

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**LAL LAL HOMESTEAD**

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**Location:**

105 BRIDGEWATER LAKES ROAD, CAPE BRIDGEWATER, GLENELG SHIRE

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

**Statement of Significance:**

What is Significant?

The Lal Lal Homestead Complex, located approximately 2.5kms north-east of Cape Bridgewater Lakes Road, Cape Bridgewater dates from 1853 when Richard Charlton Hedditch (1809-1893) dissolved his partnership with John Kennedy in the Cape Bridgewater Run. The homestead was originally a vernacular, symmetrical four-roomed stone house under a double hipped roof with surrounding verandahs. Hedditch and his wife, Rachel Forward Hedditch, nee Read (1815-1904) had migrated soon after their marriage in 1837, first to South Australia and then to Van Diemen's Land. Moving to the Portland Bay settlement, they were teachers at the Church of England School from 1841 to 1845. They established themselves on land eventually taken up as a pre-emptive right claim by their son, William Forward Hedditch (1857-1939) who farmed the land for over

seventy years. He married Marion Nunn Jones (1850-1937) in 1890 which probably triggered the side extension to the house. Richard's father, Samuel Hedditch joined the family some time prior to his death in 1869. Richard and Rachel's first born, Charlton Waldy Hedditch drowned at the age of 23 in 1863 while trying to save the passengers of a lighter which sunk in Bridgewater Bay. Along with other members of the family, he was buried in the private cemetery on the Lal Lal property. The house has been substantially modernised, with the verandahs replaced and extensive internal alterations but it is in very good condition. No garden survives. The outbuildings are of interest for the recycled use of very early heavy gauge corrugated iron.

How is it Significant?

Lal Lal Homestead Complex is of historical and architectural significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it Significant

Lal Lal Homestead Complex is of historical significance as one of the earliest surviving homesteads in the Cape Bridgewater area and for its direct and long association with the Hedditch family, important and enduring pioneers. The homestead is of architectural significance as one of the larger and now most intact structures from the early 1850s, and for its late nineteenth century extension marking a new generation's occupation of the property.

## Description

pastoral and general farming

The original section of the Lal Lal homestead appears to have been a substantial but conservative four-roomed house with encircling verandahs, a central front door and symmetrically placed multi-paned casement windows in the late-Georgian style. The roof is a transverse double hip. The carcass of the building survives well, with much of the simple interior joinery surviving although the verandahs have been replaced. A substantial bay window was added to the north-east side extending one of the main rooms into a large drawing room. The addition has hints of the Italianate style in its form and detailing. The house has been extensively modernised. Outbuildings towards the rear may not be particularly old but they do incorporate very heavy gauge, wide-pitched corrugated iron sheets which date from the 1850s and are the same as those found at Oberwyl, St Kilda and Corio Villa, Geelong. There is no surviving garden of any significance.

Good

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

5. WORKING

- 5.1: Working in harsh conditions
- 5.6: Working in the home
- 5.8: Working on the land

Heritage Study / Consultant	Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002; Glenelg - Glenelg Heritage Study Stage Two (a), Heritage Matters, 2006
Construction Date Range	1853 -
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	GLENELG SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	52606
Property number	

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*