

## *BEULAH (HUME HOMESTEAD)*

Por. 78 Parish of Menangle Appin Road, Gilead

Built c. 1830s



## **HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:**

Portion 78 appears to be a grant promised in 1821 to Cornelius "Ryan" which was later granted to him by Governor Brisbane in 1823. The majority of the buildings on the site were built between 1835-1838 by John Kennedy Hume. They were described in contemporary descriptions in 1839 and 1840. After a series of occupants the property was bought by Francis Rawon Hume (brother of Hamilton Hume) for his son John Kennedy Hume in August 1846. It remained the property of the Hume family until 1936, indirectly until 1969.

The main building is a single story, 3 bay symmetrical homestead of course random stone construction. Features include a double-pitched roof of corrugated galvanized iron (not original), a stone-flagged verandah with small rooms of each end, central doorway and small painted windows. The house is typical of the Colonial era, similar in style to Denfield. Inside is a central corridor, two principle rooms with fireplaces (fluted chimney pieces intact), a back hall and two back rooms. The attached dairy has a stone slab floor. Associated with the house is an early wooden cottage, a shed and the remains of a little octagonal gazebo. There was a carriage loop and an extensive picket fence.

On the approach road to Beulah (approx. 150m –220m from the buildings) is a bridge over a steep rocky creek. It is believed to be a contemporary with the house (c.1830-1840's) in a style of construction similar to early bridges on the Great Northern Road north of Wiseman's Ferry. It consists of stone masonry abutments with hardwood stringer girders. The remains of some hand railing are nearby and the original decking no longer exists.

## **CONDITION AND USE:**

The attached dairy and picket fence have been nearly destroyed. The house, weatherboard outbuildings and gazebo have deteriorated to a ruinous state in recent years. The timber beam bridge has termite and water damage, but is in remarkably good condition considering its age. Owned by Beulah Investments PTY LTD since 1971

## **HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

- Excellent example of small homesteads of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- The bridge is one of the oldest surviving bridges on the mainland of Australia,
- The homestead is believed to be the only building of its type in private ownership and the only one known to have retained a full set of stringer girders, intact.

**HERITAGE LISTING:**

**LOCAL:** LEP 193

**STATE:** *Proudfoot:* Index No. 107, Category 1 (Key Building)

*Macarthur Regional Heritage Study:* Map 8, No. 34

*Heritage Act 1977:* Listed on the State Heritage Register - PCO No.

386, G.G No. 156, 2/10/87

*National Trust (NSW):* Classified