

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: AUDLEY HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Branxholme-Byaduk Road BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 113

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: EUREMETE, EURAMEET, ENEREMETE, LYNE

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF BRANXHOLME

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 C-9; VicRoads 72 F7; on the north side of the Branxholme-Byaduk Road about 5.0kms east of Branxholme overlooking a tributary of Camp Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Audley Homestead, Branxholme, façade

Image Date: 26/03/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of main house, including the original wing, the 1860s wing and the circular meathouse with their interiors, the stables and the workman's cottage. The interiors of the front two rooms of the house and the interior of the circular meat house. Also, all of the drive, the garden immediately in front of the 1860s wing and the orchard, but excluding the 1960s extensions to the main house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The earliest part of the Audley homestead complex is a low single storey range of rooms constructed from bluestone rubble. It may have been constructed as early as 1852, and physical evidence in the roof suggest that it was built in two parts. This was used as a kitchen and much of the original hearth and bread oven survives at the northern end. These rooms were interconnected and possibly had a verandah along the eastern side. The windows along the western side have been replaced and the openings lowered.

The main wing of the homestead is a simple symmetrical single storey house of five rooms with a central hall. It is in a reduced version of the Italianate style. The house appears to have been deliberately oriented towards the distant view of Mount Napier across the valleys of Camp and Lyne Creeks. The interiors of the front two rooms include fine but simple decoration and joinery typical of the period such as plaster ceiling roses and one surviving mantelpiece. The walls are rock face bluestone. The verandah is timber with timber quadrant brackets. Stone steps with pedestals incorporating bootscrapers lead to the front garden. The roof is slate with a low pitch. The windows are four paned double hung sashes. The main wing and the original wing were substantially but sympathetically renovated and extended in the 1970s by the current owners. The architect was Nick Griffin of Warrnambool. Timber extensions, probably dating from immediately after 1900, were demolished at this time.

The meat house is circular, presumably brick rather than stone, and rendered. The roof is slate and is supported by a large central post of timber in the round. There is a ventilator at the top. The floor is paved with bricks. It now forms a vestibule to the 1970s extensions.

The stables, located about 60 metres to the rear of the house, are small and simple. They are built of rendered bluestone rubble. The walls retain an old deep rust-red limewash finish. The roof is slate. The workman's cottage beyond the stables is of two rooms, and is built mostly from limestone rubble rather than bluestone which has rendered. Like the main house and the stables, the roof was slate but this has collapsed. The joinery is now missing.

The woolshed, of uncertain date but presumably built before 1900, is beyond the cottage. It is timber framed and clad with corrugated iron. Little if anything remains of the sheepwash. A large cast iron pot used at the sheepwash has been brought up to the homestead. (A similar whaling 'try' or boiling down pot was used at the Hilgay sheepwash.)

The drive is curved and slightly rising, which creates a sense of anticipation. The avenue of Cupressus macrocarpa along the drive was planted in the twentieth century and is not exceptional. The front garden retains a few early plantings including a Cedrus deodar and agaves but dates mostly from the later twentieth century. There is an overgrown orchard to the north-east of the house with many surviving fruit trees. Of particular note is a row of at least a dozen very old olive trees.

HISTORY:

Major Mitchell and his team passed over what is the modern property of Audley at the beginning of September 1836, on his way back to Sydney (Dept. C & E, 1990, 81-5). He was particularly keen to climb Mount Napier to obtain trigonometric references and to determine his best route homewards. He gave instructions to his second-in-command, Granville Stapylton to abandon the larger of their two boats while he ascended the mountain. This Stapylton did beside a swamp which is probably now a circular dam on Camp Creek on Audley. Although the remains of the boat were seen within living memory, recent attempts to locate this place have failed and the remains are now almost certainly lost forever.

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In July 1847, George Wyndham Elms and Alexander Dennistoun Lang took up squatting run P.B. 98, located some eight miles east of the township of Branhholme with the intention of using it as a cattle station. The run, named Lyne, consisted of 38,000 acres, with the capacity to run 1,200 cattle and 8,000 sheep. In 1848, 16,000 acres were separated from the main run, Lyne, and a new pastoral lease, No. 97, was created and named Euremete.

According to Don Garden, Elms and Lang "took up Lyne in 1846 to use as a cattle station, but the herd did not develop well, and in 1850 Elms and Lang decided to subdivide the run. Lang retained the southern section which kept its old name, and Elms took the section closer to the Grange which became Brisbane Hill" (Garden, 1984, 26). He built his homestead and lived there. In 1852, he took over Audley (also known as Euremete) on the western side of Lyne, which he and Lang had held jointly until then. This may be the date of construction of the earliest section of the homestead, the meat house, the stables and possibly the workman's cottage. Elms became one of the leading pastoralists in the southern Grange area.

Meanwhile, Lang sold Lyne to Captain Stanley Carr, a wealthy retired military officer who had spent a number of years at a German court, and still held property in Silesia. Carr took up a number of runs, but for a brief period used Lyne as his headquarters. He reduced the cattle herd and imported some of his pedigree German sheep with their own German shepherd. However, after a few months, Carr returned to Europe, promoting the interests of the Australian colonies for a year or two before he died in Germany in 1854 (Boldrewood, 56). The change from cattle to sheep grazing at Lyne ran counter to a trend in the late 1840s to supplement or replace wool growing with running beef cattle."

Don Garden also writes that, in September 1854 the Hamilton Cricket Club was formed, with about 30 members enrolled (Garden, 41). A committee was appointed with G. W. Elms of Audley as President, J. R. Nowlan of Lyne as Vice President and J. H. Campbell as Treasurer. A cricket ground was set aside near the Grange Burn. According to Garden, this was one of the earliest cricket clubs formed in the Colony and "the influence of the pastoral gentry was clearly evident" (ibid.).

The newly created squatting run, named Euremete was licensed to carry 600 cattle and 4,000 sheep. George Elms and Alexander Lang owned the run until 1852, when Elms gained full control but the herd did not develop well (Garden, 26). In April 1855, Elms sold the property to George Coldham, the son of Reverend John Coldham of Norfolk, who renamed the property Audley after the stately home, Audley End near Cambridge, England. Coldham sold his pastoral lease Ardachy, east of Branhholme at the same time. The Parish Plan, 'Country Lands, Parish of Branhholme', dated February 1860, shows the Audley pre-emptive right in the name of Geoffrey Coldham but Bailliere's 1865 Gazetteer still called it "Euremete" and described is as 12,400 acres with the grazing capacity of 9,300 sheep (Bailliere, 138). Coldham's brother resided at Grassdale, near Ardachy and both men were highly regarded in the Western District. Coldham died in Portland in 1862 at the age of 39, but the pastoral lease remained in his name until it was cancelled in 1874.

After Coldham's death, his executors advertised the property for sale. It was advertised as being of a total of 11,600 acres including 3,600 of freehold land with the capacity to carry 12,500 sheep. Improvements to the property included: a stone dwelling house, cottages, woolshed, sheep wash (arranged for either hot or cold water), and about 20 miles of wire fencing. George C. Darbyshire, a district surveyor who owned the pastoral lease for Upper Audley (now known as Koorngong) paid 16,882 pounds for the land and David Vines purchased the homestead portion of Audley. It seems likely that the major section of the Audley homestead dates from this time. Vines remained the owner of Audley until his death in 1883, aged 52 years.

Nathan Thornley purchased the property, and shortly after sold it back to Vines' widow, Margaret and his

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nephews, William Read and Charles Read. William Read owned the homestead section of the property, while his brother Charles and his aunt owned the pastoral land. In 1888, Victoria and Its Metropolis names Mr. W. H. Read as the owner of Audley and describes the land as comprising 1024 acres and Mrs. Margaret Vines of Lower Audley as the owner of 1628 acres (Sutherland, Vol. II, 53). The last of the Read family to occupy the Audley Homestead was William Read's daughter, Gladys, who died in 1951. After her death, Audley was sold to D. M. Chisholm and, soon after, T. and Keith Jaensch purchased the property in 1954. The Jaensch family remained at Audley until Jaensch's death in 1967. The property was then sold the current owners, the Baulch family.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The main house is all in good condition. The stables are in poor condition. The workman's cottage is in ruinous condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity throughout.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Audley Homestead is located six kilometres east of the township of Branhholme. The property consists of a homestead of two wings (with further modern additions), outbuildings including a rare, circular brick meathouse, a stables, a workman's cottage and a woolshed. A substantial garden surrounds the house, with some of the original plantings incorporated into a newer garden. There is an orchard with a fine row of olives. A sheepwash also existed some distance from the house but little trace of it remains. The original wing of the main homestead and probably the outbuildings were constructed as early as 1852 when George Wyndham Elms took over the property in his own right or in 1855 when Geoffrey Coldham purchased Audley. The new Italianate wing of the main house built soon after 1862 when George C. Darbyshire purchased Audley. No architect has been associated with the new wing but Darbyshire, a surveyor, may have designed it himself. A timber extension behind the main house, of unknown date but probably from the early twentieth century, has been removed. Modern additions were completed in the 1970s, designed by the Warrnambool architect Nick Griffin, which linked the original wing, the meat house and the new wing. The whole of the main house is in excellent condition. The stables are in very poor condition, the workman's cottage is ruinous, and the woolshed is in good condition.

How is it significant?

The Audley Homestead Complex is of architectural and historical significance to the community of Branhholme and to the shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

The Audley Homestead complex is of historical significance as an example of an early squatting run in continuous occupation with important associations through its various owners. It is of architectural significance for its sequence of development from early forms of construction, particularly the rare circular meathouse, through typical additions in the nineteenth century, and later additions in the twentieth century.

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This is enhanced by its garden setting, the orchard and its position in the landscape.

COMPARISON:

143 Koorngong, Henty Highway, Branxholme

216 Royston, Henty Highway, Branxholme

112 Lyne Homestead, Branxholme-Byaduk Road, Byaduk

111 Brisbane Hill, Port Fairy-Hamilton Road, North Byaduk

116 Ardachy Homestead Complex, Dartmoor-Hamilton Road, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

9/12/2001

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR **Include in RNE** **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Agnes V. Walter	Branxholme 1843-1973	1973	
Department of Conservation and Environment	The Major Mitchell Trail, Exploring Australia Felix	1990	81-5
Lyll Horwood, ed.	From ship to sheep : the Philip family of Miga Lake and their descendants	1984	
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	168