

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BILLS HORSE TROUGH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Glenelg Highway Memorial Road GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 310

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, RABBIT FREEZING WORKS

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

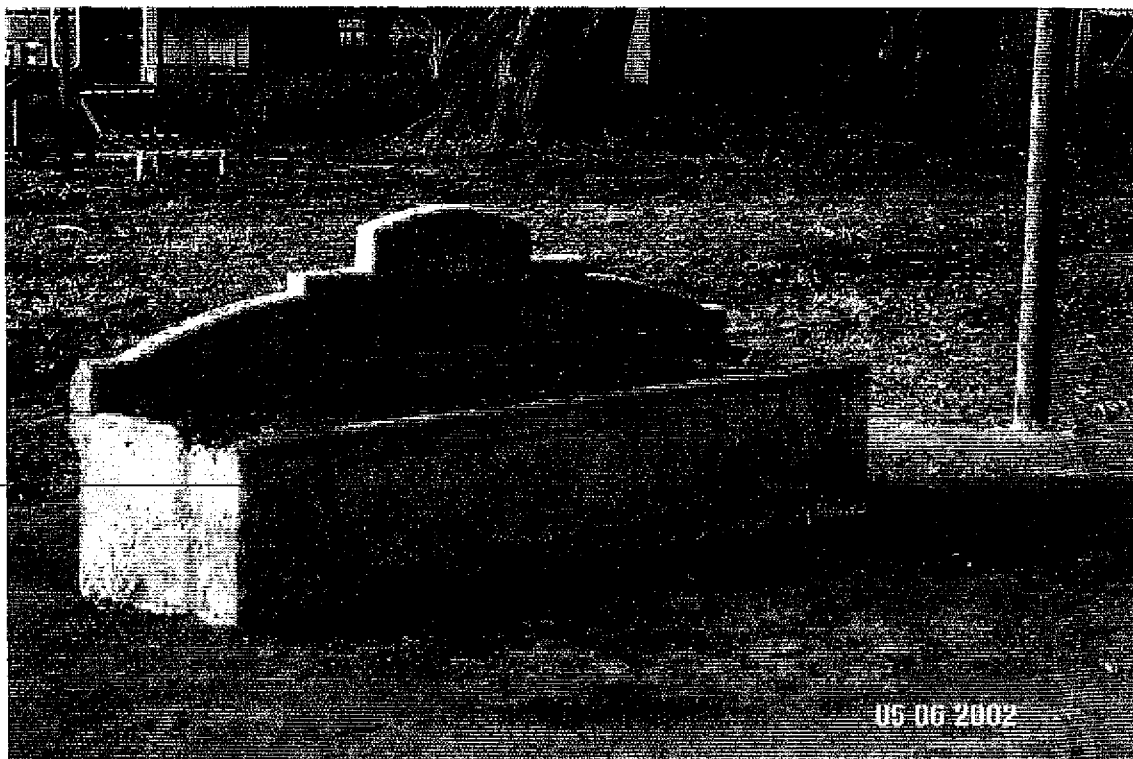
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J J2; VicRoads 229 M10;

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Bills Horse Trough Lions Park Glenthompson

Image Date: 5/06/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the horse trough and an area of land 1m from any edge of the trough. The park which surrounds the trough is of contributory significance only.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Bills Horse Trough is a pressed cement horse trough of standard design. The back includes a tri-partite panel with a plaque stating that the trough was provided by Annis and George Bills.

The park contains children's playground equipment, and a memorial arch to the community erected in 2000.

There is no surviving remnant of the blacksmith shop or rabbit freezing works which were present on the site in the early to mid twentieth century.

HISTORY:

George and Annis Bills made a fortune from the manufacture of mattresses in Melbourne and Sydney. George was active in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals. Together, they mounted a campaign to provide horse troughs throughout Australia. The standard design has become a very common feature in some metropolitan suburbs and many rural towns in Victoria.

In the early twentieth century Mr. J Tait operated a blacksmith and wheelwright business on the corner of McLennan St and Memorial Road. After World War 1, Donald Ross took over the business and relocated it to the site now occupied by the Lions Park. Other smiths to carry on the trade were Harold Hadden, Bob Stewart snr and Harry Prust.

During World War 2 and the 1950s Mc Craith's of Melbourne operated a rabbit freezing works on the site. A refrigerated transport called regularly to convey the frozen carcasses to Melbourne. Local organisations found weekend rabbit drives to be a useful source of income, with hundreds of pairs of rabbits being caught at each drive.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8 Moving goods and people

3.12. Feeding people

3.12.4 Preserving food and beverages

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

CONDITION:

The physical condition of the horse trough is good.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Bills Horse Trough located in the Lions Memorial Park on the Glenelg Highway is pressed cement trough, identical to others which were installed throughout Australia by George and Ann Bills as part of a campaign to provide horse troughs throughout Australia. The standard design has become a very common feature in some metropolitan suburbs and many rural towns in Victoria. The trough was installed in the 1920s and is in good condition, retaining a high degree of integrity. The park is the former site of a blacksmith's shop, and later the site of a rabbit freezing works. No physical fabric remains of these past uses.

How is it significant?

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Bills Horse Trough are of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the township of Glenthompson.

Why is it significant?

Bills Horse Trough is of historical significance. The Bills Horse Trough is historically important for demonstrating the nature of pre-automobile travel and transport and the twentieth century concern for the welfare of animals.

COMPARISON:

273 Bills Horse Trough, South East corner Cox and Martin Streets, Penshurst
174 Apex Park, Glendinning and Stirling Streets, Balmoral

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

7/01/2004

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES: