

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 4 Old Forcett Road Forcett 7173		UPI: 2900774	PID: 7855482
Name: SUNNYSIDE (FORMER PART OF STUDLEY PARK GROUP)			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: Stable	Dating:	1891 - 1915 c1900
	Site Feature Type: Barn	Access Restrictions:	Restricted
	Shearing Shed	Inspection Date:	October 96 P Davies
		Style:	Federation
		Grid ref:	5426 551250 5260250
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Land selection and closer settlement Primary Production	
Material:	Timber siding Corrugated iron	Listings:	
Condition:	Fair		
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B2 C2 D2 F1	Photograph Index:	6:9-16
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This group of structures comprises five buildings, three of heritage value and two of later construction for hay and feed storage. The main building is the stable which is a substantial and well built structure with a main section of two levels and a rear skillion section in typical form for early stable buildings. The main section contains the remains of loose boxes in the centre of the building (5) with access along each side and a small skillion tack room to one side. Large doors have been cut into the front wall to provide for vehicular access and the loose boxes have been removed to facilitate this. The floor is brick paved with drainage built into the flooring. The ceiling is the timber floor from above and contains chutes for feed which was stored above. Access to the top floor is only via the external gable end door which is not accessible. The building contains long timber fixed louvres along the sides of the building. The rear skillion contains boxes which retain their fittings including feed troughs etc. The overall form of this building is very dominant in the landscape.

The barn is a more simple building with an earth floor in traditional form with a central gable form flanked by skillions. The building is supported on square timber posts, now set in concrete bases, and has three openings, one to the front and one in the centre of each side. The front opening extends the width of the gable section. The building has a substantial lean. It appears to date from around the same time as the stable building.

The shearing shed is a later building probably built after 1920. It is also a gabled building with flanking skillion wings. It is well built, has a timber floor, louvred windows and is a typical farm building from the period.

HISTORY:

These buildings were part of the original Studley Park property that was sub-divided, excising Studley Park House and 50 acres for the Harvey family (the former owners) and selling the working farm to the Dodge family. The farm buildings are located directly opposite the entry to the house and are at some distance from the other farm buildings that still remain with Studley Park House. At the time of the sale the Harvey family owned Studley Park, 500 acres on the north side of Arthur Highway from which Harvey excised the land for the hall which was given to the community and the Forcett House property.

Owned by John Thomas Lakeland who put its 300 acres up for sale in 1844. It later passed to J S Steele of Carlton River, who put it up for let in 1862. By this time it consisted of 370 acres and contained *a substantial well-built dwelling house, large stone barn, with all necessary outbuildings, and a garden of 4 acres stocked with upwards of 300 of the choicest fruit trees.*

In 1874 the property was taken over by Richard Studley Steele who added to the property and bred Shropshire sheep on it. He was a well known sheep breeder and pastoralist and served as a magistrate, a member of the

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School Board of Advice and the Lower Sorell Road Trust. The house he built at Studley Park at around the turn of the century was described by the Cyclopaedia of Tasmania as

a handsome new residence . . . which is not more attractive outside than it is within, being replete not only with every comfort and convenience, but with those elegancies which betoken the presence of culture and artistic taste.

The tobacco kilns are said to date from the 1930s when the Harvey family grew tobacco on their estate, particularly on the part of the estate on which Forcett House is located.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the fence line of the paddock in which the buildings stand, extending to the present road boundary.

COMMENTS:

The stable and barn building are an excellent and rare example of high quality farm buildings from the turn of the century. They demonstrate construction techniques and farm practice from the time and are important landscape elements along the alignment of the Old Forcett Road.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2 and F1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate.

It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

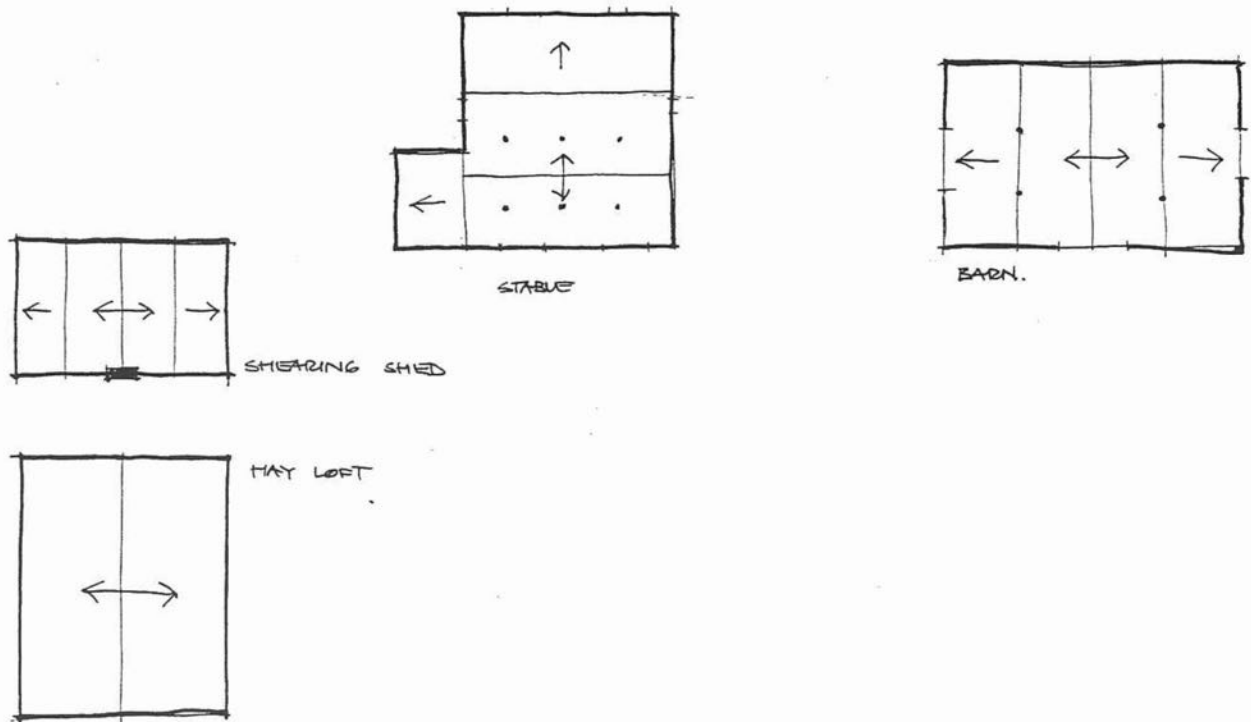
Cyclopaedia of Tasmania. 1900. Maitland and Krone, Hobart.

Hobart Town Courier 31 May 1844, p1

Lindsay Stokes, oral information

The Mercury 1 October 1862, p1

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OLD FORCETT ROAD

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