

NATIONAL TRUST REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT PLACES

CITATION

NAME OF PLACE: BOBOYAN HOMESTEAD SITE AND NAAS CREEK VALLEY

The property ruins are situated on the Naas Creek in the open near a level valley and surrounded by hills (Mt Gudgenby, Sentry Box, Boboyan Hill, Shanahan's Mtn, Hospital Hill) - a very beautiful valley setting.

This area may be considered the most scenic and the historically most interesting of the three valleys listed for individual classification in the Namadgi National Park. It is also the least known as it is situated off the route of the present main road.

PART OF NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK

This classification action provides the opportunity to incorporate historic cultural landscape areas within the magnificent natural resources of the district. The three valleys proposed for classification, and their surviving homesteads and sites, ("Gudgenby Valley", "Boboyan Homestead Site and Naas Creek Valley", and "The Orroral Valley",) combine to provide scale and contrast to the surrounding natural areas.

LOCATION OF PLACE: Namadgi National Park

Curtilage:

Area considered for classification - the property as resumed by the Commonwealth from Luton (1900 acres).

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

As with Gudgenby, Boboyan is a link with the history of settlement of the ACT and illustrates an important cultural heritage landscape within a natural area.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

The following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

1. **Requirements Relating to the Building**
 - 1.1 Not applicable
 - 1.2
2. **Requirements Relating to the Setting**
 - 2.1
 - 2.2

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Trust recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place.

It is proposed that the property revert to controlled grazing with security of tenure. Regeneration of the open valley to wild bush needs to be controlled with regard to the dangers of bushfires, weeds and wild dogs and pigs. The valley should be open to the public in a controlled way.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

ACTION: CLASSIFICATION RECOMMENDED

1. date Draft citation considered by Council at Meeting (number)
2. date Revised citation for Council Meeting (number).....APPROVED/NOT APPROVED
3. date Submitted for inclusion in interim Heritage Places Register

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

This area may be considered the most scenic and the historically most interesting of the three valleys listed for individual classification in the Namadgi National Park. It is also the least known as it is situated off the route of the present main road.

The property ruins are situated on the Naas Creek in the open near a level valley and surrounded by hills (Mt Gudgenby, Sentry Box, Boboyan Hill, Shanahan's Mtn, Hospital Hill) - a very beautiful valley setting.

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

3. BACKGROUND:

Within fifty years of the arrival of the First Fleet at Botany Bay and within a bare twenty years of the Blaxlands party crossing the Blue Mountains, thus enabling settlement away from the coastal fringe, the bulk of Namadgi including Boboyan (with the possible exception of the Upper Cotter and Gudgenby) was formally occupied.

From the start of his appointment Land Commissioner Bingham found it necessary to traverse Namadgi issuing licenses to depasture stock - eg. on the 5th October 1839 he recorded that James Ritchie had thirteen employees in slab huts at Boboyan with seven acres under cultivation, two cwt of butter ready for market and stock of 494 cattle, 11 horses and 1132 sheep. Webb at Tidbinbilla, Passmore at Porthole (Booromba), Herbert and Chippendale (Naas) had comparable holdings that represent a serious investment of labour and funds. In 1835-6 Richie was licensed as depasture stock on the property. John Grey, a Queanbeyan storekeeper took over from him and Charles McKeahnie managed the property in c.1838/44.

The property was Gazetted in 1850 as a run of 17,920 acres to Alex Crawford and W. Brayshaw. The Crawford family, father, mother, two sons and six daughters arrived in Sydney from Argyle, Scotland in December 1838. After some years in the Braidwood district they came to Boboyan, paying 30 pounds for the property in partnership with Charles McKeahnie who has bought it from John Grey in 1842 after managing it for the previous two years. Flora Crawford married William Brayshaw. McKeahnie soon sold his partnership to Brayshaw and moved to Gudgenby.

The second Crawford son, Archibald, was twelve when his family arrived. The next year he made his first bullock droving trip to 270 miles to Sydney and at the age of fourteen was in charge of the bullocks for the annual eight week trip. They carted dairy produce - butter selling for 7d a pound. Bacon was 6d a pound. Archibald left home for the Bendigo gold diggings in 1852 and finally settled in the Riverina.

The Brayshaw family held an interest in the property for more than 100 years. The last occupant was Dick Brayshaw who sold to the Luton family. Little evidence remains of this establishment which must have occurred in the hey day of the produce period. Pigs were raised on skim milk, fattened, killed, butchered and salted in casks. Milking was a major undertaking, butter and cheese made in large quantities, packed and stored. Pens, yards, sheds and blacksmith shops would have been in constant use. At one time sixteen buildings were noted. Now only one chimney remains to bear testimony to these years of plenty.

A short way up the track from the old homestead (it branches to the site of Bradley's Mill) there is another house site.

The property was sited on the old Queanbeyan/Kiandra gold tract. The road has now been resited along the ridgeway so the property is no longer in the public sight.

With the removal of stock the natural valley vegetation is regenerating and wild pig and feral dog numbers are increasing.

Author Title date publication

- (iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest;**
- (iv): a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;**
- (v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type;**
- (vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class;**
- (vii): a place which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history;**
- (viii) a place which represents the evolution of a natural landscape, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes;**
- (ix) a place which is a significant habitat or locality for the life cycle of native species; for rare, endangered or uncommon species; for species at the limits of their natural range; or for district occurrences of species;**
- (x) a place which exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements; or**
- (xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.**

6. REFERENCES:

Author Title date publication