

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BARRAMAR HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine-Moree Road TARRAYOUKYAN

STUDY NUMBER: 444

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 59 **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF MOORWINSTOWE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 386 B13; VicRoads 54 A6; located on the east side of the Coleraine-Moree Road, on the north side of and overlooking the valley of Pigeon Ponds Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Barramar Homestead Complex, Coleraine - Moree Road, Tarrayoukyan.

Image Date: 16/11/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the main house and all of the land within a 50m radius of any edge of the main house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The homestead complex at Barramar is an asymmetrical brick house in a boomerang shape. The house was built in 1956 to replace an earlier homestead which was completely destroyed by fire in 1955. It was rebuilt to the design of Melbourne architects, Howden and McLean in 1956. The main house is unusual for its boomerang plan and its scale, including extensive living areas, nine bedrooms, four bathrooms and other extensive service areas including staff quarters. It is sited on a bluff overlooking the Pigeon Ponds Creek so that the house maximises the views across and into the valley.

HISTORY:

Catherine Donaldson purchased allotments 59A and 56 of section 1 of the Parish of Moorwinstowe in July 1881 comprising about 319 acres. Alexander, William and a J Donaldson purchased surrounding allotments. The land was described in the preliminary survey 'Special and Country Lands Parishes of Muryrtym & Moorwinstowe County of Dundas' as "Land of medium quality timbered with Gums and Honeysuckle". No existing structures were noted other than an "old Cattle Station" on the opposite side of the main road and on the south side of the creek. Catherine Donaldson may have been the widow of Alexander Donaldson who together held the Purdeet, Second Kout Narien and Longlands runs before 1849 when Alexander Donaldson died (B&K, 59).

Whoever Catherine Donaldson was, she and the other Donaldsons may have been acting as a dummy for surrounding property owners. They were selectors and "were amongst the first selectors to sell out after having received their Crown Grant ... They had been in conflict with Willis of Koolomurt, and had in October 1870 opposed purchases of land which Willis had petitioned to have thrown open for sale" (Neeson, 21) By 1872, they had settled their differences, Willis bought them out and much of their property in the Parishes of Tarrayoukyan and Koolomert became part of the Nareen estate (Neeson, 21).

Edward Willis, an early Overlander, Geelong merchant and the partner of Captain Swanston, was of the owner of Koolomurt, a major subdivision of the Kout Narien run. Koolomurt remained with the Willis family until it was sold to a Mr. Chaffey and later divided into, Barramar owned by Lance Learmonth; Koolomurt West by James Affleck and Koolomurt by Eric Learmonth (Neeson, 7).

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THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 2: Peopling Australia

2.4 Migrating

2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity.

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

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5.8 working on the land

CONDITION:

Excellent

INTEGRITY:

Excellent degree of integrity throughout

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Barramar Homestead complex is a large asymmetrical boomerang shaped brick homestead built in 1956 to replace an earlier homestead destroyed by bushfire in 1955. The house is situated off the Coleraine-Moree Road overlooking the Pigeon Ponds Creek. It was rebuilt to the design of Melbourne architects, Howden and McLean in 1956. The main house is unusual for its boomerang plan and its scale, including extensive living areas, nine bedrooms, four bathrooms and other extensive service areas including staff quarters. The house is in excellent condition and retains an excellent degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Barramar is of architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Barramar Homestead complex is architecturally significant as a rare example of a substantial homestead designed by an architect in the 1950s. It is of further architectural significance for the opulence of nine bedrooms and four bathrooms in what is essentially a farmhouse. Of additional architectural importance is its association with important Melbourne Architects, Howden and McLean.

COMPARISON:

327 Brie Brie Homestead Complex, Bundoran Road, Glenthompson
325 Nareeb Nareeb Homestead Complex, Chatsworth Road, Glenthompson

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

1/03/2004

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author

Ewan Neeson

R V Billis and A S Kenyon

Title

'A Place of Oaks', History of Nareen and Tarrayoukyan
Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip

Year Page

1970 7, 21

1974 59