

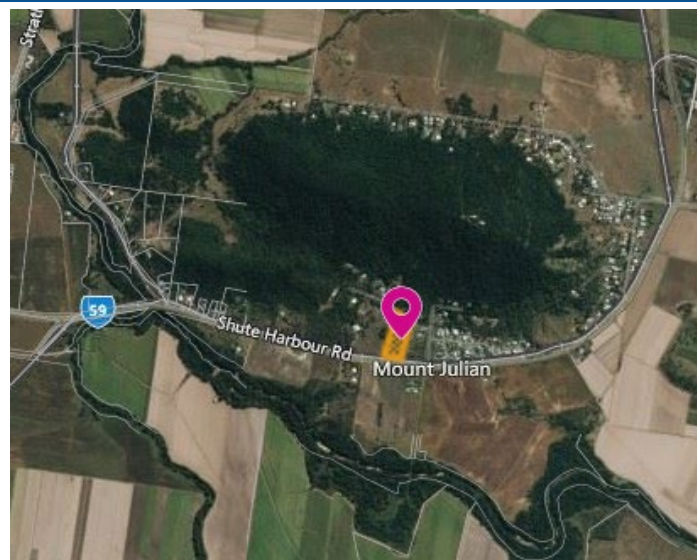
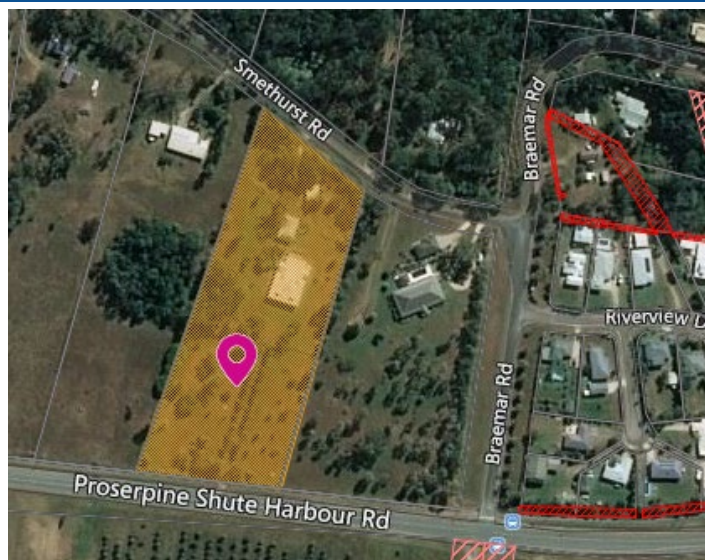
BRAEMAR HOMESTEAD

Address	365 Shute Harbour Road, Mount Julian
Lot Plan	2RP744840
Coordinates	E: 667922 N: 7745475
Integrity	Fair
Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	Nil
Non-Statutory Listings	Nil
References	<p>Proserpine Guardian, Wednesday 1 October 2003, p.12.</p> <p>Pers.Comm. Judith and Ken Pannan, 16 February 2011.</p> <p>Kerr, John, 1997. A Crystal Century. The History of Proserpine's Sugar Mill, its Farms and its People, Proserpine Cooperative Sugar Milling Association Limited, Proserpine.</p>

Street View



Location Map



Physical Description

Braemar Homestead is located on the northern side of the Shute Harbour- Proserpine Road. The property is situated on a gently sloping block and is accessed via front entrance gates and a central driveway lined with foxtail palms. A tramline passes in front of the main entrance to the property. There is also a rear access to the property. The timber homestead has a twin gable front with a pyramidal roof and is surrounded on three sides by a veranda with timber balustrades. The house is set on stumps which vary in height as the property extends back with the slope of the land. Access to the veranda, and the timber front entrance doors, is via a central stairway.

The front entrance leads to a large front room with original floorboards and decorative detail. The original front entrance is currently part of this front room. There are original double timber doors (inset with eight glass panes) that lead to the veranda from the original homestead. The back section of the house has been extended and enclosed.

Behind the house, to the west, there is a single-story timber slab shed which contains original feeder windows. The shed is constructed of bush poles and hand sawn timber, although there is now a concrete slab floor and roller door at the front.

Historical Context

Mount Julian is located north, northeast of Proserpine and was identified as suitable sugar growing scrub land in the 1890s when Proserpine was becoming established as sugar growing area. It was open to free selection and in close proximity to the new central mill site in Proserpine. The land at Braemar Homestead was originally purchased in 1904 by Samuel Stephens. In 1932, the land on which Braemar Homestead stands was bought by the Shepherd family. Robert Shepherd was Chairman of the Proserpine Shire Council 1916-1926, and in 1930, and was an influential and popular local resident. At the end of the 1920s, he was a member of the committee that arranged for the growers' acquisition of Proserpine Central Mill from the Queensland Government. Shortly after this he was elected as chairman of the Proserpine Cooperative Sugar Milling Association Limited. Shepherd was also chairman of the Bowen Harbour Board in 1928, a valuable appointment at a time when sugar was loaded and shipped from the port. According to the Proserpine Guardian, Shepherd bought the property at Braemar in 1932 to establish a dairy farm to complement his other property, Montrose. He built Braemar Homestead after this time, the name Braemar and Montrose reflecting Shepherd's origins in Scotland. As a prominent member of the local community, it is likely that the house was built to reflect his station. Shepherd died unexpectedly in 1938 and his wife, Agnes, continued to live at the property until 1942. The Smethhurst family acquired the property in 1942, with Clarrie Smethhurst also serving time on the council.

The house is believed to have been used extensively for social events during this period, particularly dancing and tennis matches. In 1958 it was taken over by the Pons family, who sold it to the Waddington family in 1959 who then subdivided much of the land. The house was bought in 1979 by the Staniland family who converted it into a museum in 1980. Its use as a museum was only brief; it closed in 1983 and was resold in 1986. Between 1986-1998 the property had five different owners before being bought by the Pannan family. Since this time, Judith and Ken Pannan have carried out major renovations and restorations to the property.

The most notable change to the original timber building is the construction of a veranda which surrounds the front of the building and extends around to the sides. This veranda has replaced the masonry wall which enclosed the house from the surrounding land. The entrance steps are still at the centre but have been brought forward to meet the veranda. Changes to the front elevation include a new timber doorway and new casement windows. Despite this, the roofline and original double gable front is still visible and much of the front section of the building, including some of the interior features, remains intact. Changes to the rear of the building include an extension. At the back of the building there is also a hand sawn timber shed with a gabled roof. The history of this building is not known.

Historical Significance

Criteria A - the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history

Located on land opened during the late 1890s, Braemar Homestead is an important homestead in the region and is associated with its development. Constructed after Proserpine Sugar Mill was returned to local ownership, it was home to Robert Shepherd, a prominent local citizen involved in local government and as Chairman of Proserpine Sugar Mill. Its evolution as a homestead, place for social events, museum and residential property demonstrates the region's social development and evolution.

Criteria H - *the place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the region's history*

Braemar Homestead is particularly important for its association with the Robert Shepherd, an influential local resident who served as the Chairman of the Proserpine Shire Council and as Chairman for the Proserpine Cooperative Growers Association Limited.



