

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** BRAE PARK HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Henty Highway BRANXHOLME

**STUDY NUMBER:** 221

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

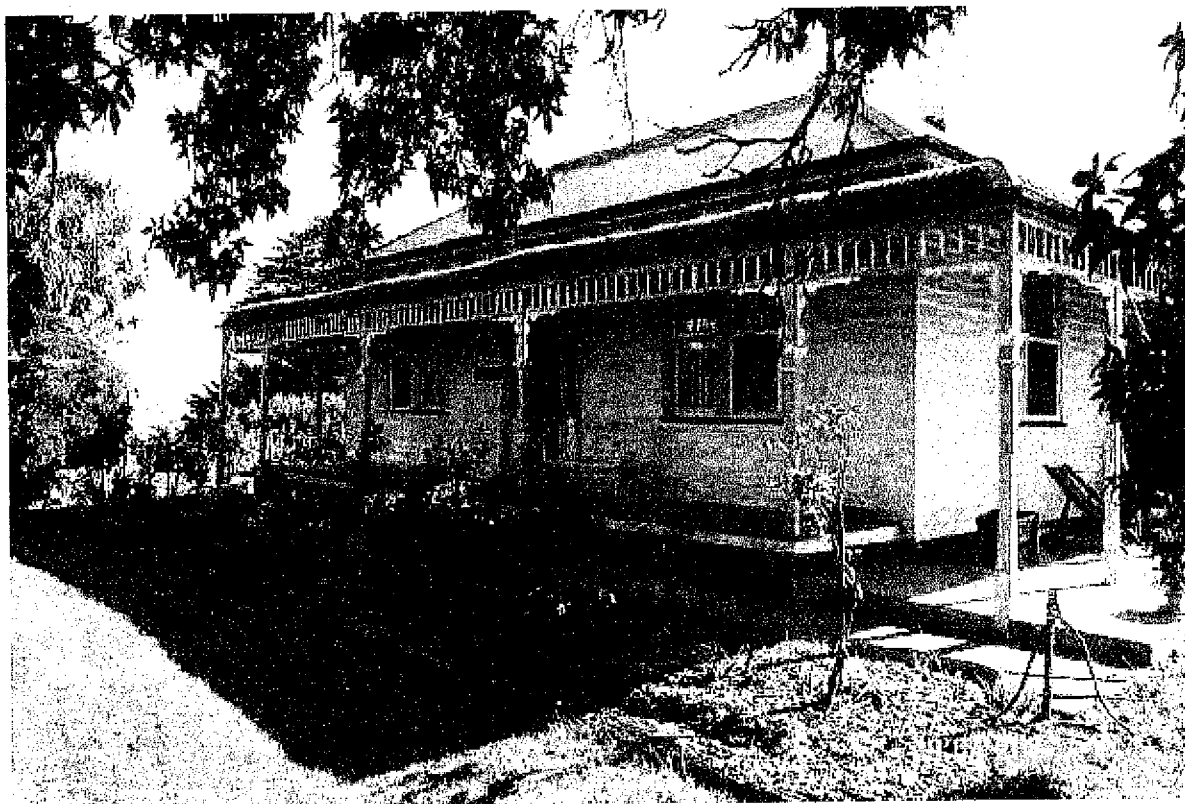
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF BRANXHOLME

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 472 D-13; VicRoads E8; located on the west side of the Henty Highway 4.5kms south-west of Branxholme

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Brae Park, Henty Highway, Branxholme, façade

**Image Date:** 9/04/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the main house and the garden and an area of 10,000 sq. metres generally around the house.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Brae Park is a single storey, asymmetrical timber house adopting the West Coast American or Californian bungalow form. The homestead has been built on a substantial rise close to the Henty Highway or front boundary, commanding a clear view east towards Mount Napier.

The house is now surrounded by a mature garden which dates from the construction of the house, with more modern additions.

## **HISTORY:**

The land, being about 250ha, on which Brae Park stands was purchased in 1912 as an existing homestead. It was first purchased by Samuel Pratt Winter of Murchison and the house was probably built by George Emmett, who was a lime burner nearby. Emmett advertised it for sale in 1866 as Buckingham Brae Park. Agnes Walter (45) states that "John Anderson was probably the next owner; he sent 13 bales of wool away by train in 1882, and the wool was branded "Brae Park." She continues "Henry Kilby later lived at Brae Park; he was married in 1892 while he owned the property. Mrs. Brown, who lived there next, was a caterer at district functions. In 1905, she sold Brae Park, her late husband's property, to William Begg and three years later it was sold to John Black of Balure" (ibid.).

A further 180ha was leased by Simon Black. The current house was built in 1917 when he married Violet Gough, the daughter of William and Ann Gough, the family connected with the major hotels in Branxholme. Simon Black built the house for himself, on the site of an earlier house which had been known formerly as Buckingham Brae Park. Black was born Moyne Falls, Macarthur in 1877. His parents were early pioneers, his father being first a shepherd and then the manager of Moyne Falls for the owner, Mr. Bayles (V&R, 42). Both father and son were important flock masters. The Brae Park homestead was "well situated on a rise, and commands a fine view of the surrounding countryside. The whole estate is very highly improved, and is one of the most desirable properties in the Branxholme district" (V&R, 42-3).

## **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:**

The building is in good condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of integrity externally. Interiors not yet inspected.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

Brae Park is the second homestead on this property, the first being built for George Emmett a local lime burner. The present house, located at the front boundary of the property on the west side of the Henty Highway, was built in 1917 by its owner Simon Black for his bride, Violet Gough whose family was connected with the Traveller's Rest, Branxholme and Junction Hotels. The house takes the form of the Californian bungalow, which was just becoming popular at the time. It remains substantially intact and in good condition. It is complimented by a typical garden which dates from the same time, with subsequent additions and alterations.

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The property was important for breeding sheep and horse. It reflects the success of a large local family whose pioneering ancestor, John Black began life as a shepherd.

How is it significant?

Brae Park is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Brae Park is of historical significance for its associations with several generations of the locally important Black family which still has many connections with the Branxholme-Byaduk area. It is of architectural significance as an example of an early twentieth century farm house adopting the contemporary bungalow style and form.

## COMPARISON:

124 Treasland Homestead Complex, Coleraine-Condah Road, Branxholme  
216 Royston, Henty Highway, Branxholme

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

02-Apr-02

## 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	1935	42-3
Agnes V. Walter	Branxholme 1843-1973	1973	45