

VARROVILLE

Lot 21 DP 564065 St Andrews Road, Varroville
Farm House, main part built 1859, with earlier outbuildings

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

An attractive and substantial house on an historic site of 404.7 hectares (1000 acres) granted to Dr Robert Townson in 1810, who named it after Marcus Terentius Varro, an agricultural writer. Townson established a farm that was visited in 1810 by Macquarie, who commented that Townson had selected a 'very ill chosen situation' for his new house, Varroville. His home was built of sandstone bricks on stone foundations, bonded with mortar containing cow's hair. His library was one of the most extensive in the colony. Townson took an active role in the formation of an agricultural and philosophical society. In the 1820's his vineyard was acknowledged as one of the colony's best, and his sheep, his wool, and cattle were eagerly sought by purchases. After Townson died in 1829, Thomas Wills lived there until 1836 when Charles Sturt the explorer, established himself there with his family. They left in 1839 and James Raymond, the post master-general then purchased the property.

The later part of the house, the east front, was either rebuilt or added by George Taylor Rowe in 1859, and the house's main character is that of a house of this period. There are some attractive outbuildings, which would be of an earlier date.

CONDITION AND USE:

Still used as a dwelling and farmhouse. Beautifully sited in a garden on the top of one of the Campbelltown hills. An extension to the northern side of the Drawing Room was made more recently, but stepped back, so that the façade would remain symmetrical.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- The buildings have historic, architectural, aesthetic and group significance
- The main building is an important early farm and house;
- An early settlement/agricultural activity; and
- Home of Charles Sturt the explorer

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 2002

STATE: *Proudfoot:* Index No. 8, Category 1 (Key Buildings)

Macarthur Regional Heritage Study: Map 5, No. 1

National Trust (NSW): Classified

NSW Heritage Act 1977: Listed on the State Heritage Register –

PCO No. 737, G.G. No. 34, 27.8.93

FEDRAL: *Heritage Commission (National Estate):* Registered