

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HYDE PARK

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hyde Park Road GATUM

STUDY NUMBER: 142

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF GATUM GATUM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388 F -6; VicRoads 54 H8; located at the end of Hyde Park Road off the east side of the Natimuk-Hamilton Road on the Banangal Creek about 24kms south-east of Balmoral

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Hyde Park Homestead, Gatum

Image Date: 01/12/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the homestead building (but excluding the interiors), and the surrounding garden.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HYDE PARK

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hyde Park Road GATUM

STUDY NUMBER: 142

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The homestead at Hyde Park is a group of small single-storey buildings, the earliest constructed from timber using vernacular forms with stone and brick chimneys, corrugated iron roofs and simple timber verandahs contiguous with the main roofs. The roof over the earliest section is hipped while that over the kitchen wing is gabled. At the rear there are small timber outbuildings, possibly dating from the earliest period of settlement. While the surviving fabric is early, it is more refined than the most primitive methods of construction, such as the timber slab, mass masonry or the rare pisé, suggesting a date in the 1850s. There is a timber woolshed of uncertain date further to the rear of the homestead and it is said that there are stone cottages, used as shearers' huts elsewhere on the property. The homestead underwent substantial modernisations and extension after the Second World War. The homestead is set within a mature garden, largely dating from the twentieth century.

HISTORY:

The Hyde Park squatting run, No. 155 in the Portland Bay district and located at the head of the Dundas River about 14.5kms north of Cavendish, was taken up by the partnership of Melbourne merchants, Bells Brothers and Buchanan in 1843. It comprised 30,500 acres, a relatively large area, with 1,000 head of cattle and 7,000 sheep. The same partnership held the licence for the nearby Englefield run. Henrie Bell and William Montgomerie Bell, arrived in Port Phillip in 1841 (B&K, 25). They were in partnership with Isaac Buchanan as merchants in Little Flinders Street in 1841 (Garryowen, 282, 595). Buchanan was one of the founders of the Melbourne Fire and Marine Insurance Society (Garryowen, 449). The partners were agents for Dennistoun and Co. of Glasgow. The partnership was dissolved in 1847 but W. & H. Bell continued in business at Port Albert as I. Buchanan and Co..

Donald Kennedy and Duncan Cameron Kennedy took over the licence in 1845, holding it until May 1849 (B&K, 92, 223). It then passed briefly to the partnership of Thomas McKellar and James Cochrane. Thomas McKellar (1819-1900) bought out Cochrane's interest in the partnership and held the licence alone until September 1858. Thomas McKellar "was the most important of the new pastoralists to arrive in the district in the 1850s. Born in Argyllshire, Scotland in 1819, he migrated to Port Phillip in 1848 to join a cousin on a station in the Wimmera. In 1849 he purchased the Hyde Park run near Cavendish and in 1855 the nearby Kenilworth North run. In 1858 he sold both to buy Kanawalla, the first of a number of properties he was to buy around Hamilton" (Garden, 51).

In 1850, he married Catherine McColl, a sister of James McColl of Yat Nat, at the Presbyterian Church in Geelong (VPI, Reg. No. 2315). They had five sons and daughters, several of whom were born at Hyde Park" (HHC, Kenilworth research notes). It seems the family continued to live at Hyde Park. McKellar is described by Henderson as "one of the outstanding pioneers of Victoria ... a far-seeing man ... possessed of a natural Scottish shrewdness" (HHC, research notes). McKellar sold to Alexander McGill who took up the Pre-emptive right, is named in Bailliere's Gazetteer in 1868 and remained as a long-term owner. Bailliere describes Hyde Park as being 25,000 acres and running 25,000 sheep.

The Gatum Gatum Parish Plan shows the Pre-emptive right going to Alexander McGill who also owned land going across to McGill's Creek and to the south-east of Hyde Park. Typically, Alexander McGill purchased much of the land around the Hyde Park pre-emptive right when it was opened up for selection in the 1860s. The licence was cancelled in 1876. Little is known about him. An Alexander McGill had married Margaret Ann Baird in 1852 at the Presbyterian Church of Woody Yallock and Colac (VPI, Reg. No. 2892). They appear to have had no children. Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, she died in 1879 aged 57 (VPI, Reg. No. 4794).

One of the most important changes in the history of Hyde Park and the Balmoral area was the construction of the Gatum section of the Hamilton to Horsham railway, representing its final link. As always, there had been much debate and politicking for different routes, and decisions were not always practical. Lines had been extending north and west from Hamilton and south from Horsham. According to Wes Rogers, "The line was

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HYDE PARK

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hyde Park Road GATUM

STUDY NUMBER: 142

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

completed between Hamilton and Cavendish on October 15th, 1915 and opened for public traffic on November 1st of the following year. By this time work had also commenced on the authorised extension between Toolondo and Cavendish from the northern end. And shortly after the line had reached Cavendish from Hamilton. Construction of the section between Cavendish and Balmoral commenced. Thus in 1915 rails were reaching for Balmoral in both directions." (Rogers, 8). Gatum was known as Hyde Park during the construction of the Kanagulk Line. The line has long since been abandoned but a timber bridge survives immediately south-west of Hyde Park homestead.

Eventually, the state Government bought Mooralla, Kenilworth, Englefield, Kongbool, Melville Forest and Wootong Vale and Hyde Park for Soldier Settlement and subdivision. William Philip of Braeside could comment in 1926 'so that from Hamilton to Harrow, a distance of 60 miles, instead of the large pastoral holdings which a few years ago occupied the whole of his territory, the traveller now passes through small holdings devoted to mixed farming' (Rogers, 15). Hyde Park was not in the same way as its neighbours Kanawalla and Kenilworth and continues as a small pastoral property. The homestead underwent substantial modernisations and extension after the Second World War.

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 homestead and outbuildings are in very good condition. [The woolshed and stone cottages were not inspected.]

INTEGRITY:

Low degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Hyde Park squatting run, located at the head of the Dundas River about 14.5kms north of Cavendish, was taken up by the partnership of Melbourne merchants, Bells Brothers and Buchanan in 1843. Donald Kennedy and Duncan Cameron Kennedy held it for two years to 1849. It then passed briefly to the partnership of Thomas McKellar and James Cochrane. McKellar bought out Cochrane's interest in the partnership and held the licence alone until September 1858. Parts of the existing timber homestead must date from about this time. The important early twentieth century biographer, Alexander Henderson described McKellar as "one of the outstanding pioneers of Victoria ... a far-seeing man ... possessed of a natural Scottish shrewdness". Hyde Park was only a stepping stone for Thomas McKellar and his wife Catherine, nee McColl, who was connected with the Yat Nat squatting run. They purchased Kenilworth North licences but remained at Hyde Park, then sold both these to purchase Kanawalla. He then moved to The Grange, which re-named Strathkellar. The next owner, Alexander McGill took up the Pre-emptive right, is named in Bailliere's Gazetteer in 1868 and remained as a long-term owner. In 1915 the last link in the Hamilton-Horsham railway line passed through Hyde Park. As usual, Hyde Park was eventually subdivided for Soldier Settlement. The homestead underwent substantial changes after the Second World War. It survives in good condition but with its integrity seriously compromised.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HYDE PARK

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hyde Park Road GATUM

STUDY NUMBER: 142

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

How is it significant?

Hyde Park Homestead complex is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Cavendish and to the southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Hyde Park Homestead complex is of historical significance for its associations with several important, influential pastoral families and their interconnection. It is of particular interest for demonstrating the relatively humble beginnings of the very successful squatter, Thomas McKellar who is considered one of the outstanding pioneers of Victoria. Hyde Park is of architectural significance as an example of a simple early homestead, which developed little after the 1860s and still reflects the pre-Land Selection period.

COMPARISON:

- 051 Englefield, Natimuk-Balmoral Road, Balmoral
- 131 Kenilworth Homestead Outbuildings, Cavendish-Coleraine Road, Cavendish
- 132 Kanawalla Homestead Complex, Henty Highway, Cavendish
- 144 Yat Nat Homestead Complex, Yat Nat Road, Balmoral

ASSESSED BY: TFH & MGT

ASSESSMENT DATE: 01-Dec-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
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Diana M Halmarick, comp.	Thos. Robertson & Sons "Mainstays of Our Earliest Days"	2000	75
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	51
F. F. Bailliere	Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide	1865	189
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	25, 223
W. J. Rogers	History of Balmoral	2003	15
W. J. Rogers	History of Balmoral	2003	8, 15