOURCE: State Library of Victoria

ADDRESS: 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000.

PHONE: 03 - 9669 9888

Once again, this is an excellent resource, containing many detailed histories of the area and newspapers of the era. The Newspaper Collection contains The Romsey Examiner and General Advertiser for the Shire of Bulla 1884. This paper then merged with the Gisborne Gazette and the Sunbury News in 1892 to become the Mt. Macedon and District Regional News Gazette. These papers may contain reference to local families and homesteads in the area and will certainly give excellent accounts of the life experiences of the people.

One of the most valuable resources would be oral histories from people who have associations with the property and the area. Tracing these people can sometimes be difficult but can reveal a great deal of information. One oral history that I

discovered in the files at the National Park was of Mr. Jim Lyon, in 1973, who lived in the area from the age of five in 1896. This provides memories of the Organ Pipes formation, the houses and families in the district and some of the vegetation. Mr. Lyon does not recall any Aboriginal people in the area. The Keilor City Library has an excellent collection of directories, maps, charts, slides, journals, newsletters, photographic records, council records, electoral rolls and so on dating back to the 1840's.

SOURCE: Keilor City Library

ADDRESS: Municipal Offices, Kennedy Street, Keilor, 3036

PHONE: 03 - 9336 4191

Personal diaries, photographs or family histories relevant to the area may be able to be located by tracing family histories, this can be approached in a number of ways; either through the family name or through the property details to obtain the family name. A good place to start is;

SOURCE: Public Record Office, City Search Room

ADDRESS 318 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000.

PHONE: 03 - 9651 4131

SOURCE: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

ADDRESS: 295 Queen Street, Melbourne 3000

PHONE: 03 - 9603 5855 Information Line 03 - 9603 5888

These collections include birth, death and marriage certificates. The name of Bedford, or Boone, Collins and Jones (the initial owners of this land) could be used to search for the certificates. A death certificate for William Bedford (appendix B) showing the next of kin, occupation and address of the deceased, has been extracted by a previous researcher,^{RB} leading to the discovery that he died in an insane asylum in Yarra Bend in 1869, with no next of kin and no known address. His wife, Caroline lived at Milbrook until 1879, so it is assumed that she had committed and/or disowned William.

It may be necessary to approach the research from a different angle, looking at the transfer of ownership of the land to discover the change in ownership. One way to do this is through the Sands and McDougalls Directories (see sources below) which are a predecessor of the telephone book. You will need to know the name of the property, owner or street, in this case 'Milbrook' and Bedford or Collins. This research will show the changing occupancy of the site and may shed some light on the origin of the name 'Milbrook'.

SOURCE: State Library of Victoria (on microfiche)

ADDRESS: 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne. 3000

PHONE: 03 - 9669 9888

SOURCE: Keilor City Library

ADDRESS: Municipal Offices, Kennedy Street, Keilor 3036

PHONE: 03 - 9336 4191

SOURCE: Land Titles Office
ADDRESS: 283 Queen Street, Melbourne 3000.
PHONE: 03 - 9603 5374

This source (above) holds the original certificates of Title for land in Victoria. Parish plans and other survey information showing all Crown land are held at the Plan room, ground floor, 456 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Once you have this sort of information you can begin to access rate book records which will show the change in rates and may indicate a change in the holdings on the property, perhaps an extension to the house or a new shed. In the file at the National Park office I discovered reference to a crown allotment number, 26569, which can be used to trace the owners of the land through the rate books associated with that property title.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of resources pertinent to this research. However, the resources listed are an excellent starting point.

5.0 INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

The site of the homestead has been targeted by the rangers of the Organ Pipes National Park for public access within five years, as resources and funding become available. Therefore, the site needs to be integrated into the whole park interpretive plan. The proposal includes walking tracks crossing the ford and passing the homestead site (see map B), before looping back to the visitor centre. This extension will encourage visitors to explore the park which can be complemented by the exploration of several aspects of the history of the site, using the homestead as the pivot. This will continue to shift the focus of the park, which is already moving away from the purely geological focus with which it began, toward a more integrated view of the site, encompassing the revegetation project and human history. The site has enormous potential to be incorporated in thought provoking interpretation rather than merely trying to present the story of one time period. By linking the homestead to the many factors mentioned in the above text a much more interesting story can be told.

Some interpretive ideas are outlined below. Naturally, any interpretive plan can involve different aspects of these themes, there are no boundaries.

CHANGING LANDSCAPES; Look at the history of the land, how it formed as it is today, its form prior to that, how the Marin-Bulluk and Europeans altered the landscape. Challenge the theory of untouched wilderness, land is constantly changing as a result of many factors, which consequently affects the way people use that land. The volcanic history made dramatic change.

PEOPLE; Explore the relationships between the Marin-Bulluk and Europeans and apply it to a wider context, explore the cross cultural relationships of people.

CHANGING VALUES; Contrast peoples' different attitudes to and uses of land and the effects that has on the vegetation and animals. Compare Aboriginal and European, the first European settlers with the present, different European cultures... Use the homestead as a signal of the initiation of the degradation of the land and the culture of the local people, and how that same land now has the opportunity to regenerate with the involvement of local people.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

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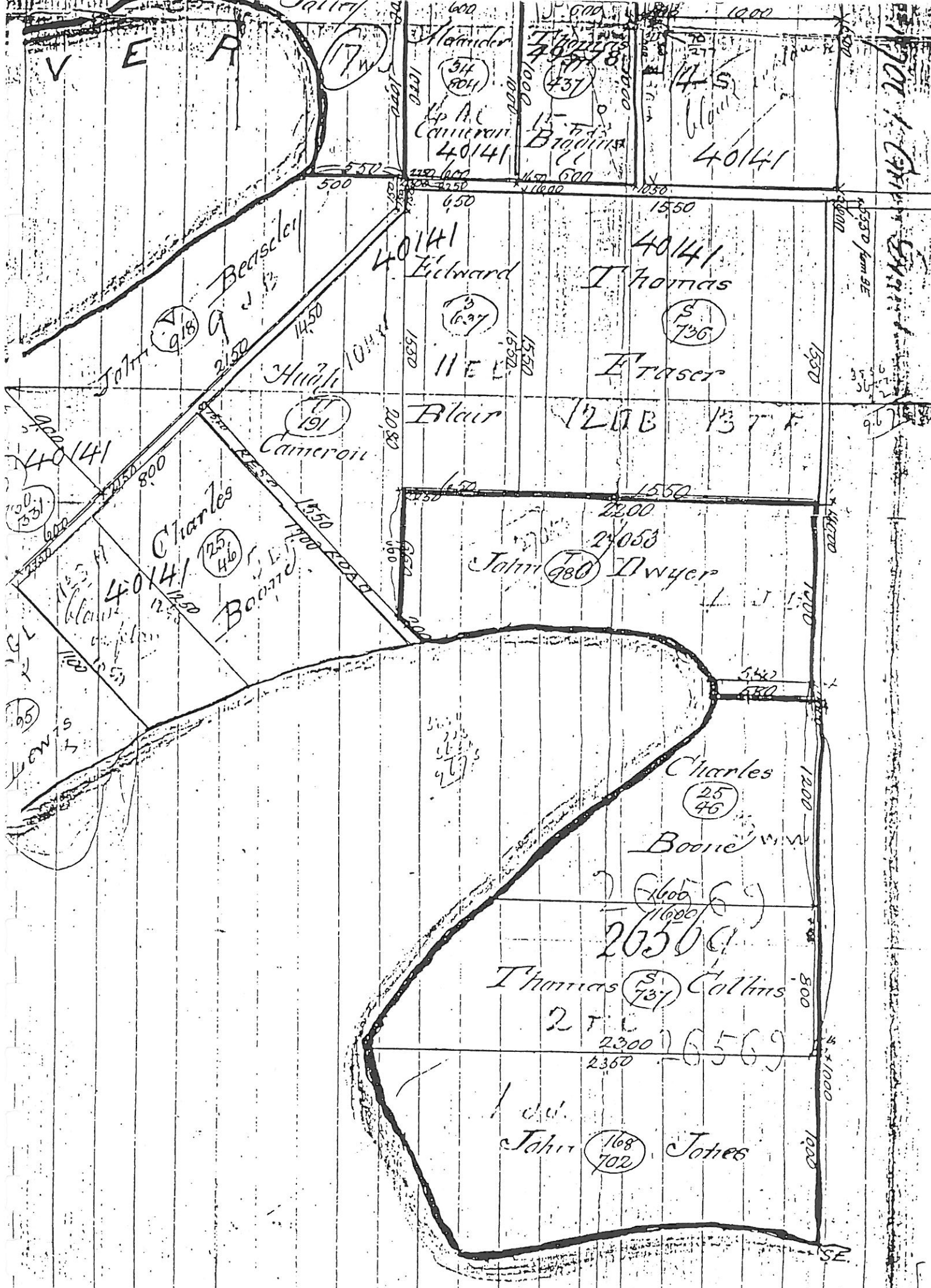
PUBLISHED MATERIAL

Conservation and Environment (now Department of Natural Resources and Environment), 1992, Organ Pipes National Park - A Guide for Teachers and Visitors. Geraldine Richards, editor.

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APPENDIX A: PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF LAND
ON SALTWATER CREEK



VER

(17W)

Alexander
54
8041
40141
Cameron

Thomas
737
40142
15
Bridges

14S
40141

Beardler
9
918

40141
Hillward
3
637

40141
Thomas
5
736

Hugh
191
Cameron

11E
Blair

Fraser

Charles
25
46
40141

John
980
Dwyer

Charles
25
46

Boone

Thomas
737
Collins

John
702
Jones

APPENDIX B: DEATH CERTIFICATE

SCHEDULE B.

1869

DEATHS in the District of *Northcote* in the Colony

No.	DESCRIPTION.			(1) Cause of Death, (2) Duration of last Illness, (3) Medical Attendant by whom certified, and (4) When he last saw Deceased.	Name and Surname of Father and Mother, if known, with Rank or Profession.
	When and where Died.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession.	Sex and Age.		
860	30 th June 1869 Ypaua land Lunatic Asylum	Henry Rhode Labourer	Male 44 4 years	1) Disease of the Brain certified at lunatic Inquest 4) 4.5 days 3) D. Boydston 4) 30 th June 1869	not known /520,
861	2 nd July 1869 Ypaua land Lunatic Asylum	Ah. Chang not known	Male 28 4 years	1) Disease of the Brain and its membranes certified at lunatic Inquest 4) 7 days 3) D. Boydston 4) 2 nd July 1869	not known /521,
862	9 th July 1869 Ypaua land Lunatic Asylum	John Walker Constable not known	Male 47 years	Water on the Brain certified at lunatic Inquest 4) not known 3) D. Boydston 4) 9 th July 1869	not known /522,
863	9 th July 1869 Ypaua land Lunatic Asylum	Edwin Cox Labourer	Male 65 4 years	1) Disease of the Brain certified at lunatic Inquest 4) not known 3) D. Boydston 4) 9 th July 1869	not known /523
864	11 th July 1869 Ypaua land Lunatic Asylum	William Bedford Farmer	Male 55 4 years	1) Chronic disease of the Brain certified at lunatic Inquest 4) 24 days 3) D. Boydston 4) 11 th July 1869	not known /524,

Magistrate James ...

of Victoria.

Registered by

Robert ...

Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	(1) Signature of Deputy Registrar, (2) Date, and (3) Where Registered.	IF BURIAL REGISTERED.		Where Born, and how long in the Australian Colonies, stating which.	IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED.	
		When and where buried. Undertaker by whom certified.	Name and Religion of Minister, or Names of Witnesses of Burial.		(1) Where, and at what (2) Age, and to (3) Whom.	Issue, in order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
<i>William ...</i> Constable of Police Northcote Present at Inquest	<i>[Signature]</i> 27 th July 1869 Northcote	27 th July 1869 Cemetery of the Wesleyan Church England Michael Thomas O'Connell Burns	Rev. Mr. Byrne	known	not known	not known
<i>John ...</i> Constable of Police Northcote Present at Inquest	<i>[Signature]</i> 24 th July 1869 Northcote	24 th July 1869 Cemetery of the Wesleyan Church England Michael Thomas O'Connell Burns	Rev. Mr. Byrne	known	not known	not known
<i>John ...</i> Constable of Police Northcote Present at Inquest	<i>[Signature]</i> 21 st July 1869 Northcote	21 st July 1869 Cemetery of the Wesleyan Church England Michael Thomas O'Connell Burns	Rev. Mr. Byrne	known	not known	not known
<i>John ...</i> Constable of Police Northcote Present at Inquest	<i>[Signature]</i> 20 th July 1869 Northcote	20 th July 1869 Cemetery of the Wesleyan Church England Michael Thomas O'Connell Burns	Rev. Mr. Byrne	known	not known	not known
<i>John ...</i> Constable of Police Northcote Present at Inquest	<i>[Signature]</i> 21 st July 1869 Northcote	21 st July 1869 Cemetery of the Wesleyan Church England Michael Thomas O'Connell Burns	Rev. Mr. Byrne	known	not known	not known
<i>John ...</i> Constable of Police Northcote Present at Inquest	<i>[Signature]</i> 21 st July 1869 Northcote	21 st July 1869 Cemetery of the Wesleyan Church England Michael Thomas O'Connell Burns	Rev. Mr. Byrne	known	not known	not known

HISTORIC PLACES INTERIM HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Place Name

"Milbrook" homestead ruins

1.2 Location

Lightwood Gully Track, Organ Pipes National Park

1.3 Relevant Date(s)

c. 1856-57

1.4 Heritage Listings

Nil. Recommended for addition to the Victorian Heritage Register (D. Moloney, Shire of Bulla Heritage Study, 1995).

1.5 Author(s)

Daniel Catrice, Chris Smith

1.6 Date

February 1997

1.6 Comments

This assessment includes the ruin known as "Milbrook" homestead, together with the well, the outbuilding ruin, stone fences and plantings within the immediate environs of the homestead site. The site was inspected on 25 November 1996 and 14 February 1997 by the authors and Parks Victoria Ranger, Greg Thorpe.

2.0 FABRIC

2.1 Site/Planning

The homestead and outbuildings ruins marks the site of an early land subdivision, carried out by John Pascoe Fawkner in the 1850s.

The site has significant interpretive potential. Overlooking the narrow, rocky valley of Jackson's Creek, the site evokes the hardships of farming in this dry, stony environment.

2.2 Landscaping

There is a large Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macraphylla*) in front of the homestead ruin. There is also prickly pear and aloe, which are also remnants of early European occupation. There is no evidence of the substantial orchard that once existed on the property.

2.3 Design/Aesthetics

"Milbrook" homestead was built of basalt field stone in the mid-1850s. It comprised two rooms, with a central connecting doorway. The outbuilding was probably built at the same time as the homestead. It has been built into the side of the hill and was probably used to store foodstuffs like flour, tea, sugar or meat.

A lime mortar has been used for the construction of the homestead and outbuilding. Both structures were then rendered (or 'stuccoed') and white-washed.

"Milbrook" homestead is typical of the stone dwellings built on small farms in the mid-nineteenth century. Like most homesteads of the period, "Milbrook" was utilitarian in design. In Victoria, the first homesteads were either one-roomed structures or partitioned huts of sod, clay, wattle and daub,

slab, bark or stone. Most homesteads of the period were also built of materials that were nearest to hand: in this case the local rounded and weathered basalt field stone.

2.4 Interior Decoration

There is evidence that the walls of the homestead were plastered and painted. The base of the south wall shows evidence of a (brown) painted skirting [see Section 7.4].

There is insufficient information to make any detailed observations about the interior decoration of the homestead.

It is possible however to make some general observations about the design of 'Milbrook' based on knowledge of the style and architecture of the period.

Floors ranged from earth, beaten clay, bark or timber. Ceilings were often unlined. Sometimes a sheet of bark went on top of the beams spanning the hut to give extra storage space. Canvas, usually white-washed, was probably the commonest form of ceiling lining, although by the mid-1850s canvas was giving way to either plaster or lining boards. Glazed windows were an unusual sophistication. Flour bags, carefully washed, were often tacked over window openings to keep out wind or weather. Lighting was minimal. The most common form of lighting were slush lamps or candles. Heating was provided by a fireplace which was usually faced with bricks.

2.5 Construction/Technology

"Milbrook" homestead demonstrates typical vernacular construction techniques. Early stone homesteads on the Keilor-Werribee Plains were characterised by walls constructed of local rounded, smoothly weathered basalt field stone. The stone was usually of variable size, arranged in random courses.

Door openings were capped by timber lintels [see Section 7.4]. Roofing materials were generally timber shingles (especially for stone dwellings) or corrugated iron which appeared on the Victorian market in the 1850s, but was not widely used as a roofing material in country areas until the 1860s and 1870s.

2.6 Integrity/Alterations

The homestead was probably built in three stages. The first stage, comprising the original homestead and outbuilding, was built in the 1850s. The red brick fireplace is a later addition. It is constructed of machine-made bricks, which did not appear in Victoria until the 1870s. In the fireplace are the rusted remains of a wood-fired oven.

The second stage was built of basalt on the south side of the original homestead. The addition has not been keyed into the wall and as there is no doorway between it and the original homestead, it is assumed that this addition was used as a store.

The third stage, a brick and stone addition on the north side of the original homestead, was probably completed in the 1890s. The brick walls comprise an inner wall of cream hand-made brick and an outer layer of red machine-made bricks with "South/Brunswick" stamped into the frog.

2.8 Comparative

There were other co-operative schemes in Victoria during the late 1840s and 1850s. The Melbourne Benefit and Building Society and Saving Fund was established in 1847, although its scheme was restricted to the township of Melbourne and the village of Richmond. The Geelong Building Society was formed in 1847. Other co-operative societies included the Victoria Freehold Land Society and the Suburban and Agricultural Freehold Homes Society. Fawkner's co-operative society also sponsored schemes near Melbourne, Geelong and Warrnambool. It is not known whether any historic fabric survives of these other subdivisions. 'Milbrook' homesteads appears to be the only physical evidence of Fawkner's subdivision in the parish of Tullamarine.

Other homestead ruins identified in the Shire of Bulla Heritage Study include: Randall house on Loeman's Road and Heaghey house, also on Loeman's Road (D. Moloney, Shire of Bulla Heritage

Study, 1995). The ruins of Milbrook homestead are believed to be the most intact in the former Bulla Shire.

Other ruins within the park include the ruins of a homestead on Burns' block. This site was inspected on 25 November 1996.

3.0 HISTORY

About 1850, John Pascoe Fawkner purchased Section 10, Parish of Tullamarine, comprising 448 acres on Jackson's Creek. In 1852, Fawkner sold three allotments of about twenty acres to Thomas Collins, John Jones and Charles Boone [see Section 7.3]. The sale price was ten shillings (D. Moloney & V. Johnson, Shire of Bulla Heritage Study, 1995).

It is believed that the purchase and sale of the land was part of Fawkner's scheme to assist working people purchase small agricultural holdings, although there is no documentary evidence to suggest that the land was purchased by Fawkner's Victoria Co-operative Freehold and Land Investment Society. The Co-operative was Fawkner's attempt to thwart the power of the squatters. Members of the Co-operative contributed a joining fee and weekly instalments. Fawkner purchased the large blocks of Crown land which were being sold at that time and which most working people were unable to afford. The land was subdivided and allotted to members in accordance with their contributions (D. Moloney & V. Johnson, Shire of Bulla Heritage Study, 1995).

In 1855, Charles Boone sold his land for £84 to William Bedford. In the following year, Bedford purchased Thomas Collins' block, and in 1867 he purchased the block owned by John Jones.

The homestead ruins are within the block originally purchased by Thomas Collins. As Bedford acquired this block in 1856 it has been surmised that the homestead was built in 1856 (D. Moloney, Shire of Bulla Heritage Study, 1995). William Bedford's widow Caroline stated in a statutory declaration of 1890 that she and her husband had resided on the land since 1856. However, it is also possible that the homestead was erected by Collins during his period of ownership, between 1852 and 1856.

William Bedford died in 1869. His widow lived on the property until 1889 when she sold the three allotments to Henry Ernest Hall, a Melbourne tea broker. Over the next fifteen years, Hall also acquired adjoining allotments. Although the homestead became known as "Hall's" at this time, it is believed that he never lived on the property. Jim Lyons, who lived in the district as boy between 1896 and 1902 recalls the homestead being empty during this period.

The Hayes family occupied the homestead for two years in the early 1920s. The family, comprising a widow and her eight daughters, ran dairy cattle and stud stallions on the property. There was also a large orchard of apricot, almond, walnut, lemon and cherry trees. One of the daughters of the widow Hayes recalls that the homestead was demolished after they left the property. This is consistent with other oral sources that claim that the homestead was a ruin during the 1920s. Isabelle Timmiss, whose father bought land in the area in 1923 when Isabelle was fifteen years old, remembers a ruin on the site. David Clarke also remembers the homestead ruins when he fished in the area during the 1920s.

After the Hayes left the property it was bought by Stanley Keast, 'grazier' of Caulfield. Keast sold the property to B.H. Edwards, 'gentleman' of Hawthorn.

4.0 LANDSCAPE

The location of the homestead ruin within the Jackson's Creek valley, remote in contrast to the exposed escarpment and plateau, provides the site with significant landscape values. Considering the history of farming in this relatively harsh locale, the views into Jackson's Creek will be an important feature in interpreting the European history of the Park.

5.0 OTHER ISSUES

The Organ Pipes Draft Management Plan was released in August 1996. The Plan states that all sites of historical and archaeological significance will be protected and preserved (p. 11). Specifically, management and interpretation guidelines are to be prepared for the homestead site.

The homestead ruins are fragile. High visitor numbers may lead to further deterioration of the building fabric.

In its present condition, the homestead ruins present certain hazards to park visitors. Public authorities providing or managing facilities for public use must investigate and anticipate the risk of people being injured and take steps to minimise these risks. It is unlikely that Parks Victoria can minimise the risk of public injury without compromising the historical integrity of the site or intruding upon the visitor's appreciation of the site.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Indicative Statement of Significance

In the following statement, the use of the terms 'significant', and 'important' is deliberate and intended to imply a hierarchy of merit.

The site is **significant**:

- for its association with John Pascoe Fawkner's Victoria Co-operative Freehold and Land Investment Society.

The site is **important**:

- for its historical association with the settlement of the district;
- as a relatively intact homestead ruin, with high interpretive potential.

6.2 Conservation Policy

Italicised words are defined in the ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter).

It is **recommended** that the homestead ruins, including the ruins of the outbuilding, yards and fences is *preserved*, but not *restored or reconstructed*.

It is **recommended** that the Moreton Bay Fig in front of the homestead is *preserved*.

It is **recommended** that the site is interpreted to park visitors.

6.3 Indicative Guidelines

Recommendations for the homestead and outbuilding ruins:

- that vegetation is removed from around the homestead ruin;
- that the dead tree stump above the east wall of the outbuilding ruin is removed;
- that suitable ground drainage is installed around the outbuilding ruin;
- that the east wall of the outbuilding ruin is assessed by a structural engineer experienced in historic structures and recommendations obtained for its stabilisation;
- that the loose stones above the doorway of the outbuilding ruin is reset in mortar;
- that eroded mortar joints in the stone work of the outbuilding ruin is repointed with an appropriate lime mortar, and that a mortar weathering is created to the exposed tops of the walls;
- that rubbish is removed from the well and a steel mesh grill is placed over the opening;
- that an appropriate site monitoring system is introduced (see below);
- that Historic Places is informed of all conservation repairs and that all actions and works are documented in Departmental files.

Recommendations for the interpretation of the homestead and outbuilding ruins:

- that park visitors should be discouraged from visiting the site by erecting a rabbit-proof fence along the east side of the management vehicle track at the proposed pedestrian bridge over Jackson's Creek and by re-vegetating the 'desire line' visible from the timber landing below the visitor centre;
- that the most appropriate point to interpret the homestead ruins to park visitors is the existing timber landing below the visitor centre;
- that signs are the preferred method of interpreting the site to visitors, but that other methods be investigated, such as information sheets, displays, or guided tours.

Recommendations for monitoring the condition of the homestead and outbuilding ruins:

- that a Site Monitoring Form [see attached] is completed at intervals of 6 months and sent to Historic Places section;

No action is required for the conservation of the stone retaining wall and concrete paving north of the homestead ruin, or for the stone wall on Lightwood Gully Track.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

7.1 Sources

Conversation with Bob Bender, 20 January 1997.

Kean, V 'A Resource Guide for Milbrook Homestead, Organ Pipes National Park', June 1996.

Lyon, J. 'A Few Memories by Jim Lyon', unpublished typescript, 1973 [copy held at Historic Places, Parks Victoria].

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Site inspection, 25 November 1996, 13 February 1997.

MEETING AT THE HOME OF MR. J. LYON
97 EGLINTON STREET, MOONEE PONDS

21 JUNE 1973

PRESENT: Mr. Jim Lyon
Mr. Percy Lyon, his brother
Mr. J. Lyale, Organ Pipes Park Ranger
Mr. G. Edwards, scribe

The following material has been compiled from rough notes taken on the above date. Material covered in the accompanying "A Few Memories" is largely not included here.

Family history

Thomas White, grandfather of Mr. Jim Lyon, migrated from Somerset, England. For some time, he wandered around from place to place but eventually settled at Deer Park, in a house near the 16 mile point on the Ballarat Highway. The house was part timber, part mud and rush and had walls 18" thick. It was built by Thomas White himself.

There were a number of girls in the family and one boy, John. The youngest girl was the mother of Mr. Jim Lyon, who was born (in the same house as his mother, at Deer Park) on 26th March 1891. The daughters are buried at Broadmeadows cemetery.

Thomas White then lived in a house, still standing, at the top of the hill overlooking Holden ford (beside the present Holden bridge), on the Diggers Rest side. This house was built around 1890 and was called "Kinsdale". Thomas White was buried in 1902 at Bulla cemetery, and grandmother White was buried there in 1905.

The Lyons' father came from Liverpool. Although he was a rope-maker by trade he didn't do much of that work, but put his hand to many jobs such as relief work on the railways, e.g., at Dunolly.

The family went to Yarraville in 1902. Jim Lyon left Yarraville school at 13 and went to work in Millers Ropeworks at Yarraville. Then he went to the Holden and Lewin iron foundry where he learned moulding. He later worked for other foundries.

Uncle John White lived in Kinsdale, but his father would not let him bring a bride to live there, otherwise he would have been made to leave and would have lost his share in the house. Thus John didn't marry until Thomas died. After living with his father, he shifted to "Winfield" on the Calder Highway (then the Mt. Macedon or Bendigo Road) near the Organ Pipes entrance. John was buried in Bulla cemetery in 1949 but Gibsons, the executors, omitted to engrave his name on the tombstone. There are two granite slabs on the grave, which is shaded by an old tree, near the Mansfields on the left.

The Lyons lived in four houses in the Holden district:

- a. Tonkins' opposite Kinsdale
- b. Dunn's, opposite the common
- c. Oakland's Junction
- d. McLeod's Road, on the corner of the road leading to Kelly's place.

Brother Percy was born at Dunn's, which is marked now by agaves and cacti. Brother Charlie died two years ago. Charlie once lit a fire near the haystack, and Tom and Jim put it out while their parents were in town - the haystack was endangered.

The house on the corner of Kelly's Road used to have a well beside the dairy and another between the house and the shed. These wells are still present, but are now filled in. The stone wall in the corner of the paddock used to be the haystack. The timber house was in the centre of the paddock. The dairy was of bluestone and there were other sheds alongside.

Customs and anecdotes of the times

The family attended St. Mary's Church of England for about 12 months. Three brothers (Percy Edward, Charles and William John) were Christened there by the Reverend Rodda, who came from Essendon (where there is a street named after him).

Recently an article by Derek Bennett on the church appeared in "The Age". The final service and Harvest Festival prior to re-siting was held on Sunday 30th April 1972 at 3 p.m.

Mr. Jim Lyon does not remember aborigines in the district.

Holden State School began in Dunn's house. Then a State School was built on the Common in a ring of trees planted on Harbour Day. The site lies opposite Dunn's house, near the S.E.C. line. Miss Rowe was the first teacher (1901) and board at McLeod's.

In the early days the ford consisted simply of a few stepping stones. There used to be a whirlpool at the ford, causing a hole more than 20 feet deep (now silted up). Big floods would rise 10 feet high at the ford, and the brothers used to throw a net in then on the off-chance of catching fish.

Floods used to wash the white sand down the creek behind St. Mary's Church and across the road which leads from the church to the junction. Men used to bring drays down to collect it near the monument.

Squatters used to live behind the boxthorn hedge along the entrance to the Park. Bartletts lived in the house there.

Jim's uncle, Tom Williamson, owned the first store in Essendon, in Fletcher Street. The associated house behind the store still stands. The brothers used to take hay there. Uncle Tom used to have trouble with some aborigines from Doutta Galla tribe, so he used to cut holes in melons to simulate eyes, nose and mouth and used to hang them up with candles inside.

He supplied the first red government-issue blankets to the aborigines. He died at the age of 99 years and 9+ months, and was buried at Keilor.

Near Tate's place was a hill leading straight down into the creek. The brothers used to run down the hill, stripping clothes off as they went, and plunge into the creek.

Hall

The house downstream from the Organ Pipes, on the north side of the creek, was called "Millbrook" and used to be the home of the Hall family. Halls used to do some blacksmithing in the early days. The house was old when the Lyon brothers were children. It was basically a mud house with some stone. The Lyons do not remember anyone living in it; Perc and Jim used to camp overnight in it at times.

There used to be an apricot orchard there, which uncle Jim White leased. There were also almonds and walnuts. Jim's brother, Charlie used to take 10 or 12 cases of apricots at a time up the hill towards the highway by draught horse and cart, and used to carry a brick to put behind the wheel if the horse faltered.

There was once a pump at the foot of the gully, on the Millbrook side of the creek, used to water the orchard. There was a swing bridge downstream of Halls', which went over the river and the billabong, 12 feet above normal water level, to avoid flash floods. Posts are still there. There were two steel ropes on top and two underneath to carry the cleats. The bridge led directly from the house. There also used to be a track leading north up the hill behind Millbrook.

Other local people

Jackson The Jacksons used to fossick around the State in the days before the gold rush. Old Bill Jackson had a twin called Alec and an elder brother, Mark. Bill used to live at Overnewton, then later near the Park (turn right at Toolern Vale Junction along an old track). Jacksons used to live, and still do, beyond Gisborne.

Trotnim Trotnim's grave is in the graveyard of the old Church. Daughter Maud, now a 92-year-old widow (Mrs. Vincent) used to be Sunday School teacher there in 1898-9. She attended the last service.

Randall Randall's house in Loeman's Road has now disappeared.

Tate Brothers Eric and Fred. Fred used to drive a traction engine to haul the chaffcutter up the hill. Also owned a steam generator which powered a portable pump which pumped water up the hill to the house.

Slater Slaters used to live in a house where Calder Motorway is now.

McLeod In the family were R. Duncan McLeod (called "R.D."), George and Jack, who kept poor health. One of the McLeods was struck by lightning in about 1900 and had his boots ripped off. Brother Tom Lyon, who was standing nearby, was always frightened by lightning thereafter.

Natural history

The Lyon brothers specifically remember the following features: The Organ Pipes used to be taller and wider than they are now. The flat in front of them was often covered in water. Blackfish lived in a pool near "Millbrook", and eels and perch also used

to be common in Jacksons Creek. Occasionally, brown trout would spring out of the water. Frogs were abundant. Platypus were in the creek, and brushtail possums were common in the trees along the creek. Water rats were said to be present, but they didn't recall seeing any.

Wrens, wagtails, robins, kookaburras. Owls in the vegetation on the cliffs. Crows in the rookery in McLeod's cliff overlooking Tate's. Echidnas were occasionally seen, particularly around Bald Hill, where there was shelter and softish soil.

Black snakes in the creek, some Tiger snakes and the odd Brown snake on the plain. Blue-tongue lizards. A small lizard 6 to 7" long, which ran up trees. There were many beehives (stinging honeybees) in the cliffs. House mice were seen, but not plagues of them. Rabbits were common and used to be poisoned with jam and toxin. Foxes were plentiful and fed on lambs, fowls and rabbits. Bats used to enter barns and houses.

Boxthorns used to be as abundant as they now are. Artichokes were always common, and Cow-thistles (Variegated Thistles) were very abundant, and more so than Artichokes. There were never many big trees, nor were there many She-oaks near the creek, although there were four or so on the Bulla-Diggers Rest Road (still there in 1973). There were also three or four She-oaks about 50 yards downhill from the present car-park, on the rocky outcrop at about Grid P 16. The gullies were filled with shrubs, but not trees. The gums now in the creek at the Park are original ones. There were never any trees on Bald Hill, which is the spur on the east of the car-park, overlooking Hall's.

Prickly Pear in a mass hundreds of yards long and covering a couple of acres used to climb up over the bank above the place where it is now (upstream from Tessellated Pavement. It even threatened Alec Jackson's house on the top of the hill (remains of the house could possibly now be in Cameron(?)'s block. A hedge of it used to stretch up the rise. Adam's Needle was the big rosette cactus and that also was present. Bathurst Burr used to be abundant. Tall bushes like Privet called Christmas Trees, with small white flowers used to be very common. Peppercorns had been planted near McLeod's and Hall's, and some were near the Organ Pipes when Mr. Percy Lyon was a boy. Horehound was common and in dense infestations even in the early days. It was used for making tea and beer.

Pumice was found in the paddocks near the hotel at Digger's Rest, on the right hand side when going out on the Bulla Road. Behind uncle White's house (upstream of ford) was a range of fine-grained coloured rocks.

The Lyon brothers do not specifically recall the following plants and animals:

Yabbies, tortoises, Bearded Dragons, Stumpytails, Wombats, Koalas, although they used to be plentiful near Melbourne and Jim's father had skin rugs which had been made from koalas he had shot. Kangaroos. Blackberries.

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