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Name: Sherwood
Status: Provisionally Registered
Tier: State

THR ID Number: 12036
Municipality: Central Highlands
Council
Boundary: Whole of Title

Location Addresses

1290 Hollow Tree RD, Hollow Tree 7140 TAS

Title References
147677/1

Property Id
5010689



Buildings from south-east
© DNRET



Main House [1] with Service Wing [2] at right
© DNRET



'Bake house' room within Service Wing [2]
© DNRET



'Meat-house' room's stone table
© DNRET



Cart-shed [4] from south-east
© DNRET



Barn door with carved lintel and possible gun slot
© DNRET



Central area of lintel above Barn door
© DNRET



Barn [5, left] and Stables [6, right] building
© DNRET



Free-standing Cottage [7] from north
© DNRET



House Retaining Wall [8], Main House [1]
beyond
© DNRET



Stone-fenced Stock Enclosure [15] from south
© DNRET



Irrigation Channel [22] on the river flats
© DNRET



Carrier Channel [19], looking north-west
© DNRET



Tunnel [18], western portal
© DNRET



c.1920: buildings from south-east
(Weekly Courier, 11 November 1920, p.21)



c.mid-1960s: conjoined buildings from north
(TAHO, NS3195/1/3783)

Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

Sherwood is an important place in demonstrating conflict between Aboriginal people and Europeans during the colonisation of Van Diemen's Land. It demonstrates early land settlement practices and the development of pastoralism – and is a particularly fine example of a pastoral estate – on a considerable scale. The linear arrangement in which Sherwood's main house and farm buildings are conjoined is very uncommon in the Tasmanian context. Its irrigation system, remnants of formal gardens and subsurface material are extensive, and have high research potential to provide important information related to a substantial rural estate of the early colonial period. Sherwood's extensive irrigation system, including its tunnel and the stone-lined carrier channels, demonstrates a technical achievement beyond the ordinary in colonial Van Diemen's Land. Sherwood has a special association with Isaac Sherwin, a second-generation family owner and occupant of the property who also had a wide range of commercial interests.

Why is it significant?:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.

Sherwood has a notable association with conflict between Europeans and the Big River nation, part of a broader pattern of violence between colonists and Aboriginal people during the early colonial period.

Sherwood's substantial irrigation system, which was completed early in the Tasmanian context, demonstrates the important role that irrigation played in the development of many colonial-era historic properties. Its main house, farm buildings, and remnants of formal landscaping and plantings also assist in demonstrating the wealth generated by the development of pastoralism and agriculture on the frontiers of colonial society, supported by a convict workforce, during the early and mid-19th century.

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

The conjoined, linear arrangement of Sherwood's main house and farm buildings is very uncommon in the context of early farming properties in Tasmania. The configuration of the buildings at Sherwood may have been informed by model farmer designs in architectural pattern books, or may alternatively have been a defensive strategy, responding to the occupants' perceptions of the lawlessness of the period and their isolated and precarious situation. The adjacent stone-walled stock enclosure is also rare in the Tasmanian State-wide context.

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

Sherwood has the potential to yield information which would contribute to an understanding of the development of an important Central Highlands agricultural property during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Sherwood is likely to have surface and subsurface remains and deposits associated with various features and activities – including its main house and conjoined farm buildings, separate cottage, other outbuildings, remnant formal garden, stock enclosure, stone walls, irrigation works, and other farm infrastructure – that have the potential to yield information about the form, functions and spatial layout of the place along with aspects of 19th-century Tasmanian rural culture including class and gender differences, economic fluctuations, and changing rural practices and technologies.

The linear arrangement of Sherwood's main house and adjoining farm buildings at Sherwood may potentially inform research questions regarding the use of architectural pattern books and of design for defensive purposes in the context of early colonial-period rural estates in Tasmania.

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

Sherwood's layout and elements, including its extant main house, conjoined farm buildings, separate cottage, and irrigation and landscape features constitute a fine example of a rural property associated with the early development of Tasmania's pastoral and agricultural industries. The extensive irrigation system at Sherwood is particularly intact. In combination, all of these elements demonstrate the evolution of agricultural practices in Tasmania from the 1820s through to the early decades of the 20th century.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

Sherwood's extensive irrigation system demonstrates a technical achievement beyond the ordinary in colonial Van Diemen's Land. In a State-wide comparison of similar places, the scale of effort and investment represented by the system including its tunnel and the stone-lined carrier channels are unusual in the context of other early colonial-period schemes implemented for pasture improvement by the harvesting and distribution of river water.

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

No Data Recorded

g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.

Sherwood is significant for its association with Isaac Sherwin, the third son of the property's first grantee John Sherwin. Isaac Sherwin is notable for his diverse commercial and philanthropic interests, and he played a leading role in a number of important institutions and community organisations, particularly in Launceston. Key features and structures at Sherwood such as the main house and the irrigation system were constructed during the years of Isaac Sherwin's ownership of this place.

h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

No Data Recorded

Heritage approval is required for work that will result in changes to the nature or appearance of the fabric of a Heritage place, both internal and external.

Please refer to the Heritage Council's Works Guidelines (www.heritage.tas.gov.au) for information about the level of approval required and appropriate outcomes.

Heritage Advisors are also available to answer questions and provide guidance on enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au or Tel 1300850332

This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.

Setting:

Sherwood is an isolated rural property in Tasmania's central highlands, located approximately midway between the towns of Hamilton and Bothwell. Sherwood's main house, farm buildings and remnants of a formal garden are sited in a deep valley of the River Clyde. The house and other buildings, on the edge of a steep fall to the river flats, dominate the river landscape. The setting of the complex is characterised by its isolation and the backdrop of wooded hills.

Description:

Sherwood is a complex of buildings, garden remnants, landscape and irrigation-system elements and archaeological features. The complex includes a row of conjoined buildings – comprising the main house, with adjoining farm buildings to the north-east of that house – and a separate two-storey cottage approximately 30 metres to the south-east of the main house. Remnants of the complex's gardens and landscaping are situated to the immediate north-west of the main house, with features of its former irrigation system located further to the north, beside the River Clyde and across its river flats.

1. Main House: a Georgian-style sandstone ashlar building of two storeys with a basement. Its hipped roof is clad with short sheets of corrugated iron and has three sandstone ashlar chimneys, each with a projecting course of fine mouldings near its top. The house's principal and symmetrical north-west elevation faces the river flats and remnants of the formal garden, and contains a central timber-framed main entrance doorway with side lights and an arched fanlight. The main entrance doorway opens into a large central hall.

Stairs to both the upper storey and the basement are at the central hall's south-eastern side. In the upper storey, a

central hall of 'elongated hexagonal' plan shape (Fysh 1965, p. 11) provides access to five bedrooms, two of which have small dressing rooms. The basement comprises four substantial rooms, with stone flagged floors and walls of stone rubble built to courses.

Intact internal features include moulded timber stair balustrades and handrails; cedar architraves, shutters and sills; moulded cornices; lath and plaster ceilings; six-panelled doors; and fireplace surrounds.

CONJOINED FARM BUILDINGS:

Sherwood is unusual in Tasmania in having its farm buildings conjoined with the main house, even though 'the cart-shed, barn and stable are slightly set back from the line of the house-front, have discontinuous roofs, and differ in height' (Ratcliff 2015, p. 1444). Eric Ratcliff (2015, p. 1444) suggests that the arrangement of buildings at Sherwood may be a result of the Sherwin family's experiences of attacks by Aborigines in 1829 and 1830 at this remote place. It is also possible that the placement of Sherwood's buildings was guided by conventions and traditions that were familiar to its owners and builders (see Brunskill 2000, pp. 28, 152) or alternatively was influenced by architectural pattern books. Widely used throughout the English speaking world during the 18th and 19th centuries, books of this type allowed architects, builders and clients to share and popularise design ideas. Publications such as John Claudius Loudon's *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm, and Villa Architecture and Furniture*, which contained a range of 'modern farmery' designs, were targeted to aspirational property owners and skilled tradesmen (RIBA website 2017) and widely used in the Australian colonies. On the other hand, it may simply be the case that Sherwood's main house and farm buildings were sited in a built response to other functional needs.

This assessment draws upon written descriptions of Sherwood's buildings by Eric Ratcliff (2015, pp. 608, 1444 and 1467), and also by Ann Fysh (1965, pp. 3-12, and 36-38) in an account of her family's visits to Sherwood in 1963.

The row of connected farm buildings extends north-eastwards from the main house. From the main house's eastern corner, to the north-east are the:

2. Service Wing: a two-storey wing with walls of sandstone ashlar and roof clad with short sheets of corrugated iron. The south-west-facing plane of the hipped roof-form continues downwards to form a timber-framed high verandah above the doors to the wing's lower-storey. The wing contains two rooms in its lower storey – which were identified by Ann Fysh (1965, pp. 7-8) respectively as a 'bake house' or 'bakery', and a 'meat-house' – and what appears to be two more rooms in its upper storey.

The bake house room contains a large fireplace and a separate cast-iron wall oven. Adjacent is the separate smaller room which Ann Fysh described as a meat-house. Most of this room's area is taken up by a 2.4 by 1.2 metre stone table. Standing about 900mm high, the top of this table is of approximately 100 mm-thick sandstone slabs, which are in turn supported by six sandstone legs of simple square profile.

The north-east wall of the upper storey, which faces into the adjoining Cart-shed, contains two doors. A 2018 site-inspection team was not able to access the space(s) inside these doors, but it is reasonable to assume that this upper storey contains two rooms with sizes identical to those in the storey below.

Timber shingles on the Service Wing's north-east-facing roof surface are visible from within the cart-shed, under the higher corrugated iron-clad volume of the Cart shed's adjoining roof. A sandstone ashlar chimney on the north-east wall, which serves the bake house's fireplace and bread oven, has a projecting course of fine mouldings near its top of similar size and detail to those on the Main House's chimneys.

3. South-east Outdoor Area: beneath the Service Wing's roof, stone flag paving links the doors of the bake house and meat-house rooms with the main house's kitchen door. Outside the meat-house room's door is a brick-lined underground cistern, accessible via a square-shaped lid of timber boards within a rebated recess in the flagstones. An adjacent flat grassed area of approximately 12 by 8 metres in plan abuts both the paving's south-west edge and the Main House's south-east elevation. The south-east edge of the grassed area and the paving is defined by a stone retaining wall, and at the area's eastern corner this wall flanks the outside edge of a stair flight alongside the meat-house room. A second and shorter stair flight, on axis with the central door in the Main House's south-east elevation, pierces the stone retaining wall at approximately its mid-point.

4. Cart-shed: formed by the partial enclosure of the space between the Barn and Stables building to its north-east and the Service Wing to its south-west. The Cart-shed is open along its south-eastern side, with the eaves of its gable roof of corrugated iron cladding and timber-framing supported by widely-spaced square timber posts along this edge. The north-western side of the cart-shed is enclosed by a wall of sandstone ashlar and has no openings. The roof framing incorporates substantial tree trunks stripped of bark.

At the north-eastern end of the row, the **Barn and Stables building** contains a mixture of construction materials and detailing. A loft storey extends across both the Barn and the Stables portions of this building, occupying space beneath all of its hipped roof, which is clad with short sheets of corrugated iron.

5. Barn: the building's south-western portion. The south-west (i.e. within and facing into the Cart-shed) and south-east elevations of the Barn are of sandstone ashlar, while the north-west elevation – and the internal wall at the north-east, which separates the Barn from this building's continuation as the Stables – are of sandstone rubble built to courses. The Barn's ground-floor storey is a single room with a floor of large rectangular-format stone flags. The interior faces of the rubble stone walls are painted white.

At the southern end of the Barn portion's south-west external wall (i.e. beneath the Cart-shed roof) is a doorway with an approximately 300 mm-high lintel stone. At this lintel's midpoint, from top to bottom respectively, are carved: a heart symbol; the numerals '18 35', the initials 'I S', and finally a simple curlicue, reminiscent of a horizontally-placed curly bracket symbol. The left and right ends of this face of the lintel are also each decorated with a carved set of concentric circles. At eye-level within the stone wall beside the doorway's latch-side jamb is an approximately 50mm-wide and 300mm-high opening which may have been intended to serve as a gun-slot.

6. Stables: the building's north-eastern portion. Its south-east and north-east elevations are a mixture of uncoursed random rubble and rubble built to courses, in which the stone is of a darker red-grey colour than that in the Main House and other conjoined buildings. The Stables' south-east and north-west elevations contain at least three different mortar colours and jointing styles, as well as a small area built of red bricks, suggesting a series of construction phases.

Approximately 30 metres to the south-east of the Main House is a free-standing two-storey **cottage**.

7. Cottage: external walls are of sandstone rubble, with rough-dressed sandstone quoins, lintels and plinth base. Remnants of lime-washed render are visible on the rubble walls' exterior surfaces. The broad, stone-rubble base of a corbel-topped red-brick chimney abuts the north-east elevation. The hipped roof is clad with short sheets of corrugated iron. The lower and upper storeys each contain two rooms. In the upper storey, ceilings of white-painted timber boards line the undersides of the hipped roof's rafters, and the sloping ceiling surfaces extend into the deep window reveals.

FORMER GARDEN AREAS, PLANTINGS AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The remnants of an extensive formal garden to the immediate north-west of the main house are divided into upper and lower areas by the:

8. House Retaining Wall. An approximately 85 metre long, 2 metre high wall of uncoursed cut sandstone blocks. The main portion of this wall is set out in an approximately semi-circular plan shape. At its closest point, the wall approaches to within about 12 metres of the north-west elevation of the Main House.

Within the remnant formal garden are the:

9. Upper Garden. A small area in which the main feature is a pair of mature holly trees, one on either side of a cobbled path between the Main House's north-west entrance and a seventeen-riser stair that pierces the House Retaining Wall to link the Upper and Lower Garden areas. Each tread of this stair is a single slab of sandstone; and

10. Lower Garden. An area approximately 150 by 60 metres in plan and containing numerous trees, mostly suckered elms, along with Lombardy poplars and other species. A large Douglas fir is situated approximately 10 metres north-west of the foot of the seventeen-riser stair flight. The Lower Garden's edges are defined by the House Retaining Wall [8] at the south-east, together with the:

11. Garden Wall of random cut drystone – partly standing, and interspersed for portions of its length with remnants of a hawthorn hedgerow – along the garden's north-east and north-west sides; and

12. Riverside Retaining Wall of random coursed rubble and cut blocks. Of up to 1 metre in height, this wall separates the Lower Garden's south-west edge from the bank of the River Clyde.

In each of the two corners of the Lower Garden farthest from the Main House are remnants of small buildings. Available evidence indicates that these were formerly 'gardener's cottages' which historian Phyl Frazer Simons (1987, p. 98) noted had previously existed within this wall-enclosed garden area. These remnants are, respectively, the:

13. Former Structure at the garden's western corner, closest to the river. Of approximately 8 by 7 metres, this contains stone rubble partially-buried by alluvial deposits and concealed by vegetation. This feature also flanks an opening in the Riverside Retaining Wall [12] which may have formerly contained a gate; and

14. Small post-War Hut at the garden's northern corner. The available evidence indicates that during the post-War years of the 20th century, this hut's timber-boarded walls and corrugated steel-clad roof were added to an earlier cottage's remnant stone-rubble walls. These modifications to the former cottage are associated with Sherwood's ongoing historical development, but do not strongly contribute to the State-level significance of this place.

OTHER STONE WALLS:

The extensive remnants of other farm walls and features constructed from stone include the:

15. Stone-fenced Stock Enclosure, about 75 metres to the east of the barn [5] and stables [6] building. Approximately 44 by 24 metres in plan, this feature's partially-collapsed walls are of random uncoursed and dry-laid cut blocks;

16. Northern Rubble Wall, approximately 500 metres in length. It is aligned parallel to the farm road that extends across the hill face to the immediate north of the main house and conjoined farm buildings; and

17. Drystone Wall, extending for approximately 50 metres up the hill in a north-easterly direction from the junction of the House Retaining Wall [8] and the Garden Wall [11].

FEATURES ASSOCIATED WITH IRRIGATION:

Aerial photography indicates that irrigation and drainage channels also remain in place across two separate areas of river-flats within large loops of the Clyde, approximately 1.75 km to the north-west and north-east respectively of the main house. Prominent features closer to the Main House and farm buildings than these river-flat areas include the:

18. Tunnel. Approximately 1.5 metres high, 1.2 metres wide and some 110 metres long, this feature is driven through the high natural stone outcrop known locally as Tunnel Neck. The tunnel was created to convey water from a large dressed-stone dam across the River Clyde, to the starting-point of the Sherwood irrigation system's Carrier Channel [19]. The remnants of the large dam are situated outside the boundary of the proposed registered area and do not form part of this entry in the Heritage Register. Measured in a straight line, the dam remnants and the Tunnel's eastern portal are approximately 1.3 km due north of Sherwood's main house, although when measured along the winding course of the river the location is about 5.4 km away from the main house. The Tunnel's western portal is situated approximately 10 metres higher than the adjacent river. Early 20th-century dates and the names of visitors are carved into the face of the natural stone wall beside the western portal;

19. Carrier Channel. Approximately 1.1 km-long and running parallel with the eastern side of the River Clyde to the south-east of the Tunnel [18]. For much of its length, this channel's walls are lined with sandstone slabs or handmade bricks. (To the northern side of the Tunnel's western portal are the remnant sandstone block walls of a separate channel, which appears to have taken water in a north-westerly direction to irrigate separate river-flat areas within large loops of the river.) Near the Carrier Channel's intersection with the unsealed Sherwood Road, it branches into the separate Western and Eastern Irrigation Channels which both then proceed across the river-flat area to the immediate north-west of the Main House;

20. Small Dam remnants. At the approximate 120° southeast-to-west bend in the River Clyde, alongside a point on the Carrier Channel [19] approximately 600 metres south-east of the tunnel portal. On the east bank of the river, the base-course of a sandstone block wall and an adjacent rubble pile appear to be remnants of another dam across the river, which may have been constructed to divert more water into the Carrier Channel at this point;

21. Western Irrigation Channel. Approximately 1.5 metres wide and 0.5 metres deep, with spoil excavated from the central bed deposited to form banks on each side. After diverging from the Carrier Channel [19], this approximately 800 metre-long irrigation channel curves around to the south-west then trends to the south-east towards the Main House, across the adjacent river-flat area;

22. Eastern Irrigation Channel. Of similar width, depth and configuration to the Western Irrigation Channel. After diverging from the Carrier Channel [19], this approximately 700 metre-long irrigation channel trends in a south-southeasterly direction across the river-flat area towards the Main House; and

23. Sheep dip trough. Approximately 6 metres long x 1.5 metres wide, and built of clay brick walls faced with cement-render. Located to the north-east of the point where the Western and Eastern Irrigation Channels diverge from

the Carrier Channel.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES:

Sherwood has the potential to yield information which would contribute to an understanding of the functioning and evolution of colonial-era agricultural properties. This potential may be associated with buildings (their structure, materials, and construction methods); structures (e.g. the stock enclosure, fencing/walling, sheep dip trough, water distribution infrastructure etc.); gardens and other activity areas; the ceiling, wall and floor cavities of extant buildings; cesspits, privies and refuse piles; and subsurface remains and deposits associated with historically-documented but no longer extant structures at Sherwood such as its wool shed, stone granaries, stores and outhouses. These buildings, structures and features could also inform research questions about inherited traditions which may have underpinned the design and construction techniques used at Sherwood.

There are identified archaeological features around the main house and conjoined farm buildings, and deposits are also likely to exist in all standing buildings, in the immediate vicinity of all standing buildings, and within the footprints of former buildings. Archaeological evidence of formal plantings and gardens is also likely to be present within the Lower Garden area.

The archaeological potential of Sherwood includes but is not limited to the following features (identified in mid 2018):

24. Footings. Abutting the north-western side of the barn and stables building are rectilinear blocks of sandstone along the perimeter of an area approximately 14 by 5 metres in plan. These may have supported an additional structure;

25. Southern Retaining Wall Remnant. Extends south-eastwards for a distance of approximately 50 metres along the hill slope above the River Clyde, commencing at a point about 40 metres to the south of the Cottage [7]. This feature borders a level area below the current farm track, with a line of cut sandstone blocks occasionally apparent along the area's edge.

26. Two-room Building Remnant. A distinct mound with sandstone rubble and cut-sandstone wall footings around and within an area that is approximately 25 by 12 metres in plan;

27. Mounded Archaeological Feature. At least 5 by 5 metres in plan, with several blocks of cut sandstone visible on the surface of the ground.

28. Mounded Archaeological Feature. Approximately 10 by 8 metres in plan, with several cut sandstone blocks visible on the surface of the ground.

29. Footings. Approximately 10 by 5 metres in plan. Composed of substantial blocks of cut sandstone which are larger and more elaborate than those in surrounding features. The north-west-facing side of this feature incorporates what may have been a doorstep.

30. Former Well. Of cut sandstone, circular and approximately 1.2 metres in diameter.

31. Wall Remnant. Extends in a south-westerly direction from the western corner of the Cottage [7]. Cut sandstone blocks and a linear change in the ground cover may indicate a sub-surface feature.

History:

In 1803, the Hollow Tree locality was part of a contiguous region occupied by Tasmanian Aboriginal people of what in the present day is known as the 'Big River nation'. In the early colonial period, Big River was the name given by settlers to the River Ouse (Ryan 2012, pp. 13-16, 25-27). Prior to European occupation, the region had been managed by Tasmanian Aborigines using traditional land and fire-management practices. Early European colonists viewed these landscapes as well-suited to stock raising and cropping.

John Sherwin, and Sherwood during the Black War

The European history of Sherwood began as an 800-acre grant issued in 1823 to John Sherwin (1780?–1853). Previously a merchant based in the English county of Staffordshire, Sherwin had arrived in Hobart Town in January 1823 with his wife, daughter and three sons. The Sherwood grant came with the services of eight convicts. Sherwin received an adjoining 700 acres as an additional grant in 1828. At that time, he was living on the property in a log house valued at £40. Through land grants and purchases, Sherwood eventually encompassed a 2,000 acre area of land (TAHO, LSD405/2/163; TAHO, Wayn Index, John Sherwin; Robertson 1970, p. 304).

As was the case at other rural properties in the central highlands, Sherwood was a place of conflict between Europeans and Aboriginal people. Permanent settlement by Europeans had disrupted the traditional balance of Aboriginal life, with conflict over access to food resources and seasonal movement reaching new heights in the 1820s (Boyce 2014, pp. 186-196). Following the declaration of martial law by Lieutenant Governor Arthur in November 1828, so-called 'roving parties' were sent out to capture and remove the Aboriginal people remaining in the Settled Districts. Lured by the offers of cash rewards, private settlers also established their own roving parties (Clements 2014, pp. 72-79; Reynolds 2012, pp. 54, 60; Ryan 2012, pp. 107-108).

During the subsequent period, Sherwood was the target of attacks by Aborigines on five separate occasions. In August 1829 a barn and its contents were destroyed by fire, and in November that year one of Sherwin's convict servants and two sheep were speared and 'a large quantity of bedding' stolen. On 15 February 1830 Aboriginal attackers set fire to a hut, and six days later on 21 February started fires which destroyed the Sherwin family's house, together with other labourers' huts and fences. Later that year, on 29 May 1830, a shepherd was attacked with stones and spears but escaped with his life (Brodie 2017, pp. 150-151; Clements 2014, p. 60; Fysh 1965, p. 14; Ratcliff 2015, p. 1445; Ryan 2012, pp. 119-120).

Two days after the 21 February 1830 attack, John Sherwin gave evidence to the government's Aborigines Committee in Hobart, pressing for Aboriginal people to be removed from the central highlands area. From July 1830 onwards, Sherwin's son John Sargent Sherwin headed up one of a number of roving parties in pursuit of these Aboriginal people (Brodie 2017, pp. 151, 157, 164, 202-204; Ryan 2012, pp. 122-123).

Following the removal of groups of Aborigines to the eastern Bass Strait Islands – and particularly Flinders Island from late 1831 onwards – in a process facilitated by the efforts of George Augustus Robinson (1791–1866), conflict in the central highlands ceased by 1832 (ADB 1967; Brodie 2017 pp. 373-374; Reynolds 2012, pp. 72-74; Ryan 2012, pp. 185, 195-196). In 1837 John Sherwin senior made an unsuccessful application for a further grant of land, which he sought as partial compensation for the losses he had sustained during the conflicts with Aboriginal people in the years prior (TAHO, Wayn Index, John Sherwin).

Mid-1830s to mid-1840s: rebuilding Sherwood, and a visit by bushrangers

The barn is likely to be the oldest remaining building at Sherwood, and the lintel over the door leading from the cart-shed to the barn is inscribed with the numerals '18 35'. The two-storey sandstone main house was under construction when the 1842 census was conducted, with George Green Sherwin (another of John Sherwin senior's sons) reported as its principal occupant at that time. This census recorded that twenty people normally resided at Sherwood, with the available evidence indicating fifteen of these were convicts (Robertson 1970, p. 306; Sharland 1969, p. 59; TAHO, CEN1/1/2).

In 1843, Sherwood was raided by the notorious bushranger Martin Cash, who was accompanied by two fellow escapees from the Port Arthur penal settlement. Cash later recalled how some of Sherwood's convict servants had alerted him to the locations of tobacco and wine. The bushrangers seized these and shared them out among the servants, before robbing George Sherwin and his three guests of guns, money and 'other property' (Fysh 1965, pp. 15-17; Robertson 1970, p. 306).

Mid-1840s to 1869: Isaac Sherwin at Sherwood and in Launceston

The main house, built to replace the one destroyed in 1830, had been completed at Sherwood by the time of the next census in 1848. The property was then recorded as owned by Isaac Sherwin (1804–1869), John Sherwin senior's third son. Isaac had become a very successful merchant in Launceston during the 1830s. In 1832 he married Catherine Taylor of Sydney, and they went on to have three daughters and four sons, the youngest two of whom were born at Sherwood (TAHO, CEN1/1/74; Fysh 1965, pp. 31; Fysh 1967). Isaac Sherwin suffered heavy financial losses in the depression of the 1840s, and in 1845 he left Launceston to live at Sherwood for the next nine or so years, where he reputedly oversaw the construction of an extensive irrigation system to water the river flats to the north-west of the property's main house (Fysh 1965, pp. 32-33; Fysh 1967).

Isaac Sherwin had many other interests in addition to agriculture and mercantile business. He took on key roles in the Commercial Bank of Tasmania, the Launceston Bank for Savings, and the Hobart Savings Bank. Sherwin bought land on 'Colonial Hill' in Launceston, where he commissioned and lived in the large house Alice Place (THR 3721). He also had a wide range of community interests, reputedly donating a corner portion of his land in Launceston to the Wesleyan church for the construction of a chapel (see Fysh 1965, p. 31; and Ratcliff 2015, p. 2280) which the available evidence indicates was on the site of the present-day Uniting Church Hall (THR 4458) and adjacent Trinity Uniting Church (THR 3820). Sherwin was also one of the founders of the Launceston Benevolent Society in 1834, a trustee of the Cornwall and later Launceston General Hospital, secretary of the Launceston Horticultural Society from

1857 to 1864, and president of the Tasmanian Teetotal Society (Fysh 1965, pp. 29-31 and 33-34; Fysh 1967). In 1860 he was elected to Tasmania's House of Assembly where for six years he was the representative for Selby, and subsequently served in the Legislative Council as a member for the Tamar district from 1866 until his death in 1869 (Bennett & Bennett 2016, p. 199).

19th-century irrigation in the Southern Highlands and at Sherwood

Interest in broad-acre irrigation in Van Diemen's Land had begun to gather momentum in the 1830s, particularly along the River Clyde where low rainfall and the drying up of the river during summer months led to a range of proposals for water conservation works and the artificial watering of crops. Considerable time and effort were required to construct and maintain irrigation systems at this time. However, many fell into disrepair and disuse when assigned convict servant labour was no longer available following the introduction of the convict Probation System in 1839 (Mason-Cox 1994, p.2).

At Sherwood, the irrigation system implemented by the Sherwins incorporated an approximately 110-metre-long tunnel cut through a sandstone hill – purportedly by two labourers, a father and son, who started at opposite ends with pick and shovel and met in the middle. Water from the River Clyde was diverted into this tunnel via a sluice gate from 'a well-constructed and substantial dam' of dressed stone. Once through the tunnel, the water flowed in open carrier channels to an irrigation network across more than 50 acres (20 hectares) of the property's river flats. However, Alessandro Martelli's report following his 1861 tour of investigation for the government's select committee on irrigation noted that the area of Sherwood irrigated by this scheme was 'utterly disproportionate to the quantity of water expended' because a great part of that water was absorbed into the earth before reaching its intended destinations (Fysh 1965, pp. 36-38; Mason-Cox 1994, p. 13).

Sherwood's irrigation system became a selling point for its stock, with advertisements noting the quality of sheep and cattle raised on the 'famous irrigated grasses' (*Mercury* 26 July 1867, p. 2; and 7 Feb 1872, p. 4).

1870s to the early 1920s

Isaac Sherwin died on 27 June 1869, and about three years later his oldest son John Phillip Sherwin sought a tenant for Sherwood (*Mercury* 8 Nov 1872, pp. 1, 4). At this time the property was running 3,000 sheep and 300 head of cattle. Its 2,106 acres were subdivided into 30 paddocks, with 300 acres irrigated 'in the most complete manner' for fattening stock, and an additional 300 acres which 'can be cultivated, in addition to the irrigated land'. The *Mercury* advertisements also noted that Sherwood's improvements included a

Large stone house of 12 rooms, with detached kitchen, dairy, stores, cellars, and outhouses, all of stone, two large stone granaries, and large barn capable of storing a great quantity of grain, with stables, sheds, &c. A new wool-shed was erected last year, and is fitted with a screw press, in complete order. A brick cottage of 7 rooms is situate near the wool shed. A very complete stone sheep wash and dip were recently built. The orchard, comprising 5 acres, is well stocked with fruit trees.

Sherwood was leased to a number of tenants over the following 22 years, with John Philip Sherwin eventually in 1895 placing it on the market. Edward Nicholas of nearby Meadsfield purchased the estate (*Mercury* 10 July 1895, p. 2), and both Sherwood and Meadsfield were subsequently acquired by Harold MacCarthy, who owned the place until offering it for sale in 1920. At this time, Sherwood retained an area of 2,000 acres. Its approximately 400 acres of irrigated paddocks were still a strong selling point, with another 300 acres 'under cultivation' and the remainder of the property 'first-class lambing country' (*Mercury* 27 Oct 1920, p. 8). MacCarthy's sale of Sherwood led to its acquisition by the local Hallett family, members of which had been living in the Hollow Tree area since the 1880s (LTO Deeds Index, Harold MacCarthy; *Magenta and Black* 2015, p. 20).

Sherwood from the mid 20th century onwards

In mid-20th century aerial photographs which show the river flats it is possible to discern Sherwood's irrigation network, some of which remains in the present day. Sherwood was last permanently occupied during the 1950s (see Sharland 1969, p.57), although in later years rabbit-trappers and farm-hands would occasionally stay there. Beginning in 1973, members of a Scout Group from Sandy Bay undertook some renovation work at Sherwood, making weekend visits there about thirty times per year. The activities of these Scouts continued into the 1980s and included work to the interiors of the main house, where they rebuilt joinery within the kitchen and other service rooms. New exterior drainage was also installed at this time (Frazer Simons 1987, p. 98; *Saturday Evening Mercury* 12 July 1980, p. 15).

Exterior scenes in 1980's *Manganinnie*, a Tasmanian film about the impacts of the 1830 military operation that became known as the Black Line, were filmed at Sherwood. The property's farm buildings and free-standing cottage also feature prominently in 2018's *The Nightingale*, a film set in 1825 Van Diemen's Land.

At the time of preparation of this entry in 2021 Sherwood still operates as a livestock and cropping property. Its continuing utilisation of irrigation techniques and systems to underpin production illustrates the importance of these processes to Tasmania's agricultural and pastoral industries.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:

Sherwood is located in one of Tasmania's key pastoral districts and demonstrates many of the attributes common to early colonial pastoral properties, including a substantial main house, separate farm workers' residence, cart-shed, barn and stables, and the remnants of a formal garden. Sherwood also contains a large suite of archaeological sites and, across a broad area, garden and field walls built of stone. Features such as these are found at many of the rural properties in Tasmania that were established during the emergence and consolidation of pastoralism in the first half of the 19th century.

Unlike other comparable properties that continued to be developed during the 20th and 21st centuries, and at which the phases of additions and incrementally-constructed outbuildings can be clearly discerned, Sherwood's 19th-century built features and cultural landscape retain a high degree of intactness and integrity. In particular, its conjoined main house and farm buildings, and the property's stone-walled stock enclosure and the largely-intact early irrigation system, are uncommon and rare in the Tasmanian context.

Defensive design and conjoined buildings at private residences

The arrangement of the house and adjoining outbuildings at Sherwood is unusual in Tasmania, where on rural estates the main house and other farmstead buildings are usually separated. The linear alignment of Sherwood's main house, adjoining Service Wing, Cart-shed, and Barn and Stables building may have been for defensive purposes, and the result of design decisions made by members of the Sherwin family following their earlier experiences of attacks at the property (Ratcliff 2015, pp. 1444-1445). There are relatively few private residences or buildings in Tasmania which demonstrate defensive design or infrastructure in their construction. However, the available evidence indicates that the handful of existing examples includes:

- Sherwood's neighbouring property Montacute (THR 10038), which is now in a ruinous condition. A high wall of brick and stone enclosed the homestead and outbuildings, with 'established positions' at intervals along the wall for firing at attackers (Ryan 2012, pp. 118-119; Sharland 1969, p. 56);
- Mount Ireh (THR 5066) at Longford, about 12 km to the south-west of Launceston. A walled courtyard is attached to the main house, with convict barracks and other outbuildings forming part of a compound structure;
- Old Wesley Dale (THR 4764) at Mole Creek, 60 km west of Launceston, with a similar walled compound (Bennett & Warner 2012, pp. 160, 163);
- Bona Vista (THR 4883) at Avoca, 60 km south-east of Launceston. Its collection of farm buildings is ranged around a series of walled yards. Ratcliff (2015, p. 1446) notes that the height and massive construction of these walls suggests a perceived need to make Bona Vista defensible; and
- Somercotes (THR 5276), 3km to the south of Ross in the Southern Midlands. An iron palisade was incorporated into the walls of the courtyard around Somercotes' main house to provide additional protection from attack (Ratcliff 2015, pp. 327-328).

The central feature of the 'Lake House' (THR 10196) farmstead at Tiberias, about 15 km to the south of the town of Oatlands in Tasmania's Southern Midlands, is a solidly-built compound around the four sides of a cobbled square courtyard. The compound's farm building and residential wings are connected at right angles, with a small break at the courtyard's east corner. Constructed at some time between the years 1826 and 1841 (McKinlay 2010, pp. 85-86), the buildings' external walls are principally of substantial blocks of pale-coloured sandstone in fine ashlar coursing. However, Eric Ratcliff (2015, p. 1444) has suggested that 'the arrangement [at Lake House] might have been intended as a defence against the winter winds, but probably not against bushrangers'.

Early colonial properties with irrigation systems

Sherwood is notable for the features of its early and relatively-intact irrigation system. In the Tasmanian context, other rural properties with surviving evidence of early irrigation systems include:

- Mona Vale (THR 5266), about 15 km to the south of Ross. The irrigation of this large property helped give rise to its famed prosperity (Frazer Simons 1987, p. 173). Following his travels within Van Diemen's Land from 1840 to 1842,

the Polish explorer, scientist and humanist Paul Edmund de Strzelecki (1845, pp. 383-384) recalled that of all the farms in the colony which came under his notice 'none claims greater attention and deserves higher encomium than the farm of Mona Vale' where systematic improvements were 'directed to the best mode' of irrigating the whole property; and

- Beaufront (THR 5264), about 4 km to the south-east of Ross. Excavated channels and stone structures relating to this property's early irrigation system remain partially intact. The structures include a buttressed former water tank and a dome-roofed pumphouse (Frazer Simons 1987, pp.147-151; Mason-Cox 1994, pp.43-44).

Other rural properties in Tasmania which are known to have had irrigation systems that were operational from the middle decades of the 19th century include Nant (THR 67); Ratho (THR 70); Cawood (THR 12003); Hunterston (not in the THR), about 25 km north-east of Bothwell; Glenleith (not in the THR), 10 km to the west of New Norfolk; Connorville (THR 5056); Somercotes (THR 5276) and Wetmore, at both of which the systems were an extension of the scheme at Mona Vale (THR 5266); Cheshunt (THR 4761); Strathmore (THR 5196); Kingston (THR 5189); and Saundridge (THR 5073).

Stone-walled stock enclosures and sheepfolds

Sheepfolds are enclosures in which sheep were kept at night to protect them from theft and from animal predators, which in the Tasmanian context were usually thylacines. Stone sheepfolds were traditionally used across Scotland and northern England as a method of penning sheep and sheltering them from adverse weather. Their presence in Australia demonstrates the transfer of farming practices from those regions to the colonies (Heritage Bulletin 2010, p. 1; 'Weardale UK' website).

Generally, however, sheepfolds in Tasmania were not constructed of stone. According to historian Peter MacFie (pers. comm. to Marita Bardenhagen, 2009) many Tasmanian sheepfolds were made of timber, and were makeshift in nature to facilitate their transportation to where needs were greatest. Within Tasmania, stone stock enclosure remnants are also known to exist at:

- the Bowerbank Sheepfolds (THR 11206), approximately 3 km to the north-east of Deloraine. A group of five remnant sheepfolds with walls of dry stone construction, set out in curved, straight and circular configurations. Built of local basalt, the sheepfolds' walls are approximately 1.2 m high;
- Auburn (not in the THR), 20 km to the west of Ross. The stock enclosure at Auburn is formed by random rubble stone walls approximately 1 to 1.5m high and 600 mm wide at the top, returning down to Potters Creek at its far western end (AHD website; Ratcliff 2015, p. 1469); and
- Horsecroft (THR 5346), about 3.5 km to the north-east of Sorrell, where a stone walled sheepfold is situated close to the property's c.1826 main house and stone outbuilding (Ritchie 2015).

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Note

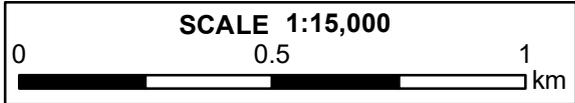
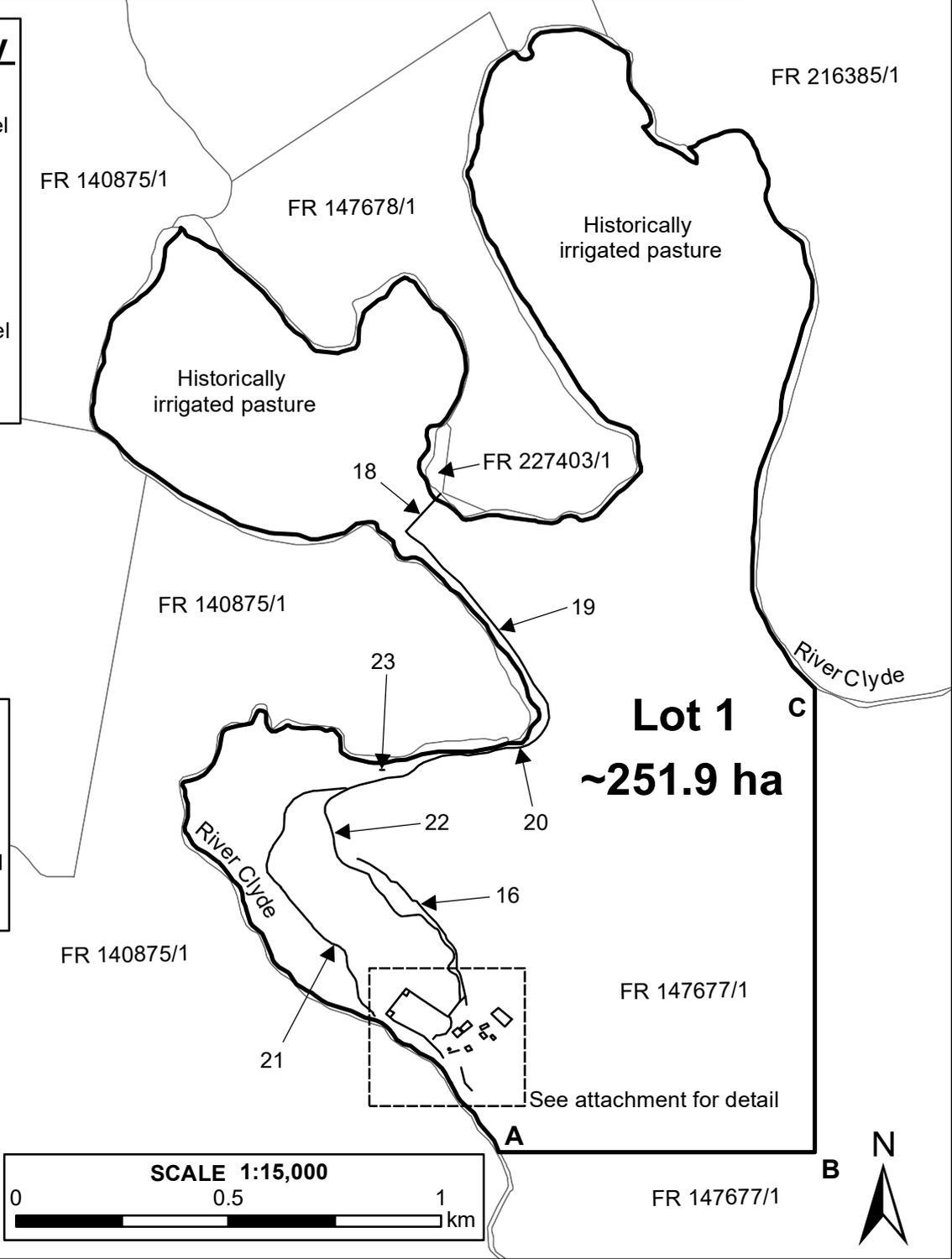
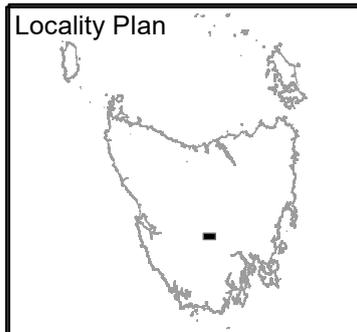
1. Lot 1 represents the registered boundary for 'Sherwood', #12036 on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
2. Lot 1 is the partial parcel of FR 147677/1, the boundary of which is marked by a heavy black line and described below.
3. All boundaries are parcel boundaries, details of individual land parcel boundaries may be accessed through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST).

Point & Boundary Description

- A. Intersection of river parcel & cadastral boundary at 5301304N
- A-B. Straight line
- B. Corner post of internal post-wire fence 490170E, 5301304N
- B-C. Straight line
- C. Intersection of river parcel & cadastral parcel at 490170E
- C-A. Cadastral boundary

Key Features

- 16. Northern rubble wall
- 18. Tunnel
- 19. Carrier channel
- 20. Small dam remnants
- 21. Western irrigation channel
- 22. Eastern irrigation channel
- 23. Sheep dip trough



TASMAP: CAWOOD - 4830	GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55	DATUM: AHD	CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A
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No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE
1	Production	THC	12036	AW	A.ROBERTS	23.2.22



Sherwood
1290 Hollow Tree Road
Hollow Tree

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE TASMANIA

CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER

p.p. Surveyor General:

Date Registered: 27.5.22

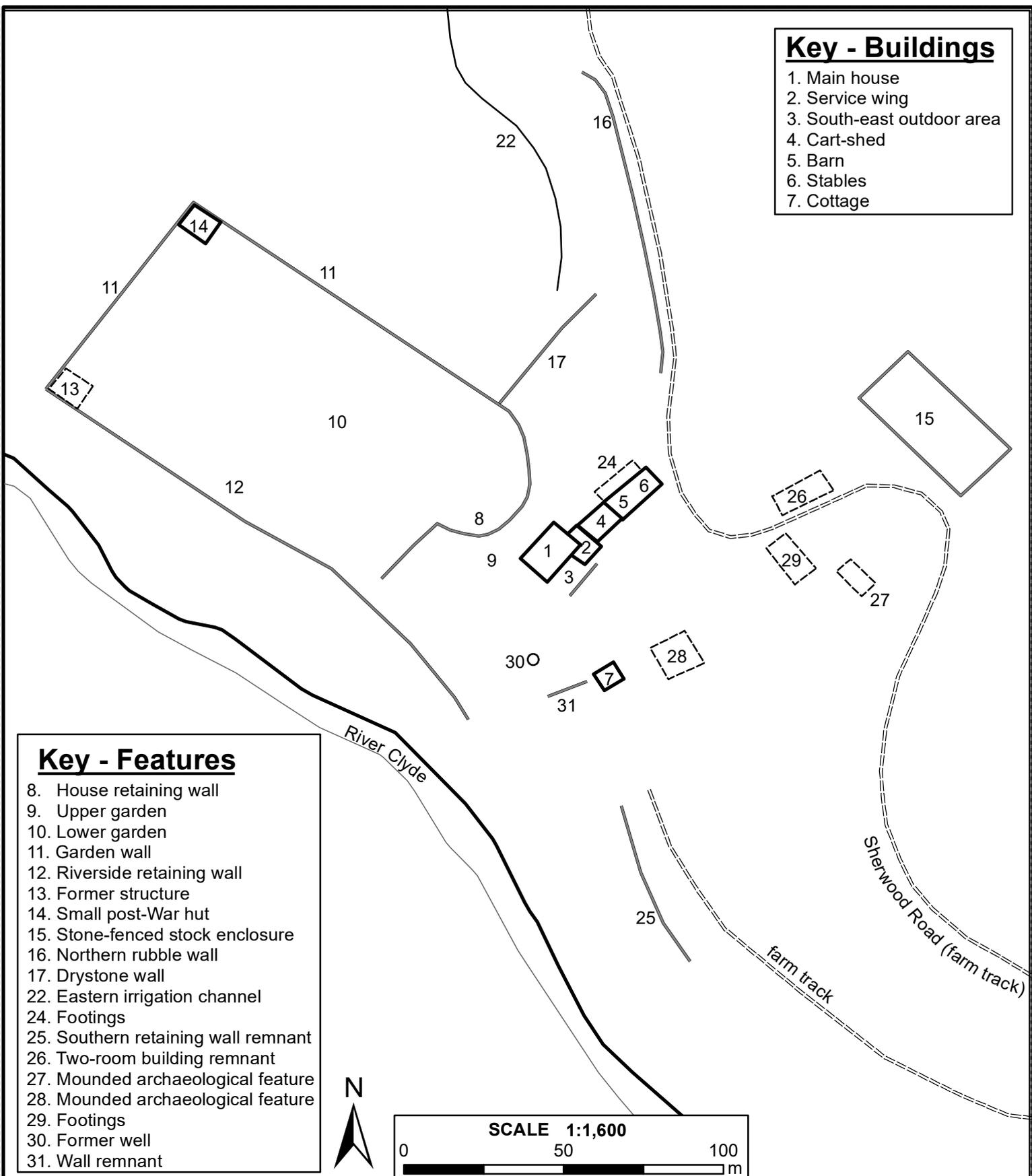
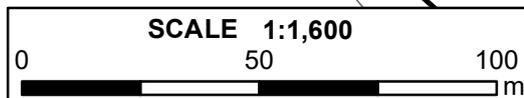
CPR
11246

Key - Buildings

1. Main house
2. Service wing
3. South-east outdoor area
4. Cart-shed
5. Barn
6. Stables
7. Cottage

Key - Features

8. House retaining wall
9. Upper garden
10. Lower garden
11. Garden wall
12. Riverside retaining wall
13. Former structure
14. Small post-War hut
15. Stone-fenced stock enclosure
16. Northern rubble wall
17. Drystone wall
22. Eastern irrigation channel
24. Footings
25. Southern retaining wall remnant
26. Two-room building remnant
27. Mounded archaeological feature
28. Mounded archaeological feature
29. Footings
30. Former well
31. Wall remnant



TASMAP: CAWOOD - 4830		GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55		DATUM: AHD		CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A	
No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE	 Tasmania
1	Production	THC	12036	AW	A.ROBERTS	23.2.22	

Sherwood
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