

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** KILMUIR

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Nareen Road NAREEN

**STUDY NUMBER:** 067

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF TARRAYOUKYAN

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 386 D24; VicRoads 54 A8; located on the Nareen Road one kilometre south of the interesection of Steep Gully Road.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Kilmuir Homestead Complex, Nareen Road, Nareen. Kilmuir Homestead & Garden

**Image Date:** 26/03/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the house, the garden and all the mature plantings (including the old orchard) and all of the land within 20 metres from any edge of the house.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

A single storey symmetrical stone house with extensions at the rear and to the north side. The stone walls are built from coursed random rubble and have been painted. The hipped roof is corrugated iron (with the short sheets indicating the original or early iron) as are the hipped roof of the rear wing and the roof of the northern extension. The pitch of the roof is unusual in that it is bell-cast, or a flatter pitch at the eaves. The front door has been replaced. The front windows are the original 12-pane double-hung sashes. Stone chimneys are on either side of the house. The extension at the rear may have been a detached kitchen. The extension on the north side is modern dating from the 1960s or later. There is a small and simple garden associated with the house with traditional plantings, none of which are of individual significance.

## **HISTORY:**

The Kilmuir Homestead, as a selector's site, dates from the mid-1860s. John McDonald purchased allotments 120 and 121 of section 1 of the Parish of Tarrayoukyan from the Crown 20th August 1874 [date indistinct], which comprised a total of about 538 acres (Department of Lands and Survey, 1930). John, his wife Mary and their sons Allan, Roderick and Donald were born on the Isle of Skye. Allan's date of birth is not known but, according to their gravestones in the Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, the others were born in 1813, 1807, 1844 and 1847. They emigrated on the "Edward Johnstone" and landed at Portland in 1854, working for John Robertson of Wando Vale but also taking up land at Buckley's Swamp (Neeson, 10). John then selected the land on which Kilmuir and the later house, Hill View was built. His sons occupied Kilmuir by the end of 1865 and John and Mary arrived later (Neeson, 10).

They had occupied the land under a lease from 2nd June 1865, making improvements, including a dwelling, fencing, draining and cultivation. The land bailiff, Mr McEwan of Hamilton inspected the improvements in June 1868 and the lease was approved to "John McDonald of Buckley Swamp" (Neeson, 26).

Kilmuir was built in at least two stages. It is probable that the earliest surviving part, the central front section built of stone, dates from the late-1860s if it were occupied by one of the McDonald sons McDonald, pers. comm. 26/03/02). An Allan McDonald had married a Mary MacPhee in 1859 but the location of the marriage in Victoria is not recorded (VPI, Reg. No. 805). There appears to have been an early addition at the rear. After the Second World War, there was a major modern addition on the north side under its own roof. The main roof was also altered with the introduction of a wider eaves line, producing a 'bell-cast' profile. Mr E. N. McDonald, the grandson of the original selector, lived in the house until his recent death and the property is still owned by the family. It is one of the few continuous occupations of an early selector's homestead in the shire. The garden was developed by the late Mrs McDonald and is representative of the post WW2 period.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

## **CONDITION:**

The house is in good condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

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High degree of integrity

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

### What is significant?

Kilmuir is a stone cottage located in Nareen Road about one kilometre south of Nareen. It seems to have been built in the 1860s as a result of the subdivision of land under the Land Selection Acts. The cottage is of interest for its simple vernacular style and its traditional forms and details. The bell cast hipped roof of the front wing is unusual. The extension at the rear under the second hip roof is likely to have been a detached kitchen. The cottage was extended to the north after the Second World War. It remains in good condition with a high degree of integrity. The house is set within an appropriate cottage garden.

### How is it significant?

Kilmuir is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Nareen and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Kilmuir is of historical significance because it reflects the major change in land ownership brought about by the land Selection Acts and it is of architectural interest because of its relatively late vernacular style, form and details. It is of further historical significance for its long association with the McDonald family, who have held the property for over 125 years.

## COMPARISON:

411 Hill View, off Steep Gully Road, Nareen

080 Policeman's Hut, Nareen Road, Nareen

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

24/10/2001

## 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
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Department of Lands and Survey	Parish of Tarrayoukyan County of Dundas	1930	
Ewan Neeson	A Place of Oaks: History of Nareen and Tarrayoukyan 1836-1970	1970	var.
J. McDonald - personal communication		2003	