

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PRIVATE HOSPITAL (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Bell Street GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 306

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: BRAMBLEDENE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: part 8 **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J ; VicRoads 229 M10; located on the east side of Bell Street on the eastern side of the township of Glenthompson.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Private Hospital (Former,), Bell Street, Glenthompson

Image Date: 29/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building but excluding the interiors and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

A large timber house in the Italianate style but with hints of the Federation period Queen Anne style. The former is seen in the asymmetrical plan, loosely Classical detailing, bracketed eaves and shallow pitched hipped roof. The latter is seen in the diagonal axis through the front corner window and the timber verandah. The main roof, covered in corrugated iron, has three sections: a central section and two side sections over the projecting rooms. The verandah, now without most of its decoration, is timber and has a concave rather than a bullnose profile.

HISTORY:

The land on which the former Private Hospital stands was first purchased from the Crown by C. Anderson, on 22nd October, 1880 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1942), being allotment 8 of Section 1. The land was subdivided, and the part of allotment 8 which the former Private Hospital stands was purchased by the McLennan family prior to 1900.

John McLennan is considered to be the founding father of Glenthompson. He arrived in Glenthompson from Ballarat in 1862 to take over duties in connection with the coach horses of Cobb and Co. He built the first hotel in Glenthompson, still called Mac's Hotel, and a store, as well as acting as Postmaster. According to Hope Henry in 'Glenthompson History', "Mr. McLennan was the first white man to build a house in Glenthompson in 1862, having applied for a rural site." It is unlikely that the former private hospital was this house, dating from 1862. John McLennan and his wife Rebecca had only one daughter, who died in infancy (1863 -1869), and Rebecca died soon after, in 1871. It appears that John McLennan married his cousin or niece, Jessie McLennan in 1872 (VPL, Reg. No.4321). Jessie died in 1895, and John died in 1907. It is possible that John McLennan built the house, but it is more likely that the house was built by his nephew, Alexander Frederick McLennan, who took over the publican and general store business from John and Jessie McLennan. Early photographs of the house indicate that it was a substantial and fine residence, with intricate lace iron work around the substantial verandah, and a cypress hedge defining the Bell Street boundary.

The hospital was started in the first decade of the twentieth century, with accommodation for six patients, and a tent in the back yard used to nurse a patient with tuberculosis (Dickie, n.d). It is believed that Sir Champion de Crespigny (1882-1952) was one of the earliest resident doctors at the hospital, he was certainly in Glenthompson Private Practice between 1907-08. Dr. de Crespigny went on to have a very distinguished medical career. He was Medical Superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital, a lecturer at Adelaide university, president of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association and one of the founders of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

The other first doctors were Dr. Dermer, Dr Mallalieu, Dr. Cherry and Dr. Rees (ibid.) who remained with Sister Eagland and Sister Green and some domestic staff until December, 1928, when the Brambledene private hospital was converted into a bush nursing hospital. Those who wished to use the hospital were required to pay a subscription of one pound, ten shillings and one guinea per annum, although with limited beds and 83 district subscribers, beds were often a problem. Sister Barrett became matron, and the resident doctor was Doctor Mackenzie. Other Sisters over the years included Sister Florence Gordon, Sister Walker, Sister Meadway, Sister Spedding, Sister Conboy, Sister Greene, Sister Barwyck, Sister Sedgewick and Sister O'Brien. The hospital closed in 1939 due to a decline in use. The house has been used as a private residence since.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.26 Providing Health Services
3.26.2 Providing hospital services

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

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HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The building is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity but verandah detailing is missing. [Interiors not inspected.]

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former Private Hospital is located on the east side of Bell Street on the eastern side of the township of Glenthompson. The building is a large timber house in the Italianate style but with hints of the Federation period Queen Anne style. The verandah, now without most of its decoration, is timber and has a concave rather than a bullnose profile. The house was originally built by the important McLennan family. John McLennan is considered to be the founder of Glenthompson, and owed the first store, pub and post office, as well as being the first white person to build a house in Glenthompson. It is not known if this building was built by John McLennan or his nephew, Alexander Frederick McLennan who took over John's interests after his retirement. The house was used as Brambledene Private Hospital between about 1907-1928, when it became a bush nursing hospital. It remained as a bush nursing hospital, with about 83 subscribers until a decline in the daily bed rate forced its closure in 1939. The house has had many of the decorative features removed from the exterior, and has lost some integrity due to this. The house appears to be in good condition, although the interiors have not been inspected. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design.

How is it significant?

The Private Hospital (former), in Bell Street is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the township of Glenthompson.

Why is it significant?

The Private Hospital (former), in Bell Street is of historical significance as the home of the McLennan family, the founders of Glenthompson, and because subsequently it provided medical support to the community and, in particular, it was the place where most people were born.

COMPARISON:

088 Private Hospital (Former) McKebery Street, Coleraine

275 Private Hospital (former) Bell Street, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

29-May-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
Hope Henry	Glenthompson History	1954	1-3
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse, In the Centre of the Fertile Western District of Victoria: Centenary Celebrated	1966	