

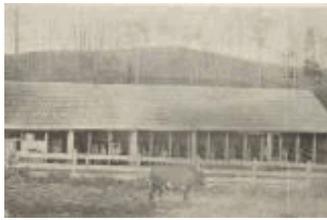
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**Name:** Ripple  
**Status:** Permanently Registered  
**Tier:** State  
State

**THR ID Number:** 729  
**Municipality:** Central Coast Council

**Location Addresses**

	<u>Title References</u>	<u>Property Id</u>
186 CREAMERY RD, SULPHUR CREEK 7316 TAS	101970/1	2212242
186 Creamery RD, Sulphur Creek 7316 TAS	52944/1	2202618



Ripple homestead

Ripple milking shed,  
1905

Multi-purpose shed,  
Ripple  
Heritage Tasmania

c1950s dairy, Ripple  
Heritage Tasmania



Barn, Ripple  
Heritage Tasmania

Mature oak trees,  
Ripple  
Heritage Tasmania

Multi-purpose shed,  
Ripple  
Heritage Tasmania

Vehicle entrance,  
barn, Ripple  
Heritage Tasmania

**Setting:** Ripple is a former dairy farm complex located on Tasmania's north-west coast. The buildings which form its core are located in the valley of Sulphur Creek, 1.7 km from Bass Strait, amid green, basaltic hills. The property is about equidistant from Burnie and Penguin. The name Creamery Road on which Ripple is situated expresses the significance of dairy farming in this area over the last century, yet commuter houses with large lawns and gardens are beginning to encroach on these traditional farmlands.

**Description:** Ripple consists of a large, single-storey, weatherboard Queen Anne Federation farmhouse with associated mature trees as well as several outbuildings, including a barn, a former milking shed and a multi-purpose shed beside the road. These are all included in the registration, as are the mature oaks south of the barn and the mature tulip tree and liquidambar in front of the house. The garage and any other modern outbuildings are excluded from the registration.

The house is timber framed on a rubble bluestone foundation, with an external wall cladding of painted weatherboard and a roof of painted corrugated steel. It has a symmetrical front that faces north, composed of a central four-panel door with sidelights and fanlight fitted with coloured glass in an organic Art Nouveau pattern, and flanking double-hung sash windows, all of which are fronted by a verandah with decorative moulded timber and cast iron lace detailing; and projecting gabled wings to either side. The house has four red brick chimneys, two of which read as part of the front elevation's symmetrical composition. Both front wings have fretted barge boards above cant bay windows. The sides of the building are plain other than the

embellishment provided by awnings with fretted timber framing above the double-hung sash windows. From the rear, the building has a low profile and its character is derived largely from the termination of four parallel hipped roofs which run down to a central verandah that is flanked by skillion-roofed rooms. The architectural treatment is consistent with the Queen Anne Federation style. One of the skillion rooms at the rear of the house formerly served as a cheese maturing room.

The symmetrical formality of the front elevation is reinforced by the landscaping in front of the house which comprises a driveway encircling a garden bed that is aligned to the central axis of the house, beyond which are bushes and some areas of lawn, with open fields beyond. There are two large trees near the front of the house, a tulip tree and a liquidambar, and two other large trees situated on the eastern side of the house near the road. A modern shed and gravelled vehicle yard is located to the south-east of the house near the road.

The barn is a large, sawn horizontal weatherboard building with painted corrugated steel external cladding recently installed over the original weatherboards. The roof battening suggests that it originally had a shingle roof, but the shingles are gone. The walls are framed of sawn timber, with the post morticed into the top plates. The original loft remains. A concrete floor has been added in parts of the building, and concrete has been used to stabilise the rubble stone foundations. The barn has a vehicle entrance facing towards Creamery Road.

Situated near the road, the multi-purpose shed was possibly built as a stable, but has been adapted for farming purposes. Its walls are clad externally with horizontal sawn weatherboards and a gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron laid in two sheet lengths. The building faces north, and its principal elevation has a centrally placed door with a small windows on one side and large sliding door, apparently retro-fitted, on the other. The two gables are pierced by small attic windows. The roof battening has a closer spacing than is usual for corrugated iron. It is roofed with corrugated iron, and has a loft over the eastern half which is floored with lapped split boards. There is a wooden floor. On the lower, western side, the shed has a skillion with an outer wall of split timber and a roof and back wall of corrugated iron. The front is open, and the space functions as a machinery shed. The multi-purpose shed contains workbenches and a wool sorting table, and has a sliding door characteristic of a fruit or vegetable packing shed. A template (not included in the registration) hanging on the wall used in the grading of potatoes confirms that this crop complemented or succeeded dairy farming on the property.

The dairy building/milking shed is situated lower down the slope from the barn. It appears to be a c1950s building standing on the site of the original Ripple milking shed, and is presently used for the storage of machinery. It has weatherboard walls with a concrete base, concrete floor and a corrugated galvanised iron roof. Although not of outstanding heritage significance itself, this building contributes to the suite of outbuildings which demonstrates the operation and evolution of a dairy farm.

Ripple has many mature plantings, both native and exotic. These contribute to the setting and to an understanding of the property as a long established farm in need of windbreaks and shelter for stock. The line of mature oaks south of the barn, and the mature trees (the tulip tree and the liquidambar) near the farmhouse are included in the registration.

Intact early interior building elements such as doors, cornices, fireplaces and skirting boards which contribute to the representative character of the farmhouse are included in the registration, as are intact early interior elements of the former cheese maturing room (the south-eastern skillion room of the farmhouse), milking shed, barn and multi-purpose shed.

#### History:

John Lade (1833–1915) was born in the Dover district of Kent, England (Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1880s - current). In 1857, giving his age as 25 and his occupation as 'farmer', he arrived in Melbourne on the *Norfolk* from Gravesend, Kent (Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839–1923) as an unassisted immigrant. Both he and his brother William Lade (1831–1905) appear to have tried their luck at the Victorian goldfields before settling in Tasmania ('Ship Norfolk' 1857). John Lade also seems to have attended the Otago gold rushes in the early 1860s, returning across the Tasman Sea from Invercargill to Hobart on the brig *Alarm* in 1863 (Tasmania, Australia, Passenger Arrivals, 1829-1957). He entered into a farming partnership with William Lade on Francis Groom's Harefield Estate near St Marys (advert 1866), and in 1865 married Rose Susannah Bellenger (c1842–87) in Hobart (registration no.111/1865).

Dairy farming is characteristic of the opening up of the bush lands of Tasmania following the end of convict transportation and the advent of the Victorian and New South Wales gold rushes. Bush land offered on liberal terms under the *Pre-emptive Right* regulations (1851) and a series of *Waste Lands Acts* beginning in 1858 was used to attract yeoman farmers and stem the flow of vigorous young men away from the colony.

Dairy farms, typically much smaller than the wool-growing properties of the Midlands and Derwent Valley established earlier, were hacked out of the forest. A typical regime would be to ringbark the trees, grub and burn out the stumps, plant potatoes in the ashes, sow grass and then introduce cattle. Potatoes, oats and peas were grown for human consumption, swedes, rye corn or mangolds to feed the cattle, and pigs lived on the skim milk residue from the dairy (see, for example, Fenton undated, pp.53–54, 57 and 59; Eastal 1971, pp.132–34).

Such farms produced milk, cream, butter and sometimes cheese for both personal consumption and/or sale. St Marys was known as the centre of Tasmanian cheese production during the second half of the nineteenth century. Cheese making was extremely hard, daily work, but cheese had the advantage of keeping without refrigeration (Cassidy 1995, pp.7 and 39). Continuing on alone as a farmer at St Marys, in 1879 Lade won prizes for the best colonial cheese at agricultural shows in Hobart and Launceston ('Dairy produce' 1879a; 'Dairy produce' 1879b). Further prizes followed in the 1880s, when the Lades lived at the Rose Garland property. His first wife Rose died at St Marys in 1887, leaving her widower with a large family ('St Marys' 1887). In 1889 John Lade married Jessie Ellen Pegus, née Anderson (1851–1918), at Hobart (registration no.820/1889) and began a second family. Lade's reputation as a cheesemaker continued to grow, winning prizes at the Tasmanian International Exhibition at Launceston 1891–92 ('Tasmanian Exhibition Produce Show' 1892).

A fire which burned the cottage and flour mill leased by Lade at Rose Garland in 1892 ('Inquest on fires' 1892; 'The fire at Lade's Mill' 1892) was possibly the catalyst for him to relocate on more than 300 acres he had acquired at Sulphur Creek on the north-west coast (see conveyance 6/8749; and lot 8052, vol.64, folio 97). In October 1895 he called for tenders to grub, fill and thoroughly clear about 10 acres of land at Sulphur Creek ('Tenders' 1895), and within a year there stood 'a nice villa residence, with the water laid on and every convenience inside and out' ('Country news' 1896). The property was named Ripple, presumably a reference to the village near Deal in Kent which was Lade's birthplace or childhood home.

Butter factories were established across the north of Tasmania from 1889, but since cheese making was less capital intensive, it was also less centralised, with cheese factories often being farm based (Cassidy 1995, p.40). By 1905 Lade, an 'old and experienced cheesemaker', appears to have left the business of dairy farming and cheese making to his sons, who were milking 30 cows and operating a modern cheese plant ('Dairying on north-west coast' 1905). According to Jill Cassidy, Lades continued to send cheese to the Hobart Agricultural Show each year, but when John Lade's son George Lade joined up during World War One there was no one left to make cheese and the plant shut down for good. John Lade died in 1915, his wife Jessie in 1918, but Ripple stayed within the Lade family for several more generations.

Dairying expanded from the 1940s. Electricity supply brought increasing mechanisation. Higher wages and smaller families also contributed to a reduction in the rural workforce, and a rationalisation of the industry forced many farmers out of dairying and increased the herd sizes of those who remained. Since 1960 there has been an inverse relationship between the size of dairy herds and the number of dairy farms in Tasmania : in 1960 there were 6300 farms, in 1993 900 farms and in 2016 only 432 (Cassidy 1995, p.47; Newman et al 2016, p.7). In 1905 the Lades milked 30 cows, but in 2016 the average herd size in north-western Tasmania was 286. Some dairy farmers were forced out of business in the years 2013–16 by declining milk prices ( Newman et al 2016, p.7).

A photo of the Ripple property taken in 1920 suggests that the homestead and two of the present outbuildings survive from then (*Weekly Courier* 1920), but that the present dairy is a smaller building that replaced the one shown in that photo. In 1995 the weatherboard cheese maturing room, joined to the back of the farmhouse, still contained its wooden shelving (Cassidy 1995, p.106). Today the drying holes in reused wood from the original shelving provide the only evidence that this was once a cheese maturing room (Lewis 2017). Subdivision of the property in 1995 placed the farmhouse and the farm itself on different titles, granting them independence. Ripple is no longer a dairy farm, perhaps being a casualty of rationalisation of the industry. Regardless of this, the surviving fabric of the farm complex which includes early outbuildings and a former milking shed, as well as a former cheese maturing room, provides tangible evidence of a late-nineteenth-century dairy farm.

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'Ship Norfolk', *Age*, 9 June 1857, p.1.

'Tasmanian Exhibition Produce Show', *Launceston Examiner*, 1 April 1892, p.3.

'Tenders', *Wellington Times and Agricultural and Mining Gazette*, 3 October 1895, p.3.

*Weekly Courier*, 23 December 1905, p.22; and 15 January 1920, p.20 (photos).

**Statement of Significance:**  
(non-statutory summary)

Ripple is of historic cultural heritage significance because as a longstanding dairy farm with intact early farm buildings it demonstrates the development of north-eastern and north-western Tasmania by small bush farmers and the operation of cottage industries such as farmstead cheese making. It is a rare example of a dairy farm with a surviving cheese maturing room, this property being one of only about 25 farms that is known to have produced cheese on site as opposed to supplying a nearby centralised cheese factory.

**Significance:**

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.**

Ripple is of historic cultural heritage significance because as a longstanding dairy farm with intact early farm buildings it demonstrates the development of north-eastern and north-western Tasmania by small bush farmers and the operation of cottage industries such as farmstead cheese making. The best Tasmanian grazing lands were alienated during the penal era as woolgrowers were established as bastions of the convict assignment system. Dairy farming was characteristic of the opening up of the bush lands that remained, under legislation designed to counteract the flood of Tasmanians to the mainland gold rushes and to encourage immigration at a time when cheap convict labour was no longer available. Ripple was established by an 1857 immigrant who spent decades as a tenant farmer before raising enough capital to buy and develop his own property.

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

This is a rare example of a relatively intact late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century farmstead cheese factory. While today several cheese producing farms, such as Ashgrove at Elizabeth Town and the Healey farm at Pyengana (Pyengana Dairy Company) have gone into gourmet commercial cheese production, Jill Cassidy in her 1995 report identified only about 25 farm cheesemakers who had operated in the northern half of Tasmania, where dairying was and is concentrated. The nearest cheese maker to Ripple was Bonney at Gunns Plains and another near Wynyard. Ripple has a surviving cheese maturing room and c1950s milking shed, which stands on the site of an earlier milking shed documented in 1905 and 1920 photographs. In 2017 two century-old outbuildings plus the 1896 farmhouse still survive.

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

No Data Recorded

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

Ripple is of historic heritage significance because of its ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a single storey weatherboard Queen Anne Federation farmhouse with associated outbuildings, and because of its ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a dairy farming complex.

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

No Data Recorded

**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.**

No Data Recorded

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

No Data Recorded

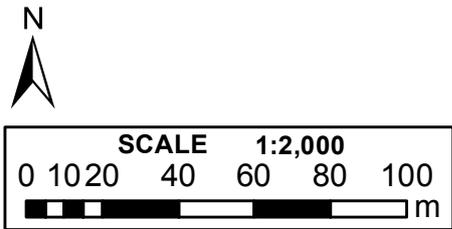
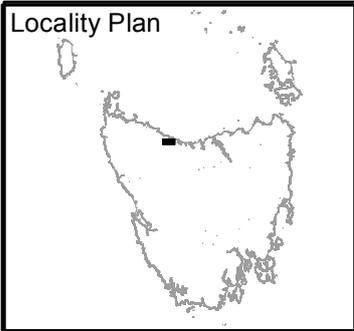
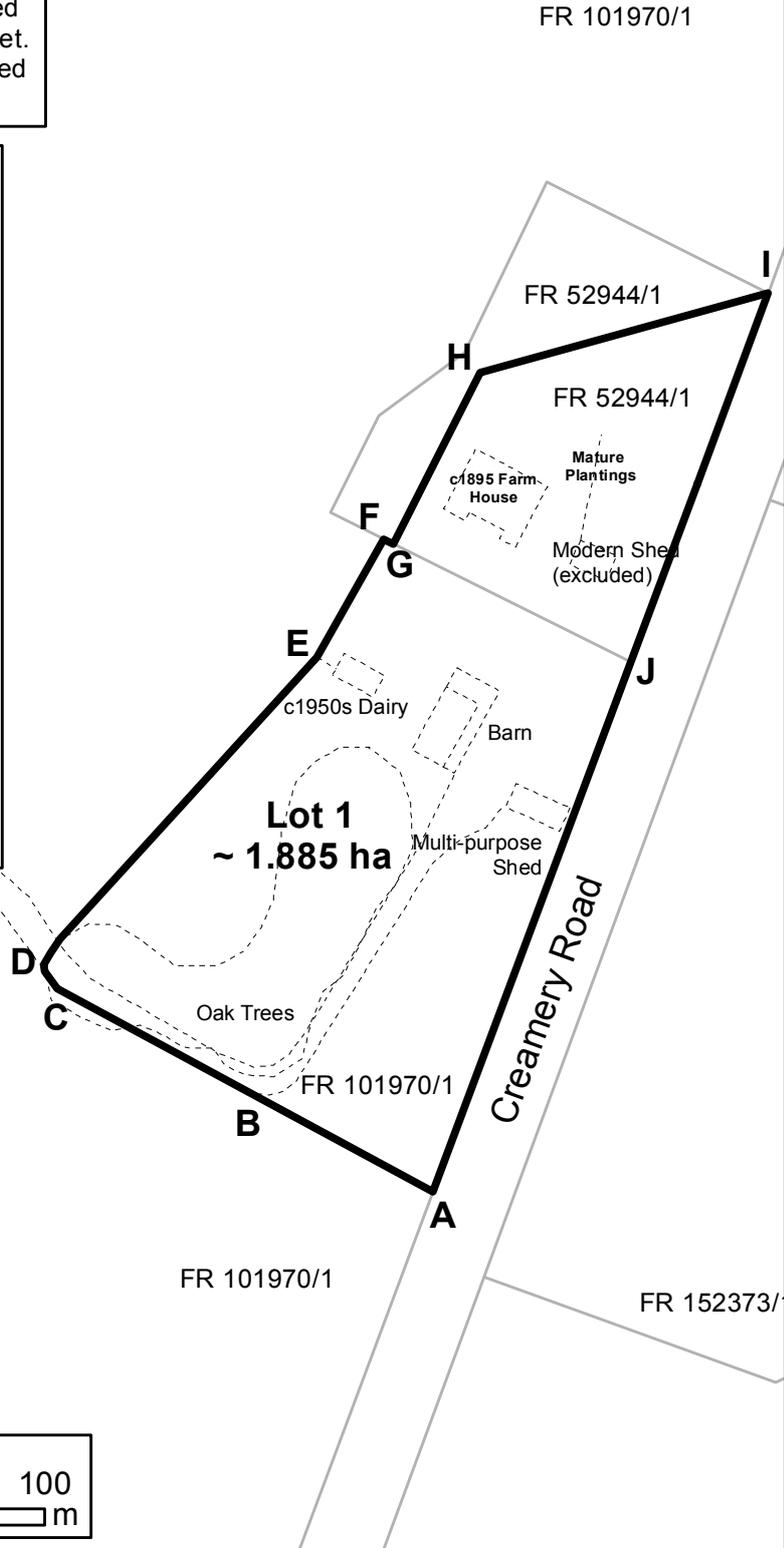
**PLEASE NOTE** This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the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

**Note**

1. Lot 1 represents the registered boundary for 'Ripple', #729 on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
2. Lot 1 is part of FR 52944/1 and FR 101970/1, the boundaries are marked by thick black lines and described below.
3. Dashed lines represent features digitised from ortho-rectified aerial photography which are described in the THR datasheet.
4. Details of individual land parcel boundaries may be accessed through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST).

**Point & Boundary Description**

- A. Intersection of internal fenceline and cadastral boundary
  - B. Intersection of two internal fencelines.
  - C. Perimeter of mature oak tree.
  - D. Western extent of oak tree.
  - E. Intersection of two post and wire fencelines.
  - F. Intersection of ~n-s running internal post and wire fence with cadastral boundary.
  - G. Intersection of ~n-s running internal post and wire fence with cadastral boundary.
  - H. Corner post of internal post and wire fence.
  - I. Corner of cadastral parcel.
  - J. Corner of cadastral parcel.
- A-B and B-C internal post and wire fence.  
 C-D perimeter of oak tree foliage.  
 D-E straight line.  
 E-F internal post and wire fence.  
 F-G cadastral boundary.  
 G-H internal post and wire fence.  
 H-I straight line.  
 I-J and J-A cadastral boundaries.



TASMAB: STOWPORT - 4044		GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55		DATUM: AHD		CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A	
No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE	 Tasmania
1	Production	THC	729	JS	DRAFT	DRAFT	

**Ripple**  
 Creamery Rd & 186 Creamery Rd,  
 Sulphur Creek

PREPARED BY  
 HERITAGE TASMANIA



**CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER**

p.p. Surveyor General: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Registered: \_\_\_\_\_



**CPR**  
**TBC**