
KOORNONG HOMESTEAD COMPLEX



23221 Koornong Homestead facade 0703



23221 Koornong Homestead facade 0702



23221 Koornong Homestead cottage 0701



23221 Koornong Homestead front verandah 0707



23221 Koornong Homestead kitchen 0699



23221 Koornong Homestead kitchen 0700



23221 Koornong Homestead north elevation 0704



23221 Koornong Homestead north elevation 0705



23221 Koornong Homestead staff quarters 0706

Location

Henty Highway BRANXHOLME, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Koornong Homestead Complex is located about 10kms north of Branxholme. The main house reflects three major periods of construction. Started by George Derbyshire, the local government surveyor in the 1860s, it was substantially extended by Thomas Philip in the late nineteenth century and then modernised and extended in the mid-1930s by William Beggs. All the owners of Koornong have had pastoral interests and Beggs was an important backer of Reg Ansett. The house is complemented by an extensive mature garden, largely dating from the 1930s, the drive and the usual range of outbuildings. The complex is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity from the Interwar period.

How is it significant?

Koornong Homestead is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Branxholme and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Koornong Homestead is of historical significance as a property representative of the development of the pastoral industry late in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Koornong has particular historical significance for its series of owners, who were important public officials and businessmen, who made valuable contributions to the social, commercial and political fabric of the region.

Koornong Homestead is of architectural significance firstly as an example of the work of the important Hamilton architect, Frank Hammond and secondly as an example of the work of the leading Melbourne architect, Robert Hamilton. The architecture of the homestead is reinforced by the continuing development of the garden.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1890,
Architect/Designer	Hammond, F,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23221
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The house, outbuildings, garden and drive are in excellent condition.

Physical Description 1

Koornong Homestead is a single storey rendered brick house, with projecting wings about a central verandah. Originally the house was asymmetrical, and was surrounded on two sides by an 'L-shaped' verandah. Designed by the Hamilton architect Frank Hammond, the original style was a late 19th century version of the Italianate. One old photograph shows the verandah to have been timber with simple timber brackets but this may have been an

Edwardian alteration. A photo taken in 1928 shows a timber verandah with shallow segmental arches and uprights in the spandrels (Halmarick, 204). There is a projecting polygonal bay window on the north side with a concave pitched roof, typical of Hammond's work. This is now balanced on the south side by a larger rectangular bay window with three sets of double hung sashes, part of the Interwar addition of a billiard room designed by Robert Hamilton. The interior of this room, along with the surviving billiard table, are important. The front door, remodelled at the same time, is treated in a neo-Georgian style. The replacement timber verandah is paved with concrete tiles set in green grouting. The walls throughout are rendered brick. The roof is corrugated iron.

An earlier kitchen wing survives at the rear, although much altered. Its careful and elaborate eaves detailing, different from the late 19th century detailing of the front wing, suggests a fine house may have existed beforehand.

There is a side entrance on the north elevation. There is the usual range of outbuildings including staff quarters at the rear of the main house in a separate wing and a worker's cottage across the drive. The house is enhanced by its well-established and now mature garden setting and the drive. The garden appears to date from the 1930s.

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

Retains a high degree of integrity to its mid-1930s appearance.

Physical Description 2

George C. Darbyshire, first owner

Alexander Armstrong, second owner

Thomas Philip, third owner

William Norton Chute Ellis, fourth owner

A C Trewin, subsequent owner who sold in 1932

William Goodwin Beggs, subsequent owner

Ralph McEachern, subsequent owner

Ian and Helen (nee McEarchern) Watson, subsequent owners

Sharrads, subsequent owners

R E Rivett, subsequent owner

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/>