

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: KILDARE HOMESTEAD & EARLY WOOLSHED

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Gibson's Road MOOREE

STUDY NUMBER: 442

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

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

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 32 **SECTION:** A **PARISH:** PARISH OF MOOREE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 386 B9; located at the termination of Gibson's Road, overlooking Sugarloaf Creek

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Kildare Homestead, Gibson's Road, Moree

Image Date: 16/11/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the timber hut and early timber woolshed, and an area of 100 square metres around each building.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Kildare is located half way down a hill, at the termination of Gibson's Road. There are two primitive timber structures located on the site, of slab construction. The hut is a symmetrical single storey building of two rooms with skillion extensions at the rear. The verandah across the front is timber and its roof is contiguous with the main gable roof. The shed, used as a primitive woolshed is of vertical slab construction, and is open on one side.

HISTORY:

Thomas Kelly purchased allotment 32 section A of the Parish of Mooree comprising about 252 acres in July 1874. The land was originally part of the Clunie run or possibly Mooree, later called Pigeon Ponds. He purchased the adjacent allotment 31A comprising 66 acres along Sugarloaf Creek in September 1882. In the preliminary survey of 'Special and Country Lands, Parish of Mooree, County of Dundas' the allotment and surrounding land is described as covered with Gum, Lightwood, She-oak and Honeysuckle. Several springs are not on nearby allotments. A hut is noted about 1.3kms immediately north on allotment 31 which is bisected diagonally by a post and wire fence dividing the Mooree run to the west from the Clunie run to the east.

Kelly was born in about 1823, presumably in Kildare Ireland. He married Margaret Madgewick, who was born in 1834 and they had one daughter, Katherine who was born in 1864. Thomas died in 1898; Katherine died unmarried in 1902 and Margaret died in 1909. All are buried in the Harrow cemetery. The Kellys were typical selectors who had a very small holding on the Sugarloaf Creek. It is not known with certainty what they farmed or grazed, but sheep must have been one commodity. Their home was a simple slab hut of two main rooms with a verandah at the front and skillion extensions at the rear. It survives well. Some remnants of their original woolshed may be incorporated into the present woolshed.

The property was taken up by the Gibson family in the early twentieth century and they may have renamed the place. Edward was the son of Tasmanian immigrants and appears to have been born at Sandford in 1876 (PI, Reg. No. 11850) Edward and his wife Lillian Agnes had a daughter Margaret Katherine in 1907. Maggie Gibson of Sugarloaf married John Gash, the son of the owners of the property immediately to the north of the Gibsons' property. In the 1930s, John and Margaret Gash established an orchard and a dried-fruit business.

The original selectors hut at Kildare has not been occupied for many years.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Theme 9: Marking the phases of Life
9.3 Forming families and partnerships
9.3.2 Bringing up children

CONDITION:

The hut and the woolshed are in fair condition, there may be significant archaeological potential.

INTEGRITY:

Good

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Kildare Homestead and Woolshed are located at the end of Gibson's Road, Mooree, overlooking Sugarloaf Creek. The complex consists of two primitive structures constructed of timber slabs. A two roomed hut and a shed enclosed on three sides. There are various other less significant structures around these. Kildare was taken

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up by Thomas Kelly, as a selection in 1874, and was known as Sugarloaf for many years, the creek which meandered through the selection was named after the property. The slab hut which survives was built by the Kelly family, and is a rare surviving example of the first hut continuing in use. The property changed hands in the early twentieth century, and was owned by the Gibson family, who renamed it Kildare. There are links between the Gibson family and the adjacent property owners, the Gash's through intermarriage. The hut and the early woolshed are in fair condition, and retain a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Kildare is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Kildare is of historical significance as an unusual surviving example of a typical first selector's hut. Most selectors built a more substantial home within a few years of arriving on their selection. The hut and early woolshed which survive provide us with information about a previous way of life, and work, as they have changed very little since their construction in the 1870s. Of further significance is the location of the hut and woolshed, on a rise above the creek, traditionally favoured by those who were squatters, and later those pastoralists who came to the area. Most early home stations and selector's residences were moved to a more 'prestigious' location, and the original home removed - Kildare is of historical significance as it provides an example of the typical siting of an early residence in an isolated location, and exemplifies the early values associated with choosing a site on which to build a first hut.

COMPARISON:

465 Giant Rock Homestead, Giant Rock Road, Konongwootong
326 Rosebank, Neats Road, Victoria Valley

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

02-Mar-04

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
	Victoria and Riverina, a Biographical Record	1933	115