

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** BUSHY CREEK HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Bushy Creek Lane GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 326      **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** A      **SECTION:** No      **PARISH:** PARISH OF BUCKERAN YARRACK  
Section  
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**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 476 A5; VicRoads 74 B6; located off Bushy Creek Lane (off the Glenthompson-Caramut Road) on the south-west bank of Bushy Creek

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local

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Bushy Creek Homestead (façade),

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

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the exteriors of the house and all of the land within a radius of 10m from any edge of the main house.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Bushy Creek homestead is an asymmetrical single storey house built of unusual concrete blocks, possibly made on site, with a substantial timber verandah on three sides. The floor plan is irregular, partly because an earlier timber building has been incorporated into the structure. The main roof is half-hipped and half gabled and clad with corrugated iron. The main doors are conservative, being Victorian in style, although glazed with Art Nouveau designs. On the other hand, the set of three double-hung sash windows in the front room is more typical of the 1920s. These are also glazed with Art Nouveau designs. Separate service rooms are located at the rear. The verandah is much altered. Very little remains of the early twentieth century garden. The aesthetic relationship between the house and the cemetery on a distant hill is important and can be compared with several other early homesteads.

## HISTORY:

Bushy Creek was first taken up as a pastoral run by John Kidd in September of 1840 (B&K 185). In September 1845, James Kidd (a relative of John) and Peter Hutcheson took over the lease which they retained until 1853, when it was subdivided into Bushy Creek and Glenronald. Kidd retained the portion known as Bushy Creek and Hutcheson took the portion known as Glenronald, which he retained until 1864 (ibid.).

There is some confusion surrounding the date when James Kidd sold Bushy Creek to the Beggs family. Billis and Kenyon (185) states that Francis Beggs took ownership in February 1858, while Sutherland (534) states that Hugh Lyons Beggs (father of Francis) took ownership of the property in 1853. Hugh Beggs married twice, first to Elizabeth Smith, who died without issue, and then to Lavinia Heney (De Serville, 460).

It is generally believed that Hugh L. M Beggs purchased the property in the 1850s, and his son Francis was born on Bushy Creek (Sutherland, 534). The entry in *Victoria and Its Metropolis* states that Francis Beggs was "... educated at the Hawthorn Grammar School, near Melbourne. In 1875 he left school, and took over the management of the estate, and, after his father's death in 1885, conducted the property on account of the trustees in the estate for a period of seven years, and then leased it from them." (Sutherland, 534). At this time, the holdings of Bushy Creek were about 15,00 acres, of which about 7,000 was under cultivation. It was said to have been excellent land for producing high yields of grain and other crops, as well as running Hereford cattle, and 15 000 stud sheep, described as "... all pure merino, and the stud sires used in this flock for the last twenty years are from the flocks of Scone, Eskvale, and Bellevue, Tasmania, which are splendid wool yielders" (ibid.). Bushy Creek had some international success with its wool "In 1889 Mr. Beggs obtained a diploma for merino wool at the Greater Britain Exhibition, Earl's Court, England, and a very complimentary notice appeared in the "British Australasian" of 22nd June, 1899, of which we quote and extract:—"I was now drawing near to the end of the exhibits, but there was certainly the best—if that could possibly be—left until the last. The next table contained the wool grown by Mr. Francis Beggs, of Glenthompson, and, if I had been called in to judge the wool, I should have placed 'first prize' on this table. My notes made on the spot say 'best in the lot.' This was greasy merino wool of 80's quality, and, though greasy, it looked almost like scoured. Comment here is superfluous, for its quality was perfect in every known wool characteristic." (Sutherland, 534).

Francis Beggs married Edith Turnbull, the daughter of James Turnbull of Emu Plains, with whom he had three daughters, Katherine, Rose and Jane (De Serville, 460).

The exact date of the construction of the present house is not known but its style, form and materials indicates a date early in the twentieth century and before the First World War. No architect or builder have been associated with its construction. The original homestead, or at least a very structure was moved up

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from the lower slopes of the hill to be incorporated in the new house. The use of concrete blocks is unusual, although pressed cement blocks were being used about this time.

## **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:**

Fair

## **INTEGRITY:**

Fair

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Bushy Creek Homestead is a asymmetrical single storey house built of concrete blocks with a substantial timber verandah on three sides. The floor plan is irregular, partly because an earlier timber building has been incorporated into the structure. The main roof is half-hipped and half gabled and clad with corrugated iron. The main doors are conservative, being Victorian in style, although glazed with Art Nouveau designs. The house is sited in the remains of what was once an Edwardian garden. Bushy Creek has had a long association with the Beggs family, who retained the property within the family for over 130 years prior to its sale outside the family. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. Bushy Creek is in fair condition, and retains a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Bushy Creek is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

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Why is it significant?

Bushy Creek is of historical significance as an early pastoral run, taken up as early as the 1840s by James Kidd. The run was associated with the influential and important pastoral family Beggs through over 130 years continual ownership. The homestead is of architectural significance for its unusual incorporation of a much earlier house into the new homestead, built after the turn of the century, and for its use of concrete block as a construction material.

## **COMPARISON:**

393 Boonar, Hamilton Highway, Tarrington

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

13/02/2004

## **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
	Cyclopaedia of Victoria	1903	534
	Mt Rouse Shire Centenary	1964	not pagin ated
Henderson, Alexander	Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina	1936	
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	460
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	87, 92, 185