

# ENGLEFIELD HOMESTEAD COMPLEX



23123 Englefield Balmoral facade 2307



23123 Englefield Balmoral north side 2312



23123 Englefield Balmoral old section 2301



23123 Englefield Balmoral old section 2310



23123 Englefield Balmoral old section 2300



23123 Englefield Balmoral old section 2311



23123 Englefield Balmoral north side 2313



23123 Englefield Balmoral north verandah 2305



23123 Englefield Balmoral south side 2308



23123 Englefield Balmoral south side 2309



23123 Englefield Balmoral side verandah 2304



23123 Englefield Balmoral Watercolour 2302

## Location

Natimuk - Hamilton Road, BALMORAL VIC 3407 - Property No 037

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Englefield Homestead complex is located about 1.6kms south of Balmoral on a rise overlooking a creek which runs into the Glenelg River. The property straddles the Natimuk-Hamilton Road, the principal route north into the Wimmera from the coastal ports. The complex began in the early 1840s with a small brick cottage facing the creek, later converted into a kitchen, which survives. This appears to have been built during the occupation of Edward Bell, the important Melbourne merchant and a partner in Bells and Buchanan. A more substantial wing was added in the later 1840s, which also survives including substantial joinery features such as cedar mantels and cupboards. Single storey in scale, symmetrical and built of rendered brick, it is a typical early colonial bungalow in plan and form. There was a verandah across the front. It was sited at right angles to the converted kitchen and set in a more developed garden. A watercolour of the building survives at Englefield. This wing appears to have been built during the occupation of Robert Clerk. Between 1853 and 1860, Englefield was occupied by Anne Greene, with her son William Frederick, but in her own right. She was the widow of William Pomeroy Greene, one of the earliest squatters in the Port Phillip District. Duncan Robertson, the next occupant, purchased the Englefield Pre-emptive right. He was a member of the large Western District family of Robertsons and Philips. John and Kathrin Philip purchased the Englefield freehold in 1901 and over the next few years added a major extension in front of the original dwelling. John Philip was a leader in the broader community. Englefield, as it now presents, is a remarkably conservative example of the Italianate style for its time. The whole of the house retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition. The existing garden and setting enhances the architecture of all stages of the house.

How is it significant?

Englefield Homestead Complex is of historical, social and architectural significance to the community of Balmoral and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Englefield Homestead Complex is of historical significance because of its connection with the early pastoral pioneer, Edward Bell. Its subsequent owners are also important. They include Robert Clerk and Anne Greene. She was one of the very few women who held squatting licenses. Englefield is of social significance because the Robertson and Philip families combined represent one of the most extensive and influential dynasties across the Western District. Although much altered externally by the major 1904 extension, Englefield is of architectural significance both for its rare surviving early fabric and for the 1904 extension. It has become a typical example of a conservative but very substantial homestead dating from the earliest times through to the twentieth century. Englefield's architecture is enhanced by its siting and setting within the landscape, the whole being appropriate to its respectable owner's responsible position within the community.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1840,
Hermes Number	23123
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The house is in good condition.

## Physical Description 1

The earliest part of Englefield is the former kitchen, constructed apparently in the early 1840s. The kitchen is presently linked to the main wing on the north side but appears to have originally been freestanding. It is a large single room of brick construction with a ruled render finish (possibly applied later) and a gabled corrugated galvanised iron roof. The walls have been extended in height at a later, unknown date, possibly 1904, and the line of the original gable is visible on the rendered south wall. The two brick chimneys at the south end presumably date from the time of this alteration. There are four windows, each of a different type: a horizontally sliding window, a pivoting window, a casement window and a double-hung sash window (probably installed c. 1904). The ceiling is coved and lined with boards and must date from the alterations.

To the north of the kitchen is the second house, apparently constructed later in the 1840s, which is also of rendered brick construction. It had a typical and simple plan of a central hall with rooms on either side. The original front doorway survives and the pair of leaves, which were the front doors, are now relocated to an adjacent lobby. The doorway has the original semi-circular fanlight. Several items of built-in joinery, including cupboards and a mantle from this period survive in the study on the west side. The present dining room, now with a coved tongue and groove ceiling, was formerly three rooms on the east side of the house. This section of the house has a hipped corrugated galvanised (originally slate) roof and it originally had a timber front verandah. A transverse passage divides the second house, built in 1904 [?], from the first house behind it.

In 1904 the house was considerably extended to the north, enveloping the former facade. The four window openings in this facade were filled in and the original 1840s entrance doors were relocated to the corridor. According to the present owners, the sashes from these window openings were re-used in the 1904 laundry window to the south and in the old kitchen. The extension has a central hall, which continues the line of the earlier hall beyond a simple arched division, with main rooms opening off the hall. The extension is in conservative late Victorian style. The external walls are dark brown brick. There is a verandah on three sides with chamfered timber posts and cast iron balustrading, friezes and brackets. The windows are double-hung sashes with single panes. The eaves have conventional timber brackets. A new service wing was added to the south-east of the second house in 1904. There is a meat-house with a double roof on the west side of the second house.

The homestead is surrounded by a substantial early to mid nineteenth century garden, with a skeleton of very old fruit trees, possibly dating from the 1870s. A typical oval-shaped turf turning circle is centred on the front of the 1904 extension. Beyond the perimeter of the garden the land has been roughly terraced, and some fruit trees survive from what was originally a large fruit and vegetable garden.

## Historical Australian Themes

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

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Continuing as a pastoral property

## **Integrity**

High degree of integrity.

## **Physical Description 2**

William Montgomery Bell and Henrie Bell of Bell & Co, merchants, first and third owners  
Edward Barker, second owner  
Robert Clerk, fourth owner  
Anne Greene, with her son William Frederick Greene, fifth owner  
Duncan Robertson, sixth owner  
James Mirams, Freehold Farms Co. Ltd., seventh owner  
Gotch, Chrystal, LeFevre and Co., eighth owner  
R. Douglas, manager  
John Philip, ninth owner  
Alexander Stuart Philip, manager

## **Physical Description 3**

Pts 2,3,4,5,6 Parish of Yarramylyup & Allotment 15, 5-13 Section 1 & 2 Parish of Kongbool

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*