

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: REMNANT GARDEN

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Highway Brown Street BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 228

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Branxholme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 10 **SECTION:** 3 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BRANXHOLME

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473J ; VicRoads 233 S3; located in the north-west corner of Creek Street (Henty Highway) and Brown Streets, immediately across the highway from the Arrandoovong Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Remnant Garden, Corner Creek & Brown Streets, Branxholme

Image Date: 06/01/2004

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All of the mature trees, and all of the land in the allotment, being allotment 3, Section 10, Township of Branxholme.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

No structures survive, however, the site appears to have been residential and, if it followed the example of the other buildings in Creek Street, it would have faced west towards the Arrandoovong Creek. Disturbed uneven ground that the residence was located towards the main road. A simple picket fence survives along both street frontages.

Several important exotic plantings survive including the remains of what may have been a small orchard, with a specimen of Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*), a Mulberry (*Morus nigra*), a Pear (*Pyrus comminus*), Apple (*Malus* sp.) and fig (*Ficus carica*). The northern boundary is defined by a row of five Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) and a row of an unknown variety of yellow fleshed plum (*Prunus* sp.). A closely planted row of Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) trees define the eastern boundary of the site. Several Hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp. unknown) have suckered throughout the site, particularly in the western half of the site.

HISTORY:

The land on which the residence and garden were established was first purchased by A. Bradley in the 1850s. There are no records of the Bradley family in the Branxholme or surrounding cemeteries, nor are there any recorded births, deaths or marriages which may be for A. Bradley. It is not known if Bradley was responsible building the residence and establishing the garden. The later history of the site is also unknown. Nor is it known when the residence was demolished. Further research into rate books may yield this information.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

In fair condition

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The remnant garden on the Corner of Henty Highway (Creek Street) and Brown Street is a typical nineteenth century allotment which has originally been a suburban cottage and garden. The plantings appear to be the remains of an orchard surrounding a small residence, although no structures remain on the site. Specimens of Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*), Fig (*Ficus carica*), Apple (*Malus* sp.), Pear (*Pyrus comminus*), and Mulberry (*Morus nigra*) as well as several different variety of plum (*Prunus* sp.) remain. An unusual planting of Hornbeams (*Carpinus caroliniana*) defines the eastern boundary, and part of the northern boundary. The land was first taken up by an A. Bradley, about which very little is known. It is likely that one of the later owners of the site was responsible for the planting of the orchard and other trees around the cottage (now archaeological remains only). The garden retains a high degree of integrity, and is now in fair condition.

How is it significant?

The remnant garden is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

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The remnant garden is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of an early nineteenth century town-based orchard and garden associated with a small residence. The garden provides an insight into how we once lived, with a focus on growing our own fruits and vegetables. The specimens in the garden are also of historical interest, particularly the Osage Orange (which was not a common Australian planting from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries) and for the use of Hornbeam as a boundary planting. The site may have further historical connections to the abandoned timber cottage and extensive orchard on the other side of the Arrandoovong Creek, which also has an unusual and extensive range of trees.

COMPARISON:

227 Timber Cottage and Orchard, Henry Street, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

14/12/2003

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
Public Lands Office	Township of Branxholme	1858	