

PLACE	RHYLSTON PARK						
Address	190 Thompson Avenue COWES						
Study No	80	HO No	HO59	HPD No	73	Allotment No	-
LGA	Bass Coast	Ward	Thompson	Parish	Phillip Island	County	Mornington

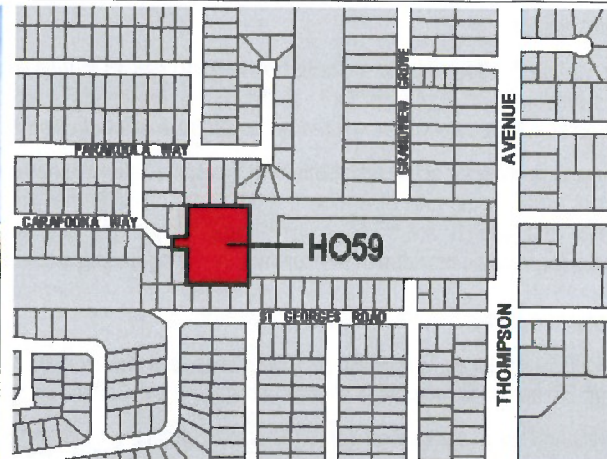


Image Date	3 July 2009	Extent of listing	House and curtilage of 10m to north/south and 20m to east/west sides, to include detached laundry block, privy & cypress trees.				
Designer/architect	Unknown	Architectural style	Victorian Period (1851-1901) Italianate				
Builder/maker	Unknown	Commenced	1887 (circa)	Completed	-		
Her Act Category	Heritage place	Historic Theme/s	13.3 Tourist Resorts				
Her Item Group	Residential buildings (private)	Assessed by	F Woodhouse	Date	02/08/04		
Her Item Category	House	Reviewed by	S Reeves	Date	-		
Usage (2009)	Residence	Condition	Good	Intactness	-		
Significance	Local	Recommendation	Include in VHR <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in RNE <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in HO <input type="checkbox"/>	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Statement of Significance

'Rhyllston Park', 190 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, is of local historic and aesthetic significance as a substantial and largely intact example of a Victorian Italianate villa in a country setting.

It is of historical significance, being associated with Joseph Vaughan, the Melbourne iron miller who constructed it as a family holiday retreat.

Aesthetically, it is one of the finest examples of a substantial Victorian Villa located within the municipality.

Assessment Against Criteria

None cited in original citation

(Italicised text from Allom Lovell & Associates, Bass Coast Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (2004), with revisions indicated in bold)

Physical Description

Rhylston Park is an ornate rendered brick Victorian villa with a dipped corrugated galvanised steel roof replacing the original slate roof and projecting gabled bays. The roof features paired eaves, brackets, rendered chimneys and timber gable screens with turned timber finials. The front of the house is screened by an bull nose return verandah supported by cast iron columns with a cast iron lacework valance, behind the verandah a panelled timber front door features a fanlight and sidelights with leadlight glazing. At either end of the verandah projecting gabled bays with canted bay windows set within moulded architraves contain timber-framed double-hung sashes.

*The property also contains a number of early or original outbuildings, the most distinctive of which is a square plan red-brick tower surrounded by an iron water tank. To the rear of the house is a red-brick **laundry block** with a timber gable screen and a modern carport addition. There is also a red-brick outhouse with a gabled slate roof.*

The site is currently accessible both from the east (via a long narrow driveway off Thompson Avenue), and from the west (off Victoria Court, which forms part of a recent subdivision). The former driveway is lined with mature Cypress trees which are now in poor health and, as they are known to be dropping limbs, are potentially dangerous. Consequently, it is not recommended that these particular trees be included in the curtilage of the heritage overlay.

Historical Notes

Originally known as Mussel Rock, Cowes was renamed in 1865 by Henry Fox, the government surveyor. When surveying Western Port, He named the township after the holiday resort, Cowes, on the Isle of Wight.

*Rhylston Park is situated on part of what was originally Allotment 8 at Cowes, which was first sold to H Hardingham on 8 July 1878, A complex of buildings was built at the site from c.1887 onward, by a wealthy Melbourne businessman, Joseph Vaughan, owner of the Lion Rolling Mills of Grant Street, South Melbourne. The bricks were brought by sea from Melbourne. The property originally included shearing shed (believed to have been relocated the Woolamai Race course). Demolished structures include a butter factory, coach house and several houses. A bowling green on the north lawn was used by locals residents of Cowes. The northern garden contains two huge cypress trees (*Cupressus Macrocarpa*) and a giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron Giganteum*). Since being sold by the Vaughan family in the c.1930s, the property has been owned by the Niven, Betts, Cheeseman and Klabis families.*

Associated People

Joseph Vaughan

Recommended Management

The mature trees in the immediate vicinity of the house should be retained as long as they remain healthy and viable;

The outbuildings closest to the house (brick privy and laundry block) should be retained for their interpretative value;

References

Author	Title	Year
<i>Andrea Inglis</i>	<i>Beside the Seaside L Victorian resorts in the Nineteenth Century</i>	1999
<i>David Williams</i>	<i>Memories, Moonash & Marine Marvels</i>	1999
<i>Department of Land and Survey</i>	<i>Parish plan of Phillip Island</i>	
<i>Jean Edgecombe</i>	<i>Phillip Island and Western Port</i>	1989
<i>John Jansson, Phillip Island Hist Soc</i>	<i>Personal communication</i>	2004
<i>Sands & McDougall</i>	<i>Melbourne and Suburban Directory for 1890</i>	1890

Special Note

*On this page, italicised text is quoted directly from Allom Lovell & Associates, Bass Coast Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (2004), with minor revisions indicated in **bold** text and any new information, contributed by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, indicated in plain text.*