

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NAREEB NAREEB HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Chatsworth Road GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 325

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** GREEN HILL CREEK STATION

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**SECTION:** XXII **PARISH:** PARISH OF NAREEB NAREEB

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 476 A17; VicRoads74 A7; located on the north-west corner of the intersection of the Hamilton-Chatsworth Road and the Glenthompson-Caramut Road on Gray Creek

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Nil



Nareeb Nareeb, Chatsworth Road, Glenthompson façade

**Image Date:** 2/27/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the present homestead complex (but excluding its interiors), the terrace and garden, the drive and the stone store to the east of the house.

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NAREEB NAREEB HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Chatsworth Road GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 325

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

## HISTORY:

The partnership of Charles Gray, William P. Scott and John Marr took up the Green Hill Creek squatting licence, Portland Bay No. 125, in 1840 when it comprised 42,376 acres, with 15,000 sheep (B&K, 217). It was located on Lake Repose, which had been discovered and named by Major Mitchell in 1836 on his return journey to Sydney, about 8kms south-east of Dunkeld. In 1846, the licence was transferred to Gray and Marr alone. In 1849 the run was subdivided into Burrie Burrie (later Brie Brie) to the north comprising 21,188 acres and Nareeb Nareeb to the south comprising 21,188 acres. Marr held Burrie Burrie from March 1849 until December 1858, when it passed to George Hutton and Horace Flower. In December 1863 it passed to William Sanderson, John Murray, George Wilson, Walter Armstrong and John Sanderson. The Burrie Burrie licence was cancelled in November 1869. Charles Gray held the Nareeb Nareeb licence from March 1849 until April 1857 when it passed to Horace Flower, Charles John Pitfield Lydiard, Charles Arthur Dodd and Thomas Crabbe (B&K, 217).

Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, published in 1865, states that Nareeb Nareeb was on Gray's creek, 6 miles north-west of Chatsworth and that the occupiers were Flower, Liddiard and Co.. At that time it comprised 11,000 acres with a grazing capability of 11,000 sheep (Whitworth, 276). The principal occupant, however, appears to have been Charles Gray (1817?-1905).

The son of Major George Gray of the Royal Marines, he was born in Fifeshire and married Elizabeth Sharpe (De Serville, 471). His mother was Ann Rodger of Anstruther. He arrived in the Port Phillip District with his future partners, Marr and Scott in 1839 (B&K, 74). The Parish Plan of 1880 indicates the pre-emptive right passed to "C. Gray", probably in 1861 when much of the surrounding land was sold under the Land Selection Acts to him in March and December of that year although several blocks were sold to him in 1863 and 1865. The pre-emptive right is the usual 640 acres but is unusual in that it is in two sections of 320 acres, being allotments 1 and 1A of section XXII and divided by Gray's Creek flowing from the north-west to the south-east through the middle of the block. An earlier plan of 'Country Lands Parish of Nareeb-Nareeb County of Villiers, dated 13 December 1860, shows the location of Nareeb Nareeb Station in its present position and alignment with a faint outline of structures on Allotment 1A. This earlier plan also shows various tracks as well as proclaimed roads.

A footnote to the illustrated article titled "Squatter's Homestead in Old and New Times" in Victoria and Its Metropolis states that "Mr Chas. Gray, of Nareeb-Nareeb, Chatsworth, split the slabs for and built the above hut in 1840-41, and in building the chimney, was assisted by Mr George Bourciquot, who was afterwards proprietor of the Melbourne Daily News. The modern house, shown in our engraving was erected for Mr Gray in 1884" (Sutherland, Vol 1, 225). The second house was designed by William Smith, architect of Hamilton who called tenders on 30 August 1883 in the Warrnambool Standard for a "residence at Nareeb Nareeb for Charles Gray, Esq.". The English-born Smith was the town clerk of Hamilton and designed the second Monivae Homestead. According to de Serville, Charles Gray held Nareeb Nareeb until 1886 when he sold it to retire to England, where he died (ibid.). But according to the Minutes of the Shire of Mount Rouse, as early as February 1887 Charles Gray had advised that he was no longer entitled to a seat on the Council because he had sold Nareeb Nareeb (Shire of Mount Rouse Centenary).

The property then passed to the Beggs family, as Beggs Brothers Partnership of Eurambeen near Beaufort, who still occupy Nareeb Nareeb. The partnership established the Nareeb Nareeb Stud Farm which was registered in 1899 (WDF, 3). The foundation stock for the stud was imported from Tasmania in 1839 and taken to Eurambeen in 1840 (Nareeb Nareeb, webpage). Subsequently rams from Ercildoune, Jellalabad, and

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NAREEB NAREEB HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Chatsworth Road GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 325

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

Larra were used. A stud was selected in 1878 and the breeding of sires commenced. Merino flock number 246 was registered in 1899 as a stud by Beggs Bros from Swanwater near St Arnaud, where a draft of rams and ewes had been transferred from Eurambeen. The first autumn ram sale was in 1899. Swanwater was sold in 1909 and the stud was transferred to Nareeb Nareeb. In 1913, the Beggs Brothers Partnership dissolved and Hugh. N. Beggs took over Nareeb Nareeb. It became one of the top-performing wool studs in the Western District 'supersoft' program (ibid.).

After the First World War, an increasingly scientific approach was taken to breeding. From the late 1920's fleece weighing, fibre diameter and fibre diameter distribution measurements have been used to increase both quality and quantity of wool produced (Nareeb Nareeb, webpage). "For the next 50 or so years, the sheep were bred to type, to form the medium/fine Nareeb Nareeb sheep of the day. These were renowned both commercially and in the show ring in Victoria for many years. These sheep typically cut about 4.5 kg of 20-21 micron wool" (ibid.). In 1970 there was a major change in direction to address different economic conditions and demands. More than half of the nearby Chatsworth House Stud sheep were transferred to Nareeb Nareeb in 1975. When some 2,500 stud ewes were destroyed in the 1977 bushfires, poll stud ewes and rams were purchased from Ashrose and Pollville in South Australia, and the Nareeb Nareeb Poll Stud was registered (ibid.).

At first Charles Gray lived in a hut he had built in 1840-41. It was later used as a schoolroom. The first proper homestead was a timber cottage built by Gray in 1851, after the runs were separated and about the time of Black Thursday, the day of the dreadful bushfires that swept the new colony of Victoria. Gray had suffered bad losses ten days before Black Thursday, on "a day almost as hot", but saved his hut and household goods and food (Gray, 10). "The cottage of four rooms, when finished, proved snug and comfortable, and when a flower garden had been fenced and planted in front looked rather well for those times" (Gray, 9). The cottage and garden were picturesquely sited within "quite a panorama", according to a journalist from the Hamilton Spectator who visited in the 1870s, and the further landscape had been improved by the damming of the creek and by groves of trees, "clumps of pines, blue-gums and other timbers" planted on the slopes and hilltops" (HS, 1876). Gray also determined to fireproof his run with furrows or fire breaks of ploughed and burnt ground and consequently, never suffered from bushfires again.

In his reminiscences Gary noted his success as a breeder of sheep. "My sheep were probably the best in the district, in proof of which I was awarded by the Hamilton Pastoral and Agricultural Society, from 1864 to 1886, 35 first, 18 second and 1 third class prizes for sheep exhibited at their annual shows, one gold and 13 silver medals. By the mid-1870s, Nareeb Nareeb was considered a model property. Major improvements in the washing and shearing of sheep had just been made so a journalist from the Hamilton Spectator visited specially to inspect the property and "to give the public the benefits of any information of a serviceable or interesting nature" (HS, 1876). The extensive sheep wash and woolshed are described and diagrams of the process and buildings provided. These buildings have since been destroyed by bush fire.

In 1884 a new homestead was built facing north towards the Grampians. Loosely in the Italianate style, it was conventional for the time, being symmetrical about a central front door and hall with a verandah on three sides. The front windows were paired full-height double-hung sashes. The house was elevated on a plinth with steps flanked by urns leading to the circular drive. The grounds were laid out in the Gardenesque style, popular from the mid-1860s. There was a glass house or conservatory on the western side of the house.

The second homestead was destroyed by bushfire with almost nothing surviving. A bluestone store is all that remains near the modern homestead. The working buildings were rebuilt soon after to the north of the main homestead and a new house was built on the site of the original homestead, a terrace raised to improve the view towards the Grampians. A new garden was established around the house and a drive of pines to the

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NAREEB NAREEB HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Chatsworth Road GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 325

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

Hamilton-Chatsworth Road.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

## **INTEGRITY:**

Very high degree of integrity.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Nareeb Nareeb squatting run, located on the north-west corner of the intersection of the Hamilton-Chatsworth Road and the Glenthompson-Caramut Road on Gray Creek, was taken up in 1840 by Charles Gray. It was originally part of the as Green Hill Creek run at Lake Repose. Gray was the principal member of a partnership with William P. Scott and John Marr. Scott soon left the partnership. Green Hill was subdivided in 1846, Marr taking the northern half as Brie Brie and Gray the other as Nareeb Nareeb. Having obtained the pre-emptive right and purchased much of land under the Land Selection Acts in the 1860s, Gray stayed at Nareeb Nareeb until 1886. He built three dwellings in his time there, the first a rough hut in the early 1840s, the second a timber cottage in 1851 and finally, in 1884, a substantial stone house. The architect was a local, the English-born William Smith, who was also the town clerk of Hamilton. Sober and conservative, this and its predecessor were clearly informed by the Picturesque aesthetic with a deliberate modification of their spectacular landscape. He also made substantial improvements including a wool shed and sheep wash complex, which was advanced as a model for the district. He focused his efforts on breeding and could fairly claim that his sheep were probably the best in the district. Having suffered early losses to bush fire, he made special efforts to protect Nareeb Nareeb with firebreaks. When the Beggs family took over the property in 1886, the focus on breeding continued. Throughout the twentieth century, increasingly sophisticated systems were used with great success. Ironically, Nareeb Nareeb did suffer from disastrous bush fires, with almost everything being lost in fires after the Second World War. The present homestead complex is sited in the same position as the 1884 house and garden and enjoys the same dramatic panorama of the Grampians. The house is neo-Georgian in style, a relatively late example that continues the conservative tradition established by Charles Gray. The present house and garden are in excellent condition and retain a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Nareeb Nareeb homestead is of historic and architectural significance to the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

Nareeb Nareeb homestead is of historic significance for its early beginnings and connection with Charles Gray, a very successful pastoralist who developed a model grazing property and was a highly respected leader of the community. The Beggs family, the second owners of the property, continue his role as sheep breeders and as promoters of the wool industry. Notwithstanding Gray's great concern about bushfire, the property was devastated by bushfires in the mid-twentieth century, only to survive and prosper. Nareeb Nareeb is of

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NAREEB NAREEB HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Chatsworth Road GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 325

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

architectural significance for the continuity of its well informed but conservative approach to domestic architecture and the surrounding landscape.

## COMPARISON:

009 Monivae Homestead, Hamilton Port Fairy Road, South Hamilton

327 Brie Brie Homestead Complex, Bundoran Road, Glenthompson

444 Barrama, Coleraine-Moree Road, Tarrayoukyan

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

16/02/2004

## 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
	A Model Wool Growing Estate, a visit to Nareeb Nareeb	1876	
	Western District Farmer	1999	3
	Mt Rouse Shire Centenary	1964	var.
Alexander Sutherland	Victoria and Its Metropolis Vol. 1	1888	225
Charles Gray	Reminiscences of a Pioneer, The Western District in the 1840s	1999	
Henderson, Alexander	Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina	1936	
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	471
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	74, 217
Robert. P. Whitworth, comp.	Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide, containing the most recent and accurate information as to every place in the colony	1865	276