

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** CROXTON EAST HOMESTEAD

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Lake Road CROXTON EAST

**STUDY NUMBER:** 183                      **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 10            **SECTION:** C            **PARISH:** PARISH OF LINLITHGOW

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 474 B17; VicRoads 73 E6; located on the east side of Lake Road, about 3.0kms north of the intersection with the Hamilton Highway.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local

Croxton East Homestead, Lake Road, Tabor

**Image Date:** 14/02/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the main house and the stone outbuilding at the rear of the house, and all of the garden and an area of fifty metres from any edge of the main house.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Croxton East homestead is a fine but simple example of the Federation Domestic Queen Anne style typical of the Edwardian period. It can be compared with Sleat Bank Homestead at Yulecart and contrasted with Mount Koroit Homestead at Coleraine. It is single storey, built of red bricks on bluestone foundations and asymmetrical. The original roof, possibly terra cotta tiles, has been replaced. Two perpendicular axes pass through the polygonal bay windows with a lesser diagonal axis between. The verandah and the two entrances beside the projecting gabled wings reinforce this. The gables are half-timbered and have deep eaves. The verandah is timber with typical timber detailing in the columns and frieze. The windows are simple tall double hung sashes. Internally, there much original detailing and some decoration. Of particular note are the timber valance screens over the bay windows and the pressed metal ceilings, some of which retain their original colour schemes. Most of the service areas, including the remaining timber cottage used as the post office and then as a kitchen, have been modernised. A rough stone outbuilding survives behind the main house. The large Canary Island Palms, *Phoenix canariensis*, in the garden are typical of the Edwardian period and complement the house.

## **HISTORY:**

Friedrich Peter Huf purchased allotment 10 of section C in the Parish of Linlithgow from the Crown. It comprised about 40 acres. He bought at least two other allotments in association with other people. He was the eldest son of Johann Huf and Anna Christina, nee Grüning who was born in 1840 at Nekla Hauland in Prussia, migrating to South Australia at the age of six with his parents and then to the Hamilton area via Portland (Huf, 356). He married Anna Eleanora Raschke, another first generation migrant, in 1863 at Hochkirch, the first marriage to be celebrated in the new bluestone Lutheran Church of St Michael (Tarrington) (VPI, Reg. No. 3072; Huf, 367). They moved to the present site to live and farm. In 1872, the Shire of Mount Rouse rated F. P. Huf for 201 acres of land at Linlithgow at 52 pounds (SMR RB, No. 181)

The first dwelling on the land may have been timber and there is no indication that it was of German vernacular construction. There was a small weatherboard cottage with timber outbuildings existing in the 1870s. It had a simple verandah across the front, a central front door and twelve-paned double hung sash windows. The chimney at the side may have been bluestone. There is a simple bluestone outbuilding, a store or possibly a dairy, surviving at the rear of the present house. Three of the couple's children, Anna Amalie (1868), Johan Edward (1870) and Bertha Emielie (1872) were born at Croxton East with their births registered at Mount Rouse (Penshurst) (VPI, Reg. No. 23703; 4546 and 18507; Huf 367).

Some time between July 1872 and May 1873, the family moved to Vectis East in the Wimmera. This further migration was a common decision made by the Lutherans around Hochkirch. Five more children were born there. They may have lived on land purchased by Friedrich's father in 1875 and Friedrich himself came to own over 400 acres in the Parish of Quantong although he later sold half and lost more to the construction of the Horsham to Goroke railway (Sutherland, Vol. 2, 108; Huf, 369). His farm was mixed and, being small, he suffered from drought and the economic depression of the late nineteenth century. He moved the family again to a farm near Birchip and once more to a farm near Warracknabeal, eventually retiring to Warracknabeal. Friedrich Peter Huf died in 1914 and Anna Eleanora Huf died at Mildura in 1926 (Huf, 372).

Friedrich Huf sold the Croxton East property to his brother, Johann Huf, whose son, Wilhelm August Huf, the nephew of Friedrich Huf, inherited it about 1895 (Huf, 407). Wilhelm had married Johanna Augusta Schultz in 1891 at the Bethlehem Church, Tabor (ibid.). At first the family lived at Scott's Creek south of Timboon where they had a son, Edwin (1892). The next son, Arthur (1895) was born at Croxton East followed by Edgar (1896), Reuben (1898), Gerard (1900), Leonard (1904) and, finally, a daughter Elsie

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(1909). It appears that the family lived in the weatherboard cottage, presumably that built by Friedrich and Anna Huf, because it appears in old photographs with a sign for the Croxton East Post Office. Johanna Huf became the official postmistress in 1902 (Huf, 408). She was postmistress and later telephonist for the next 42 years when her son Arthur took over the responsibility in 1944.

The exact date of construction of the present Croxton East homestead is not known but it must be after 1902. Frank Hammond (1858-1932), the important local architect, designed the house according to the present owner and this seems very likely (Huf, pers. comm.). Frank Hammond, who lived in Penshurst, was an important and highly regarded architect and municipal officer in the Hamilton district for many years. "Hammond could not be described as an innovative architect. In fact his strictly correct Classicism was rather old fashioned although inventive with its ornament" (Hubbard, 69). Amongst many domestic, secular and religious buildings, he designed extensions to the Catholic churches in Hamilton and Penshurst and the Catholic convent in Coleraine. The foundation stone of the new Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Tabor, which he designed, was laid on 25 May 1911 and the building was dedicated in March the next year. He had also designed the new Murroa Homestead (formerly Cape Wrath) and the extensions to Koornong Homestead, both in the late 1890s, in the novel Federation/Queen Anne style. Even as late as 1902, he designed Lyndhurst, McIntyre Street, Hamilton as an Italianate villa, perhaps the last of its genre to be built in Victoria. The Croxton East homestead is a move beyond his earlier Classicism, but still represents a conservative interpretation of the Federation/Queen Anne style. The old timber cottage continued to be used as the Croxton East Post Office but was remodelled to create the new kitchen in the 1960s.

Wilhelm Huf and his family prospered. In 1902 he purchased a Clayton and Shuttleworth threshing machine and soon afterwards he purchased a Fowler 7hp compound steam engine to drive it (Huf, 408). "Wilhelm and his threshing team travelled widely throughout the Western District during harvest, and Wilhelm developed into a supplier of chaff, various grains, and potatoes, sending produce from the Tabor Railway Siding to customers as far north as Dimboola" (ibid.). He was an active member of the Hamilton Gun Club. He owned a Davis motor car in the early 1920s. In 1925 he was elected as a councillor for the Penshurst riding of the Shire of Mount Rouse, a position he held until his death in 1934, serving as President in 1930 and 1931. "He was also President of the Lake Linlithgow Reserve during the 1920s, the period when some of the most memorable of the Lake's gymkhanas were conducted there" (ibid.). Johanna Huf continued to live at Croxton East with her son Edwin until she died in 1945. Both husband and wife are buried in the Lutheran cemetery at Tabor.

Edwin and his younger brother Arthur continued to operate the farm, run the threshing business and the post office. Edwin, a bachelor, was an amateur photographer, a gifted mechanic and a champion motor cyclist. He won the solo over 600cc prize, a gold medallion, in the 1917 Australian Motor Cycle Club trials on his Excelsior (Huf, 410-11). As well as being an excellent motor mechanic, he was an agent for Chevrolet, Plymouth and Desoto cars and an agent for "Paramount" radios being an expert in electronics as well (ibid.). In his retirement, Edwin ran fine Merino sheep at Croxton East. Arthur, who also rode an Excelsior motor bike, married Vera Albert in 1922. They established a farm near the Croxton East homestead, which he continued to manage in association with Edwin. The partnership was dissolved in the 1940s.

The next generation of the extended Huf family to occupy Croxton East was Vallance John Huf and his wife Valda, nee Abraham. They modernised the house in the 1960s. Their son, Jonathan Huf now occupies the property.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

- Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

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## **CONDITION:**

The building is excellent condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Excellent degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The present Croxton East homestead, Lake Road, Tabor was built soon after 1902 for Wilhelm Huf and his wife Johanna Augusta, nee Schultz. It superseded the original timber cottage of Friedrich Huf and his wife Anna, nee Raschke, which was incorporated into the new house. Friedrich who had a mixed farm of about 200 acres had selected the land in 1863. Within ten years he moved his family to the Wimmera, a typical re-migration for Lutherans in the Hochkirch/Tarrington/Tabor area, in search of better prospects. Wilhelm inherited his uncle's property through his father and moved there in 1895. By the early 1900s he was able to engage the important local architect, Frank Hammond to design a new and very substantial house. Hammond, who lived nearby at Penshurst, had very close connections with the Lutheran community at Tabor. The house is a fine but sober interpretation of the Queen Anne style fashionable at the time and can be contrasted with other much grander and more elaborate examples in the area. It survives substantially intact including many internal features, and in excellent condition. The Canary Island palms in the garden enhance the architecture.

How is it significant?

Croxton East Homestead is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Croxton East and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Croxton East Homestead is of historical significance for its direct and continuing associations with the extended Huf family, especially Friedrich Huf and his wife Anna Raschke, and Wilhelm Huf and his wife Johanna Augusta Schultz and their children. The former family represents the first waves of migration and re-migration in the search for prosperity. The latter family represents local consolidation and the finding of prosperity by subsequent generations.

Croxton East Homestead is of architectural significance as one of the better examples of the domestic work of the important local architect, Frank Hammond, for demonstrating his links with the German Lutheran community and more generally for reflecting the material success and personal stability of the Lutheran migrants.

## **COMPARISON:**

138 Murroa Homestead Complex, Murroa Lane, Buckley Swamp  
143 Koornong Homestead Complex, Henty Highway, Branxholme  
332 Mount Koroit Homestead Complex (homestead), Glenelg Highway, Coleraine  
334 Sleat Bank Homestead, Murndal Road, Yulecart

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

15/12/2003

## **EXISTING LISTINGS:**

## **HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

**No Recommendations for Inclusions**

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## REFERENCES:

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Page</b>
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol 11	1888	108
Elizabeth (Betty) Huf	Huf: 150 Years in Australia 1847 - 1997	1997	356, 367
Jonathan Huf	personal communication, 14/02/2003	2003	
Timothy Hubbard Pty Ltd	City of Hamilton Conservation Study	1991	69-70