

Victorian War Heritage Database Place Details - 29/3/2026

MOUNT STURGEON HOMESTEAD COMPLEX



Location:

Cavendish-Dunkeld Road DUNKELD, Southern Grampians Shire

Description:

all the buildings are in excellent condition.

The homestead at Mount Sturgeon is in two main parts, the original dating from at least the 1850s and the major addition dating from the 1870s or no later than 1880. Very little remains unaltered of the original homestead. It was single storey and faced the mountain. A substantial chimney including a baker's oven indicates that it was built with a mixture of bluestone and Grampians freestone.

The two wings are separated by a passage way said to have been built large enough for a carriage to be driven through it. The new wing is also single storey although elevated on a podium. It is built of coursed rock face bluestone with Grampians freestone for the quoins around the doors and windows and at the corners. The U-shaped verandah is decorated with cast iron brackets and frieze set within a heavy timber structure. The timber columns are paired at the corners and at the front door. The concave verandah roof and the hipped roof of the main wing are corrugated iron. The eaves have paired timber brackets. The windows opening onto the verandah are French doors, relatively old-fashioned for the time, with fan lights above. The front door is within a substantial entrance including side and fanlights. Only the side lights are subdivided by glazing bars. An old gas light fitting, converted to electricity, hangs outside the front door.

Internally the hall and two principal rooms are decorated conservatively with conventional plaster details. Although no early decoration survives the plasterwork and joinery survive well. The fireplaces are in the wall opposite the facade. The mantels survive. A large vestibule door at the end of the hall leads to the passage between the two sections of the house. Recent alterations and additions, sympathetic to the scale and form of the two wings, have provided further modern accommodation. No substantial garden or plantings survive near the house.

The row of workers cottages and a cookhouse begins some distance from the house and leads to the woolshed. The cottages and cookhouse also face the mountain. They are conventional in plan, built of coursed bluestone, and have hipped roofs. Each has a substantial chimney. They have been converted recently into short term accommodation with new services located in large corrugated iron "tanks" at the rear.

Near the woolshed there is a brick sheep dip set into the ground. It has paved areas around it and adjacent to it there is a bluestone structure with a chimney, apparently the base for heating tanks of water. A curved fence

with a path of Grampians freestone would lead the sheep from the nearby yards. The woolshed's plan is unusual with three wings, one long and two short. The central wing of bluestone perhaps older than the rest and the end wing may be later. The three wings have separate corrugated iron roofs. The roof on the central wing is a simple hip. The roof on the long wing was a double hip but has been converted to a single large hip. The end wing has a half hip with small gables at the ridge line. The central wing is built of relatively crude coursed bluestone and has one large door at its end. The long wing is built in large sections of bluestone and Grampians freestone. It has arched openings providing access to the sub-floor. The end wing is much better built in bluestone with freestone quoins and lintels. The smaller doors and windows suggest that this was used for the storage of wool bales although it has square openings providing access to the extensive sub-floor. The outer wall, opposite the central wing and along the shearing board is weatherboard. The wall at the south-eastern end includes a massive bluestone chimney. The woolshed has been extensively modernised, to the extent that the long wing has been almost rebuilt, so it can be used for functions as well as for shearing. The trussed roof at the south-eastern end appears to be entirely new while a new single roof covers the former double-hip. The internal sheep pens survive and there are yards outside.

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Continuing as a pastoral property

Fair degree of integrity

Dr Robert Martin, first lease holder

Hugh Glass, second lease holder

C.H Armytage and George Fairburn , third leaseholders

George Armytage and Robert Nutt, fourth leaseholders

Charles H. Armytage, final lease holder

Harold Armytage, manager for Caroline Armytage

Leila and Constance Armytage

Pre-emptive right of Mount Sturgeon

The integrity of the various buildings has suffered seriously from recent renovations and extensions. Nonetheless, the nexus of the whole complex with the site, and the mountain, survives as does the architecturally most important section, the 1870s wing.