

Item Details

Name

Dwelling and Dairy Bales

SHR/LEP/S170

Dwelling and Dairy Bales

Address

221 Coolamon Scenic Drive COORABELL NSW 2479

Local Govt Area

Byron

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Farming and Grazing

Category

Dairy

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
221	Coolamon Scenic Drive	COORABELL/NSW/2479	Byron					Primary Address

Boundary Description

Part of Lot 4/ DP5130

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The weatherboard cottage c. mid-1890s is historically significant demonstrating the development of the area and the dairy industry and domestic scale farming operations at the 1890s which endured until the 1970s. It holds associative significance with James and Mary Garvan of Irish Catholic heritage. The cottage retains its historic form and considerable early fabric although it has been subject to a number of modifications. The historic dairy bales are important evidence of the former farming practices and association with the family dwelling and contribute aesthetically to the cultural landscape.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

221 Coolamon Scenic Drive cottage and bales demonstrate historical significance with the development of the dairying and farming activity in the shire. The dwelling whilst modified, illustrates a traditional farmhouse for operation of a working dairy farm and retains its overall historic form, layout and some original fabric. The dairy bales are highly intact circa 1920s and demonstrate the confidence in the economy and strong demand for dairying and likely connection to the Norco Dairy Factory in Byron Bay.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The cottage and farm property holds historic associative significance with Mary and Patrick Garvan, Irish pioneer settlers and entrepreneurs.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

Aesthetically the cottage and dairy bales are important historic elements in a cultural landscape which was modified for the development of the dairy industry, small scale domestic operations. The dairy bales are particularly intact for their fabric.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The item does not demonstrate this criterion.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

Not assessed.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The item is relatively rare locally. Relatively few (i.e. relative to the past dominance of this type of housing locally) rural stand-alone smaller houses or cottages are heritage listed locally (i.e. those not located within a conservation area);

Criteria g)

Representative

The cottage and dairy bales are representative of their types. Symmetrical form cottage with central hallway and 4-5 principal rooms. The dairy bales are typical of the design.

Integrity/Intactness

Dwelling- modified quite significantly in fabric but retains overall form.

Dairy Bales highly intact.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

Builder/Maker

Physical Description

Updated 11/15/2022

As a surviving 1890s era rural cottage, the building retains its traditional main roof form and scale but has been unsympathetically altered in past decades by enclosed verandahs, non sympathetic cladding, guttering, aluminium windows and awnings. Internally, many interior walls are lined with Masonite, although some display original timber linings. These alterations can be successfully restored or reconstructed to original details. There are some remnants of the original glazing with a 4 pane double hung sash window on the western side of the front bedroom, however the integrity of original doors and windows is low. The Laundry retains an original copper and brick base, and the kitchen an early fuel stove. The historic dairy bails building and yard are located approximately 50 metres south of the cottage. This farm building retains a high level of original fabric, with timber lined walls and ceilings, the separating room, and the milking bays still intact with their stall divisions. This rural outbuilding is historically and aesthetically significant as part of the farm property. It is important evidence of the former dairy operations.

Physical Condition

Updated 11/15/2022

Fair.

Modifications And Dates

Major renovations were undertaken circa 1960s including addition of the existing southern and northern verandahs, new internal masonite linings, some changes to window openings and recladding of the building.

Further Comments

Current Use

Farmhouse and sheds

Former Use

Farmhouse and working dairy bales.

Listings

Listings

						Records Retrieved: 1
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page	
Potential Heritage Item		I203				

Procedures/Exemptions

						Records Retrieved: 0
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome	
No Results Found						

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

11/15/2022 5:38:09 PM

The cottage was built by James Patrick and Mary Genevieve Garvan in the early-to-mid 1890s. The Garvans were part of the internal migration of European-origin ‘settlers’ to the Coorabell locality in the late nineteenth century. James and Mary acquired at least four separate parcels of land, or farms, in this vicinity – among these were the farms named Granuaille, Possum Shoot, Bonnells and Erindale. Research has confirmed which lots were the Granuaille and Bonells farms, but it is not yet absolutely clear if the property on which the cottage is located was named either of the other names.

Patrick and Mary did not live on any of these four farms but they did spend time living and visiting / holidaying on another property called St Helena, and first owned by Mary’s father, Dr James Glissan. Glissan was among the earliest settler-origin people to select land in the Parish of Byron. The names of the Erindale and Granuaille properties reflected Garvan’s strong Irish-Catholic allegiance and heritage.

Patrick Garvan had business and political interests in Sydney and elsewhere in the late nineteenth century, he also pursued commercial dealings in the region Byron Shire. Patrick’s brother Denis also took up a property at Coorabell, which Mary in partnership with her son John Joseph later owned. This was the Granuaille farm at which, for a short time, the Granuaille Provisional School operated (1890-18940). The property on which the cottage is situated was located immediately adjacent. On the farm lots acquired by the Garvans Patrick and Mary made ‘improvements’ by way of houses, fencing, sheds etc. Their motivation was to invest in and foster the local developing dairy industry; Patrick was noted to have introduced co-operative farming on these properties and to the region, which became a key facet of the operations of early dairy farms.

The establishment of the school on Granuaille farm followed Patrick’s lobbying for the school and on behalf of the ‘poor’ dairy families living in the area and whom he wanted, and managed to, attract to his farms.

The leasing of dairy farms in the district at this time was fostered by families of means such as the Garvans, to both profit from their investments and foster settlement and development in the area. The building and opening of the railway (opened 1894) especially spurred this entrepreneurial activity, and which was part of the wider colonial endeavour of economic expansion.

Garvan also had a career as a politician, including as Minister for Justice in the NSW Jennings government of 1886/87 – his success in establishing the Granuaille School resulted from his political influence and allies, which included Thomas Ewing who similarly pursued property interests in the district, as well as served as a local MP. A timber home he built at Ewingsdale by Ewing survives also.

In addition Patrick Garvan was a pioneering insurance entrepreneur in Australia and eventually established the Mutual Life and Citizens’ Assurance Company – he is noted to have had a genuine interest in making insurance available to the ‘ordinary-man’. The company, under Garvan’s directorship, invested in land at Coorabell - including the whole of the original 640 acre selection that the cottage was built on.

Patrick Garvan’s achievements and influence in the domestic insurance world is well documented. The company’s assets embraced property at Coorabell. Garvan’s son, John Joseph, was recorded as joint owner of the family’s Coorabell properties with his mother (Mary Genevieve – probably following his father’s death in 1896).

James died from influenza (aged 53) and almost a decade later, in 1905, the sale of small farms belonging to ‘The Garvan Estate’ was advertised – in all 32 parcels or dairy farms were made available. The land was promoted as improved, affordable and situated in the best dairy country. The 1905 advertisements began the Garvan’s dispersal of all their properties and other interests in the district – which took up to a decade to complete. Patrick’s son, John Joseph, went on to take over from his father as director of the Mutual Life and Citizens’ Assurance Company. Mary retired to the Garvan’s Sydney home permanently, where she died in 1921.

(Extract- Heritage Assessment Report Kate Gahan September 2020.)

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 0

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
No Results Found		

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Works to reinstate the dwelling to original details and conserve and repair the historic dairy bales is strongly encouraged. Works shall be in accordance with the ICOMOS Burra Charter, Council and relevant planning policies for heritage conservation and in accordance with the draft scope of works outlined in the Gahan Report 2020 as amended for inclusion of the dairy bales.

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 0

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
No Results Found					

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Clarence Heritage	2022	Heritage Referral 221 Coolamon Scenic Drive Coorabell.	
Written	Dr Kate Gahan	2020	Report on the heritage values and management of the historic weatherboard cottage at 221 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Coorabell.	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Byron Shire Council	6000396

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