

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: CROXTON HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Bensch's Lane TARRINGTON

STUDY NUMBER: 296

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

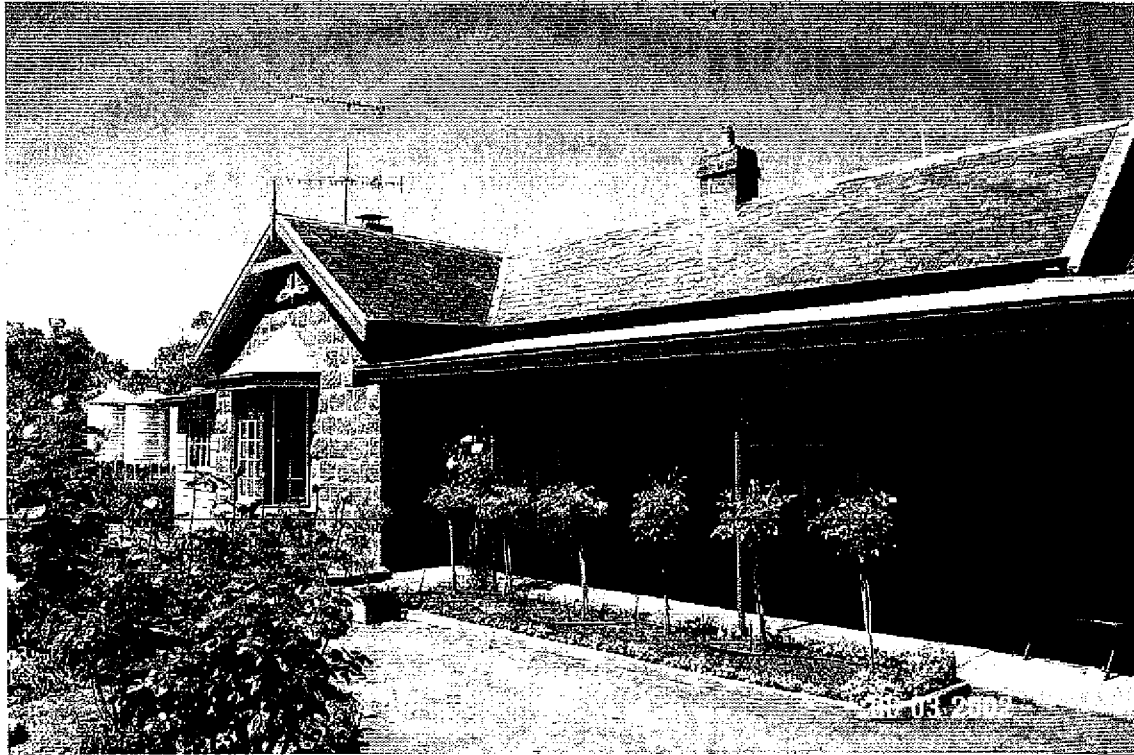
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 5 **SECTION:** 8 **PARISH:** PARISH OF CROXTON WEST

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 474 B-10

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Croxton Homestead, Bensch's Rd, Penshurst

Image Date: 8/03/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the main house excluding the interiors, and all of the outbuildings and all of the garden including all of the land within a 50m radius of any edge of the main house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The existing house on the east side of Bensch's Lane is a single storey asymmetrical cottage. One room, on the north side, projects forward and has a small bay window below a simple gable. The front door is central. There is a verandah across the façade which returns a short distance on the south side. The main roof is also gabled and is covered with slates. The verandah roof is corrugated iron (possibly Colorbond). The walls are built of rock-faced bluestone in 12 inch beds. The plan of the original house is standard for the time with four rooms opening off the central hall. The single chimney is in the centre of the house. Behind the house there is a service wing, set perpendicular to the front wing and formerly detached, of weatherboard and with a large brick chimney. A new kitchen wing was built in the 1960s extending the house to the south. The house is surrounded by a mature garden which appears to date largely from the later twentieth century. It is enclosed by a low stone wall at the front with ends which curve towards the front.

HISTORY:

The original Croxton Homestead, taken up by Donald Kennedy in 1842, appears to have been located on the south-west shore of Lake Kennedy. It is indicated on a preliminary survey of 'Country Lands in the Parishes of Warrayure, Croxton E & W, and Yatchaw East & West' dated July 15th 1858. (It also shows Skene's run to the north and Twomey's run to the south.) Donald Kennedy was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1851 and continued as an elected member until 1861. Kennedy took up his pre-emptive right and bought surrounding land which was sold by the Crown in 1857-58 or earlier. He also bought key sites at Penshurst when land was sold there in 1852. He sold Croxton to John Alexander Macpherson in 1858 and this may be the date of construction of the existing house. It is located on a block contiguous with the pre-emptive right and addresses the surveyed road called Bensch's lane but is nearly 2kms west-south-west of the original homestead site. Macpherson had moved to Melbourne to study law but still stood for and won the seat of Portland in 1864. In August 1862 Croxton had passed to Thomas McKellar who was also an MLC and this is also a possible date of construction. No architect or builder has been associated with the existing house. It is typical of the small picturesque cottages presented in pattern books of the time.

The house was extended in the 1960s but retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition. The house is enhanced by a mature modern garden.

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 house appears to be in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The original Croxton Homestead, taken up by Donald Kennedy in 1842, appears to have been located on the

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south-west shore of Lake Kennedy. Donald Kennedy was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1851 and continued as an elected member until 1861. Kennedy took up his pre-emptive right and bought surrounding land which was sold by the Crown in 1857-58. He sold Croxton to John Alexander Macpherson in 1858. The existing house on the east side of Bensch's Lane is located on a block contiguous with the pre-emptive right but nearly 2kms west-south-west of the original homestead site and may date from this time. Macpherson had moved to Melbourne to study law but still stood for and won the seat of Portland in 1864. In August 1862 Croxton had passed to Thomas McKellar who was also an MLC. No architect or builder has been associated with the existing house. It is typical of the small picturesque cottages presented in pattern books of the time. The house was extended in the 1960s but retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition. The house is enhanced by a mature modern garden.

How is it significant?

The Croxton Homestead complex is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Croxton Homestead complex is of historical significance through its associations with several important squatters who were also politicians including Donald Kennedy MLC, John Alexander Macpherson MLC and Thomas McKellar MLC. It is of architectural interest as an example of the Picturesque aesthetic, the design possibly being derived from a pattern book.

COMPARISON:

395 Skene (formerly Warrumbeeche) Homestead, Skene Road, Strathkellar
295 Banemore Homestead Complex, Twomey's Bridge Road, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh & aeb

ASSESSMENT DATE:

21/05/2002

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
Dorothy Fitzpatrick, in Douglas Pike, ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 5	1983	195-6
Garden, Don	Hamilton A Western District History	1984	var.
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	var.
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	91, 104, 196