



103 Macquarie Street (GPO Box 618)
Hobart Tasmania 7001
Phone: 1300 850 332 (local call cost)
Email: enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au
Web: www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Name: Shene
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State
State

THR ID Number: 5554
Municipality: Southern Midlands Council

Location Addresses

	<u>Title References</u>	<u>Property Id</u>
76 SHENE RD, PONTVILLE 7030 TAS	175768/1	2140269
80 SHENE RD, PONTVILLE 7030 TAS	137605/2	2998505
80 SHENE RD, PONTVILLE 7030 TAS	175769/1	2998505



Western elevation of stables
DPIPWE

Interior of stables, upper level
DPIPWE

Interior of stables, lower level
DPIPWE

Northern elevation of barn
DPIPWE



Interior of barn
DPIPWE

Shene Homestead
DPIPWE

Shene Homestead kitchen, courtyard, water pump
DPIPWE

Western elevation of servant's quarters
DPIPWE



Shene Stables

Libraries Tasmania

Setting: Shene is located on the Bagdad Plain, a flat, deforested and exposed basin, formed by the Bagdad Tiers and other hills. The property is approximately 40 kilometres north of Hobart along the Midlands Highway, the

main north-south highway in Tasmania in the Municipality of the Southern Midlands .

The area was originally open woodlands, but the forest was cleared during the nineteenth century to increase pasturage. Consequently, despite the mature plantings near them, the farm buildings seem relatively exposed and are visible for a long distance, adding to the imposing appearance of the stables-coach house. There are distant views of Mount Wellington from the site .

Description:

The registered area includes the main farm complex and the adjacent paddocks, which may contain ruins, subsurface remains and deposits related to former farm infrastructure and workers' cottages with the potential to yield information about nineteenth-century farming practices, farming technology and the day-to-day lives of nineteenth-century assigned convicts and free workers.

Edward Paine's original 2000 acres were bounded by Bagdad Rivulet to the west and Strathallan Rivulet to the south, but the property was extended by Gamaliel Butler's purchases back onto the Bagdad Tiers to the east. However, in the last half century the curtilage of the Shene house, stables-coach house building, barn and other outbuildings has been vastly reduced.

Shene Homestead

The formal entrance to the property is via a tree-lined avenue from Shene Road accessed via the Midland Highway. The house is a single-storey Regency style residence with sandstone walls, hipped corrugated-iron roofs and tall plain sandstone chimneys. The verandah, which wraps around most of the house, has a bell-cast roof, sandstone flagging and unusual quatrefoil style posts with scroll-like brackets, which incorporate down pipes at the corners. The formal entrance is via the southern elevation through a centrally placed doorway with sidelights and a transom light window above, and is flanked by French doors with transom light windows. Three evenly spaced French doors with transom light windows punctuate the western elevation. The French doors on the western and southern elevations have different fenestration arrangements, but all have internal cedar shutters. The eastern elevation has three multi-paned sash windows.

The house was gradually extended, with these additions indicated particularly on the western elevation by varying tool markings on the sandstone blocks. Parts of the verandah on the north eastern corner have been enclosed, and a large square shaped addition with a separate hipped roof houses a later kitchen.

Extending off the north-east corner of the house is the former kitchen and scullery constructed from sandstone and red brick, which wraps to the south to form a partially enclosed area with the eastern elevation of the house. Many of the timber-framed multi-paned windows to the former kitchen and scullery have vertical iron bars. The kitchen and scullery once stood separate from the house, but were later connected by a red brick building that was reconstructed and renovated c2012. The former kitchen and scullery is divided into a number of rooms, and it retains many original features, including sandstone flagging and stone bench in the cool room, brick fireplaces and timber doors.

Internally the house retains the majority of its original timber joinery, fittings and lathe and plaster walls. Rooms comprise five bedrooms, dining, living and sitting rooms, sunroom, kitchen, pantry, laundry and storerooms. Additions at the northern end of the house that were added c1900 feature pressed tin ceilings and cornices, and early stencilling to the walls. A garden area to the west of the building includes a number of mature plantings.

Stone water tank, pump and irrigation channels

To the east of the main house, located in a gravel courtyard area, is a circular well with a concrete and stone dome with a hand pump atop. A network of stone irrigation channels run across the property; some have been exposed, while others remain covered. The irrigation system is thought to date from Maurice Weston's ownership of the property, who was a noted authority on irrigation in Tasmania.

Stables (c1851)

The uncompleted sandstone Gothic Revival style stable and coach house building is the dominant element of the farm complex. It is two-storeyed with the main gabled iron roof transected at both ends and at the middle with smaller gables. There are lancet windows on the second storey protected by smaller gables. Three of the larger gabled openings to the upper level have solid timber shutters. There is an uncompleted three level octagonal tower with a spiral stone staircase on the southern side of the main entrance. The building is asymmetrical, with the tower placed to the right of centre. Each end gable has an open stone staircase that accesses the upper level.

Internally the lower ground is divided into spaces of varying sizes, including a tack room (with timber lined walls, large timber hooks and small corner fireplace), storage room, large central room (with recent additions of concrete floor and timber staircase to upper level) and stables (with intact timber stall partitions, feed boxes, cobbled and sandstone floors with drainage channel). A number of the rooms have sandstone flagged floors, timber pillar supports and remains of lathe and plaster ceilings.

Upstairs the space is divided into four rooms of varying size with timber floors and exposed timber roof support structure. The rooms are divided by sandstone walls and accessed via single doorways with timber doors. The space directly above the tack room also has a small corner fireplace.

Internally the barn has a number of markings, including carved daisy wheel to a stone window frame and burn marks to timber, linked to superstitious beliefs and ritual practices of early occupants and workers of the Shene Estate.

Barn (1846)

The barn sits adjacent to the south of the stables. It is a large structure constructed from sandstone ashlar with a gable roof clad in corrugated iron. The gable ends have a single window opening in the apex. Each side of the building has a wide arched doorway with solid hinged timber double doors. The elevation facing

the courtyard has six evenly staggered vertical slit windows. Internally the barn is an open space with a timber floor and mezzanine at one end. The timber roof structure is exposed. There is a basement area under the barn. A twentieth-century L-shaped shearing shed attached to two sides of the barn was demolished in 2009, replaced by a wide access ramp.

Servant's Quarters

The former servant's quarters is located approximately ten metres north of the main house. The sandstone structure has a rectangular floor plan, gabled roof clad in corrugated iron and three chimneys – one stone and two brick. The western elevation has three large window openings with multi-paned timber-framed windows, and a former doorway that has been enclosed with sandstone blocks. The northern elevation has a single doorway with solid timber door and S form ends linking to tie bar structural bracing. The eastern elevation has two doorway openings with timber doors. A corrugated iron storage shed and a small timber outhouse sit against the southern elevation. Internally the building is divided into three sections with access to attic spaces.

Outbuildings

A timber outbuilding, located approximately ten metres east of the main house, has been refurbished and repurposed into a commercial kitchen and storage area. The hipped roof is clad in corrugated iron with closed eaves. Two large doorways with double timber hinged doors have been added to the northern elevation. There is a single multi-paned timber window to the western elevation, and an old well sits directly below. On the eastern elevation there is single doorway with timber door next to a large external red brick fireplace. The southern elevation has three evenly spaced and multi-paned timber windows. Internally the space is divided into two sections.

Two additional timber storage sheds are located approximately 60 metres north east of the main house. The shed closest to the eastern property boundary is a skillion roof structure with vertical board cladding, open along the southern elevation. The other timber shed has a long rectangular form with a small addition to the northern elevation, it is clad in painted vertical timber boards with a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron.

A small red brick structure with a hipped corrugated iron roof sits close to the timber outbuildings.

Date of construction of the outbuildings is unknown.

Shearing Shed (c1822)

A large timber shearing shed sits approximately 150 metres east of the main house. It has a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof that is gabled on the eastern end, and half hipped on the western end. The exterior of the shearing shed is clad with a combination of sheets of corrugated iron and horizontally fixed timber boards. A rectangular addition with skillion roof sits at the eastern end. Internally the shed has timber partitioning, flooring and slat flooring.

An open steel-framed storage area on the southern elevation of the shed is a later addition, and is of low significance.

Workers' Cottages and outbuildings

Two modest cottages are located approximately 270 metres east of the homestead.

The cottages have hipped roofs clad with corrugated iron, and the cottage closest to the homestead has an external red brick fireplace and chimney. Both cottages have skillion roof additions. There are a series of timber clad outbuildings adjacent to the cottages.

Features of no heritage significance

A number of modern buildings have been constructed directly adjacent to, south and east of the stables and barn that are sympathetic in form to the nineteenth century structures. The distillery building (and associated plant), constructed in 2013, is clad with horizontal timber boards and features a sandstone chimney and corrugated iron hipped roof. The building sits close to the southern property boundary to Shene Road.

An adjacent wooden toilet block is also clad with horizontal timber boards and has a hipped corrugated iron roof. A small timber clad structure, used as a road side stall, sits opposite the distillery.

Plans to construct three sheds (cooperage, store and bottling) directly east of the distillery were submitted in late 2017.

Two large steel hipped roof bond stores have been constructed approximately 125 metres north east of the main house, on an adjacent title. The bond stores are excluded from the registration.

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History:

Edward PAINE (1784-1822)

Edward Paine (Payne) emigrated to Van Diemen's Land aboard the Deveron in 1822, following an earlier journey to the colony in 1819 (Hobart Town Gazette 22 June 1822, 16 Oct 1819, p.2). Paine secured large land grants which formed the core of the Shene Estate, however, he drowned in July 1822 before being able to fully realise his plans (TAHO RGD34/1/1, Hobart Town Gazette 13 July 1822, p.2).

Gamaliel BUTLER (1783-1852)

Made aware of the commercial potential of Van Diemen's Land by his brother-in-law Edward Paine, Gamaliel and a partner invested in importing sugar to that colony. In 1824 Gamaliel and Sarah made what was intended to be a temporary visit to Van Diemen's Land to manage this investment and also the now deceased Edward Paine's property (Harrison ADB). That land included adjoining 1821 and 1823 grants of 800 acres and 1200 acres respectively on the eastern side of the Bagdad Rivulet which became the basis of Shene (TAHO LSD354/1/4).

Gamaliel Butler was born at Hounslow, England, as the third son of corn merchant John Butler and Ann Venables. He trained in the legal profession and was articled in 1801. In 1810 he married Sarah Butler née Paine (1787-1870), and the couple had a large family (Harrison ADB).

Gamaliel Butler originally intended to sell Paine's land to pay off his (Paine's) debts, for which Butler stood as security (Dumaresque 1962, p.6). However, the Butlers acquired the land and never returned to England. Gamaliel initially invested in wool-growing pasture at the Retreat, near latter-day Deloraine, but Shene, a wool-growing property managed by overseer James New, became the family's summer residence while Gamaliel conducted his legal business in Hobart (the name Shene probably recalls Sheen in England, now a suburb of London, from where the Butler family originated [Butler 1961 p.7]). With his astute business sense, and with the benefit of land grants and the lucrative nature of the wool industry, he quickly became one of the largest landholders in the colony. Practising as a lawyer from 1824, Gamaliel Butler was joined by his son Edward Paine Butler in 1835 (as Butler & Son), by RW Nutt in the 1840s (as Butler & Nutt), and by another son, Charles Butler, in 1849 (as Butler, Nutt & Butler). The present company name Butler, McIntyre & Butler was only adopted after Gamaliel's death when, in 1876, Charles Butler, his son EH Butler and John McIntyre became partners ('Legal centenary', Mercury, 26 July 1924, p.4; 'Legal', Launceston Examiner, 13 May 1876, p.3).

Part of the house at Shene may date from the days of Edward Paine (c1822), but most of it was probably built in the years 1833-34, when Gamaliel Butler was loaned a convict stone cutter and convict carpenter (Launceston Advertiser, 21 November 1833, p.4 and 21 August 1834, p.4). At the time of the 1842 census, a completed stone house stood and there were 28 people living on the property (TAHO CEN1/1/4, p.5).

Francis BUTLER (1823-1916)

As well as the legal practitioners listed above, several of the Butlers' thirteen children became prominent Tasmanians, including surgeon, politician and educationalist Henry Butler and architect and engineer Francis Butler. The latter is said to have designed the now famous stables at Shene, with their unfinished octagonal turret. According to a Butler family story, these remained unfinished as a direct result of the Victorian gold rushes in 1851, which lured away the available stonemasons and increased the cost of labour, and because of the death of Gamaliel Butler in 1852 (Robertson 1970, p.75). Certainly the stables were standing by 1856, when Henry Butler Stoney described the view from the main road of 'a fine building of stables and offices in the foreground [which] partly eclipses their cottage residence' (Stoney 1856, p.32). Gamaliel Butler is said to have intended to upgrade the Shene house in keeping with the stables (Butler 1961, p.7). Francis Butler also designed additions to Stowell, his parents' Battery Point residence (THR#6238, #6240 and #6241), as well as designing 1862 additions to St George's Church at Battery Point (THR#1673), the Commercial Bank in Hobart in 1864 (THR#93), the Memorial Church in Hobart in 1868 (THR#11970), St Paul's Anglican Church at Montrose in 1869 (THR#1617), St Anne's Anglican Church at Dysart in 1872 (THR#5425) and the 1876 Congregational Chapel at Pontville (THR#8071).

John James BUTLER

After Gamaliel's death, his widow Sarah Butler continued to live at their Battery Point residence, Stowell (THR#6240), with their son John James Butler occupying Shene. By 1861 Shene was 4960 acres; a significant portion of the property was occupied by tenant farmers, who were a mixture of ex-convicts and immigrants (Hobart Town Gazette, 29 January 1861, pp.453-64; 5 March 1861, p.454).

Maurice WESTON

The property remained part of Gamaliel Butler's estate until it was bought at auction in 1874 by Maurice Weston, second son of former premier William Pritchard Weston of Hythe, near Longford. The Weston family were large landholders, owning large estates across Tasmania. At the time of his death in 1895 Maurice Weston owned Roseneath (THR#1586), Mauriceton and Cluny (The Tasmanian, 14 Sept 1895, p80).

One of Weston's long-term tenants, Thomas Pool, established a 25-acre fruit and vegetable garden on the brow of the Bagdad Tier where raspberries, currants and other crops flourished in the 1880s under the care of Pool and his protégé, Thomas Gore ('Fruit and vegetables', Mercury, 25 October 1882, p.3; Mercury, 10 January 1885, p.1). These were described as 'the largest small-fruit gardens' in the colony (Mercury, 30 July 1924, p.6).

However, tenant farming declined in the second half of the century, which Weston, a champion of irrigation schemes, attributed to deforestation drying out the land, leaving it only suitable for running large flocks of sheep (Mercury, 24 November 1888, p.1). Unfortunately for the Westons, the heyday of wool-growing was gone, with liver fluke, rabbit infestation, the 1890s economic depression and probably oversupply of wool, reducing the profits. Shene remained in the Weston family until just after the Korean War wool 'boom' of the early 1950s. In 1954 the 5354-acre property was bought by GA and MJ Hildyard (Mercury, 15 December 1954, p5).

Shene Estate & Distillery

During the late twentieth century the vast majority of Shene's acreage was subdivided and sold. The parcel containing many of the estate's buildings measuring 12.58 hectares (about 31 acres) was acquired by Anne and David Kernke. Although stock continues to be run on the property, the owners have diversified into operating a function centre and distillery by restoring the heritage buildings and constructing new purpose-built distillery, bond stores and outbuildings. The Hobart Polo Club is based at the famous Shene stables.

Other areas of the original estate continue to be run as mixed farming operations.

REFERENCES

Butler, GH (1961), 'Gamaliel Butler', unpublished manuscript, NS2118/1/1 (Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office).

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Dumaresq, Edward (1962), Journals of the Land Commissioners of Van Diemen's Land 1826-1828, Tasmanian Historical Research Association, Hobart.

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Jones, Theophilus, 'Through Tasmania: no.70', Mercury, 10 January 1885, p.1.

Launceston Advertiser, 21 November 1833, p.4 and 21 August 1834, p.4.

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Ratcliff, Eric (2015), A far microcosm: building and architecture in Van Diemen's Land and Tasmania 1803-1914, Fullers Bookshop and Foot & Playsted, Launceston.

Robertson, EG (1970) Early buildings of southern Tasmania, vol.1, Georgian House, Melbourne.

Stoney, Capt H Butler (1856), A residence in Tasmania with a descriptive tour through the island, Smith, Elder & Co, London.

Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

Shene is of historic cultural heritage significance because it demonstrates aspects of early pastoralism and agriculture in colonial Tasmania, including the establishment of respectable wool-growers on open woodlands as part of the convict assignment system, the prosperity of early wool-growers, and the economic significance of convict labour in the first half of the nineteenth century. It is also significant for its ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a substantial and intact example of a nineteenth century pastoral estate, including the Regency style homestead, substantial Gothic Revival stables and coach house, farm infrastructure including barn, shearing shed and irrigation networks as well as associated outbuildings and staff housing. It has an association with lawyer and businessman Gamaliel Butler, architect Francis Butler and with the legal firm Butler, McIntyre & Butler. Shene has featured in many books about Tasmanian built heritage and architecture. The stables-coach house building is a visual landmark along the Midlands Highway, being regarded as an outstanding example of Gothic Revival architecture.

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.

Shene is of historic cultural heritage significance because it demonstrates aspects of early pastoralism and agriculture in colonial Tasmania, including the establishment of respectable wool-growers on savannah woodlands as part of the convict assignment system, the prosperity of early wool-growers and the economic significance of convict labour in the first half of the nineteenth century. This is a fairly intact early farming complex, with the original house, early stables-coach house and barns buildings as well as other outbuildings, and irrigation network.

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

No Data Recorded

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

Shene was once a large property with many separate grazing runs which would have originally been attended by assigned convicts. During a later period it also included tenant farms. The land around the main house and outbuildings may contain the subsurface footings, remains and associated deposits of former farm infrastructure and workers' quarters with the potential to yield information about nineteenth-century farming practices, farming technology and the day-to-day lives of nineteenth-century assigned convicts and free workers. The irrigation system has the potential to provide new information regarding the design and construction of nineteenth century pastoral irrigation works.

Shene has also been the subject of research into markings, that is, rituals to gain protection from evil spiritual forces, with daisy wheels and burn marks on the barn walls. It is possible that more discoveries of this kind will be made, yielding information about folk practices and linking Tasmanian practices with the British tradition.

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

Shene is a substantial and intact example of a nineteenth century pastoral estate, including the main Regency style homestead, substantial Gothic Revival stables and coach house, farm infrastructure including barn, shearing shed and irrigation networks as well as associated outbuildings and staff housing .

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

Shene stables are of historic heritage significance because the Gothic design is an unusually picturesque resolution for a building of this type.

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.

Shene is of historic cultural heritage significance for its association with Gamaliel Butler, leading Tasmanian lawyer and businessman; with his son, the noted architect Francis Butler; and with Butler, McIntyre & Butler, the legal practice Gamaliel Butler established in 1824, claimed to be Tasmania's (and possibly Australia's) oldest surviving law firm.

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

Shene has featured in many books about state and national built heritage and architecture, including Alice Bennett and Georgia Warner's *Living in history* (pp.108–19); the Australian Heritage Commission's *The heritage of Tasmania* (p.13); Eric Ratcliff's *A far microcosm* (pp.895, 1353, 1458 and 1473); Philip Cox and Clive Lucas's *Australian colonial architecture* (p.102). Standing on a plain in relative isolation, the stables-coach house building at Shene is a visual landmark along the Midlands Highway and is acknowledged as an outstanding example of Gothic architecture.

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.

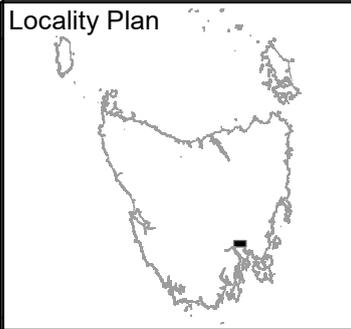
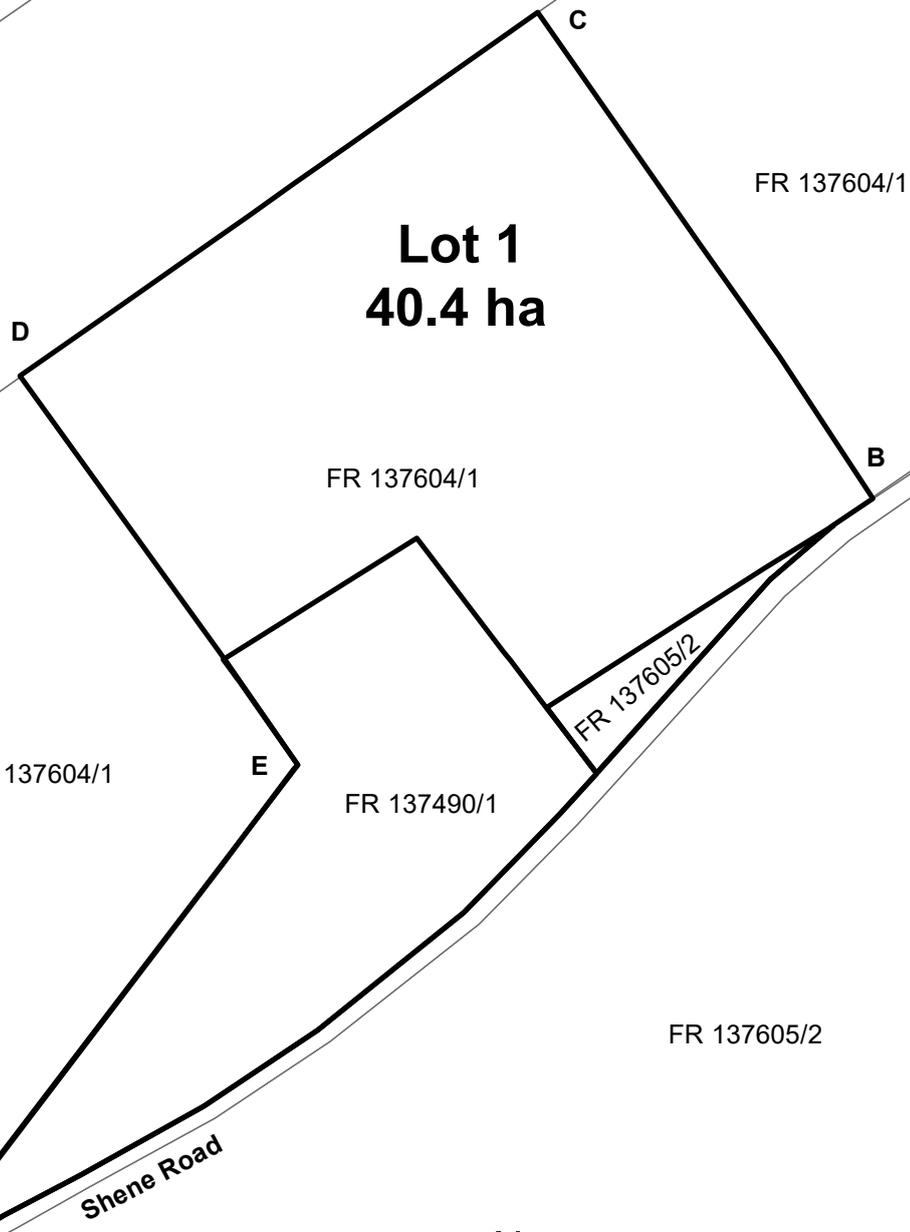
Note

1. Lot 1 represents the registered boundary for 'Shene', #5554 on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
2. Lot 1 is the whole of FR 137490/1 and partial parcel of FR's 137604/1 & FR 137605/2 the boundary of which is marked by a heavy black line.
3. All boundaries are parcel boundaries, details of individual land parcel boundaries may be accessed through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST).

FR 11335/6

Point & Boundary Description

- A. South West corner of Title 137490/1
- A-B. Northern boundary of Shene Road
- B. Intersect of post-wire fence & cadastral boundary at 522427E
- B-C. Post & wire fence
- C. Intersect of post-wire fence & cadastral boundary at 522118E
- C-D. Post & wire fence along cadastral boundary
- D. Intersect of post-wire fence & cadastral boundary at 521643E
- D-E. Post & wire fence
- E. Corner of cadastral parcel
- E-A. Northern boundary of cadastral title 137490/1



TASMAP: TEA TREE - 5227 GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55 DATUM: AHD CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A

No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE
1	Production	THC	5554	AW	DRAFT	DRAFT



Shene
76 Shene Road, Pontville

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE TASMANIA

CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER

p.p. Surveyor General: _____

Date Registered: XX-XXX-17