Abstract
Recent fieldwork at the historical site of Hehrs Pine Park Farm (H7922-0297) in Wollert, 30 km north of Melbourne, illustrates the value of archaeological investigations at sites which are apparently already well-documented. The farm complex comprises four extant bluestone buildings, the earliest of which was thought to date to around 1866 when the Hehr family, German immigrants, bought the property.

Subfloor investigations within the farmstead aimed to recover material culture which would augment the existing documentary and architectural evidence about the site. In particular, we hoped to gain insights into the changing fortunes and tastes of the family as they became established farmers, and possibly more Anglicised or 'Aussie'. In addition to a fascinating array of artefacts, which have just been analysed, we also uncovered an earlier, single-room bluestone cottage, with extensive additional post-hole and stake-hole structures. The cottage may date to the 1850s, when the land was leased to Robert Adams, with some additional, less permanent structures representing a Germanic bakehouse, and other additional rooms constructed by the Hehr family before they could afford to build the standing bluestone farmhouse. The discoveries, therefore, have enabled us to revise the architectural and social history of the site significantly.

Introduction
Archaeology has long been considered the poor cousin of archival and architectural studies in the analysis of historical sites (Deetz 1995:152). Indeed, Macknight 1996:9 has noted that ‘in general 'Australian history” as it is commonly taught includes little consideration of archaeological evidence’. At best, historical archaeology confirms what we (supposedly) already know from these other data sources; at worst, its often enigmatic, ephemeral remains add confusion where ‘certainty’ once reigned (see Mackay and Karskens 1999 for a more optimistic stance). This rather polarised approach is unfortunate, as neither of the other data sources is as unproblematic as their proponents would sometimes like to think, while archaeological investigations have much to contribute in enriching the picture of the past, even if (or perhaps, importantly because) the results are often surprising and occasionally inconvenient. Recent fieldwork at Hehrs Pine Park Farm in Wollert is a case in point.

What was previously 'known' about Hehrs Pine Park Farm?
Westgarthtown, 16 km north of Melbourne, was established by German and Wendish families in 1850 (Friends of Westgarthtown 2013). This nucleus of families attracted other compatriots to the general area between 1860–1890 (Moloney 2011:iii; Raworth 2010:6). The property in question originally comprised part of a 152 acre lot purchased by E. Muller on 27 January 1853. The land was rented to Robert Adams for seven years, before a 76 acre portion of the lot was purchased by Christian Hehr from Georg Müller in December 1865, to establish a dairy farm (Moloney 2011:17; Wuchatsch 2010:2). Christian Hehr was an immigrant from Leutenbach in Württemburg, Germany, who arrived in Melbourne on 25 December 1856 with his family aboard the ship Electric (Wuchatsch 2010:2). He worked as a gardener in East Brunswick and is listed as a carpenter living at Merri Creek, Pentridge, at the time of purchase (VPRS Volume 00146 Folio 133, 5 December 1865), and in subsequent legal documentation.

Over the next few decades, the Hehr family constructed various buildings including the bluestone farmstead, stables and milking shed (Meredith Gould Architects and Hicks 1991). At the time of Christian Hehr’s death on 20 July 1892, his property consisted of ‘a house built of stone and wood, containing 6 rooms roofed with corrugated iron, a barn and stabling for 3 horses, all stone and corrugated iron roof... Valued at …
£750.0.0’ (VPRS 28 P0002 343 49/690, 17 August 1892).

In the early twentieth century, Hehr’s grandsons Henry and Ernie diversified into breeding draught and Clydesdale horses and successfully exhibited them in numerous shows including the Royal Melbourne Show (Wuchatsch 2010:2–3). The property remained within the family until 1974 and was recently bought by Stocklands for residential development (Wuchatsch 2010:1). The current owner of the farmstead, Samir Latif, plans to ensure its long-term survival and preservation by converting it into a café, the Third Place Café, which will become the vibrant heart of the new community.

The ‘original’ bluestone farmstead underwent several different phases of construction and subsequent modifications which are imprecisely dated. The surviving three-room bluestone structure appears to have been extended in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century with the addition of a red brick extension on bluestone foundations (Raworth 2010:12). A weatherboard bathroom and laundry were subsequently added to the back veranda, and the interior was refurbished on several occasions (Raworth 2010:12–13).

Despite the elements of uncertainty in the historical outline of the evolution of the farmstead, the archaeological potential of the site has largely been overlooked by previous heritage assessments. In particular, a preliminary site inspection by the first author, which was conducted in August 2012, noted previously unrecorded bluestone foundations around the fireplace inside the farmhouse, extensive unplanned bluestone paving in the courtyards to the east and south of the farmstead, and the chance survival of artefacts such as an intact medicine bottle made after 1910 (Williamson 2013:18) in a nearby dry stone wall.

The principal aims of our subsequent investigations, therefore, were to:

• Investigate the previously unrecorded architectural and archaeological features;
• Attempt to date the different phases of the structure more accurately; and
• Gain new insights into the material culture of the occupants.

The principal findings of our archaeological investigations: earlier structures

As expected given the unrecorded foundations around

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**Figure 1. Schematic plan of the structures uncovered within the farmstead.**
the fireplace, early structural remains were unearthed immediately beneath the floorboards inside the farmhouse. The size, nature and extent of the earlier structures, however, were unexpected (Figure 1).

In the southwest corner of the farmhouse, we discovered a single-room cottage with substantial, carefully laid, bluestone foundations consolidated with mud mortar. The interior of the room measures ca 9.5 by 11 feet (3.0x3.4 m). The bluestone footing for a fireplace is located in the middle of the north wall, beneath the extant rebuilt brick fireplace. The south wall appears to have been used as a footing for the south wall of the later extant bluestone building, and may have had an external structure (possibly a porch leading to a doorway) built against it.

A large, rectangular post structure was then erected to the northeast of the cottage. The structure, which measures roughly 31 by 16 feet (9.4x5.0 m), consists of six surviving larger post-holes and thirteen smaller intermediate post-holes (the probable line of post-holes in the west has been truncated by later foundations). The layout of the post-holes suggests that the structure consisted of two equally sized rooms with a series of earthen surfaces. The bluestone footing in the south-centre of the southern room may be what remains of a bakeoven (Figure 2). Another, more flimsily constructed stake-hole structure, again probably consisting of two rooms, was built to the west of the post-hole structure. It extends for 6 m to the north of the cottage.

The material culture

The material culture from the site, which comprises an assemblage of over 500 catalogued artefacts, has been analysed by Williamson (2013). Her analysis indicates that it consists of the expected range of domestic, architectural, farm/work-related, personal and recreational items that were potentially deposited over a span of at least 100 years between the mid to late nineteenth century through to the modern era' (Williamson 2013:51). Unfortunately, most of the deposits we uncovered beneath the floorboards were disturbed and poorly stratified, and yielded few precisely datable finds, thus limiting the chronological information that can be garnered from the assemblage. This also inhibits our attempts to assess changes in the inhabitants’ material culture and tastes over time. That said, only one artefact, a handmade glass German swirl marble (Williamson 2013:47), has been identified as being unequivocally Germanic in origin, and this is unilluminating as most late nineteenth century marbles in Victoria came from Germany (Davies and Ellis 2005:18). Most of the ceramics come from Britain, with occasional objects from America. Some of the more exceptional finds include fragments of rather beautiful stencil-painted window pane glass from the foundations of the Late Victorian/Edwardian red brick extension, a 1933 Turf Virginia cigarette card, a Sweet Acres Chewing Gum card from a 1932 ‘Steamships of the World’ series, and a surprising number of intact apothecary bottles.

Figure 2. Postholes and bluestone footing in the eastern half of the extant farmstead, looking north (photograph by David Thomas).
which have survived in and around the farmstead.

The patent and proprietary apothecary bottles are indicative of the self-diagnosis and treatment that was rife in colonial Victoria, due to the limited availability and expense of formal medical opinion and treatment, particularly in rural areas (Davies 2001:63; Knehans 2005:42). These artefacts are particularly interesting because they have the potential to yield valuable insights into the demographics and lives of a site’s occupants (Graham 2005:47). The Tricopherous glass bottle, for example, originally contained hair oil. A direct parallel, dated to ca 1880, is held at the Museum Victoria (2013); another example was excavated from Henry’s No. 1 Saw Mill near Forrest, dating to the first quarter of the twentieth century (Davies 2001:71). Tricopherous was produced by Barry’s of New York, and although the recipe changed over time, in 1893 it consisted of 97% alcohol, about 1.5% castor oil, 1% tincture of Spanish fly, and some fragrant oils (Fadely 2013). The treatment was used in cases of premature balding and primarily marketed at women. It is typical of numerous other products of dubious medical worth marketed during the period – 12.5% of pharmaceutical advertisements in The Argus between 1850 and 1900 related to hair and beauty products (Graham 2005:49).

Phasing/dating the modifications of the building

The date of the earliest structure at Hehrs, the bluestone cottage, remains unclear, but it may have already been standing in 1865 when the property was purchased by Christian Hehr – Robert Adams, the previous occupant, presumably needed somewhere to live during the seven years of his tenancy, but may not have wished to invest heavily in building a home given the insecurity of his position.

The post-hole structure to the northeast of the original bluestone cottage appears to have been ‘keyed’ into the northeast corner of the cottage, and may have used the cottage as a wind break from the prevailing winds coming from the southwest. It may be the remains of an external kitchen or bakehouse, centred around a bakeoven. The bluestone footings may relate to one of the chimneys built by the stonemason Johann Topp in 1878 (R. Wuchatsch 2012, pers. comm. 1 Aug.). The layout of the post-hole structure bears a striking similarity to some of those documented near Lobethal in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia (Young 1985:49, Fig. 8). If so, it is a traditional German style of building, transported into the new colonial setting. The stake-hole structure is probably broadly contemporary with the bakehouse and definitely pre-dates 1883 – a Victorian thrupenny of that date was found on the uppermost surface sealing the stake-holes.

At some stage the single-room cottage and stake-hole structure was replaced by a three-room bluestone structure, which forms the front of the farmstead today. It may have incorporated the two rooms of the bakehouse and added a third wooden room in the south (although we have not as yet found any evidence to support this), to form the six-room structure referred to in Christian Hehr’s will of 1892. If so, it may have looked similar to the extended gable house (Giebellauben) near Lobethal (Young 1985:52, Fig. 12b). If these architectural parallels are accurate, the ethnic imprint of the new owners of the property is more apparent and persisting in their built structures than in their material culture.

The post-structure rooms were then replaced by the red brick extension during the late Victorian/Edwardian period. Newspaper fragments suggest that the large post-holes dug to support a wooden floor in the extension date to the interwar or World War II period.

Conclusions

While it may seem self-evident to us as archaeologists that historical sites contain archaeological remains, this fact is often overlooked by historians, heritage consultants, architects and developers, who tend to focus their attention primarily on the standing architectural remains. This myopic view of historical sites has the potential to result in unwelcome delays and unexpected expenses, particularly if archaeologists are not included in the development process at an early stage.

Much can be gained from attempting to integrate archival research, architectural studies and archaeological investigations, as this case study has shown. Rather than merely telling us what we already know, historical archaeology can verify, correct and augment existing knowledge of sites, as well as turn up unexpected new information. This enables us to reconstruct a fuller and multilayered understanding of historical sites and the past in general.

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