

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BRISBANE HILL HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Port Fairy Road BYADUK NORTH

STUDY NUMBER: 111

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF BYADUK

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 D-14; VicRoads 72 H8; located on the west side of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road about one and half kilometres south-west of the intersection with the Braxholme-Byaduk Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Brisbane Hill Homestead, North Verandah, Hamilton - Port Fairy Road, Byaduk North.

Image Date: 04/12/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house, all the outbuildings (but not the modern sheds), the garden immediately around the house, the trees in the park and the orchard.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Brisbane Hill homestead is a single storeyed bluestone house of 11 rooms, situated on a rise above the Lyne Creek at Byaduk North. The house faces due east and is oriented towards Mount Napier. It is unusual in that the façade is 'three-quarters' with one window on one side of the front door and two on the other. The verandah on three sides has been altered substantially and now includes a modern porte-cochere. These and other alterations appear to date from the 1960s. The house has been extended several times. The kitchen, formerly detached, has been connected to the main house by late 19th century timber additions.

Various outbuildings are located towards the rear including what may have been a dairy, an underground and covered water tank and, outside the immediate garden area, a stable. There is an ornamental garden in front of the house, with a mixture of 19th and 20th century plantings, several mature specimen trees in the park beyond the garden fence and the remnants of an orchard.

The house has a finely crafted iron lace verandah on three sides. A verandah post on the north-east side reads "White's Eagle Foundry, Ballarat". The front verandah has been altered by the unsympathetic addition of a portico in the 1960s. A few metres from the back door is an old stone building of random rubble with a corrugated iron roof, possibly used as a dairy or store room. At the rear of the house garden is an old coach house and stables with four stalls, built of random rubble with a slate roof.

The homestead garden is extensive and mature. The front area is dominated by a large, old weeping Lillypilly. The garden contains a range of familiar horticultural specimens, including: Jacaranda, Photinia, Fraxinus, Phoenix canariensis, Garrya, Schinus molle, Grevillea robusta, and Eucalyptus species. The remains of an old orchard contains walnut, olive, fig, and apple trees. There is a perimeter planting on the north side of Pinus radiata.

HISTORY:

In July 1847, George Wyndham Elms and Alexander Dennistoun Lang took up squatting run P.B. No. 98, located some eight miles east of the township of Branxholme with the intention of using it as a cattle station (B&K, 64 & 239). The run consisted of 38,000 acres, with the capacity to run 1,200 cattle and 8,000 sheep, and was given the name 'Lyne'. In 1848, 16,000 acres were separated from the main run, Lyne, and a new pastoral lease, No. 97 was created and named 'Euremete', held in both Elms' and Lang's names.

By 1850, it was apparent that the idea of running the large run Lyne as a cattle station was not viable, the herd was not developing as well as expected, and the decision was made to subdivide the run into two parts. Alexander Lang retained the southern section which stayed known as Lyne, and George Elms took the section closer the Grange Burn where he built a homestead, this portion was then re-named Brisbane Hill (Garden, 26).

After the division of the two properties, Elms became one of the leading pastoralist in the district, and assisted with the formation of the first gentleman's club and cricket club in Hamilton (Garden, 41). James White purchased the property in October 1855, when Elms (and Lang) renounced their interest in all properties, and left the district for Fiji, where they both died many years later. It may be that the main house was built about this time although the outbuildings could be earlier. James White's pastoral lease was cancelled in 1866, and the property passed to his wife on his death. Ernest Bostock from Warrnambool inherited Brisbane Hill on Mrs. White's death, but in 1870, he became insolvent and was forced to return to Warrnambool. His relationship to Mrs. White has not been discovered. Brisbane Hill was taken over by Sidney Austin. In 1871, he married Harriet May Austin, the daughter of the great Thomas and his wife Elizabeth Austin of Barwon Park, Winchelsea who was born in 1848 (B&K, 19; VPI Reg. No. 21937). They

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had six children, the first two born in Hamilton in 1872 and 1875, the second two, who were twins, born in Lara 1875, and the third two born in Winchelsea in 1878 and 1881 (VPI, Reg. No. 1397).

R. T. Carty (1842-1917) acquired the Brisbane Hill estate in 1884 when it was then leased. This began a direct and continuing connection between the Carty family and the Byaduk district. The Carty family were prominent early pastoralists in Victoria. An early twentieth century biography states "The late Mr. Richard Thomas Carty, father of Messrs. T. R. and L. E. W. Carty, was born in County Wexford, Ireland, in the year 1842, being educated and spending his early youth there. He arrived in Melbourne in 1859, and a few years later left for the New Zealand goldfields. Upon his return to Victoria he accepted the management of "Bredalbane" station, near Casterton, and in the early sixties he leased "Mt Clay" station, near Heywood. After taking over "Park Hill" estate in 1873 and "Wanda [Wando?] Vale" in 1882, and the latter place had been acquired for Closer Settlement, he purchased "Brisbane Hill", where he resided up to the year 1916, when he retired to live in Hamilton, dying there in the year 1917. The late Mr. R. T. Carty was a member of the Dundas Shire Council for many years, and also took an active interest in the Hamilton Pastoral and Agricultural Society; of which he was elected president. He was a most successful breeder of Lincoln sheep, and had won prizes for that type at the Hamilton Show as far back as the year 1879. The late Mr. R. T. Carty married a Miss Lucy Hawkins in 1873" (Victoria & the Riverina, 148, VPI, Reg. No. 2682). Thomas Richard Carty was born in Hamilton in 1874, Leslie Ernest William Carty was born in Melbourne in 1885, and Lucy Constance Carty was born in Hamilton in 1886 (VPI, Reg. No. 23233, 4132, 10769).

Richard Carty was one of the staunchest opponents of the Amalgamated Shearers Union in 1887. The first major struggle took place in the district when he was troubled by unionists trying to disrupt his shearing. In preparation for the 1888 shearing season graziers formed the Western District Sheep Farmers Association to counter the union. The leading men in the association included Samuel Winter Cooke, Richard Carty, Peter Learmonth, William Philip, Donald McLellan, John Robertson, and William Skene (Garden, 142 & 147). In their 1888 notice, Carty is listed as having 12,500 sheep to shear and as offering 12 shillings and sixpence per 100 head shorn, the lowest rate offered (Fawcett). In February 1891, dreadful fires burnt much of the southern part of the present Shire. Monivae, Cape Wrath and Brisbane Hill respectively lost 14,000 acres, 5,000 acres and 6,000 acres but Brisbane Hill homestead survived. (Vic & Riverina, 148)

The same brief biography notes that "Mr. L. E. W. Carty, second son of the late R. T. Carty, was born in Melbourne and educated at Hamilton and Geelong College. He has been manager of "Brisbane Hill" station since leaving school, and is mainly interested in grazing pursuits and the breeding of comeback sheep. "Brisbane Hill" contains some 10,000 acres of splendid country. Mrs. L. E. W. Carty was a Miss Armstrong, of "Arran Doovong" station, Branxholme" (Victoria & The Riverina, 148). Lucy Carty went on to establish her own home, Dunroe, to the north of Brisbane Hill. Thomas Carty took up Eumerella near Macarthur. David Carty.

According to a descendent, the Carty family lived at a property known as Brisbane Hill Estate, but which is not the original Brisbane Hill homestead. Carty's Brisbane Hill Estate is now known as Wexford, located on the Branxholme-Byaduk Road, Byaduk (pers. comm. David Carty, 2002). In February 1901 the original Carty residence was gutted by fire, and was rebuilt by Mr. Richard Thomas Carty, presumably in the same year. When his son L. E. W. Carty died in 1961, the home was sold to the daughter of T. R. Carty, Mrs. Hannah, with about 100 acres. Mrs. Hannah changed the name of Carty's Brisbane Hill to Wexford to save confusion. After 1900, the property endured the usual subdivision for Closer Settlement and Soldier Settlement. In 1912 Richard T. Carty still held over 9,000 acres at Brisbane Hill as well as other land.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

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Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.2 Organising workers and work places

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The condition of the house and stone dairy are excellent. The stables are in poor condition, being partially unroofed. Some trees and shrubs in the garden require attention.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of intactness although the verandah has been substantially modified, compromising the significance of the main house.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is Significant?

The Brisbane Hill Homestead complex located off the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road and on the Lyne Creek, approximately 2.5kms north of Byaduk North, was established in 1850 as a further subdivision of the original Lyne squatting lease which had been subdivided in 1848. The original owners were George Elms and Alexander Lang and it was Elms who held onto the portion then called Brisbane Hill. Elms, who had become a leading pastoralist and prominent gentleman sold to James White in 1855 and, with Lang, went to Fiji where they both died. Elms may have begun the construction of the complex in 1850 but the present homestead is more likely to date from White occupation. His widow left the property to Ernest Bostock, apparently her relative and a relative of Edward Robe Bostock and George Bostock, early Overstraiters. With his insolvency Brisbane Hill passed to Sidney Austin and his wife Harriet, the daughter of Thomas and Eliza Austin of Barwon Park. Richard Thomas Carty acquired Brisbane Hill in 1884 and it remained in the Carty family for at least two generations. The homestead is simple and conventional, apart from having a 'three-quarter' façade. No architect or builder has been associated with the construction of the complex. Many of the original outbuildings survive and much of the original garden including copses of exotic trees in the further paddocks. The homestead is aligned to address Mount Napier in its prospect across the creek. The house was extensively modernised after the Second World War and a large port cochere added to the verandah. It remains in good condition.

How is it significant?

The Brisbane Hill Homestead complex is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Brisbane Hill Homestead complex is of historical significance for its associations with the earliest settlers in the district, Elms and Lang, for its subsequent owners including members of the important early squatting families, the Bostock and Austin families and its longest period of ownership, the Carty family. It is of architectural significance as an intact complex still representative of the 1860s for its homestead, collection of outbuildings, garden and broader landscape.

COMPARISON:

112 Lyne Homestead Complex, Branxholme-Byaduk Road, Byaduk North
152 Dunroe, Hamilton -Port Fairy Road, Byaduk

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ASSESSED BY: AEN & TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

19-Nov-03

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
	Victoria and the Riverina	1933	148
Don Garden	Hamilton A Western District History	1984	var.
Macbeth Genealogical Services	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	1998	
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	var.
Rolf Boldrewood	Old Melbourne Memories	1884	132-8