

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SAMMY'S HUT (rear of LYNBROOK)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Chatsworth Road WOODHOUSE

STUDY NUMBER: 339

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** A **PARISH:** PARISH OF BILPAH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 476 A10; VicRoads 73 H6;

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Sammy's Hut, rear of Lynbrook, Woodhouse-Nareeb

Image Date: 29/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the hut, excluding the interiors.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SAMMY'S HUT (rear of LYNBROOK)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Chatsworth Road WOODHOUSE

STUDY NUMBER: 339

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Sammy's hut is a single storey symmetrical stone building of two rooms. It faces north towards the Grampians and a branch of Gray's Creek. The walls are built in roughly coursed bluestone. The front windows are small casements although there is a larger 12-paned double hung sash window in the western end wall. This opening appears to have been introduced. The front door has been replaced. The gabled roof is corrugated iron. The cottage was renovated for bed-and-breakfast accommodation in recent years.

The cottage is sited some distance from the main house (Lynbrook) amongst working buildings.

HISTORY:

The land on which Sammy's Hut stands is likely to have been part of the Nareeb Nareeb squatting run originally taken up in 1849 by Charles Gray as a subdivision of the earlier run, Green Hill Creek (B&K, 217). From 1857, it was leased by the partnership of Horace Flower, Charles Lydiard, Charles Dodd and Thomas Crabbe, which came to be known as Flower, Liddiard and Co. The next owner was Hugh Beggs.

Alternatively, Sammy's Hut may have been on the Woodhouse squatting run, taken up by Adolphus Sceales (sometimes spelt Scales) in 1848 (B&K, 302). It was taken over by James Ritchie in 1854 who was the occupant of the neighbouring Blackwood run. In 1858 the land passed to Daniel and Simon Ritchie and, in 1860, to Simon Ritchie alone. But the main Woodhouse homestead was some 6.5kms slightly north of west from Sammy's Hut while that of Nareeb Nareeb was only 4.0kms to the south-east. The track which went north to Lake Repose and is now Bundoran Lane, probably divided the runs, in which case Sammy's Hut was within the Nareeb Nareeb run. More importantly, it is located on a branch of Gray's Creek, on which Nareeb Nareeb stands. Woodhouse is at the head of Muston's Creek.

It is not known when this hut was built nor its purpose for certain. On the one hand it may represent the period after 1844 when sheep were shepherded from outstations, before extensive fencing appeared in the later 1850 and before the sale of land under the Land Selection Acts in the 1860s. The small front windows and the relatively crude stonework suggest an early date. On the other hand, from its materials and detailing, it appears to date from after 1860. The hut may even date from the time the Woodhouse run was subdivided under the Land Selection Acts, being a selector's cottage. It is most likely to date from before 1875. It may have been occupied by the new role of rabbitier when rabbits became a pest from the later 1860s. It is known locally as "Sammy's Hut". The identity of Sammy is not known but he is thought by locals to have been a rabbitier. Jack Riddle was a rabbitier on Devon Park where there were at least two such huts, and his son, Sidney worked as a trapper on the neighbouring property of Sazli for twenty-six years (Claburn, 54-5).

Rabbit trapping continued well into the twentieth century. During the Great Depression, rabbits were an important source of food for needy families. Rabbit numbers increased during the Second World War because trapping declined. The plague was at its worst in the 1950s and 1960s before the introduction of myxamatoxis succeeded.

The modern plan of the Parish of Bilpah shows that the land on which Sammy's Hut was built, comprising about 614 acres was purchased from the Crown in 1950 by W T Scholfield under the Soldier Settlement Act 1946. The south-western corner of the allotment had a recreation reserve excised from it which is where the Woodhouse Memorial Hall, tennis courts and oval are now located. The hut was renovated and extended in the 1970s to provide more modern accommodation.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SAMMY'S HUT (rear of LYNBROOK)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Chatsworth Road WOODHOUSE

STUDY NUMBER: 339

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

CONDITION:

The cottage is in relatively intact condition and is in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Sammy's hut is a single storey symmetrical bluestone building of two rooms. It faces north towards the Grampians and a branch of Gray's Creek. The walls are built in roughly coursed bluestone. The front windows are small casements although there is a larger 12-paned double hung sash window in the western end wall. The cottage was originally a shepherd's hut associated perhaps with Nareeb Nareeb or Woodhouse runs. The small front windows and the relatively crude stonework suggest an early date. On the other hand, from its materials and detailing, it appears to date from after 1860. The hut may even date from the time the Woodhouse run was subdivided under the Land Selection Acts, being a selector's cottage. It is most likely to date from before 1875. It may have been occupied by the new role of rabbitier when rabbits became a pest from the later 1860s. It is known locally as "Sammy's Hut". The identity of Sammy is not known but he is thought by locals to have been a rabbitier. The cottage is sited some distance from the main house (Lynbrook) amongst working buildings. The cottage is in excellent condition and retains a good degree of integrity externally.

How is it significant?

Sammy's hut is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

~~Sammy's hut is of historical significance for its potential association with the important early runs of Nareeb Nareeb and Woodhouse, and as a surviving example shepherds accommodation on large pastoral holdings.~~
Sammy's hut is of architectural significance as a representative example of primitive construction technique, form and materials applied in domestic architecture.

COMPARISON:

089 Blackwood (1st and 2nd residences), Blackwood-Dunkeld Rd, Penshurst

338 Woodhouse (1st residence), Woodhouse Lane, Woodhouse

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

27-Aug-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
Elise Claburn, et al	Dunkeld & District, A Short History	1989	17, 30, 53-5

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SAMMY'S HUT (rear of LYNBROOK)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Chatsworth Road WOODHOUSE

STUDY NUMBER: 339

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

R V Billis and A S Kenyon

Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip

1974 67,
74,
130,
302