LIVING DESIGN *in/the* BAROSSA

BETHANY VILLAGE
Bethany Rᵈ, Bethany

The small village of Bethany was settled in 1842 by Prussian immigrants who established a hufendorf, or traditional German village, consisting of dozens of farmlets running perpendicular to the road. It was the first settlement in the Barossa Valley and has distinct German characteristics, many of which are still visible today.

A COMMUNAL VILLAGE

Originally named Bethanien, the village was leased by 24 families from George Fife Angas, leading to it also being called "Angas Park".

A close-knit congregation, the settlers relied heavily on their pastor when they first arrived in Australia. As a result, the communual hufendorf village form provided them with the security and enterprise to begin a new settlement.

Allotments were laid out in narrow strips, with simple cottages built at the southern end of the farmlets, along the Government road. Behind the cottages, farmlets stretched back towards Tanunda Creek, in well ordered plots - usually a kitchen garden, an orchard, vines, a wheat or barley field and some common pasture along the creek where a shepherd looked after the town's sheep and cattle.

Initially the land at Bethany was roughly fenced, ploughed and sowed, but within a few years more than 500 acres were under cultivation. By 1954 this had grown to nearly 3000 acres. Early crops were subsistence based, and cash crops were gradually introduced and a flour mill built in 1843.

The first houses were single rooms, with doors opening out to the back gardens and up the hufe. After time, the cottages were improved with additional rooms, cellars, verandahs and black kitchens. Eventually, buildings were established on the southern side of the road. With Tanunda's growth as the main service centre, Bethany today, retains its quaint village charm and German characteristics.

BAROSSA DESIGN STORIES ARE ALL AROUND US...

'Simple is good' – **Jim Henson**

RELATED DESIGNS

· Hahndorf
(South Australia)

· Keil Hourse
(Bethany)

· Tscharke House
(Bethany)

FURTHER INFORMATION

· www.artmusicdesignbarossa.org.au
· www.germanaustralia.com/e/bethany.htm
· www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/bethany.htm