

address was given as Wood Cot Park in a Gippsland Guardian of 1855. By 1861, Wood Cot Park was advertised for sale in the following terms: the house was “not equalled in the district” for “position and elegance”: “The Drawing and Dining Rooms, as also the Hall, have been completed with great taste and skill, and at enormous expense”. An attached kitchen and associated store-rooms both of which still exist, were described along with a “large and costly” water tank, barn, coach house, 3 stall stable and loft. The lawn at the front of the house was “tastefully laid out” and the orchard nearby was well stocked with fruit trees, vines and “rare shrubs” (3). An earlier advertisement described the house as being of six rooms and a detached kitchen, servant’s quarters and store-rooms (4). The property was not sold and Jessie Neilson occupied it until 1865.

Neilson’s trustees, William Disher, Robert Burn and George (Dr.) Hedley sold the property to George Dunderdale in 1873 (6) which he occupied until 1886, serving as the clerk of the Court of Petty Sessions at Palmerston (7). The butcher, Archibald Macphail owned and occupied Wood Cot Park from 1890 until well into this century: his family owning the property to the present (8).

Neilson’s connection with the Lord of Glengarry (9) may include possession of one of the “frame houses” brought by Glengarry to the Alberton district in 1841; it being generally accepted that the houses were sold and not demounted. Another notion is that this was the “Iron Store” once occupied by merchant John Hood (manufacturer, Porter Brothers and Stuart of Birmingham) at Port Albert and later as a temporary immigration depot qv: this was a two-storey building and thus seems unlikely. Another iron frame member and several timber trusses are stored at Wood Cot Park from a section of this building which was demolished (11).

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Trust Register	B5552		File only
Planning Scheme	HO18		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H649		Listed

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking State significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

Statement of significance Wood Cot Park has retained its setting of a flanking orchard, hedgerows and the nearby Tarra River demonstrates the ease by which materials might be landed for the construction of the house.

It is of high importance of the State as a verified and surviving exemplar of an early comfortable residence in the Gippsland district which was made possible by a revitalisation brought by the discovery of gold, after ten years of development in the district, generally and a lesser period of establishment by its owner, James Neilson who himself is linked with the first period of Gippsland Settlement and one of the more romantic tales of early settlement in Victoria, in respect to the Lord of Glengarry.

The house is perhaps the only existing example of an “oil-cloth” clad building and attached, at the rear, is a prefabricated iron-frame building which is one of relatively few to survive in-situ, in Victoria (Butler 1982:32).

Extent of designation The whole of the residence an

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography	<p>Butler, G. 1982. References</p> <p>1) a) Rev. Cox,: Cites Port Phillip Herald, 17/9/1841, The leader, 11/12/1920 b) G.G. 3/7/1861</p> <p>2) a) Rev. Cox: Cites Headstones in Alberton Cemetery: b) G.G. 12/3/1859 2) G.G. 12/03/1861</p>
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3) Op Cit. 14/9/1860

4) RB 1864, 273

5) RGO

6) P.O.D 1880-1, 1875

7)

a) RB 1890, 1812

b) RB 1918, 292

8) Rev. Cox Cites Dunderdale and Lucas, also Allan McLean 'Reminiscences various sites named as destination of the houses

9) Verbal from L. MacPhail, re demolition and extent

Heritage Victoria File No. 600039

Butler, G., (1982), Port Albert Conservation Study (Place no. 18), South Gippsland Publishing Company, Foster, 32

Graeme Butler & Associates, (July 2002), Alberton - Port Albert Heritage Review (Wellington Heritage Study)