

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: CORREAGH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Roger's Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 229

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: part 3 **SECTION:** VIII **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH
& 4

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432 E17 and 432K Q1; VicRoads 73 B5; located at the end of Roger's Road on the south side and situated on a rise overlooking Doling Doling Swamp (former Lake Nivelles)

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



Correagh, Garden Front, Roger's Rd, Hamilton

Image Date: 08/04/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house, the rear wing and stables, including their interiors, the garden and orchard but excluding the modern aviaries and metal farm shed.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Correagh is a single storey stone house located approximately 5 kilometres northeast of Hamilton. Built in 1854, the house consists of two separate wings which are linked by a roofed walkway. The front wing has two main elevations: one, with the main entrance facing the north-west, and the other with French doors facing the north-east. Both these elevations have a simple timber verandah. The main roof is comprised of two small hips and is contiguous with the verandah roof, both constructed of corrugated iron over shingles. The walls are bluestone laid as coursed random rubble. The plan of the main wing of the house is unusual in that the central hall divides the larger rooms along the garden front from the smaller rooms along the opposite side. The room believed to be the original kitchen is unusually small for such a substantial dwelling, and may have been altered. The windows are typical 12 pane, double hung sashes, while the french doors have five panes each. Under the front bedroom there is a cellar which is accessed from the rear courtyard.

The bluestone rear wing is perpendicular to the front wing and is comprised of two rooms, one larger than the other, with a connecting door. One door gives access from the roofed walkway, while a second door gives access to the courtyard.

A small timber and fibro separator room built in the courtyard after the Second World War has been demolished. Behind the rear wing of the house there is a stone coach house and stable situated to create a small yard. The coach house, for some time used as a cow shed, is at the north-eastern end and has an elliptical arch. The stable of three stalls is located at the other end and entered through a traditional half door.

The house is surrounded by a modest garden, most of which is conventional and dates from the mid to late 20th century. However, some important early specimens remain from the 19th century. There is a large *Araucaria bidwillii*, the surviving one of a pair. An *Araucaria heterophylla* between the two has also been removed. At the rear of the stables, probably planted to shade the horse yards, there is a row of three *Ulmus procera* and several semi-mature suckered Elm trees. On the south-east side of the house there is an extensive, although run-down orchard which contains a small number of very early trees including a pear and a fig, which are believed to have been planted by Cuthbert Fetherstonehaugh. On the north side of the orchard there is a row of *Crataegus laevigata*, in the paddock on south-east side a *Crataegus azarolus* and on the south side, near the stables, another common hawthorn which may have been part of the orchard. Some distance from the house, south-east and at the bottom of the hill, there is a remnant *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* which has an iron gate hinge embedded in the trunk.

Importantly, the house is sited on top of a large hill and is oriented to maximise the expansive and very beautiful view north-east towards the Grampians. The view includes Lake Doling Doling (formerly Lake Nivelles). Although its siting demonstrates an appreciation of aesthetics, no architect has been identified.

HISTORY:

The land on which Correagh now stands is believed to have been visited by the explorer Major Mitchell on his return journey to Sydney. On 12 September 1836, Mitchell and his party camped for the night on land below a hill north of the Grange Burn. In the morning, having climbed the hill, he discovered a body of water nearby which he called Lake Nivelles (now Lake Doling Doling). The hill on which Correagh is built is believed to be the hill climbed by Mitchell, being the nearer of two prominent rises in the vicinity of the lake.

Major Mitchell's discovery of Australia Felix was the beginning of the great land rush by squatters overland from New South Wales and over the Bass Strait from Van Diemen's Land. Much of what came to be known as the Portland Bay District was administered from the Grange Burn, later known as Hamilton. The Police Magistrates, Crown Land Commissioners and Land Surveyors played key roles in the administration of justice, the resolution of land disputes and the process of subdividing the Crown lands for various purposes.

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Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh was born in Ireland, a member of the Protestant Ascendancy, who migrated to Victoria in 1852 as a result of financial hardship and his disillusion with Sectarianism. In 1853 he was appointed Police Magistrate to the Buckland River District in Gippsland and to the Grange (or Hamilton) District in 1854. Allotments 3 and 6 of Section 8 of the parish of North Hamilton were purchased by Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh on 6th December 1854. Allotment 3 was later subdivided into 3 and 3A, the latter being an area adjacent to the swamp. He appears to have built his home almost immediately. While modest, Correagh was one of the most cultured homes in the area and could be described as a picturesque villa set within the broader landscape. No architect has been associated with the design nor any landscape designer with the garden. It is possible that Fetherstonhaugh contributed to the designs himself, in particular to the garden. He was president of the local horticultural society for many years.

Fetherstonhaugh was a member of a group of Anglo-Irish gentleman in the Hamilton area who were well-educated, well-paid and well-respected. His contemporaries included Acheson French, Samuel Pratt Winter, James Blair, and Rev F Cusack Russell. These, and similarly minded pastoralists and administrators made outstanding contributions to the development of the district as a social, political, and cultural hub of the Western District. He lived at Correagh until his death there on 21st December 1892.

Wesley Rogers summarises Fetherstonhaugh's exemplary career thus: "For many years Fetherstonhaugh acted as the local guardian of minors, was a relieving magistrate, returning officer for Normanby, a trustee of the Hamilton Savings Bank and chairman of the public cemetery. Fetherstonhaugh was also president of the Hamilton Hospital Board, a committeeman of the Pastoral and Agricultural Society, on the committee of the Stockowner Meat Preserving and Export, president of the Horticultural Society, president of the Western District Coursing Club, and in 1890 on the committee of management of the Hamilton Cricket and Recreation Reserve."

Fetherstonhaugh was survived by two sons and five daughters. Adelaide Susan married Edmond Watton, son of Dr John Watton of Mount Rouse Aboriginal Reserve. The rear wing is said to have been built for them. Later it became known as the schoolhouse. After her husband's accidental death in 1882 she continued to live at Correagh looking after her father and invalid brother Theobald. Louisa Elizabeth married, at Correagh, John A MacPherson, MLA who was briefly Premier of Victoria. A younger son, Cuthbert had a remarkable career in his own right as a successful and leading pastoralist, briefly as an Anglican minister and as an author. Frances Jane travelled to England and married the Rev Albert Sitwell, and, following his death, the prominent literary figure Sir Sidney Colvin. The other children and grandchildren married into important local landholding dynasties such as the Murchison, Learmonth and Cameron families.

Correagh was owned by a number of individuals for short periods following the departure of the Fetherstonhaughs. The Rogers family purchased the property soon after the Second World War, and it remains in their possession today.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 7 Governing

7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy

7.2.2 Struggling for inclusion in the political process

Theme 8 Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.10 Pursuing excellence in the arts and sciences

8.10.3 Designing and building fine buildings

CONDITION:

The whole complex is in very good condition with only superficial alterations from the post Second World War period.

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INTEGRITY:

excellent degree of integrity throughout

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Correagh can be best understood as a villa set within the broader landscape. It was the home of Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, Police Magistrate and Crown Lands Commissioner and his family from 1854. It is sited on a hill 5kms north-east of Hamilton near where the explorer, Major Mitchell camped on 12th September 1836 on his return journey to Sydney. It overlooks a body of water which Mitchell called Lake Nivelles (now called Lake Doling Doling). The house enjoys the particularly beautiful view of the Southern Grampians which Mitchell described as 'sublime'. The house is planned to take maximum advantage of this view through its garden and across the plain.

The house is a modest, single storey bluestone structure of two separate wings. It has slate roofs which are contiguous with the verandah. Its plan is different from the conventional symmetrical house plan but yet is not substantially asymmetrical. The main wing has three principal rooms with french doors opening onto the verandah and garden. The front entrance is on the north-west side. Across the hall there are five smaller rooms including the original kitchen. A rear wing of two rooms may have been an earlier kitchen but came to be known as 'the cottage' and was the home of a married daughter. Subsequently it was known as the schoolroom. A coach house and stables complete the complex. The house is immediately surrounded by a garden with many mature plantings and, to the south-east there is a large orchard. The whole suggests a sense of self-sufficiency. The complex retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition.

How is it significant?

Correagh is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria, the Southern Grampians Shire and the city of Hamilton.

Why is it significant?

Correagh is of historical significance for its association with Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, one of the most important public servants and intellectuals in colonial Victoria. From the early 1850s, Fetherstonhaugh was an influential figure who played a key role in the administration of justice and the establishment of government services in the region. He made a major contribution to the development of the Western District through his civic leadership and his sponsorship of the arts, sport, religion and cultural life. As Fetherstonhaugh's home, Correagh is historically significant as the location for many important cultural developments in the Western District. Through his association with other prominent colonial figures, including Acheson French, James Blair and Samuel Pratt Winter, Fetherstonhaugh belonged to a circle of Anglo-Irish intellectuals who injected an invaluable element of sophistication into the cultural life of the region for over 30 years, from its early development in the 1850s. Correagh is of historical significance for its association with Major Mitchell's expedition, specifically for its proximity to his campsite, and the discovery of Lake Nivelles.

Correagh is of architectural significance as an unusual example of 1850s colonial architecture, being one of the oldest surviving houses in the Hamilton district. While modest and conservative in its style and form, Correagh, as a gentleman's villa with a garden on a 'sub-urban' allotment, nonetheless represents a very cultured life with an appreciation of aesthetics, as demonstrated in its siting, architecture, and horticulture.

Correagh is also of significance for its proximity to and relationship with its neighbour, Doolan Doolan.

COMPARISON:

107 Monivae (Original Site), Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, Hamilton
101 Clunie Homestead Complex, Glenferrie Rd, Harrow

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ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Apr-02

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
Garden, Don	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	
W M Rogers in Gordon Forth, ed.	A Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria	1998	46-7
