

Slab hut (von Müller) & house**Place no.: 34****Address**

Archer Hill Rd, Bugle Range

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE**Description**

The original hut is a single-storey two-roomed structure with vertical timber-slab walls with northern elevation comprising stone wall and fireplace with brick chimney. Additional external details include cgi gable roof (formerly thatch), & timber-framed openings with timber-framed window and timber door. Significant internal details include original timber partition wall and door, stone fireplace with substantial timber lintel, timber floors and ceilings. The timbers have all been hand-hewn, with evidence of adzing marks in the ceiling timbers. The c1850s house is rendered with timber-framed openings, four-panelled timber doors and multi-paned timber-framed casements, with similar timber floors and ceilings, red-brick chimneys and a cgi roof.

Statement of Heritage Value

This is one of the most intact surviving examples of a pioneering timber-slab cottage to survive in the State. The hut has unique interpretative qualities and a high level of demonstration of early construction techniques. It also has significant associations with notable Internationally-renowned scientist Ferdinand von Müller, who constructed the hut in 1849. The adjacent c1850s cottage also has significant associations with the history of the hut and Bugle Ranges, and displays pioneering construction techniques.

Relevant Criteria

- (a) *it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history, the hut and cottage having significant associations with the early development of Bugle Ranges, and the hut also being associated with the early work of Ferdinand von Müller.*
- (b) *it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance, being a timber-slab building with surviving internal details of unique quality.*
- (d) *it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance, being the best surviving example of a pioneer timber-slab hut including original features and fittings.*
- (e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics, the hut displaying excellent examples of timber-slab walling and internal detailing, and the cottage and hut both displaying early timber floor, ceiling and window construction.*
- (g) *it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance, namely Baron Ferdinand von Müller.*

RECOMMENDATION

This place is recommended for inclusion in the State Heritage Register.

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Criterion (a) *it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.*

Dr Ferdinand JH von Müller arrived in South Australia in 1847 where he first worked for a pharmacist in Hindley Street. With the support of Davenport and in association with fellow botanists Krichauff and Fisher, Müller established himself as a farmer near Mount Barker. By 1849, the three botanists had taken up adjoining land at Bugle Ranges, Müller's being an eight-hectare property. The timber-slab hut in which he and his sister first lived was constructed in early 1849.

Müller only remained in Bugle Ranges for four years. By 1853, Müller had moved to Victoria to take up a public service position from which he would launch a distinguished scientific career. Meanwhile, the property which he had established in 1849 was further developed. During the 1850s, a more substantial cottage was constructed near the original hut. This cottage made similar use of local red-gum for floors and ceilings, and is closely linked to the first cottage in terms of its history and use of materials. The original hut was then used as the external kitchen for the new cottage for over 100 years. The cottage and hut are of special significance for their associations with the pioneering development of Bugle Ranges, and for their associations with significant early scientists von Müller and Krichauff (the latter of whom owned the property from 1851 to 1871).

Criterion (b) *it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.*

This is a rare surviving example of an intact timber-slab residence which includes many of its original internal features and fittings in addition to its relatively well-preserved external structure. Despite the construction of the larger cottage near the hut soon within only a few years of the construction of the former, the hut did not become disused & ruinous as have so many similar pioneer huts. Instead it remained in continuous use as a kitchen until the late 20th century. This contributed to the retention of the original fabric, yet the building was also used with relatively little intervention. This fortuitous combination of historical use and conservation have combined to create a rare place. The former Müller's hut with its internal detailing and exceptional interpretative qualities is the most intact example of a pioneer timber slab cottage in the district, a quality which contributes to its uniqueness.

Criterion (d) *it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.*

This is the best surviving example of a timber-slab dwelling in the Mount Barker district, and is also one of the best surviving examples in Australia. It demonstrates design and construction which was once relatively common, but now rarely survives with such a high integrity. The authenticity of the building provides significant information about its early history and construction, and as such has exceptional interpretative qualities.

Criterion (e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.*

This is an outstanding example of a pioneer timber-slab hut which demonstrates the typical construction techniques of the period, including much internal detail which is usually lost or significantly altered. The construction of the upright timber-slab walls uses hand-hewn timbers, as do the ceiling and abutting floor timbers. The fireplace is a substantial stone structure with timber lintel and externally-projecting chimney. The internal partition also survives, indicating the tiny space in which the first settlers used to sleep.

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Other surviving indications of the Germanic pioneer way of life and construction methods include the visible adze marks on the smoke-blackened ceiling timbers, visible mortice and tenon joints along the ceiling and wall conjunctions, doors which open against the wall ('European' rather than English custom), drying hooks above the fire-place, and an early tree-trunk chopping block. The 1850s rendered house adjacent to the original hut also displays significant early construction techniques, including similar surviving ceiling and floor timbers, and timber-framed multi-paned casement windows.

Criterion (g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Baron Ferdinand JH von Müller was one of Australia's most significant 19th-century scientists, earning himself an international reputation and an impressive list of honours. He was head of the Melbourne Botanic Garden for many years, and noted for his work in exploration (Australian Alps, Leichhardt search party, etc.), salmon introduction, the development of forestry, and many other scientific achievements (consult references). Müller's work extended beyond the shores of Australia, and he received honours including Knight of the Order of St Michael & George (1879), Knight Commander of the Order of Portugal & Isabella of Spain, and Baron of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg (1886). He has also been commemorated by the naming of a river, glacier and various mountains in Central Australia, New Zealand, Europe and South America. Most of his fame emerged after he had left South Australia in 1853, yet his early establishment and development as an experimental scientist in South Australia and his associations with Bugle Ranges are also of significance, particularly his surviving hut on his former property. He also donated the land for the Bugle Ranges School.

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Slab hut (von Müller) & house**Place no.: 34**

SITE RECORD

Location	Archer Hill Rd, Bugle Ranges
Description	Timber-slab hut and adjacent rendered cottage
Significant fabric	Hut: timber-slab walls and a stone wall and fireplace with brick chimney to northern end. Additional external details include cgi gable roof (formerly thatch), & timber-framed openings with timber-framed window and timber door. Significant internal details include original timber partition wall and door, stone fireplace with substantial timber lintel, timber floors and ceilings. The timbers have all been hand-hewn, with evidence of adzing marks in the ceiling timbers. The c1850s house is rendered with timber-framed openings, timber doors and multi-paned casements, similar timber floors and ceilings, red-brick chimneys and a cgi roof.
Condition	Vulnerable to poor
Land Description	Hundred of Strathalbyn CT 134-7+ 211-66
Local Government Area	District Council of Mount Barker
Current Use	Cottage & outbuilding
Original Use	Cottage & hut
State Heritage Status	Nil
State Heritage File No.	Nil
Other Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stark, P 1983, <i>Meadows Heritage Survey</i>, A 5.1.6• Register of the National Estate, file 6612• National Trust of South Australia, Classified list 2001
Photograph File	Mt Barker Heritage Survey\MBHS Photos\Bugle Ranges\BU Archer Hill Muller
Report by	Anna Pope

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View of fr Ferdinand von Müller's hut, 2004



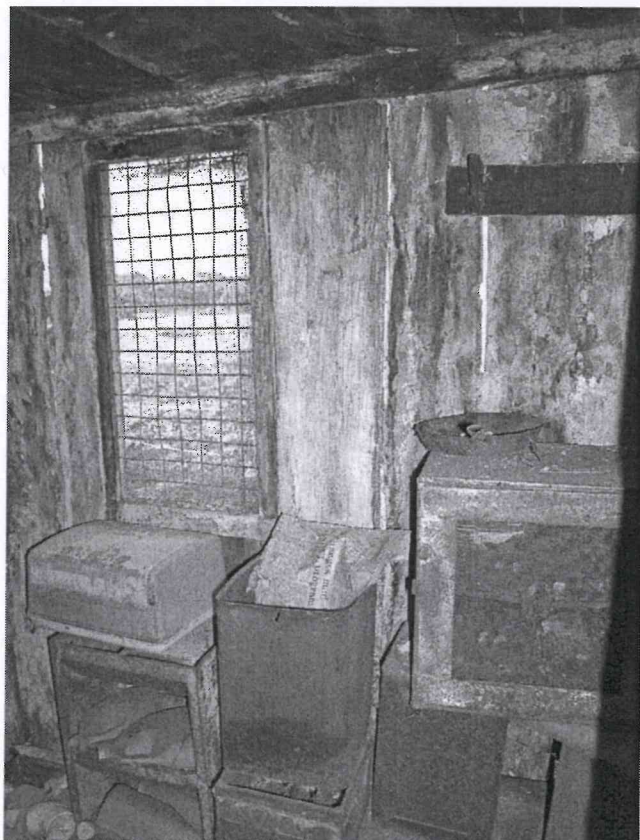
fr Ferdinand von Müller's hut, 2004

Slab hut (von Müller) & house

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fr Ferdinand von Müller's s hut, wall & chimney 2004



fr Ferdinand von Müller's hut, 2004



fr Ferdinand von Müller's hut, 2004

Slab hut (von Müller) & house

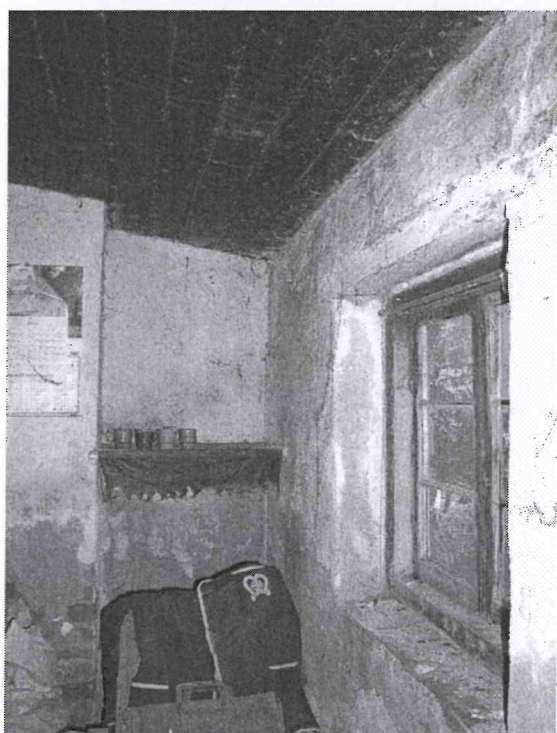
Place no.: 34



fr Ferdinand von Müller's hut, walls & ceiling, 2004



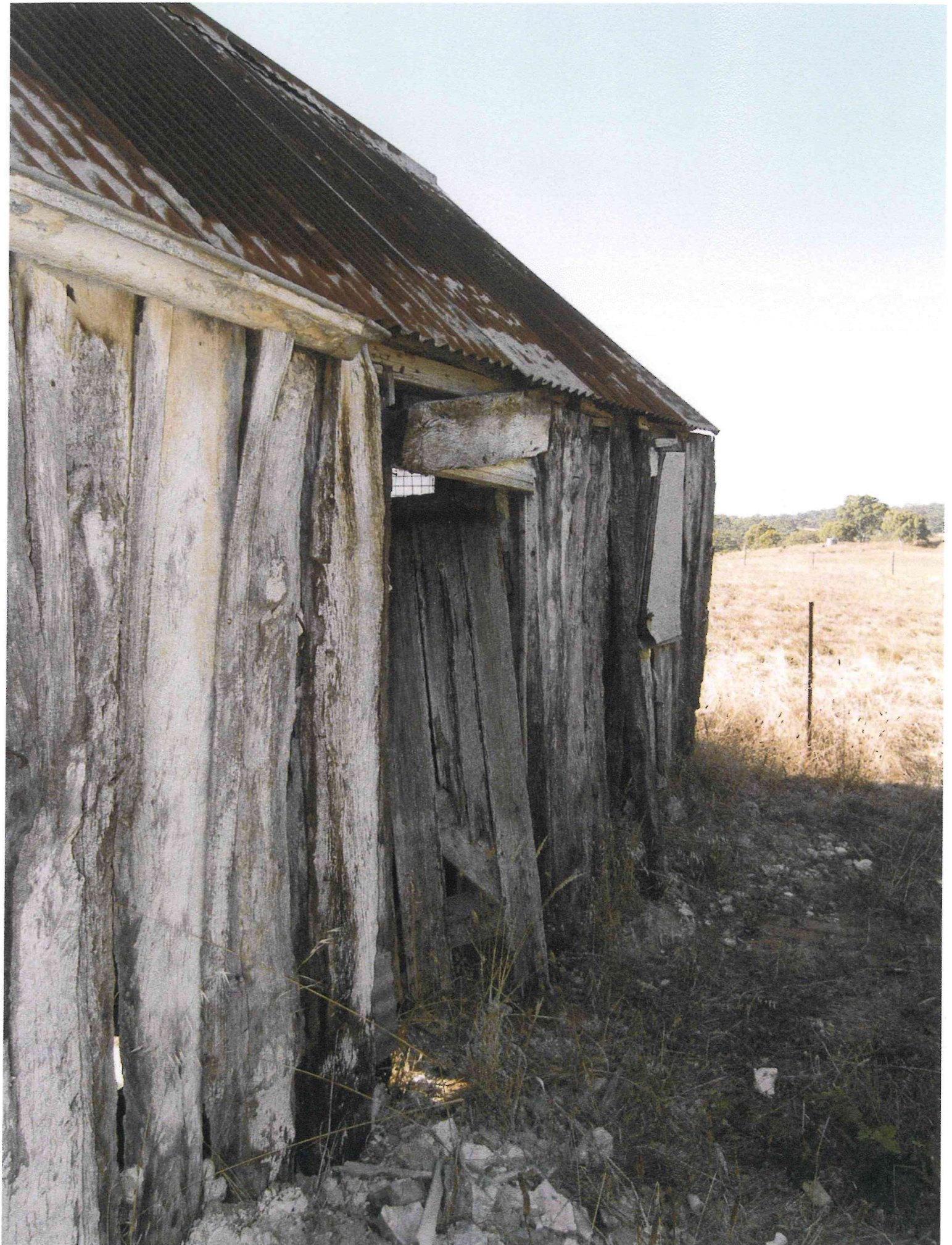
fr Ferdinand von Müller's hut, fireplace, 2004



House adjacent to von Müller's Cottage, 2004



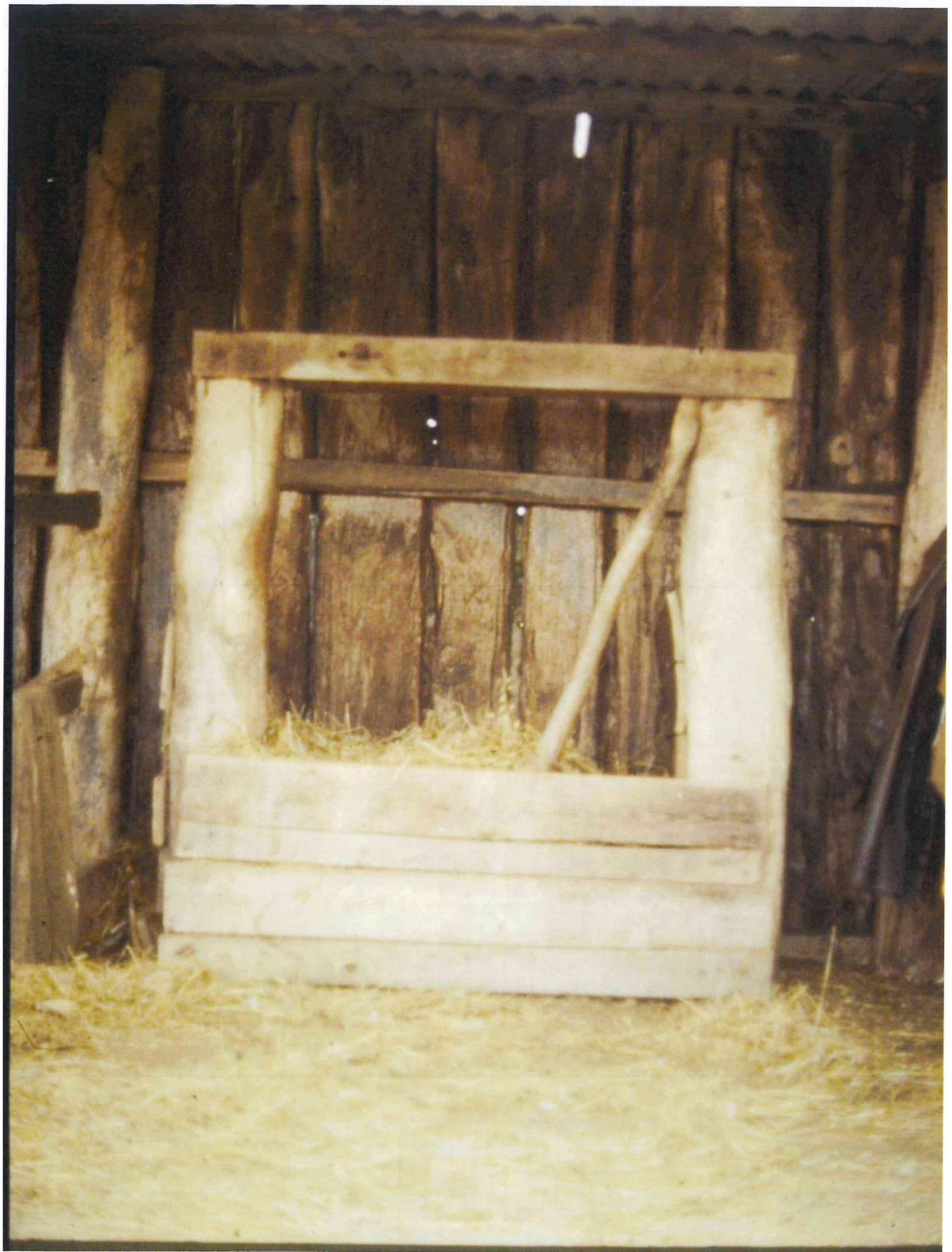
House adjacent to von Müller's Cottage, 2004







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18/01/1980



18/01/1980



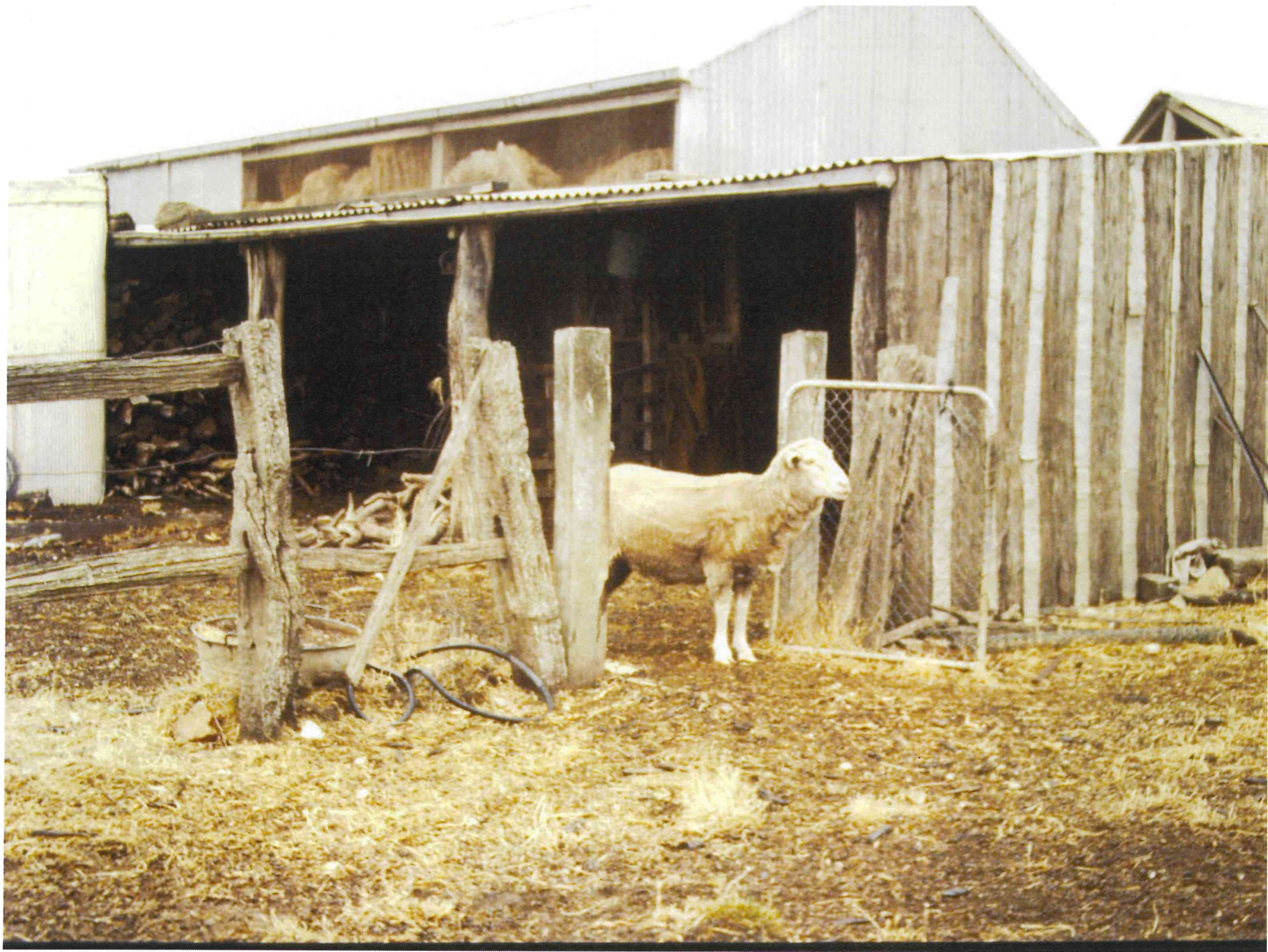
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