

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** VIRGINIA

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Hamilton Highway Day's Lane TABOR

**STUDY NUMBER:** 399

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** A      **SECTION:** VII      **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 474 B-44; VicRoads 73 E7; located on the south side of the Hamilton Highway and east of Day's Lane about 6.5kms north-west of Penshurst and 4.0kms east of Tabor

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local

Virginia, Hamilton Highway, Tabor. North elevation

**Image Date:** 14/02/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the house, all of the bluestone outbuilding, the ripple iron outbuilding and all of the land within a 15m radius of an edge of all the above mentioned significant buildings.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Virginia is a single storey asymmetrical bluestone and timber house which has gone through various phases of remodelling. The house was built in 1900 from locally quarried bluestone, as a typical symmetrical four roomed bluestone house with central passage, a central front door and symmetrically arranged windows on either side. The roof is hipped and covered in corrugated iron with a corrugated iron verandah.

Various alterations and additions have been made since the house was built, including the addition of a timber section to the northern side of the house, which extends from the front of the house to the rear, terminating in a sun room on the back verandah. The roof has been remodelled to accommodate this addition.

There are various outbuildings surrounding the house, including a rough coursed bluestone one roomed hut with a gabled corrugated iron roof. This may have been the original house which the Presser family lived in while the larger house was being constructed.

Another outbuilding is a large L-shaped ripple iron structure adjacent to the house, of uncertain origin and purpose. It has twelve pane double hung sash windows, and one six pane window. The roofs are gabled, covered in corrugated iron and terminate with simple finials. A roughly made bluestone chimney and a later nineteenth century chimney are attached to the building.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which Virginia stands was selected by D. McIntyre, who also selected the adjacent blocks, being Allotments b and c in section VII, as well as all of section VIII. The total land being about 1450 acres (Department of Lands and Survey, 1943). This may have been Duncan McIntyre who was a major landholder in the area in the nineteenth century.

The land was later sold to Andreas Burger, who purchased the land in the name of his daughter, Marie Sophie Burger. Marie was the daughter of early Lutheran immigrants who had come to Penshurst in the 1850s and established small farms in close proximity to other members of the same community.

Marie Burger married August Presser, of Allansford in 1891, and the couple moved to the Wimmera where the Presser family had purchased a farm 'Virgina Park' near Wal Wal (Uebergang, 175). August and Marie remained at Virginia Park until 1899, when August's father died (ibid.), and the family moved to take up the farm which had been purchased in Marie's name. In 1900, the bluestone section of the house was constructed, and named 'Virginia' after the property in the Wimmera.

Their initial goal was to establish a small intensive dairy, but soon discovered that wool and beef provided better incomes. The property expanded, and passed eventually to later generations of Pressers, who have undertaken various works on the homestead over time.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

- Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 3.14 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry
- 3.14.1 Building to suit Australian conditions
- 3.14.1 Using Australian materials in construction

## **CONDITION:**

Good condition

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## INTEGRITY:

fair degree of integrity

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Virginia is a bluestone homestead with later timber additions, located on the corner of Day's Lane and the Hamilton Highway, about 6.5km north west of the township of Peshurst. Virginia was purchased by Andreas Burger for his daughter Marie Sophie Burger. Some years after her marriage to August Presser, the Presser family returned to the Peshurst district, where they took up the land which Andreas Burger had purchased for Marie. In 1900, they built the present homestead. There have been a number of alterations to the house over the past 100 years. The property remains in the Presser family. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. The integrity of the building has been compromised by unsympathetic alterations, but essentially, Virginia is in good condition.

How is it significant?

Virginia is of historic significance to the township of Peshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Virginia is of historic significance as an expression of the success over several generations of German Lutheran migrants, specifically the Burger, Mirtschin and Linke families, in the Gnardenthal area. The house is a representative example of a small bluestone homestead constructed from locally quarried material. It is of further significance for its associations with the Burger and Presser family, who have retained the property in the family for over 100 years continuously. The house is a representation of the links between the Lutheran communities at Gnardenthal and Allansford.

## COMPARISON:

260 Burger's Cottages (Acacia), Springfield Lane, Peshurst  
368 Willow Brook, MacArthur - Peshurst Road, Peshurst

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

17/02/2002

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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
Alan Uebergang	Uebergang Families in Australia 1848-1985	1958	
Department of Lands and Survey	Parish of Purdeet, County of Villiers	1943	