
VIRGINIA

Location

Hamilton Highway and Day's Lane TABOR, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 17, 2004

What is significant?

Virginia is a bluestone homestead with later timber additions, located on the corner of Day's Lane and the Hamilton Highway, about 6.5km north west of the township of Penshurst. Virginia was purchased by Andreas Burger for his daughter Marie Sophie Burger. Some years after her marriage to August Presser, the Presser family returned to the Penshurst district, where they took up the land which Andreas Burger had purchased for Marie. In 1900, they built the present homestead. There have been a number of alterations to the house over the past 100 years. The property remains in the Presser family. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. The integrity of the building has been compromised by unsympathetic alterations, but essentially, Virginia is in good condition.

How is it significant?

Virginia is of historic significance to the township of Penshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Virginia is of historic significance as an expression of the success over several generations of German Lutheran migrants, specifically the Burger, Mirtschin and Linke families, in the Gnardenthal area. The house is a representative example of a small bluestone homestead constructed from locally quarried material. It is of further significance for its associations with the Burger and Presser family, who have retained the property in the family for over 100 years continuously. The house is a representation of the links between the Lutheran communities at Gnadenthal and Allansford.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1900,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23517
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

Good condition

Physical Description 1

Virginia is a single storey asymmetrical bluestone and timber house which has gone through various phases of remodelling. The house was built in 1900 from locally quarried bluestone, as a typical symmetrical four roomed bluestone house with central passage, a central front door and symmetrically arranged windows on either side. The roof is hipped and covered in corrugated iron with a corrugated iron verandah.

Various alterations and additions have been made since the house was built, including the addition of a timber section to the northern side of the house, which extends from the front of the house to the rear, terminating in a sun room on the back verandah. The roof has been remodelled to accommodate this addition.

There are various outbuildings surrounding the house, including a rough coursed bluestone one roomed hut with a gabled corrugated iron roof. This may have been the original house which the Presser family lived in while the larger house was being constructed.

Another outbuilding is a large L-shaped ripple iron structure adjacent to the house, of uncertain origin and purpose. It has twelve pane double hung sash windows, and one six pane window. The roofs are gabled, covered in corrugated iron and terminate with simple finials. A roughly made bluestone chimney and a later nineteenth century chimney are attached to the building.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.9 Farming for commercial profit

3.14 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry

3.14.1 Building to suit Australian conditions

3.14.1 Using Australian materials in construction

Usage/Former Usage

Residential

Integrity

fair degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

D. McIntyre
Andreas Burger
August and Marie Presser
Presser family

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/>