

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: AIRD HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Suttie's Road BYADUK

STUDY NUMBER: 193

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 3A & B **SECTION:** 16 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BYADUK

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 D39; VicRoads 72 H8; located on the south side of Suttie's Road 0.5km east of the intersection with the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Aird, Sutties Road, Byaduk. Façade.

Image Date: 08/04/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house and garage (exteriors only), the stables, smithy and woolshed, and the garden.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The homestead at Aird has been constructed in at least 4 stages. The central and earliest part appears to have been built of stone of 3 rooms (2 small, one large) on either side of a central passage. This is likely to have been in a simple vernacular style. There may have been outbuildings associated with this structure but none have survived.

At the turn of the 20th century, a timber section of two rooms on either side of a central hall was added to the front of the original stone house. This is loosely in the Italianate style, and contains details and materials typical of the period, such as pressed metal ceilings, leadlight door and windows, and joinery. This section has a timber verandah with cast iron decoration, which is conservative for its period. These principal rooms have substantial windows facing onto the verandah. Chimneys were located on the outside end walls of these two front rooms. Both rooms have been extended in timber in the 1980s with polygonal bays.

At the rear of the original stone house there are substantial extensions undertaken in 1981 under the design of architect John Gurry. This included a large family room and dining room with a new entrance between them, the kitchen, garage and other service areas. Much of the bluestone used in this wing came from the nearby ruins of the old Suttie homestead "Glen Don". The main house is set within a conventional mature garden. Beyond the garden to the east there is a stone stable and coach house, to which has been added at a very early date a corrugated iron smithy. There are other alterations and extensions which are not modern. Some distance away is the woolshed, originally clad in weatherboard, and now covered with corrugated iron. The date of construction is not known, and may date from the early 20th century.

HISTORY:

James and Colin Fraser were brothers, who married two sisters. James, Colin and their brother Duncan emigrated to Australia in 1853, while their sisters Margaret and Ann emigrated in 1863. James and Colin Fraser came from the Ararat diggings in 1861 and selected land at Byaduk under the Occupation Licence Land Act. Colin Fraser purchased Allotment 3 Section 16, while James Fraser purchased Allotment 2 Section 16. Their brother Duncan came with them from the diggings but did not take up any land.

After walking to Portland to obtain their licence, the brothers returned to Ararat to collect their possessions. Colin and Duncan and Mrs. James Fraser reached Byaduk on Christmas Eve 1861, and camped on the land. Meantime James Fraser went to Melbourne to collect his iron house and their carpenters tools which they had left in Melbourne when they went to the diggings.

In 1863 they built a wattle and daub house of four rooms, which James Fraser lived in. Colin, who had married in late 1862, lived in half a shed built with iron and slabs, the other half being used as a stable. In 1867 he built a three roomed stone house, which forms the core of Aird today. Colin and his wife Margaret had no children. The property was later acquired by the Christies, another early and important Scots Presbyterian family in the Byaduk area. Aird remains in the Christie family today.

James Fraser built the 6 roomed stone house on the property now known as Lower Aird, directly opposite, in about 1867. This created a rare pairing of residences, reflecting the closeness of the families' relationship. James and his wife Mary (nee MacDonald) had 9 children.

Over subsequent years, the brothers acquired further paddocks and planted wheat and oats. They bought a flock of ewes from the owner of Louth station in 1865 and diversified into wool as well as crops.

Duncan Fraser went back to Scotland in the 1860s, but returned to Byaduk in 1871 with his family. They lived at Aird until they purchased Hugh McDonald's property Camp Creek in 1873.

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The Frasers purchased Brisbane Hill Pre-emptive Right on 1st July 1880, and continued to build up their land holdings over the next 20 years, becoming important members of the Byaduk community. They were instrumental in the establishment of the Byaduk Presbyterian Church, donating land for its construction, and were stalwart members of the congregation for many decades.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The main house including all of its extensions, is in excellent condition. The coach house and stables are in fair condition, while the woolshed is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

The main house has a low degree of integrity. The coach house and stable has a high degree of integrity. The woolshed has a good degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The homestead complex at Aird commenced in 1861 with the selection of land by the Fraser brothers. The original 3 roomed stone section of Aird was built in 1867 for Colin Fraser and his wife. This building has been extended during the 20th century to create a substantial homestead. The outbuildings include an early stone stables and smithy, various sheds, and the corrugated iron woolshed. Aird has a well established garden with a number of mature trees, dating from the early 20th century.

How is it significant?

Aird Homestead complex is of architectural and historical significance to the community of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Aird Homestead Complex is of architectural significance as a typical example of a substantial stone homestead built during the expansion of Byaduk as a community, following the 1860s land sales. The several additions to the homestead have architectural importance for the size and quality of their construction, including the design of the award-winning Melbourne architect John Gurry.

Aird Homestead complex is of historical significance for its long association with the Fraser and Christie families, pioneers of the district and important members of the civic community at Byaduk.

COMPARISON:

192 Lower Aird Homestead Complex, Sutties Road, Byaduk

112 Lyne Homestead, Branxholme-Byaduk Road, Byaduk North

022 Audley Homestead Complex, Branxholme-Byaduk Road, Branxholme

111 Brisbane Hill Homestead Complex, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, Byaduk North

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

04-Aug-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	Byaduk Presbyterian Church Jubilee 1882-1932	1932	various
Ian Black	Personal communication, April 2002	2002	
Ian Black (ed.)	Early Byaduk Settlers	1994	1-3