

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** FAIRFIELD

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Lake Linlithgow Road WARRAYURE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 443

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 4B      **SECTION:** C

**PARISH:** PARISH OF JENNAWARRA

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 F51; VicRoads 73 E5; located on the north side of Lake Linlithgow

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Nil



Fairfield, Lake Linlithgow Rd, Warrayure

**Image Date:** 18/03/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the main house but excluding the interiors, the garden and hedges and all of the land.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Fairfield is a single storey asymmetrical timber house with a corrugated iron verandah supported by carved timber posts. The house was originally a timber house of six rooms with gable roofs and a small verandah enclosing a porch. Four rooms have been added to the original house in the 1930s.

The house is set in a substantial Edwardian garden, with typical plantings and features. A circular lawn is located at the front of the house with a Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) planted at the centre, gravel driveways and various other plantings of Canary Island Palm dominate the front garden and dwarf the house. The house and garden are surrounded by a hedge of Lawson's Cypress *Cupressus lawsoniana* which has been trained into an arch over the driveway with a smaller convex arch above it.

## HISTORY:

The land on which Fairfield stands was first taken up by H. Henty & Co. in 1870 as allotment 4B of Section C in the Parish of Jennawarra. H. Henty and Co. also took up several other allotments, including 2B and 3B of section C. Many other Hentys, including Stephen George Henty took up much of the land in the Parish of Jennawarra after the Land Selection Acts of the 1870s (Department of Lands and Survey, 1880). The exact connection between H. Henty and Co. and Stephen George Henty is, but he had a daughter named Ellen (also known as Helen), and the Henty & Co. business was still operating at this time. This may have been a typical example of a squatter 'dummying' selector claims in order to purchase as much land as possible.

Johann Mibus later purchased various allotments of the Warrayure estate when it was subdivided and offered for sale in the 1880s. The intention was that his youngest sons, Theodor and Emil would share the home property, Hope Park, while the elder sons, Alfred, Carl, Adolph, Otto, Ernst, Heinrich and Gottlieb would take up the land at Warrayure independently (Nagorka, 42).

Johann and Dorothea Mibus arrived in Australia from Prussia in 1847 with a number of other German Lutheran families. They arrived in South Australia, and established a settlement in the Barossa Valley named *Hoffnungsthal* immediately after (Nagorka, 15). The settlement at *Hoffnungsthal* was not successful, and in 1855, the Mibus (or Miebus) family, along with Johann and Christine Huf decided to migrate to Victoria, where they landed at Portland (ibid., 20). They went inland, and arrived at Hochkirch with their family of seven children.

They took up land which they had selected, which is now known as Hope Park, on the Chatsworth Road, east of Hamilton, where their family continued to grow. Otto Mibus was their sixth son, and was born at Hope Park in 1882 (Nagorka, 249). After completing his schooling at the Hochkirch Lutheran school he worked with his elder brothers on the family property at Hope Park. In 1907, a parcel of land on the northern side of Lake Linlithgow was purchased by Johann Mibus to divide between his sons Otto and Gottlieb in order for them to establish their own farms. Nagorka (249) describes the site which Otto took up (now Fairfield) as "an open paddock without trees or buildings, so bleak that the water bucket had to be tied to a peg outside the camp hut or it would be blown away".

The land was worked, but Otto continued to be based at his family home in Tarrington until 1912, when he built a six roomed timber house, at a cost of three hundred pounds. The following year he married Meta Schurmann, a granddaughter of the famous Pastor Schurmann (ibid.). Otto ran Fairfield as a mixed farm, growing fine and superfine wool as the main income, eventually diversifying into Oats for hay and grain, which did well on the land adjacent to the Lake. The growing family of Otto and Meta led to an addition of four rooms to the house in 1930 (ibid.).

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Otto and Meta continued to live at Fairfield until their deaths in the mid twentieth century, and their descendants continue to own and occupy the Fairfield property.

There has been no architect or builder associated with the design of the house or the garden.

## THEMATIC CONTEXT:

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

## CONDITION:

Good condition

## INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity to the 1930s

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Fairfield is a large single storey asymmetrical timber house which was built in 1912, and extended in 1930. The house is located in a typical Edwardian garden with several fine specimens of Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). The land was purchased by Johann Mibus as one of several parcels of land he purchased from the Warrayure Estate in the 1880s. Each of the allotments was given to one of his seven sons to farm independently. Otto Mibus, the sixth son of Johann Mibus took up the land and built a six room timber home in 1912. His growing family demanded the extension of the house by four rooms in 1930. The house is in good condition and retains a good degree of integrity to the 1930s period.

How is it significant?

Fairfield is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Fairfield is of historical significance for its associations with the Mibus family, who have had continuous ownership of the property for almost 100 years. It is of further historical significance when viewed with other properties which were developed by the sons of Johann Mibus on the land which he purchased from Warrayure Estate to assist his children in establishing independent livelihoods.

## COMPARISON:

136 Linlithgow Park, Lake Linlithgow Road, Warrayure

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

3/03/2004

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

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## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Edna Nagorka	The Mibus Family in Australia 1847-1985	1985	var.