

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: VILADALE HOUSE COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: McKellar's Road YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 155

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF YULECART

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 431F56; VicRoads 72 G5; located on the east side of McKellar's Road about 5kms west of Hamilton.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Viladale House Complex, McKellar's Road, Yulecart. Front elevation

Image Date: 14/12/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the main house, but excluding the interiors, the barn and the stables, and the front garden including the hedges.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Viladale House consists of a single storeyed bluestone and timber homestead with corrugated iron roof, commenced in 1904 by Lodge Brothers of Hamilton, for John and Bertha Habel. The style and form of the house are very conservative for the time with a façade symmetrical about the front door and central passage. The dining room addition introduced asymmetry on the southern elevation and includes some very simple Federation period detailing. The front windows have been converted to French doors.

Several bluestone, timber and imitation stone sections of lesser architectural importance have been added at the rear at later stages.

Beyond the homestead's modern garden, a complex of early 20th century farm buildings includes a blacksmith's shop, a machinery shed with thatched roof, woolshed, chaff house and stables.

Of the original homestead garden, only one mulberry tree remains. The present owners have undertaken extensive landscaping of about one acre around the house. The cypress hedges are an important element in the definition of the garden.

HISTORY:

Viladale House was built by well-known Hamilton firm Lodge Brothers in 1904, for successful farmer, John Habel. Habel had moved from Lake Linlithgow to Yulecart in 1896, seeking rich agricultural land. There he purchased 120 acres of well-drained black volcanic soil, and subsequently enlarged his holding to approximately 3,000 acres. Bluestone additions to the homestead were undertaken by Lodge Brothers in 1917, and again in 1928, using timber. Lodge Bros. were unavailable to undertake the 1928 works, being engaged full time on the construction of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne (Belcher, 2002).

John Habel was a successful farmer and the property was home to a well-known English Leceister sheep stud during his occupation. John Habel and his wife Bertha retired from the property in 1938, at which time their son Alex took over. It remained in the Habel family until purchased by the present owners in 1980 (ibid.).

The stables is believed to be the oldest building on the site, constructed c. 1902. At its greatest extent, the stables housed 13 horses. The thatched machinery shed, with several bays for housing farm equipment, was built c. 1926-28. The shed is believed to be the only extant thatched shed in the district. In 1936 John Habel became the local agent for H V McKay (ibid.).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working the land

CONDITION:

The condition of the house and outbuildings is excellent, with substantial repairs and restoration being undertaken by the present owners after they took possession in 1980.

INTEGRITY:

The house retains a good degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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What is significant?

Viladale House is located on the east side of McKellar's Road about 5kms west of Hamilton. It is a single storeyed bluestone and timber homestead with corrugated iron roof, commenced in 1904 by Lodge Brothers of Hamilton, for John and Bertha Habel. The style and form of the house are very conservative for the time with a façade symmetrical about the front door and central passage. Several bluestone, timber and imitation stone sections of lesser architectural importance have been added at the rear at later stages. A number of twentieth century farm buildings are located beyond the homestead garden. Of the original homestead garden, only one mulberry tree remains. The homestead is in excellent condition, and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Viladale House Complex is of architectural and historical significance to the district of Yulecart.

Why is it significant?

The Viladale House Homestead Complex is of historical significance for its connections with the Habel family, and for its later association with the Lodge Brothers, who were also responsible for stone work at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. It is of architectural significance as a little altered and representative example of a very old fashioned example of a pastoral homestead built after the turn of the century.

COMPARISON:

368 Willowbrook, Macarthur-Penshurst Road, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: TFH & AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

11-Dec-03

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
Dennis Belcher	Personal Communication	2002	
Donald Garden	Hamilton, a Western District History	1984	var.
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	36, 44-5, 73, 218