

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SATIMER HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Wando Dale-Satimer Road NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 046 **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: CA B **SECTION:** 11A; **PARISH:** PARISH OF DEWRANG
A1 &
2; 2

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 386 F 2 & 3; VicRoads 54 A8; At the junction of the Satimer-Wando Vale Roads near the junction of Haydens Road and overlooking the south bank of the Wando River.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Satimer Homestead Complex, Wando Vale - Satimer, Wando Vale.

Image Date: 01/02/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house (to the extent of the exterior) and all of the land within 30 metres of any edge of the main house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The site of the original Satimer homestead is located on a north-facing slope overlooking the Wando River. Although there are no above ground remains of the first homestead, a rectangular planting of English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) define the boundary of the homestead garden. The only other reminder of the former Satimer Homestead are several fruit trees, part of the original orchard.

The current Satimer Homestead was built in 1910, and is located nearer to the Wando Vale – Satimer Road, on the tablelands on the western side the Wando River. The homestead is a single storey brick building in a loosely Italianate in style. The building has been substantially extended and altered. An encircling verandah has replaced the smaller front verandah. It is surrounded by a simple garden.

HISTORY:

The Satimer (formerly Satirmer) squatting run, of 20 000 acres was first taken up by Thomas Wentworth Watson in 1842, who also held land at Cape Nelson and in the Dundas Range (Billis & Kenyon, 276). In 1848, the partnership of Major Alexander Davidson and his brother in law, Duncan Robertson bought the lease, and resided on the property with their families (Moodie, in Palmer, 38).

Robertson married Ann Fraser, and they had four children, John, William, Mary and Annie (de Serville, 1991, 485). Duncan Robertson was related to George Robertson of Warrock, and the Robertson brothers who owned Struan and Wando Vale. Ann Robertson died aged 43 at Satimer in 1853, and in 1860, Duncan Robertson sold his portion of the property to Alexander Davidson. In 1862 Robertson purchased Gringegalonga, and built the homestead there in the later 1870s, where the Robertson family resided for many years.

Major Alexander Davidson, formerly of Honourable East India Company Service (de Serville, 1980, 190) arrived in Port Phillip in 1843, and immediately took up leases on property in South Yarra (now part of the Royal Botanic Gardens), and also on the Acheron River in Gippsland (Victoria & Its Metropolis, 67). Davidson owned the lease on Satimer (then called Satirmer) alone from 1860 to 1874, when he sold to Edmund Mackenzie Young, a banker and pastoral broker. Young already held land in South Australia and New South Wales. In his career, he was Manager of the National Bank in South Australia, and later became General Manager; Young was also involved in the Australian Mortgage (Mercantile), Land Finance Company and a founder of the Pastoralists' Union on Victoria (de Serville, 1991, 455). Young never resided at the property, as William Moodie, of adjoining run, Wando Dale, first leased the property, and then purchased Satimer. The Moodies experienced financial difficulties in the late nineteenth century, and were forced to sell their interests in Wando Dale and Satimer, and a family named McGrath took up 1000 acres of land, including the homestead portion of Satimer run. At some time in the early twentieth century, Satimer was purchased by the Speirs family, whose descendants still own and run the property today.

It is not known when the original homestead was built, although it could have been built as early as the 1850s, when Davidson and Robertson resided at Satimer with their wives and families. A black and white photograph in the possession of the present owners suggests that it was a simple timber building, perhaps with the addition of a new room, under a large gable in the centre of the façade. The house was abandoned when the new house was built in 1910, higher on the hill and towards the south. The original homestead fell into disrepair and was demolished.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

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3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land.

CONDITION:

The original homestead site has significant archaeological potential.

The existing second house is much altered and extended with only low integrity but it is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

The original homestead site survives well as an archaeological site. The 1910 house has a very low degree of integrity being much altered and extended but it is in good condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Satimer Homestead Complex is located approximately 100 metres north of the Satimer-Wando Vale Road, overlooking the Wando River. The original homestead has been demolished, although there may be archaeological potential below the surface. A rectangular planting of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) and several fruit trees survive on the site, indicating where the homestead was located. This site is now considered to be a Heritage Inventory Site. The new homestead was built in 1910, and is a substantial single storey brick villa, in a loosely Italianate style. Although it has had many additions and alterations, it is in good condition. The Satimer run was taken up by Thomas Wentworth Watson in 1842, and has relatively few owners since that time. Major Alexander Davidson and Duncan Robertson retained the property in partnership until 1860, when Robertson sold his share to Davidson, who continued to own the property alone until 1873. Satimer was purchased by pastoralist and banker, Edmund MacKenzie Young in 1874. Young first leased and then sold the property to William Moodie, who ran Satimer with his adjoining Wando Dale for some years. Financial hardship forced the property to be subdivided in the late nineteenth century, and the Spiers family purchased it in the early nineteenth century. The property remains in the ownership of this family.

How is it significant?

The Satimer Homestead complex is of historical and archaeological significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Satimer Homestead complex is of historical significance for early date of settlement, its associations with important early pastoralists, including Alexander Davidson, Duncan Robertson and William Moodie. Duncan Robertson and William Moodie were two of the largest landholders in the area in the nineteenth century. The complex is of further historical significance as it demonstrates the typical sequence of development in large pastoral holdings, where a small simple first homestead is superseded by the development of a more substantial homestead, located in a more prominent position.

COMPARISON:

045 Park Hill (original site), Schullers Rd, Yulecart

034 Wilderness Homestead Complex, Wilderness Rd, Gritjurk

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

10/09/2001

EXISTING LISTINGS:

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HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol IIA Country Districts	1888,	67 19
James Smith, ed	The Cyclopaedia of Victoria	1905	550
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	485
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	var.
William Moodie in Joan Palmer (ed)	William Moodie: A pioneer of Western Victoria	1973	var.