

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: YULUNGAH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: MacKiehan's Lane PENS HurST

STUDY NUMBER: 333

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** YULUNGAH

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: A & B **SECTION:** VI **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475 A9; VicRoads 73F7; located on the east side of MacKiehan's Lane, immediately north of its intersection with the Hamilton Highway.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Yulangah, MacKiechan's Lane, Penshurst, house

Image Date: 13/02/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house and all of the land extending 10 000 square metres from the homestead. The portion of land where the vines were planted and furrows are evident, on the north east side of the Hamilton Highway, on Allotment B of Section VI, Parish of Boram Boram.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Yulangah is a single storey bluestone house, generally symmetrical about the front door but with a large bay window in the north-west corner and a smaller bay window on the north elevation. The former would have offered views across Lake Linlithgow and the latter towards the Grampians. The windows are double hung sashes. The slight asymmetry is reflected in the irregular placement of the chimneys. Originally there was an extensive timber verandahs on three sides with a canted corner also in the north-west. The verandah balustrade was a simple neo-classical double cross. The hipped roof line, and perhaps the whole roof, was altered early in the twentieth century introducing small gablets standard for the time. The verandah was enclosed in the added in 1990s. There is a detached outbuilding, possibly a former kitchen on the south side of the house.

HISTORY:

The land on which Yulangah stands was taken up by D. McIntyre, along with as part of the Land Selection Acts after 1860. It is likely that this is Duncan McIntyre of Ardachy near Braxholme. Duncan McIntyre was born at Ardachy in Argyllshire, Scotland in 1814 and emigrated with a friend, arriving in Van Diemen's land in 1837 (HHC, Ardachy notes). Seeking opportunities in the Port Phillip District, he arrived at Geelong in 1840 and went to work for Thomas Rickett at Clunie, the run taken up by Blair. Rickett's insolvency, McIntyre's debt of back wages and an arrangement with another creditor, lead McIntyre to take up what became the Ardachy run, which he renamed after his birthplace. McIntyre was killed accidentally in a fall from his horse in 1854 leaving his wife, Miriam, nee Best, and five young children.

John Mackiehan took up allotments A and B of Section VI in the Parish of Boram Boram after the land was offered to selectors under the Duffy Land Act of 1862. John Mackiehan was born in Argyleshire, Scotland in 1839. He sailed to the Cape of Good Hope in 1856, remaining there for three years, during which term he acquired a thorough knowledge of the wine industry. From there he visited Asia Minor and New Zealand, eventually sailing to Australia. He was attracted to Victoria by the facilities offered by the Duffy Land Act of 1862, and purchased Yulangah, where he established the first vineyard in the south west (outside of Geelong). It is believed that the current homestead was built by John Mackiehan in about 1863.

A handwritten note, dated July 18th, 1874, held at the Mount Rouse and District Historical Society illustrates the high quality of wine which was produced by the Yulangah vines:

"A few connoisseurs had a tasting of McKiehan [sic] 1871 vintage of Yulangah Riesling grown near Mt Rouse. It proved to be a very clean sample of a dry light Aust.[sic] wine without the slightest trace of acidity, clear as crystal & of a fine straw colour & possessing a nice bouquet. The wine is equal to the lighter wines of the Murray district in condition & general treatment. ... Mr. McKiehan [sic] has successfully demonstrated that good wine may be produced in these districts if only the proper attention is given to the industry."

John Mackiehan was the clerk of courts in Peshurst for many years, and became one of the first Shire of Mount Rouse Councillors, as well as Mount Rouse Shire President in 1879. He has been credited with the original concept of the Municipal Association (HS 30/03/1912). A pamphlet published in 1956 entitled 'A digest of municipal endeavour and achievement' states that the Municipal Association was inspired by "an article published in 'The Argus' in 1879 referring to the value of a similar organisation in England. Mr. John Mackiehan of Yulangah, Peshurst... read the article and sent a circular on the matter to all municipal councils in Victoria". The first meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria was held at the Hamilton Town Hall in June 1879, chaired by Cr. Mackiehan, who was elected unopposed as Chairman and President of the Municipal Association, which he retained until his retirement in 1885. Cr. Mackiehan moved to Melbourne in the early 1885 to take up a position as Manager of the Union Trustee Company of Melbourne, where he remained for twenty seven years, and became one of the best known businessmen of the city (PFP 05/04/1912, 2).

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On leaving the Penshurst district, Mackiehan sold Yulangah to Andreas Burger in 1886, who purchased the property for his son, Andreas Junior and his wife, Pauline (nee Mibus) (Burger, 116). Andreas Burger Junior was born at Gnadenenthal in 1863. In 1897 he purchased another property just south of Yulangah on which his daughter Marie and her husband, August Presser built their home in 1900. Yulangah remained in the Burger family until at least 1983, possibly much later.

The property has recently changed hands, and is now the home of Lycaro Angus Stud.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

CONDITION:

The house is in good condition although much altered. In the paddock immediately south of the house there appears to be evidence in the form of furrows of the former vineyard.

INTEGRITY:

The house appears to have a good degree of integrity.

The vineyard is long gone but the furrows remain visible.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Yulangah is a large single storey bluestone homestead located on the east side of MacKiehan's Lane, immediately north of its intersection with the Hamilton Highway. Some distance south of the homestead, in a paddock, are the furrows (no vines remain) which indicate the site of the earliest vineyard in the Southern Grampians Shire. The land was first taken up by pastoralist Duncan McIntyre, who owned Ardachy near Branhholme. In 1862, under the Duffy Land Selection Act, John MacKiehan took up the land as a selection, and planted vines. The wine which was produced was very successful. John MacKiehan went on to become a very important member of the local community, being one of the first Mount Rouse Shire Councillors, a Shire President and considered to be one of the primary forces behind the development of the Municipal Association in Victoria. The house was built for John MacKiehan, although there has been no architect or builder associated with the design, it is almost certainly architect designed. The house has had the original verandahs closed in, and had substantial alterations, which have reduced its integrity. The house is in good condition.

How is it significant?

Yulangah is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Yulangah is of historical significance for its association with John MacKiehan, a very important local member of the Mount Rouse Shire, whose influence has moulded the way in which local government in Victoria operates, through his involvement in the Victorian Municipal Association. It is of further significance for its association with the Burger Family, who have been long time residents of the area, and held ownership of the property for over 100 years. The vineyard is of historical significance as one of the earliest vineyards to be planted in south west Victoria, and certainly the first beyond Geelong. The homestead is of architectural significance for its early use of Victorian style, of traditional forms and local materials.

COMPARISON:

118 Clifton Homestead Complex, Clifton Road, Hamilton

ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Sep-02

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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
	Obituary John MacKiehan	30/03/1912	1912
	"John MacKiehan"	05/04/1912	1912 2
Hamilton History Centre	Ardachy File Note		n.d
Raymond Burger	The Burger Family in Australia, 1851-1983	1983	116-7, 142-5