

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: GIANT ROCK HOMESTEAD

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Giant Rock Road WOOTONG VALE

STUDY NUMBER: 465 **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF KONONG WOOTONG

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 B4; VicRoads 54 D9; located at the end of Giant Rock Road about 500m from the intersection of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road and immediately to the south-west of Giant Rock

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Nil

Giant Rock Homestead, Giant Rock Road, Wootong Vale

Image Date: 14/05/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house and an area of 1000 square metres surrounding the house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Giant rock is a single storey timber homestead located on the side of a slope, overlooking an immense landscape feature, a giant rock. The house is asymmetrical, and has a corrugated iron gable roof, the gables being timbered. An enclosed timber verandah dominates the façade of the house. There are two crude stone and red brick chimneys, one for the kitchen, where the original oven survives, and another in the laundry. There are several fruit trees surrounding the house.

HISTORY:

James Gorman purchased about 76 acres of land around the dramatic landscape feature called Giant Rock. It seems to have been the only land he bought in the Parish of Brit Brit. No date is given on the Parish Plan but adjacent blocks were sold between 1862 and 1869. The Giant Rock Reserve comprising 15 acres was gazetted in 1872.

James Gorman married Anne (or Annie) Bickley in 1878 (VPI, Reg. No. 1849). They had five children all of whom were registered as born in the Coleraine district. It is believed that the Gorman family built Giant Rock Homestead, although this has not been confirmed. There is very little history known about this site at this time.

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 on the land

CONDITION:

Poor and almost ruinous

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Giant Rock Homestead is an asymmetrical timber house which overlooks a natural landscape feature of a giant rock. The house is constructed on a natural slope and looks over the valley to the broader landscape. The house is thought to date from after 1870, and have been built by the Gorman family. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. The house is in ruinous condition and has a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Giant Rock Homestead is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire as a heritage inventory site

Why is it significant?

Giant Rock homestead has historical significance for its association with the early selector family, the Gormans, who occupied the property for many years. It is of further historical significance as an example of a previous way of life, and an early appreciation of natural landscape features.

COMPARISON:

HERITAGE PLACE

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STUDY NUMBER: 465

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

320 Old Brooksdale Homestead, Brooksdale, Victoria Valley

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE: 10/03/2004

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 Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	