

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BYADUK HERITAGE PRECINCT

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Port Fairy Road BYADUK

STUDY NUMBER: 409

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: BYADUK SOUTH

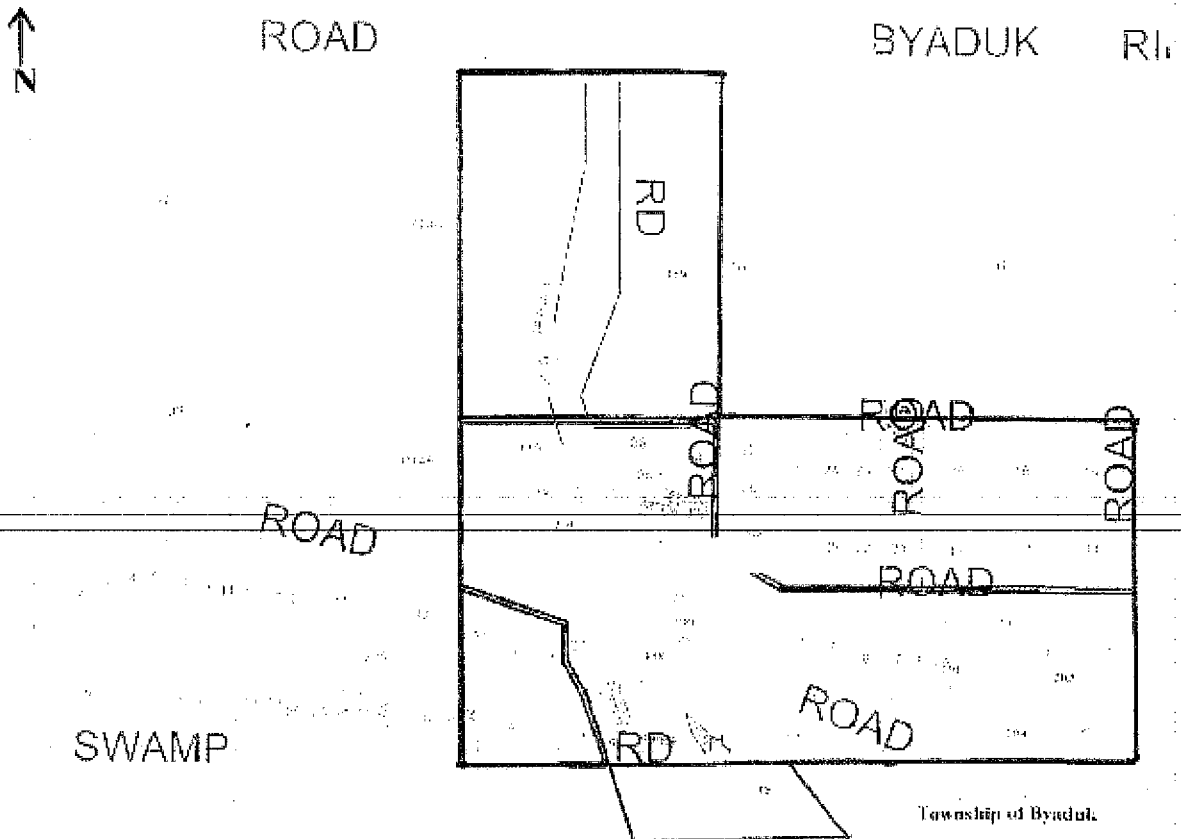
PRECINCT: Byaduk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473K; VicRoads 72H; located about 25.0kms south of Hamilton on Scott's Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Byaduk Heritage Precinct: Red = Heritage Overlay * Green = Significant Landscape Overlay

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and infrastructure constructed before 1954 including not only the buildings specifically identified as typical or outstanding examples of their type, but also those which contribute in a minor way. 2. All the land, both public and private, which is included within the official boundaries of the Township of Byaduk.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Byaduk is located on the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, about 25.0 kms south of Hamilton and 10.0 kms north of Macarthur and is set within something of a valley. It is about 12.0 kms south-west of the summit of Mount Napier. The town is organic and linear in its development with most of its surviving buildings, including some substantial ruins, either on the highway or on the hill to the east. Its density is very low. All but one of the buildings is single storey and each is located on a relatively large allotment. The centre of the town is now enhanced by extensive memorial plantings, which compliment the three war memorials and the sports oval. Many of the allotments on the west side of the highway, an area formerly quite swampy, are delineated by low dry stone walls.

Other contributory sites include:-

Walter's Flour Mill (former), Penshurst - Byaduk Road, Byaduk (CFA 473 K C2)

Former Butter Factory, Byaduk (CFA 473 B)

Christie Reserve, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, Byaduk (CFA 473 B)

State School No 855, Byaduk School Road, Byaduk (CFA 473K C1)

HISTORY:

The township of Byaduk emerged in two locations. The official township, now known as North Byaduk, was located on the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road approximately 18.0kms south-south-west of Hamilton. The unofficial township was a further 6.5kms south. Although called a township, the former was planned as a village of nine sections, each with ten allotments of two roods, with 100 feet frontages and depths of 300 feet. Very few of these were ever developed. The subdivision followed the diagonal alignment of the long-standing route connecting Hamilton and Belfast (Port Fairy), which was called Main Street. It was positioned adjacent to Lyne Creek and began just south of a tributary of the creek. The only public reserve was for a cemetery of four acres located just to the north-east of the town. The plan was published in September 1865. No existing development was noted on the plan. The most important building to survive from this settlement is the Byaduk State School No. 1418 built in 1874 in Knight Street. It closed in 1963.

~~The other Byaduk was already well established and enjoyed certain topographical advantages. It was positioned at an important crossing of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road over Scott's Creek and its intersection with the east-west route linking Penshurst with Branxholme. It was very close to several large squatting runs including Weerangourt, Brisbane Hill and Lyne and more accessible to Mount Napier, Gazette and Harton Hills than North Byaduk. The pressure to accommodate the informal town must have been strong because Allotment 6 of Section 19 of the Parish of Byaduk was subdivided into 36 smaller allotments, ranging in size from less than two acres to more than four acres. The irregular plan, possibly reflecting existing holdings, was published in January 1867 and it included a stone bridge, "Cannon's Store" and the "Wesleyan Chapel". It proposed a Common School more or less in the centre of the subdivision and a cemetery reserve to the north-east, the only public reserves at that time.~~

It is not known who designed or built the bridge but presumably it was the Dundas Road District, which was created in 1857 and proclaimed a Shire in 1863. The bridge is very similar to many other road bridges in the region, which appear to have been a standard design. There were several Scotts living in the Byaduk area including Joseph Scott (c.1858-1924) and his wife Elizabeth Scott (c.1856-1941) and their family who are buried in the Byaduk cemetery. There is an allotment in the parish plan of the 'Township of South Byaduk', now Byaduk, which was purchased in 1909 by a J. J. Scott, probably Joseph James Scott who died in 1951 and is also buried in the Byaduk cemetery.

John George Cannon purchased part of Section 17, Allotment 4B of the Parish of Byaduk from the Crown in 1863. Later that year he built the first store in Byaduk, on land adjacent to the present general store. He had married Ann Sarah O'Haggen (or O'Heagen) in 1856 in Maldon (VPI, Reg. No. 299). They had eight children,

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the first two born in Maldon and then a son, also called John George who was born in 1863 and whose birth was registered at Macarthur (VPI, Reg. No. 8804). Their next son's birth in 1867, that of George Alfred, was registered at "Byraduk" (VPI, Reg. No. 6918). The fledgling township developed following the 1860s land sales, resulting from the 'unlocking of the lands' created by the Land Selection Acts of that time. The Byaduk general store prospered. John Cannon probably had the store from 1863 to 1872 when ownership passed to Charles Munt of Macarthur, between 1872 and 1876.

It is believed that Charles Munt built the new general store on land adjacent to the first store. He had married Ellen Baldrey in 1860 in Belfast (VPI, Reg. No. 3878). They too had eight children whose births were registered variously at Belfast and Macarthur between 1861 and 1877. None were registered at Byaduk. The Dundas Shire Rate books of 1877 show James Lindsay as owner and John Ross as manager. Ross had purchased the store by 1880. Following Ross' death in 1902, the title passed to Jane Ross, who owned the store until 1919. The Anderson family had managed the business for Jane Ross from 1915, and became owners in 1919. Their ownership continued for another 20 years, until William Pearse purchased it in 1939, beginning the long association of the Pearse family with the Byaduk general store. Following the death of William in 1961, his son John Thomas Pearse took over the business.

The Dundas Shire Rate books of 1877 show that the first general store was no longer used as such from 1877, probably because the new one had been built. John and Ann O'Heaghan [sic] had a daughter in Donald in 1877 and, like many of their German Lutherans neighbours, they appear to have moved to the Wimmera where new land was being opened for selection (VPI, Reg. No. 14909). The subsequent history of ownership of the original store is not clear, although it is believed that it was used for a residence for many years prior to it becoming ruinous (Black, 4). The other very early store built at Byaduk was Joseph Harman's shoemaker's shop, which also opened in 1863.

Even by 1865, two years before the official subdivision of the land on the east side of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, the settlement must have been substantial. "Byaduk is a postal village in the parish of the same name ... situated on Scott's Creek, 8 miles SW from Mount Napier. It is an agricultural district, the village being 8 miles NNW of Macarthur. ... The hotels are the Macarthur and the Eumerella. The country is elevated, and the population, inclusive of the adjoining village (Byambine), about 300 persons." (Bailliere's, 71) Nothing is known to survive of the two hotels.

Perhaps the most important building in Byaduk was Holmes' flourmill. The three-storey bluestone mill, with its tall chimney, was the largest structure in Byaduk, and dominated the landscape until its demolition in the 1950s. Peter Learmonth purchased land in the new subdivision in 1867 and built the mill. Learmonth had been well established as a flour miller at Grange Burn, near Hamilton since 1859, and owned mills at Sandford and Peshurst. George Holmes was manager and miller. The mill prospered until about 1893 when it closed due to a downturn in wheat production in the area. Holmes had worked previously in a flourmill at Port Fairy after landing in Victoria from Manchester, England. Then he managed Learmonth's Mill at Hamilton until the Byaduk mill was built. He died about 1900. For many years, Byaduk flour was widely known. Port Fairy, Warrnambool and Portland stores were supplied and any surplus flour was forwarded to Melbourne.

Holmes' flourmill was not the only one in Byaduk. Perhaps a year before, a Mr. Walter had constructed his. The Hamilton Spectator described it as "A substantially framed timber erection of three stories, in which the machinery has been fixed in place. It is proposed to increase the number of stories as the wants of the district demand. The mill is to be driven by water from the never failing stream known as Scotts' [sic], on which it is situated, about a mile from the Post Office, on the Belfast Road. The race is three hundred yards long and it has been blasted out of solid rock in places. Fifteen feet of fall has been obtained, and workmen are busy with the water-wheel an over-shot. The owner, Mr. Walter, expected to make an early start at the Mill."

The earliest section of what became the Byaduk bakery was constructed around 1868 by W. Gardener, and

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served as the first blacksmith shop in Byaduk. H. Edlich, a German Lutheran migrant, and then David Hardy owned it. The blacksmith business moved to another site operated by James Scott and, at some stage in the late 19th century, the building was converted to a bakery, and subsequently an associated shop and residence were built at the front and side of the earlier stone building. The bakery was known as Holmes bakery, and was associated with the former Holmes flourmill on the Byaduk-Penshurst Road. The building has been used as a private residence since the closure of the bakery.

There were three churches which serviced the community of Byaduk: the Methodist church built in 1864 and noted on the original survey plan, the Lutheran Church located about 5.0kms to the west, which dates from 1866 and the Presbyterian church located about 3.0kms to the north and built in 1882. The Lutheran congregation grew from the broader parish based at Hochkirch established under Pastor Clamor Schurmann and retains close links with St Michael's at Tarrington. The Presbyterians were serviced previously from Branhholme. The Methodists seem to have come together spontaneously, rather as they did in the goldfields. Their leader, John Smith was described in the Early Story of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Victoria at length and in glowing terms for his prodigious physical strength and endurance as well as his piety (Blamires and Smith, 265ff). Land was reserved for a Roman Catholic church on the highway opposite Cannon's store but no church was built. The Catholics and Anglicans presumably went to either Hamilton or Branhholme as would the Free Presbyterians when those denominations were well represented. The churches were important cultural and social centres for the community as well as providing spiritual support.

The Byaduk State School No. 855 was opened in 1868, an indication of the number of children already living in the area. It was built on the land reserved in the new subdivision of 1867. It remains open and has absorbed the enrolment of the North Byaduk State School. None of the early buildings survive, however. The Mechanics Institute, probably proposed as early as 1890 when land was permanently reserved for the purpose, opened in 1905 when the site was extended and was therefore the last to be built in the Shire of Southern Grampians (Garden, 164). It functioned as an important education and social centre for the Byaduk community and would have witnessed the usual broad range of cultural activities including balls, plays, concerts, public lectures and fetes. Local associations and clubs held their meetings in the meeting room and ran functions in the hall. It functioned for many years as the town's library.

Byaduk developed a sense of community through other works. Three war memorials were constructed and later enhanced by memorial tree planting and the construction of an oval. The earliest memorial was to Frank Suttie, certainly one of the first Australian casualties and said to be the first Victorian to die in the Boer War. The other memorials are to those who fell in the First and Second World Wars. The memorials are deliberately sited at the centre of the township. They are the focus for ceremonies on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and should be understood in association with the memorial avenues as well as the adjacent park.

In a plan of the township dated 1927 indicates that a recreation reserve of eight acres on sloping ground above the flourmill, was set aside in 1897 including allotments 21,22, 23 and 24 of section 2. Another reserve of four acres, comprising 12 and 15 of section 1, was set aside on flat ground to the south-west of the town. In 1929, there was a move to build a public swimming pool, led by the head teacher of the state school, Mr. H. T. Jeffrey. The undertaking was a mammoth task. A local resident Mr. Tom Harper did all the concrete work on the pool. It was one of the earliest of its kind in the area and was popular even with people from Hamilton. It opened in 1930. As the flow of Scott's Creek diminished and the population of Byaduk declined, the pool was gradually abandoned and became derelict. In the early 1950s locals attended a series of working bees to construct the J A Christie Oval, on land near the old mill site.

Byaduk was something of a service centre for the surrounding properties, the small mixed farms as well as the large pastoral runs, although it seems never to have had a bank. It benefited from its location at an important crossroads and for being positioned to the south of the wilderness around Mount Napier and, hence, out of its 'shadow' unlike Byaduk North. It failed to be linked to other centres by rail in the 1880s, which meant that

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Branxholme and Penshurst prospered at its expense. The decline in small-scale, local flour milling also led to its decline. Still, J. D'A. Moynan of Hamilton called tenders for the construction of a creamery at "Lower" Byaduk in 1892 (WS, 30 July 1892). The area became important in the late nineteenth century for dairying, supplying the Hamilton Butter factory, the Condah Swamp Butter and Cheese Factory and perhaps the Macarthur and Buckley Swamp factories as well but Byaduk had no butter factory of its own. The town has been in decline for many years, measured by its population and commercial activity. The general store and post office finally closed with the death of John Thomas Pearse on 18th October 2001.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 2 Peopling Australia

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

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

Fair

INTEGRITY:

fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The present township of Byaduk, located on the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, about 25.0 kms south of Hamilton, eclipsed its earlier namesake because of its strategic advantages. It dates from the early 1860s and appears to have pre-empted the closer settlement afforded by the Land Selection Acts by several years. Its first buildings were Cannon's Store, dating from 1863 and the Wesleyan chapel, dating from 1864. These and a substantial stone bridge are noted in the plan of subdivision of the land to the east of the highway. Its irregularity may reflect existing land holdings, as at Tarrington and Glenthompson, and is in major contrast to such formal towns as Balmoral, Branxholme, Cavendish, Coleraine, Dunkeld and Penshurst. The plan included a reserve for a Common School and Byaduk State School No. 855 had been built by 1868 and which continues in post-World War Two buildings. The Mechanics Institute was built relatively late, in 1902. Interestingly, the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches were built some distance from the town's centre. Peter Learmonth, a very significant person for Hamilton and the surrounding district, built a large bluestone flourmill near the creek. He already had milling interests elsewhere and installed George Holmes as his manager. The Holmes family established a bakery business in the town, the ruins of which survive. A new general store was built by Thomas Munt, which soon incorporated the post office and later sold petrol. It went through a series of ownerships until it was taken over by the Pearse family. It closed in 2001 when John Thomas Pearse died but the complex survives intact. The three war memorials and memorial avenue plantings are especially fine and important in Byaduk. Its

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delineation by low dry stone walls is similar to Penshurst.

How is it significant?

The Byaduk Heritage Precinct is of historic, cultural, social and architectural significance to the community of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Byaduk Heritage Precinct is of historic significance as a township dating from the early-1860s, as one of the satellite settlements around Hamilton, and for representing the emergence of various aspects of agriculture in the area, especially flour milling. It is of cultural significance as a predominantly German Lutheran and Wesleyan Methodist settlement. It is of social significance as the focus for the community's education and recreation, roles that continue to the present. It also has social significance for its links through further migration with the Wimmera and Mallee. The architectural significance of the town lies in the irregular form of its urban development in contrast to the planned towns of the Shire.

COMPARISON:

408 Balmoral heritage precinct Henty Highway Balmoral
402 Branhholme heritage precinct Henty Highway Branhholme
407 Cavendish heritage precinct Henty Highway Cavendish
401 Coleraine heritage precinct Glenelg Highway Coleraine
406 Dunkeld heritage precinct Glenelg Highway Dunkeld
405 Glenthompson heritage precinct Glenelg Highway Glenthompson
403 Penshurst heritage precinct Hamilton Highway Penshurst
404 Tarrington heritage precinct Hamilton Highway Tarrington

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

07-Apr-04

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

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Rolf Boldrewood	Old Melbourne Memories	1884	var.
unknown, attributed to J.V Danaher, head teacher of Byaduk Primary School 1922-26	Byaduk	1922	
W. L. Blamires, and John B Smith	The Early Story of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Victoria	1986	265ff