

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BEEKEEPER'S FARM (ANDERSON'S)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: off Anderson's Road GLENISLA

STUDY NUMBER: 450

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** no **PARISH:** PARISH OF BILLIMINAH
section?

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 350 E 587975/61010; VicRoads 55 E5; located at the end of Anderson's Road, about 3.2kms east of its intersection with the Henty Highway

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Anderson's Bee Farm, off Anderson's Road, Glenisla

Image Date: 3/04/2003

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the cottage, the woolshed, the apple tree with its cover and all the land within a 25m radius of the cottage and the woolshed.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The small weatherboard cottage faces east towards Red Rock, a prominent landmark on the nearby foothills of the Grampians. It comprises two front rooms under the gable roof and two rooms under the rear skillion. The interiors are lined with bead-edged lining boards and there are remnants of cheap wallpaper. There are two brick chimneys on the north side suggesting that those rooms were the living room and the kitchen. The four-panelled front door opens directly into the living room.

A very large Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, which is now dead has been planted on the north-west side of the house probably to provide shade. Some distance to the north-east of the cottage there is a fruit tree, probably an apple tree, which is covered with a crude hexagonal timber frame and wire to protect it from birds. Timber outbuildings, probably a garage and a barn, have collapsed at the rear of the cottage.

The small woolshed is in two parts, each under its own gable. The walls are made from vertical slabs with plain sawn weatherboards used in the gables. The roofs are corrugated iron. The doors are made from wide boards on a ledge and brace frame with a timber rail used to close the double doors. The internal pens and board show the same vernacular but functional construction. The workmanship is quite fine. It seems likely that the timber was cut and milled on the property. Extensive timber yards extend to the north-west, which are shaded by gum trees.

HISTORY:

Arthur Anderson purchased allotment 1 of the Parish of Billiminah comprising almost 640 acres in April 1901. Perhaps a family member, a D. Anderson had purchased allotments 3 and 3A immediately to the south in 1898. They were beekeepers in the Grampians as well as growing wool. It is not certain that the small timber cottage built on the allotment was permanently occupied, beekeeping and wool growing being somewhat seasonal labour. From its scale, form and materials the cottage appears to date from before the First World War.

"In the beautiful, pollen-rich areas of the Grampians, there have been many bee farmers who have tapped the rich flow of honey generated by abundant native flora" (Clabburn, 50). Most beekeepers were small scale, even nomadic in their search for the best pollen but some sites were more substantial and long-lasting, such as the Barnes honey site to the west of the Glen Isla homestead. There is little information available regarding the Barnes honey site, or its associated history, but it is stated that Barnes Honey producing site was abandoned in the 1940s when the Rocklands Reservoir flooded the area where the hives were.

The Anderson family, originally from Byaduk, appears to have been based in Dimboola where they lived in a property called Oaklands. David Stewart, born in 1879 and Arthur Anderson, born in 1883 were the sons of James Anderson and Eliza, nee Stewart (VPI, Reg. No. 8591 & 1883). They were two of eight siblings, the eldest William being born at Byaduk in 1873 (VPI, Reg. No. 14981). David died apparently unmarried, in 1938 and is buried in the Dimboola cemetery. Private Arthur Anderson, 8th Battalion Australian Infantry, who had enlisted in Dimboola, died of wounds on 11th July 1915 in Egypt and is buried in the Chatby War Memorial Cemetery (AWM, RofH database).

The cottage has been abandoned for many years and is now ruinous. The shearing shed and yards have been used more recently.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

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3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries
3.10.3 Encouraging fringe and alternative businesses
3.12 Feeding people
3.12.4 Preserving food and beverages
Theme 5: Working
5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The cottage is in poor to ruinous condition with one chimney close to collapsing. The woolshed is in fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Anderson's Beekeeper's Farm, located at the end of Anderson's Road, 3.2kms east of its intersection with the Henty Highway and 7.0kms south-south-east of Glen Isla Homestead, dates from about 1901. The land comprising 640 acres, which had been used for grazing as part of the great Glen Isla squatting run, was sold to Arthur Anderson in 1901. He appears to have belonged to a family based in Dimboola, his older brother David owning land immediately to the south. The property was run as a small mixed farm, particularly for growing wool and keeping bees. These seem to have been seasonal occupations with the small four-roomed vernacular timber cottage occupied only intermittently. Arthur Anderson enlisted as an infantryman at Dimboola and died from war wounds in Egypt in 1915. David Anderson died unmarried in 1938. It may be that the cottage built about 1900 was little used after the Second World War, although the vertical slab woolshed and sheep yards have been used more recently. The collapsed barn and other structures at the rear of the cottage were probably used for storing hives and other apiarist's equipment. The woolshed is a very late example of the use of vernacular building techniques. The cottage is now ruinous but retains a very high degree of integrity. The woolshed and yards are in fair condition and also retain a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Anderson's Beekeeper's Farm, near Glen Isla is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Anderson's Beekeeper's Farm is of historical significance as a representative example of the now largely lost practice of beekeeping, which was an important industry in the Grampians region. The significance assumes a deeper dimension when seen against the backdrop of both World Wars and people striving to make a living from difficult conditions. The farm is of architectural significance as a complex of buildings, which while vernacular in style, form and technique nonetheless shows sensitivity towards its place and function within the broader landscape.

COMPARISON:

313 Riverside Homestead Complex, Falkenberg's Road, Wannon
400 Schultz's Residence, W Schultz Road, Tarrington
452 Barnes Honey Site, Old Henty Highway, Glen Isla

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

9/04/2003

EXISTING LISTINGS:

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HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Australian War Memorial	Roll of Honour Database	2004	
Elise Clabburn, et al	Dunkeld and District, A Short History	1989	50
Robert Barber	Personal Communication	2003	