

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TREASLAND HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Coleraine - Condah Road BRANXHOLME

**STUDY NUMBER:** 124

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 1A, **SECTION:** 21 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BRANXHOLME  
1B, 8A  
and 8B

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 472 B21; VicRoads 72 D7; located on the east side of the Coleraine - Condah Road, north of its junction with the Careys Ranges Road, 6.5kms north-west of Branxholme on a tributary of the Crawford River

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Treasland Homestead Complex,, Coleraine-Condah Road, Branxholme.

**Image Date:** 09/04/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the main house and garden including an an area generally surrounding it of 10,000 sq metres.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Treasland is a single storey bluestone residence with a verandah on three sides, the roof of which is contiguous with the main hipped roof. The roofs are slate. The verandah posts have been replaced by brick piers and floor by a concrete slab. The house is asymmetrical having two double hung sash windows on the left and one on the right side of the front door. There are attic rooms in the roof space. The rock face bluestone walls of the front wing are built up in 6" (150mm) courses with 12" (300mm) quoins at the corners and around the doors and windows. There is a timber kitchen wing at the rear, formerly separate but now linked to the front wing. Beyond that is a modern open structure used as a porch.

According to the December 2001 auction notice, the garden contains "stands of drooping She-oak, English and Algerian Oaks, many areas of native trees and Ash groves" plus about 320 newly planted olive trees. A mature avenue of Radiata Pine leading from the gate to the house has been cut down. The house is located close to the road and is approached by a straight drive.

## **HISTORY:**

Treasland was taken up by John MacLean as part of the 1860 Nicholson Land Selection Acts, in 1861. The Branxholme Parish Plan shows that John MacLean purchased four blocks there, two of about 41 acres and two of nearly 50 acres. According to Agnes Walter in 'Branxholme, 1843-1973' MacLean built the bluestone house which until very recently was still the residence of the MacLean family. The house is said to have been built in 1861. Leask's Genealogical Guide states that John Gordon MacLean (1810-1888) had married Christina Matherson (1824-1909) on the Isle of Skye. They emigrated first to Glencoe in South Australia and then took up their land north-west of Branxholme. Their new house was named after the place where they had lived on the Isle of Skye.

The MacLeans had three children, their eldest son, Donald and eldest daughter, Margaret, who were born in 1851 and 1853 on the Isle of Skye both eventually moved to Queensland. The third son, Duncan Matherson was born at Glencoe in 1856. He inherited Treasland upon the death of his father. Duncan's eldest son, John Gordon, after serving in the first World War was twice President of the Shire of Portland. He married a local woman, Marion Agnes Gough, the daughter of James Raymond Gough and Sarah Ann McDonald of Royston, the house immediately to the south of Branxholme. They were married in the local Presbyterian Church.

The house was put up for sale by auction late in December, 2001.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

## **CONDITION:**

The building is in very good condition

## **INTEGRITY:**

high degree of integrity externally. Not yet inspected internally

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

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## What is significant?

Treasland is a single storey asymmetrical bluestone residence with a verandah on three sides and a slate hipped roof. There are attic rooms in the roof space. The rock face bluestone walls of the front wing are built up in 6" (150mm) courses with 12" (300mm) quoins at the corners and around the doors and windows. There is a timber kitchen wing at the rear, formerly separate but now linked to the front wing. Beyond that is a modern open structure used as a porch. The land was taken up in 1861 by the MacLean family, who held the property for 140 years continuously, until 2001, when it was sold. The architect and builder of the house are unknown. The house is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

## How is it significant?

Treasland is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

## Why is it significant?

Treasland is of architectural significance as a very fine example of a bluestone selectors house. The rockface bluestone coursing and tuckpointing have been done with a high degree of skill, indicating the involvement of a master builder, and the design of the house, with attic rooms suggests the involvement of an architect. Treasland is of historical significance for its long association with the MacLean family, who held the property for over 140 years. The quality of the workmanship on the house represents the success of some small selectors who took up land in the 1860s.

## COMPARISON:

216 Royston, Henty Highway, Branxholme  
095 Belle Vue, Balmoral-Harrow Road, Culla

**ASSESSED BY:** MGT

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

10-Feb-02

## 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
B Chalmers Leaske	Leask's Genealogical Guide	1979	394-5
Walter, Agnes V.	Branxholme 1843 - 1973	1973	44