

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MONA VALE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 428 Pierrepoint Road TARRINGTON

STUDY NUMBER: 185

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 3 **SECTION:** XV **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON SOUTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 474 A 47; VicRoads ; located on the south side of Pierrepoint Road between Picnic Road and Thompson's Road

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Mona Vale, 428 Pierrepoint Road, Tarrington

Image Date: 28/02/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the bluestone house and an area of 2,000sq m around it.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Mona Vale is a single-storey symmetrical bluestone cottage with a skillion at the rear built contiguously. The hipped roof is covered with corrugated iron. The scale, form, materials and detailing of the house indicate a construction date in the later 1850s. The main ceilings, for example use machine sawn softwood lathes rather than hand split hardwood lathes. Other ceilings are timber lining boards, possibly covered with hessian and papers. The windows, now mostly missing, appear to have been 12 paned double-hung sashes. It is not known if there was ever a verandah. The plan of the house is straightforward with a central passage, about one metre wide, one large room on the east side and two smaller rooms on the west side. There are two other rooms in the skillion section. One chimney serves the fireplace in the large room and one of the rooms in the skillion. There may have been a detached kitchen, presumably timber, since the fireplace does not appear to be intended for cooking. The interiors of the house are all very simple with no plaster decoration. Some early colour schemes and decorative techniques survive which may date from the late nineteenth century.

HISTORY:

The land on which Mona Vale stands was purchased from the Crown by C. W. Hartwig, as allotment 3 of section 15 of the parish of South Hamilton, stretching from Pierrepoint Road to Muddy Creek, comprising 154 acres.

Oral history states that the current stone home at Mona Vale dates from 1858, as records show that a Mibus daughter was born in the house that year (Jackson, 28/02/03). Pauline Mibus, daughter of Johann and Dorothea, nee Stuf, was born in 'Hochkirch' in 1858 but died at the age of four months in 1859 (VPI, Reg. No. 13048, 1916). Two other children in the family died young: Heinrich at the age of eight years in 1863 who had been born in South Australia just before the family emigrated to the Hamilton district, and Julia who died at the age of eleven years, also in 1863 (*ibid.*, 4301, 4302). The second son of Johann and Dorothea, Ludwig Mibus was born in Neckla Hauland, Posen (Poland) in 1842 (Nagorcka, 69). In 1862, he married Valentine Israel (Nagorcka, 70; VPI, Reg. No. 2196). A childhood friend, she had migrated with her parents, Augustus Israel and his wife Magdalena, nee Radna. They were born in Germany in 1821 and 1826 and Valentine was born in 1845. Ludwig and Valentine appear to have lived at Mona Vale with Johann and Dorothea Augustus and Magdalena Israel, lived in a small house nearby (Nagorcka, 72). Eventually the second generation of the Mibus family had twenty children all of whom were born at Mona Vale between 1863 and 1886 and many of whom migrated to the Wimmera when land was opened there in the 1870s for selection (Nagorcka, 72, 74; Jackson, pers. comm., 28/02/03).

Valentine died in 1891 aged forty-six. Her father, August died in 1894 aged seventy-three and Magdalena died in 1898 aged seventy-two. Husband and wife are buried in the South Hamilton Lutheran cemetery. Ludwig Mibus remarried to Pauline Hausler of Murtoa but died soon after in 1908, aged 66. Although six died of his children in infancy and several died of tuberculosis as young adults, the next generation number 71 children.

In 1919, the property was sold to Johann Krause. The new house appears to have been built about this time. His daughter Christina inherited Mona Vale. She married John Jackson and their descendents still occupy Mona Vale.

The property has always been a mixed farm with some sheep and a small ploughed plot for wheat. This was crushed locally at Prestonholme mill for domestic use. Mona Vale suffered badly in the 1927 and 1944 bush fires. The original woolshed, the blacksmith's shop and a cottage were lost in the 1927 fires and an extensive orchard and rose garden were lost in the 1944 fire.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies
3.5 Developing primary production

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- 3.5.1 Grazing stock
- 3.5.2 Breeding animals
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 3.14.1 Building to suit Australian conditions
- 3.14.1 Using Australian materials in construction

- Theme 5 Working
- 5.8 Working on the land

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

CONDITION:

Poor condition.

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Although the land on which Mona Vale stands was purchased by C. W. Hartwig, it was the family of Johann Mibus and his wife Dorothea, nee Stuf, which established the property and their son Ludwig and his first wife Valentine, nee Israel. They were amongst the earliest and most important of the Lutheran settlers in the Tarrington area and, like most of the very large families, many of the third generation migrated further to open up the Wimmera. Typical of the Lutheran settlers, the property has always been a mixed farm with some sheep and a small ploughed plot for wheat and can be contrasted with the large scale pastoral interests of the squatters at the time. The single-storey symmetrical bluestone house appears to have been constructed in 1858. It is very plain externally and internally with a conventional plan, standard form and typical detailing. Interestingly, it does not follow the traditional model used for some migrants homes, such as those at Gnadenthal and in the Barossa Valley. It is unlikely that the house was designed by an architect but the stone masonry and other construction suggests professional building contractors. There may have been more primitive structures using vernacular techniques of construction which predated the stone house. It is very likely that there was a detached timber kitchen wing. The original woolshed, the blacksmith's shop and a cottage were lost in the 1927 bushfires and further damage occurred in the and 1944 bushfire. A new house was constructed in the early twentieth century near the old which survives. Mona Vale is still farmed by descendents of the same migrants through the interweaving of the various large families. The old house is now abandoned, is in very poor condition and has only a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Mona Vale is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Tarrington and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Mona Vale is of historical significance for its direct link with the first migrant families who settled around Tarrington and who subsequently extended their interests into the Wimmera. It is of particular interest as the home and focus of the Ludwig and Valentine Mibus family who ran a typical mixed farm and have many descendents. Mona Vale is of architectural significance for its sober design reflecting the conditions and values of the Lutheran migrants.

COMPARISON:

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HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

092 Blackwood Homestead (First and Second), Blackwood Road, Penshurst
260 Burger's Cottages, Acacia, Springfield Lane, off Macarthur-Penshurst Road, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

11-Dec-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
Department of Justice	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888 (reg. No. 1505)	1998	
Edna E. Nagorcka	The Mibus Family in Australia 1847 -1985; Johann and Dorothea Mibus	1985	