

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PARK HILL (ORIGINAL SITE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Schuller's Road YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 045

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

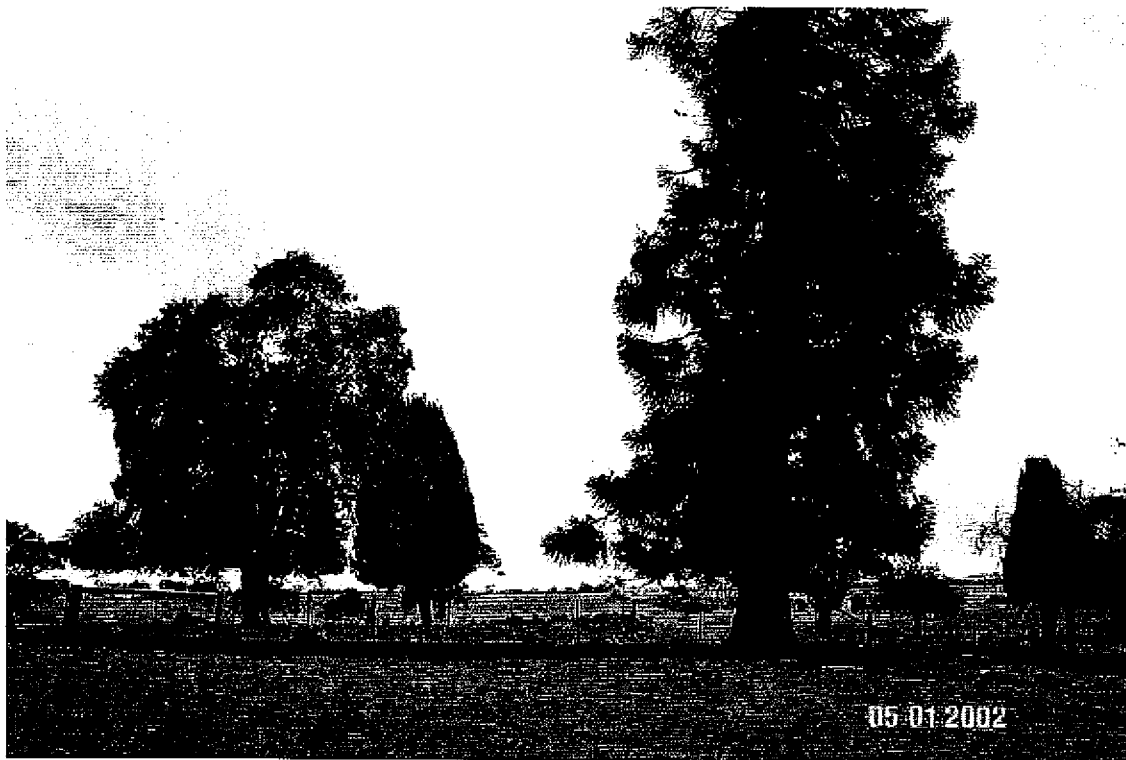
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF MURNDAL

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 F; VicRoads 72 E5; about one kilometre due north of the right angle bend in Schuller's Road, off Murndal Road and twelve kms west of Yulecart.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Heritage Inventory



Park Hill Original Site, Schuller's Road, Yulecart

Image Date: 05/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the of the land within a 10,000 sq. m rectangle centred on the original homestead site and including all surviving trees.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The original Park Hill site is located about about 500m from the south bank on slightly rising ground. It is approached by tracks from the Murndal Road. The site includes the stone and brick ruins of the original house (probably post 1872 but possibly earlier) and some surviving trees including an unusual Paranza Pine, *Araucaria angustifolia*, several Bhutan Cypress, *Cupressus torouloosa*, a Norfolk Island Hibiscus, *Lagunaria pattersonia*, the remnants of an avenue of Elms, *Ulmus procera*, leading to the river crossing and a few fruit trees of unknown species. Only the footings of the house now survive. A photograph held by the Bailey family taken in 1940 shows a substantial bluestone house with high, single storey walls and several chimneys still standing but with no roof. The house seems to have been typical for the period. There is a crossing for stock over the Wannon River associated with the homestead site. It is said that there is a lone grave in front of the house but this has not been confirmed and may be apocryphal. Some distance to the west of the site there is a billabong which was used as a sheep wash.

HISTORY:

The Park Hill run, which was on the south bank of the Wannon River, was first taken up by William Thomson with his brothers, Alexander and Robert Thomson who moved from the Geelong district. In 1848, it consisted of 9,680 acres running 7,000 sheep. In his 1848 application for a lease, William Thomson describes the country thus: The Run is Woody, the soil a sand clay, except the river Banks which are light loam; bounded on the west by S. Winter 2 1/2 miles on south side & 3 miles and the north side of the River; bounded on the South ... by D McIntyre; on the East and North East 5 miles by Donald Cameron East side of the River; & on north, west side of the River 2 1/2 by De Little (Pastoral Run File No. 1013. Note B&K give the date 1841 for the first lease). In 1855 Frederick Hale Pickle, Lands Officer for Port Phillip District at Hamilton described the property thus "The improvements on this section will consist of Dwelling house, Woolshed, Mens huts, Cultivation and grazing paddocks value £1500. Contains original homestead. Run never subdivided. No indication of Gold. Will not interfere with any [not decipherable] or any surveyed line of road. There is a crossing place of the Wannon at the home station which has always been used by settlers from the Northwards in conveying wool to Portland and at which place I believe the Road Board contemplates building a bridge" (Run File No. 1013).

Alexander Thomson took over the run alone in 1858. A different Alexander Thomson held other squatting leases nearby including Lower Crawford, Grange Burn No. 1, Brung Brungle and Mepunga (B&K, 149-50 and 263).

The Hiscock Map of the County of Normanby describes the property as "Park Hill (Home): 9,000 acres, Thomas Must, 9,000 sheep". However, research done by Ian Black suggests that a portion of the Park Hill squatting lease was sold to Thomas Must for 21 shillings per acre in 1869, but didn't include the homestead portion. The squatting lease was cancelled in 1872. It is not clear who had ownership of the house between this time and 1930, but it is likely to have been the Thomson family.

Thomas Must died in 1905 and in 1907 his son Philip Must, a solicitor, sold Park Hill to Charles Alexander Nicholson McDonald for six pounds an acre (Shire Rate Books; HHC 'Bailey Papers'). In 1909, C. A. N. McDonald was paying rates on Park Hill, which by that time included the Glencoe paddock and, with his wife and three children, he at first occupied the original homestead. In 1912, a new homestead was built by McDonald high on the opposite bank of the River Wannon, supposedly to avoid the mosquitoes at the original site.

In 1930, Archibald Lindsay purchased the property and lived in the old house. He paid rates from 1930 until 1932 but the sale fell through and C. A. N. McDonald repossessed the property. For a short time the land on the south side of the River Wannon was leased to Reynolds Rippon, who owned the Hamilton Spectator and

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was a director of Thompson's Store in Hamilton. Rippon was the brother-in-law of W. C. Bailey, a future owner of Park Hill.

The same land and developments were again put up for sale in 1932 at seven pounds ten shillings an acre (HHC, copy of Auctioneer's advertisement by T. H. Laidlaw). The 1932-33 rate books indicate that, while McDonald paid rates on much of the land, the rates on that portion which included the new house were paid by J. and H. P. Linke. In January 1934, Park Hill was sold to Johannes Reinhold Linke and Harold Philip Linke of Peshurst (C of T, Vol. 5896 Fol. 1179075). Park Hill was purchased by Charles William Bailey, a grazier of Wool Wool, Sandringham in 1936. He and his family moved into the new house. By 1940, the original bluestone homestead was in ruins.

When C. W. Bailey took possession in February 1936, the property consisted of 2,974 acres valued at seven pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence an acre, carrying 3,800 sheep and 121 cattle (HHC, 'Bailey Papers' with note in C. W. Bailey's hand). The Bailey family remains in possession of Park Hill. The new house was altered and extended at the rear in the 1960s.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

CONDITION:

The original homestead site has significant archaeological potential.

INTEGRITY:

only ruins of house and some trees remaining

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The original homestead site of the Park Hill squatting run is located on the south side of the River Wannon approximately 14 kilometres west of Yulecart and 10 kilometres south-south-west of Wannon. It is adjacent to but not contiguous with the Murndal or Spring Valley pre-emptive which is downstream and to the west. The Park Hill run was taken up as early as 1841 by the Thomson brothers, confirmed in 1848 and consolidated under Alexander Thomson who owned the lease outright by 1858. In 1863 it passed to Thomas Must of Portland. The lease was cancelled in 1872. From very early times there was a crossing for stock over the River Wannon at the homestead. The ruined house and surviving trees may date from this time or earlier. (Nothing is currently known about the history and architecture of the house.) In 1912 a new house was built high on the opposite bank of the River Wannon. The old house was last occupied in the early 1930s and was abandoned and in ruins by 1940.

How is it significant?

The original site of Park Hill homestead is of historical and archaeological significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The original site of Park Hill homestead is historically significant as one of the earliest runs in the area, for its associations with key individuals and as an example of an abandoned homestead site. It is of

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archaeological significance for the information it may reveal about the early squatting period generally, the establishment at Park Hill in particular and the stock crossing over the River Wannon.

COMPARISON:

023 Murndal Homestead, Murndal Road, Wannon

034 The Wilderness Homestead Complex, Wilderness Rd, Gritjurk

116 Ardachy Homestead Complex, Dartmoor-Hamilton Road, Branxholme

119 Konongwootong Creek Homestead, Coleraine-Balmoral Road, Coleraine

120 Muntham Mains, Glenelg Highway, Coleraine

123 Balochile Homestead Site, Balochile Road, Konongwootong

128 Nigretta Falls Reserve, Nigretta Falls Road, Wannon

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

1/10/2001

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR **Include in RNE** **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Bailey Family	Bailey Papers		n.d.
Crown Lands Dept.	Park Hill Run File No 1013		n.d.
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	500, 527
R V Billis & A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	var.
Shire of Dundas	Rate Books	1907	var.