

Victorian Heritage Database Report
Rainbow Gully Farm



Location:

519 Olinda Basin Road, Olinda VIC 3786 - Property No 21241

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:

Listing Authority: HI

Heritage Overlay Number: HO274

Statement of Significance:

Rainbow Gully Farm has regional significance as one of the earliest properties in the Olinda district established in the 1870s by George Dodd, a pioneer selector, as a farm with over six acres of orchard. The property has high local significance for its associations with the Dodd family, who played a prominent role in pioneering the district. Run as a flower farm from 1930, Rainbow Gully Farm still has five fern gullies and after 120 years is still in Dodd family ownership.

Description

Rainbow Gully Farm is located on the western face of the Dandenong Ranges, on a large freehold allotment (22 ha) surrounded by National Park. The property is located within a steep-sided and semi-enclosed valley. Mountain ash forest covers the upper slopes, and magnificent fern gullies follow the creek lines. The lower slopes and centre of the valley are devoted to horticultural plantings, established for cur flowers and foliage. There are extensive areas of hydrangeas and rhododendrons set close to the forest edge, and a diverse range of other shrubs and trees throughout the property. Some of the oldest plantings, probably some camellias, are located close to the present house.

The property has not been burnt during its ownership by the Dodds family, despite a number of serious fires in the area. The 1962 fires stopped on the edge of the property.

The diversity of horticultural plantings and the extensive fern gullies are features of the property, along with its evocative setting within the mountain ash forest and the views to Melbourne. The fern gullies are thought to be 400-500 years old. (L. Swanson pers comm)

A log cabin built by Jack (John) Dodd Snr on the property in the late 1920s survives. It is a simple, single-roomed log cabin, rectangular in plan, with a brick and stone chimney and corrugated iron roof. The corrugated iron bears the trademark Redcliffe. The walls are constructed using logs laid horizontally, overlapping at each corner. The roof framing is made of bush poles. It is unlined and has a single entry door and a window (now unglazed) overlooking the property towards the west. It was lived in while a second house was being built, and later served as a packing shed. Jack Dodd also built two other log cabins, one nearby (see Dodd's Log Cabin which was once within the Rainbow Gully property) and the other at Mt Dandenong (Kate Kelly's restaurant).

The second house is larger than the first. It was built by Allan Percy and Vera Stewart Dodd, parents of Anne Swanson (nee Dodd). It may have been started as early as c1932, but the shortage of materials during the war years delayed its completion for many years. It is a timber and fibro clad bungalow, characteristic of the Interwar years in its design.

Good

Intact

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Other names	
Hermes number	115721
Property number	21241

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online