

Heritage Citation

WOIWORUNG COTTAGE

Other Names: Shackleton

Address: 111 Saunders Road, New Gisborne

Prepared by: GJM Heritage

Date: July 2019

Place type: Farm Homestead	Architect: -
Grading: Locally significant	Builder: Not known
Integrity: Very High	Construction Date: c1860s
Recommendation: Include in the Heritage Overlay with tree controls and prohibited uses triggered	Extent of Overlay: To the extent of the early dwelling and surrounding mature cypress and cedar trees (see Figure 12)



Figure 1. 111 Saunders Road, New Gisborne (GJM Heritage, 17 July 2019)

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Woiworung Cottage, 111 Saunders Road, New Gisborne, a farm homestead established in the 1860s.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The form, materials and detailing of the c1860s farmhouse
- The farmhouse's high level of integrity to its original form and construction
- The landscaped setting of the farmhouse, comprising mature cypress and cedar species planted contemporaneously with the farmhouse construction and the long driveway approach to the farmhouse.

More recently constructed buildings and farm infrastructure surrounding the cottage, including the adjacent house, are not significant.

How is it significant?

Woiworung Cottage is of local historical and architectural significance to the Shire of Macedon Ranges.

Why is it significant?

Woiworung Cottage demonstrates the early establishment and subsequent development of farming properties in the rich agricultural district of New Gisborne (Criterion A).

Woiworung Cottage is a highly intact, simple farm homestead from the mid-nineteenth century with an associated collection of mature trees and long driveway approach. While displaying features typical of its general typology (simple floor plan, rough sawn weatherboard cladding, steel-clad gable roof, double hung multi-paned windows, brick chimneys and unadorned timber verandah), its very high level of intactness to its original form and construction is rare within the municipality (Criterion B).

Historical Themes

The place illustrates the following themes as outlined in *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes*:

- 4 Transforming and managing the land
 - 4.4 Farming
- 6 Building towns, cities and the garden state
 - 6.7 Making homes for Victorians.

Locality History

The following is based on the locality history from the 1994 *Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study* (TBA Planners et al., 1994, Vol 3:135; see 1994 study for earlier sources) and the Heritage Alliance, *Macedon Ranges Shire Review of Heritage Precincts and Places*, 2007.

Situated on the southern bank of Jacksons Creek, the town of Gisborne stands at the junction of three early pastoral runs. After the discovery of gold in Bendigo and Castlemaine, Gisborne developed as a convenient stopping place between Melbourne and the goldfields and in 1851 a township plan was laid out by government surveyor Robert Hoddle. By the end of the decade a school, court house, mechanics institute and two churches had been constructed in this township (Vic Places).

With the formation of the Gisborne Road District in 1860, Gisborne became a centre of municipal government and in 1871 the Shire of Gisborne was formed. The main northern railway line from Melbourne to Bendigo was completed in 1862 however it by-passed the developing town of Gisborne, following an easier

gradient along the ridgeline a number of kilometres to the north of the town. With the establishment of the Gisborne railway station on this line in the early 1860s, a secondary settlement developed closer to the railway line, to the north of Gisborne and the landform known as Magnet Hill. Named New Gisborne, this separate township developed along Station Road which linked the railway station with the township of Gisborne to the south.

Populations in Gisborne and New Gisborne fluctuated, with minor growth at the turn of the century followed by minor contraction in the early twentieth century (Vic Places). The opening of the Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine and the associated Tullamarine Freeway in 1970 impacted on the townships as it allowed easier access to Melbourne. Both Gisborne and New Gisborne were transformed into commuter townships with populations tripling over the next twenty-five years. Continuing population growth has since reduced the physical distinction between the two townships (Vic Places).

Place History

In July 1855, John Shackleton received the Crown Grant for Crown Allotment 3, totaling approximately 82 acres (33 hectares) (PROV: Parish Plan Gisborne). This crown allotment was located to the north-east of the Township of Gisborne in the village that became known as New Gisborne. In 1858 Shackleton sold approximately one third of this allotment to Hugh Norton and retained the western portion of approximately 52 acres (21 hectares) (GLN: Book 65, No 409). Located on flat land to the east of the prominent feature in the district, Magnet Hill, Shackleton's farming property was one of a number of moderately sized farms which were noted as under cultivation in the 1870s (*Bacchus Marsh Express*, 15 July 1876:4).

The property remained in Shackleton's ownership until H R Dixon offered it for sale by auction on 30 April 1887 (*Bacchus Marsh Express*, 23 April 1887:2). At this time Shackleton intended to dispose of the property and return to his land of birth, however he died a few months later on 21 September 1887 as a resident of Gisborne. He was recorded as a farmer at the time of his death (PROV).

At the time of the sale in 1887, Shackleton's property was described as '[The] best piece of ground in this neighbourhood, either for building or farming, being about one mile either from Gisborne or New Gisborne. The area is about fifty-two acres, with waterholes and other improvements' (*Bacchus Marsh Express*, 15 July 1876:4). The property was purchased by Joseph Kelly and the land was conveyed on 23 June 1887 (GLN: Book 339 No 225).

Kelly retained the property until his death on 20 January 1925, at which time he was described as a retired farmer and resident of Macedon (PROV). Ownership passed to his son James (or Joseph James) Kelly who was renting the property from his father at the time for an annual rental of £26 (PROV). At this time the fifty-two acre and two rood freehold property was named 'Shackleton' and contained a five-roomed weatherboard cottage, stable and shed (PROV). The recorded value of the property at this time was £12 per acre. James Kelly died 10 months later on 4 November 1925 and probate was then granted to his wife Bridget (PROV).

Three years later, on 26 October 1928, the property was conveyed to James Roberts (GLN: Book 528 No 720) and the property continued to change ownership throughout the twentieth century. Subsequent owners included William Prendergast (1937-47), William McDougall (1947-1952), Victor Ford (1952-53), Michael Keating (1953-56), George Williams (1956-78) and Maurice and Margaret Rolfe (1978-1983). The current owners obtained the property in 2000 (LV: V10512/F507).

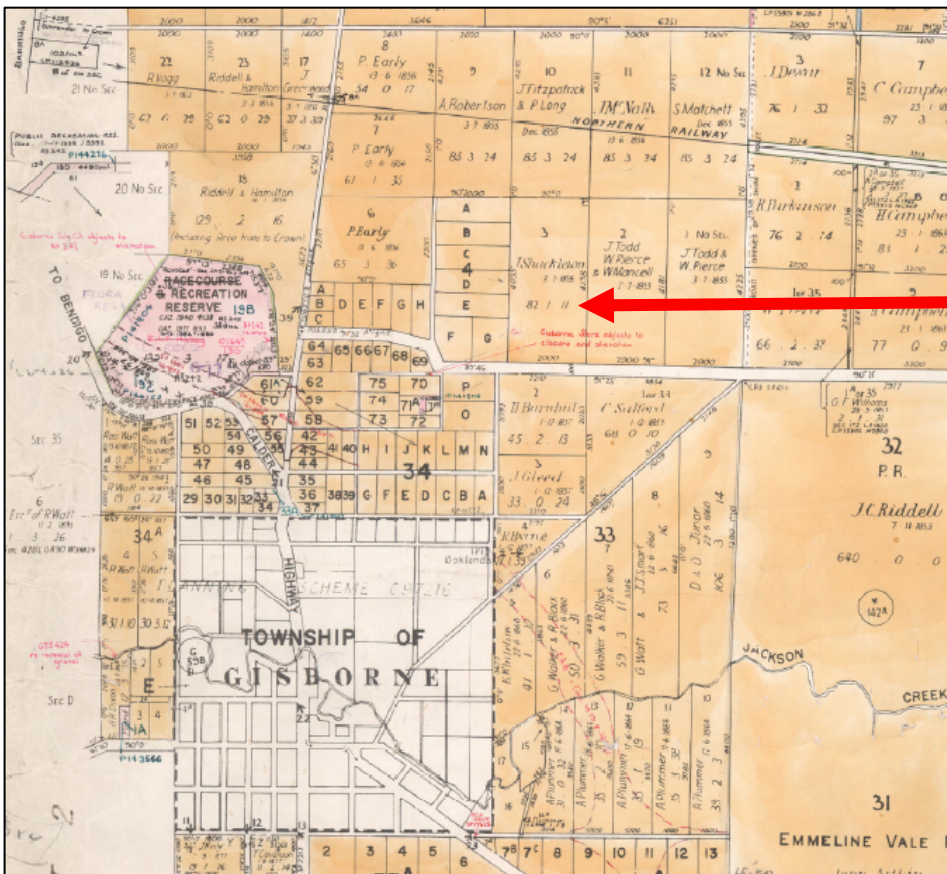


Figure 2. Detail of Gisborne 1 Parish Plan Imperial Measure 2662, showing location of Shackleton's Crown Grant.

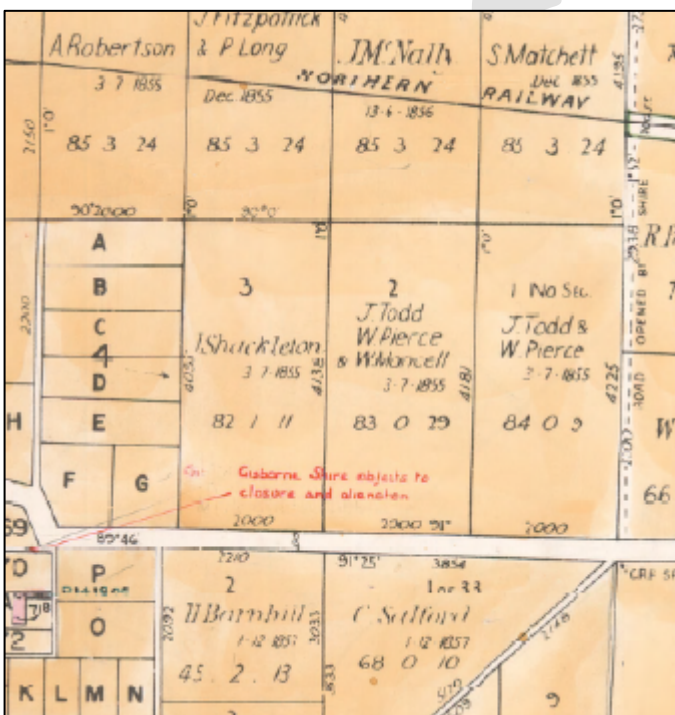


Figure 3. Detail of above, showing Crown Allotment 3.

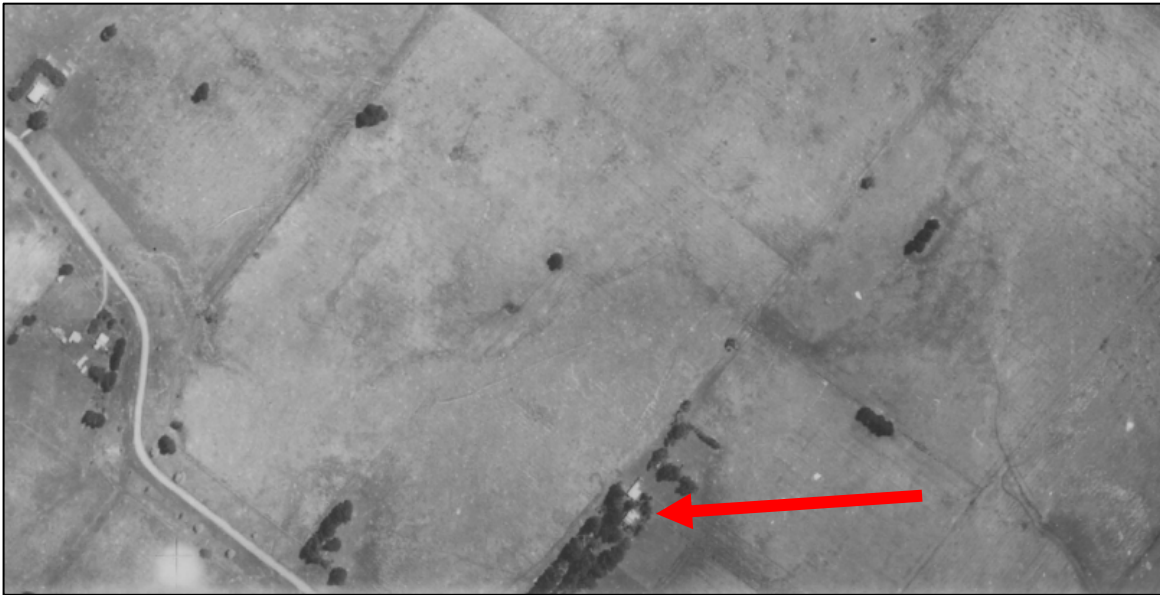


Figure 4. Detail of Historical Aerial Photograph, 1950, showing subject building (Landata).



Figure 5. Detail of Historical Aerial Photograph, 1969, showing location of subject building (Landata).

Description

The property on which Woiworung Cottage is located is a flat rectangular site of 21.2 hectares on the north side of Saunders Road – the name given to the Gisborne-Kilmore Road at New Gisborne. It is situated to the east of the main New Gisborne township and to the north-east of Magnet Hill and the Gisborne township. The small farm complex consists of the original farmhouse, outbuildings and a late twentieth century house. Access to the property is via a long tree-lined driveway off Saunders Road.

The double gable roofed, single storey timber farmhouse is set back from the road, close to the western boundary of the property, and is situated in a mature landscape setting. Clad with square-edged, rough-sawn weatherboards and roofed with corrugated steel (presumably replacing similar original roof cladding), the house is of simple design with unadorned front verandah, with timber floor and supporting posts, and rear lean-to section. The asymmetrical front elevation (south) contains an entry door flanked by a double-hung, multi-paned window and a later replacement window. Similar double-hung, multi-paned windows are located on both side elevations. Exposed brick chimney stacks, with simple brick detailing, are located at both the east side of the house (also remnants of a second base) and at the rear lean-to. The latter chimneys are a double stack which appear to have been constructed separately. A small timber-clad addition, adjacent to the chimney stacks, has been made at the north-west corner of the house.

The description of the dwelling as a five-roomed house in 1925 (see 'History') suggests that each gable roofed section contained two rooms and the rear lean-to formed the fifth room. Some minor alterations have been made to the interior of the house, including the removal of one interior wall, however extensive areas of simple square-edged timber wall and ceiling lining, and the rear exposed brick hearth, have been retained.

The landscaping around the farmhouse is well maintained and includes mature exotic cypress and cedar species which, from their form and size, appear to have been planted contemporaneously with the construction of the dwelling. The approach driveway from Saunders Road is lined with more recent plantings.



Figure 6. East elevation showing double gabled roof, brick chimney and base of removed chimney (GJM Heritage July 2019).



Figure 7. Detail of front multi-paned window (GJM Heritage July 2019).



Figure 8. Rear elevation showing lean-to and double chimney stacks (GJM Heritage July 2019).



Figure 9. Rear elevation form north-west (GJM Heritage July 2019).

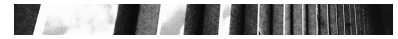


Figure 10. View from the north showing landscaped setting (GJM Heritage July 2019).



Figure 11. Interior of the house showing wall and ceiling lining. (GJM Heritage July 2019).

Integrity

Woiworung Cottage retains a high degree of integrity in fabric, form and detail. Whilst some minor alterations have been made to the farmhouse, these alterations do not diminish the ability to understand and appreciate the place as a highly intact example of a modest nineteenth century farming homestead. **The long entrance driveway and the remnant mature trees in the vicinity of the farmhouse add to the integrity of the place.**

Comparative Analysis

Woiworung Cottage, New Gisborne is of note as a highly intact, mid-nineteenth century farmhouse of timber construction in the Shire of Macedon Ranges. The district gained a reputation as a rich agricultural area and properties such as this clearly illustrate this period of substantial agricultural growth and development.

A number of farm complexes from the mid-nineteenth century remain in the Shire of Macedon Ranges and examples of these are included in the Heritage Overlay. These include:

- Riversdale & mature planting, 199 Youngs Road, Kyneton (HO149)
- Homestead (Former Jarrett's Farm), 101 Pleasant Hill Road, Kyneton (HO313)
- Bolinda Vale, 1556 Melbourne Lancefield Road, Clarkefield (HO154)
- Pastoria Homestead, 589 Baynton Road, Pastoria (HO120)

- Clunie, Pinetum, 3330 Romsey Road, Chintin (HO245)
- Homestead (Hay Hill), 426 Hamilton Road, New Gisborne (HO295)

The majority of these and other c1860 farm complexes and homesteads remaining in the municipality today are grander, predominantly stone or stone rubble residences with more elaborate detailing than demonstrated at Woiworung Cottage. While a large number of modest timber farm homesteads were constructed in the area in the early to mid-nineteenth century, Woiworung Cottage is now rare in the municipal context as one of the few highly intact examples of this typology remaining.

Assessment Against Criteria

Following is an assessment of the place against the recognised heritage criteria set out in *Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (August 2018).

Criterion A: *Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).*

Woiworung Cottage and Farm Complex demonstrates the early establishment and subsequent development of farming properties in the rich agricultural district of New Gisborne.

Criterion B: *Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).*

Woiworung Cottage is a highly intact, simple farm homestead from the mid-nineteenth century with an associated collection of mature trees and long driveway approach. While displaying features typical of its general typology (simple floor plan, rough sawn weatherboard cladding, steel-clad gable roof, double hung multi-paned windows, brick chimneys and unadorned timber verandah), its very high level of intactness to its original form and construction is rare within the municipality.

Grading and Recommendations

It is recommended that the place be included in the Heritage Overlay of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme as a locally significant heritage place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme:

External Paint Controls?	No
Internal Alteration Controls?	No
Tree Controls?	Yes – mature trees surrounding homestead
Outbuildings or Fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-3?	No
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	Yes
Incorporated Plan?	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	No

Extent of the recommended Heritage Overlay

To the extent of the driveway alignment from Saunders Road and the land defined by the circular driveway around the early homestead, as indicated by the orange polygon on the aerial below.



Figure 12. Aerial photo of 111 Saunders Road, New Gisborne (Source: nearmap©, April 2019).

References:

Bacchus Marsh Express, 15 July 1876.

Bacchus Marsh Express, 23 April 1887.

General Law Notes (GLN), as cited.

Gisborne Parish Plan 1, Public Records Office (PROV) VPRS 16171/P1.

Heritage Alliance, 'Macedon Ranges Shire Review of Heritage Precincts and Places', 2007.

Landata Victoria, Historical Aerial Photographs.

Public Records Office Victoria (PROV), Probate and Administration Files for:

- John Shackleton, VPRS 28/P0, Unit 435, Item 35/710.

- Joseph Kelly, VPRS 28/P3, Unit 1516, Item 200/392.
- Joseph James Kelly VPRS 28/P3, Unit 1591, Item 204/885.

Public Records Office Victoria (PROV), Wills for:

- Joseph Kelly, VPRS 7591/P2, Unit 708, Item 200/392.
- Joseph James Kelly, VPRS 7591/P2 unit 723 item 204/885.

TBA Planners et al, 'Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study', 1994.

Victorian Places, 'New Gisborne', <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/new-gisborne> & "Gisborne and Gisborne Shire", <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/gisborne-and-gisborne-shire>.

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