

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SHEPHERD'S HUT (DEVON PARK 1)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: off Old Cemetery Rd off Bellicourt Road DUNKELD

STUDY NUMBER: 376

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 5A **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF ADZAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 433 D23; VicRoads 73 H4; located at the southern end and on the eastern side of an unmade road off the eastern end off Old Cemetery (or Bellicourt Road) about 1.3kms south of Bellicourt.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



Shepherd's Hut, off Old Cemetery Road, Dunkeld (formerly of Devon Park)

Image Date: 08/12/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

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

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The hut is a single storey bluestone building of two rooms facing east and overlooking the confluence of several minor creeks. There is a central ledge and brace door and two window openings on both the eastern and western sides. The original 12-paned sashes are missing. The chimney is on the northern side and has a well finished cornice. The walls are constructed of well squared bluestone in 12" (300mm) beds of random rubble with stone lintels over the door, windows and fireplace. The timber framed hip roof is clad with corrugated iron and has most of the original shingles surviving and remnants of half-round guttering. (It was not possible to see a brand on the underside of the iron which may not be the original.) The walls are whitewashed internally but recent renovations have removed much of the surface. The ceiling may have been lined with pine boards and the floor appears to have been hardwood boards. The hut is situated on a slight rise with some Elm trees surrounding it. The integrity of the hut has been compromised by recent renovations and is still in a near ruinous condition. Nothing survives of the detached timber wing at the rear, although some footings can be discerned and the superstructure is said to have been removed to Dunkeld. There were also a smokehouse, a dairy, stables, a WC and a well.

HISTORY:

The land on which the former Devon Park shepherd's hut stands was purchased from the Crown by a W H Brown on 16 October 1862. Allotment 5B of Section 1 of the Parish of Adzar comprised about 66 acres (26.7ha). W H Brown purchased four other adjacent blocks totalling about 230 acres (92.6ha). Non of the parish, including two blocks on the south side of the Glenelg Highway. E M Harding, on the other hand, purchased many of the allotments including those around W H Brown. This was possibly Elias Harding, the brother and partner of Silas Harding. By 1870, no person with the surname Brown nor Elias Harding was paying rates in the Dunkeld riding of the Shire of Mount Rouse. It is likely that both Brown and Elias Harding were acting as dummies for Silas Harding which would support the role of the hut as that of an outstation for shepherds.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The structure is in fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The abandoned hut, one of at least two formerly associated with the Devon Park squatting run, is located in the southern end of an unmade road off Old Cemetery Road, Dunkeld and about 1.3kms from Bellicourt. The date of its construction is not known nor is its purpose. The hut may have been built originally for a shepherd or a rabbitier or both. alternatively it may have been built by a selector. The Adzar Parish Plan suggests that the hut was positioned on land purchased by W H Brown in 1862 and at the confluence of several minor creeks. It is about 8.0kms north-north-east of Devon Park Homestead. The bluestone construction of the hut is basic and its style is vernacular, having two rooms and a chimney. The larger room was formerly subdivided by a timber wall. There were other structures and works, now lost, associated with it. The hut has been altered by recent

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renovations and is in a near ruinous condition without floors, ceilings or windows.

How is it significant?

The shepherd's hut, formerly associated with the Devon Park squatting run, is of historical and architectural significance to the communities of Dunkeld and Peshurst and to the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

The shepherd's hut is of historical significance because it demonstrates a unique way of life which related to a particular stage of the development of the pastoral industry, when shepherds tended sheep in isolation at remote outstations on vast squatting runs. It is also significance for its later occupation by the Gordon family in the twentieth century.

The shepherd's hut is of architectural significance for its humble construction and vernacular style and as a comparison with the grander homestead.

COMPARISON:

348 Shepherd's Hut (Devon Park 2), Chatsworth-Hamilton Road Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

12-Aug-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES: