

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** KINVONVIE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Murndal Road YULECART

**STUDY NUMBER:** 335

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 6 (with SECTION: D PARISH: PARISH OF MURNDAL  
4B and  
7)

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 431 E-50; VicRoads 72 F6; located on the north side of the Murndal Road about 1.0km east of the intersection with the Morgiana Road.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Kinvonvie, Murndal Road, Yulecart, front entrance

**Image Date:** 4/01/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the house, all of the garden including the mature exotic trees and hedges, the drive, the stables and the men's quarters and all of the land within a 100m radius of any edge of the main house.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Kinvonvie is an asymmetrical single storey rendered brick residence located in a mature exotic garden with sweeping lawns and surrounded by a number of mature cypress hedges. The original house was an asymmetrical and probably face-brick residence with three bedrooms, a large dining room, large formal room, kitchen and service wing, built in 1894. There was a small verandah at the front, subsequently replaced by a masonry porch in 1924 when a large billiard room was added to the south of the facade. No architect or builder has been associated with this design, although Robert Hamilton is likely. The house has rectangular bay windows at the front and a polygonal bay window at the side, which survives from the original house. There are several outbuildings, including substantial timber stables and worker's accommodation at the rear.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which Kinvonvie stands was first purchased from the Crown by selector Robert Knaggs in January 1876 (Department of Lands and Survey). Knaggs purchased three allotments totaling about 328 acres at this time, including section D, allotment 6. There is almost no recorded information regarding Robert Knaggs. He is not listed as a landholder, in the births, deaths and marriages or buried in any of the local cemeteries.

The history of ownership is unknown until about 1894, when the house was built for James Trangmar, a merchant from Coleraine. The house is said to have been made from bricks quarried and fired on the property (HHC File Notes). No architect or builder has been associated with the design and construction but the local architect, Frank Hammond is one possibility. With his brother George, James Trangmar was a local merchant and landholder. The Trangmar brothers were born in Bright, Sussex and arrived in the colonies in 1839. James was the President of the Port Phillip Pioneers Association, was involved on the Portland Shire and the Mayor of Portland (de Serville, 490). Trangmar moved to Portland in October 1898, and in 1900 sold the property to Donald Munro, a bachelor (ibid.).

In 1922, the property was sold to Reginald Languac Twomey. Twomey was the son of Edward and Mary Twomey of Kolor and Languac Stations near Peshurst (Henderson, 428). He was born at Kolor Station in 1897, and educated at Xavier College in Melbourne. After completing his schooling, he joined his brother Edward at Languac Station where he gained pastoral experience until he purchased Kinvonvie in 1922, when it comprised 4,000 acres (ibid., 430).

Twomey married Lalla Mary Naphine, of Stawell, and they had one daughter, Virginia Mary. The house had a billiard room added in 1924, although the architect for this addition is not known. (The fashionable Melbourne architect, Robert Hamilton undertook several commissions in the study area at the time and he is the most likely.) Reginald Twomey was deeply involved in horse sports, renowned in the district for his hunting ability, and for his competing in point-to-points held at Kinvonvie. He was a committee member and president of the Hamilton Racing Club for many years (ibid.).

When Reginald Twomey died in 1958, his son in law, Michael Stewart managed the property, taking ownership on the death of Mrs. Lalla Twomey in 1966 (HCC file note). Although much reduced in size, the property continues to be used for farming and grazing purposes.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

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## CONDITION:

Excellent condition

## INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity to post World War Two.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Kinvonvie is located on north side of Murndal Road, approximately 23 kilometres south of Hamilton. The house was built in 1894 of bricks quarried and fired on the property for James Trangmar, a successful merchant and landholder in the area. No architect or builder has been associated with the original design. The property passed to the Twomey family in 1922, important pastoralists from the Peshurst area, and is still held by the descendants. Additions and substantial renovations were made in the 1920s when a billiard room was added and the porch introduced. The Melbourne architect, Robert Hamilton, was probably the designer. The grounds were developed substantially during the Interwar period as part of the Twomey occupation. The Homestead is in excellent condition, and retains a high degree of integrity to the post WW2 period.

How is it significant?

Kinvonvie homestead is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Kinvonvie is of historical significance for its early associations with the much larger and important Morgiana run, of which it was initially a part. It is of further historical significance for its association with the important early pastoral families of Trangmar and Twomey, and is representative of the younger generation, particularly in the case of Reginald Twomey, establishing itself in its own right away from the family home station. Kinvonvie is architecturally significant as a fine example of an Interwar house and garden, probably the work of the architect Robert Hamilton, and for reflecting a traditional lifestyle, now largely passed.

## COMPARISON:

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114 Bassett Homestead Complex, Bassett's Road, Branxholme.  
143 Koornong Homestead, Henty Highway, Branxholme  
097 Devon Park Homestead, Blackwood-Dunkeld Road, Dunkeld

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

16/02/2004

## 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 Lands and Survey	Parish of Murndal	1932	
Hamilton History Centre	File Notes Kinvonvie		
Henderson, Alexander	Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina	1936	428-30