

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name CORK HILL
Address 138 KITSON ROAD, CAPE BRIDGEWATER
Place Type Cottage
Citation Date 2006



52757 Cork Hill 4

Recommended VHR - HI - PS -
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Joshua Black, who arrived in Australia in 1838, established Cork Hill in the 1840s. He was born at Cork Hill, Cooktown, County Tyrone, Ireland in 1801, and emigrated to the colonies in 1836. Black married Ann Taylor Brewster in 1842 at Portland (Dept. of Justice, 2001, Reg. No 34 188B). Ann Taylor Brewster had arrived from Scotland on the ship 'William Nicholls' in February that year, aged 18 (IRABI, 1842). Joshua Black would have been 41 years old.

The land on which Cork Hill stands was taken up by Joshua Black in the early 1850s and the stone cottage built between 1854-1856 (Biosis Research, 2001: p.120). Black operated a store at Bridgewater from the 1840s, as well as being a very successful stonemason and building contractor in Portland and Bridgewater. Many fine buildings in Portland were built by Black, as were many of the homesteads and other buildings on the Cape.

As well as his successful roles as a business man, storekeeper, stonemason and builder, Joshua Black was a member of the first Portland District Roads Board. Joshua and Anne Taylor Brewster had eight children between 1849 and 1858, one of whom died an infant. Ann Taylor Black committed suicide in 1860 at the age of 36, apparently as a consequence of being pregnant again (Dept. of Justice, Reg. No. 5944). She was discovered hanging from a tree by one of her daughters. Black was said to have been so distraught over her death that he disappeared for three days, and when found, he had dug her grave and built the private vault near Cork Hill where she was laid. Joshua Black and his son were also interred there.

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Joshua remarried in 1861 and his second wife was Janet Laurie, the widow of Rev. Alexander Laurie (Dept. of Justice, Reg. No. 2077). When Rev. Laurie retired from the ministry, he and his wife moved to Mount Gambier where he became the editor of what is now the Border Watch and when he died, his wife and then her sons took over the role (Saville, 1978, p. 20). Janet and Joshua Black went to Mount Gambier for their honeymoon (ibid.). They had three children of their own. Joshua Black died in 1876 and was interred in the family vault beside his first wife and two of their children (Dept. of Justice, Reg. No. 12903; Saville, 1978, p. 23).

Adam Nichol Black, the son of Joshua and his second wife was born in 1865, and lived at Cork Hill throughout his life. With his wife Margaret Elizabeth Thomson, he had nine children, who retained the property in the Black family until the late twentieth century when it was sold out of the family. It is likely that Adam Nichol Black was responsible for the construction of the Edwardian Timber house at Cork Hill, about 1910.

References

- Public Records Office Victoria, *Index to Registers of Assisted British Immigrants 1839-1871*, 1842. PROV - Available online
http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search_results.asp.
- Department of Justice (Births, Deaths & Marriages), *Pioneer Index Victoria 1836-1888*, 1999. MacBeth Genealogical Services.
- Savill, Vanda, *For Thee and Thine*, 1978. Self Published, Heywood.
- Savill, Vanda. *All This and More*, 1979. Self Published, Heywood.
- Plan of the Parish of Tarragal, County of Normanby. Department of Crown Lands and Survey, n.d.

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

2. PEOPLING AUSTRALIA

2.4: Migrating

2.4.2: Migrating to seek opportunity

2.4.4: Migrating through organised colonization

2.4.5: Changing the face of rural and urban Australia through migration

2.5: Promoting settlement

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

3.9: Farming for commercial profit

3.11: Altering the environment

3.11.4: Clearing vegetation

3.11.5: Establishing water supplies

3.12: Feeding people

3.12.2: Developing sources of fresh local produce

3.14: Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry

3.14.2: Using Australian materials in construction

3.16: Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure

Description

Physical Description

The Cork Hill complex comprises two linked buildings, the earlier section of which is a low stone cottage and the later section an Edwardian timber house. The low stone cottage is located at the rear of the Edwardian house, and is typical of the work of Joseph Black, the northern section being finely cut and laid stonework. The southern end of the cottage is of early timber construction, and retains its original wide hardwood floorboards, although they have recently been painted. This cottage, rectangular in plan, probably dates from the early 1850s when Joseph Black

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and his family arrived and took up the land in what became Kittson's Road. The larger stone portion of the building may originally have been divided into sections, but these have long since been removed, as have any floorboards. The roof is a simple hip and has been recently re-clad with Zinalume and coloured corrugated iron. Attached to the western wall of the cottage are a series of lean-tos with a single skillion corrugated iron roof. The date of these skillion additions is unknown, but likely to be about 1860-1880s. The addition closest to the stone section of the cottage has had a large opening made in the north wall to accommodate a vehicle. This portion of the building is used as a garage. Generally, the early stone and timber cottage has a very high degree of integrity, and is in fair condition.

The Edwardian Timber house is linked to the early cottage, and sits in front of the cottage to the east of the site. The house is typical of its period, with a projecting gable at the front of the house and to the south section, otherwise the house is fairly standard in plan. The hipped roof is of corrugated iron, as are the roofs of the projecting gables. A number of later timber additions with corrugated iron roofs link the Edwardian House and the early cottage. The complex is sited on a rise, and has few plantings surviving. Those which do survive include an *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) at the front of the house and a *Ficus carica* (Common Fig) adjacent to the eastern wall of the stone cottage.

Physical Condition

Very good overall

Usage / Former Usage

Continues as a private residence

Recommended Management

Maintain generally as existing

Comparative Analysis

558 Stony Hill Homestead, 107 Blowholes Rd, Cape Bridgewater
948 Cape Bridgewater Homestead, 65 Blowholes Rd, Cape Bridgewater
1073 Trewalla Springs Farm, Bridgewater Rd, Portland West
1209 Mount Pleasant, 20 Kitson's Rd, Cape Bridgewater

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

Cork Hill is located about 200m west of Kittson's Road, on a slight rise overlooking the land towards Cape Bridgewater. The Cork Hill complex comprises two linked buildings, the earlier section which is a low stone cottage and the later section an Edwardian timber house. The low stone cottage is located at the rear of the Edwardian house, and is typical of the work of Joseph Black, the northern section being finely cut and laid stonework. The southern end of the cottage is of early timber construction, and retains its original wide hardwood floorboards, although they have recently been painted. This cottage, rectangular in plan, probably dates from the early 1850s when Joseph Black and his family arrived in the Bridgewater area and took up the land in what became Kittson's Road. Generally, the early stone and timber cottage has a very high degree of integrity, and is in fair condition.

The Edwardian Timber house is linked to the early cottage, and sits in front of the cottage to the east of the site. The house is typical of its period, with a projecting gable at the front of the house and to the south section, otherwise the house is fairly standard in plan. The hipped roof is of corrugated iron, as are the roofs of the projecting gables. A number of later timber additions with corrugated iron roofs link the Edwardian House and the

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early cottage. No architect or builder has been associated with this timber house, but it is thought to have been built by Joseph Black's son, who lived there from his birth in 1865 until his death in 1936. The complex is sited on a rise, and has few plantings surviving. Those which do survive include an *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) at the front of the house and a *Ficus carica* (Common Fig) adjacent to the eastern wall of the stone cottage. The timber Edwardian house is in very good condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it Significant?

Cork Hill is of historical and architectural significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it Significant?

Cork Hill is of historical significance as one of the earliest surviving stone cottages which remains on the Cape, reflecting the struggle of Irish immigrants to apply their existing skills to a new land. Of further historical significance is the association with Joshua Black, who not only built the early timber and stone cottage, but a number of the fine stone buildings in Portland and Cape Bridgewater around the mid nineteenth century. The complex is of historical significance as it illustrates the typical standard forms of its time in the vernacular architecture. The cottage is typical of those built in the area in the 1840s and 1850s and the timber Edwardian house is typical of the 1910 period when it was constructed. Of further historical interest is the way that the architectural styles of different periods are able to be 'read' to tell the story of the Black family over more than 100 years of continuous occupation of the buildings.

Recommendations 2006

External Paint Controls

-

Internal Alteration Controls

-

Tree Controls

-

Fences & Outbuildings

-

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

-

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

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This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.