

ETCHELLS COTTAGE

Lot 322 DP 710690 No. 60 Hansens Road, Minto
Bush Cottage, built c. 1920



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

The land on which this property stands was part of a William Warby grant dated 1832. In 1895 the land was owned by Edwin Fieldhouse, a prominent Campbelltown storekeeper and citizen who owned a substantial amount of property in the area. In 1895, it was sold to a William Creamer and then to Albert Henry Etchells (Harry) in 1913.

The cottage is a rare example of a vernacular structure. It is constructed of vertical logs (probably felled from the cottage site itself) joined by strips of iron and nailed together by hand made nails.

A large barn/workshop is located in close proximity to the house which is of similar construction but has not been dated. While the Etchells were well known for their "hops" this apparently was not brewed in the sheds but at the Frere's Crossing selection. (Miss Hansen – Interview March 1993).

The cottage is believed to have been built by Harry Etchells. Harry and his brother Frank Etchells produced rum from a number of illegal stills located in bushland at Eckersley where they took up selections. The land was acquired by the Army in 1913. Harry and his father – Charles Etchells were skilled carpenters and general handy persons.

CONDITION AND USE:

The front verandah of the cottage has at some stage been infilled but the cottage is otherwise in original condition. The cottage is set well back on the land which supports the native bushland. Around the cottage is a well-established orchard.

The property has remained in the Etchells Family since 1913, although it apparently never served as a primary dwelling for any of the family members.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- The building is of local significance because:
 - it is a rare surviving example of a vernacular architecture in the area around Sydney;
 - of it's connections with the well known Etchells Family – early settlers in the area; and
 - it has a remnant orchard which is in good condition.

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 2002