

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** DOOLAN DOOLAN

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Roger's Road STRATHKELLAR

**STUDY NUMBER:** 230

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S  
OF PLACE:** DOLING DOLING

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 2      **SECTION:** 8      **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 E17a and 432K ; VicRoads 73 B5; located at the end of Roger's Road on the north side and situated on a rise overlooking Doling Doling Swamp (former Lake Nivelles)

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Doolan Doolan Stables, Rogers Road, Hamilton.

**Image Date:** 22/03/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the surviving outbuildings, all of the garden, the drive and the gatehouse area.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The stables at Doolan Doolan are single storied with external walls which are balloon-frame timber construction set on a bluestone plinth and with an unusual internal bluestone wall of coursed random rubble. The building is sited on a slope dipping to the west. They face west with access through a large door and a small door with ventilation through extensive areas of timber trellis. Much of the stall fixtures for the horses survive as well as the paving. At the northern end there is a substantial groom's room, well finished and with the conventional fireplace and a bluestone chimney to provide warmth and dryness. Internally the walls are lined with split weatherboards. Above the whole there is a loft area under the corrugated iron roof. The sheets of iron are of interest, and almost certainly are original from the 1850s because of their small size. (No proprietary brands were located. The iron is the same as that on the roof of the William Howarth House, Munroe Street, Branxholme.) On the east side there is a bluestone cellar, reached from the outside, with low brick walls above ground level. It has a timber ceiling insulated above with a layer of clay. Its skillion roof was covered with the same iron as the main building. A door on the east side beside the cellar gives access to the stables from the house. Some old saddles and tack equipment survives inside.

A substantial garden covers the slope from the current house and stables down to the boundary fence on Rogers Road. The garden is comprised mainly of fruit and nut trees, although a variety of ornamental exotic trees (mainly evergreen) are interspersed among these. A further plant survey will details species and condition.

## **HISTORY:**

In 1836, on his return journey to Sydney, the explorer, Major Mitchell, Surveyor General of New South Wales camped for the night near 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. He described the location in glowing terms and with an appreciation for its picturesque beauty. The landscape was dominated by the Southern Grampians. The name of the body of water has since been changed to Lake Doling Doling or, more prosaically, the Doling Doling Swamp and is used as part of the modern water catchment system.

Major Mitchell's discovery of Australia Felix was the beginning of 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.

Lindsay Clarke (1818-1891) was one of the first and became perhaps the most important district surveyor in the south-west of the Western District, assuming the role of his superior, Henry Wade. Clarke purchased a substantial number of the allotments he surveyed in the Parishes of North and South Hamilton, amounting to 16,000 acres (Garden, 46). An Irishman, he had arrived at Portland in 1848 to take up a position in the local survey office. In November 1849 he became assistant to Wade, Government Surveyor. James Bonwick, in 1858 described him as efficient and "an old and valued officer" (Bonwick, 102). Apparently without any sense of a conflict of interest, Clarke purchased Allotments 2 and 4, Section VIII, Parish of North Hamilton on 6th December 1854. It is unlikely that he built on the hilltop that overlooks Lake Doling Doling. Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, Police Magistrate and Commissioner of Crown Lands purchased the land on the opposite hill and developed his villa, Correagh.

The first resident owner of Doolan Doolan was businessman, Henry Scott. Hector McLean called tenders from masons, carpenters and plasterers "for the erection of a villa residence for Henry Scott near Lake Doling Doling" in the Warrnambool Examiner in November 1868 (Tonkin, 1973, 74). He was more specific in

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another advertisement in the Hamilton Spectator for a second house, perhaps the gatehouse, when he called tenders "for erecting a four roomed wooden cottage at Lake Doling Doling for Henry Scott Esq. Plans and specifications to be seen at my office and tenders to be lodged with me on or before 12 o'clock, Friday 12th February. Hector McLean, 6th February, 1869".

His obituary in the Portland Guardian states that "Henry Scott of the firm Henry Scott & Co. died at his residence: "Windsor," South Portland, on Saturday 14th, 1883, after a long lingering illness at the age of 54." He had come to Australia in 1852 and "was first identified with Portland on his joining the firm of Croaker, Scott and Co. in 1860" and "was the resident partner of the Hamilton branch." He left Hamilton to take charge of the firm's Melbourne establishment, which prompted an auction of the house and contents. An advertisement in the Hamilton Spectator in January 1872 states "Valuable and well kept household furniture, piano and other effects to be sold by public auction on 30 January, 1872 ... Dining room furniture, drawing room, hall, and bedrooms 1, 2, 3 & 4, nursery, stock, miscellaneous ... The attention of persons furnishing is most particularly directed to this sale. The furniture has been well kept, and is nearly new. The sale is without the slightest reservation, in consequence of Mr. Scott's departure for Melbourne ... at Doling Doling". Scott left a widow, two daughters and five sons.

David Laidlaw (1831-1913) purchased the property. Laidlaw was a penniless young saddler who arrived in Hamilton, from Port Fairy, in 1859 and who went on to become one of the town's most prominent citizens (Garden, 60). While he lived at Doling Doling, he was mayor of Hamilton, president of the Free Trade League, Hamilton Railway League and Federation League, a founding member of the Hamilton and Western District College and Alexandra College. He was also later representative for the Constitutional League.

The Laidlaw family lived at Doling Doling for nearly twenty years. The Western Agriculturist could announce on 23rd of January 1883 "Botterill - Laidlaw - on the 13th, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. K Macmillan, Robert Henry, eldest son of the late Joseph Botterill, of Apsley, to Margaret Agnes, third daughter of David Laidlaw, of Doling Doling, Hamilton". The Botterill family was one of the important owners of the early homestead complex, Spring Vale, Coojar and who developed pastoral interests to the north of the Shire of southern Grampians. About 1891 the Laidlaw family moved to St Ronan's in Hamilton, one of the town's most prestigious houses. (Garden, 86-7, 121).

The next owner of Doling Doling was J d'A Moynan, an architect and the engineer of the Shire of Dundas from 1888-1901 (Garden, 175). That he was an architect with good connections is evident from his call for tenders for a "Parsonage, Dunkeld, Butler & Usher & J Moynan, Hamilton & Melbourne" in the Warrnambool Standard in November 1890 (Tonkin, 1971). It is also clear that the family enjoy a good life at the house and its surrounding landscape. The Western Agriculturist reported on 5 September 1896 that "There was a fair attendance of followers at the back of the Hospital on Thursday, when the [hunt] club met for what is known as the Doling run ... At Doling Doling Mr. and Mrs. Moynan entertained followers and spectators at afternoon tea, which was of that universal character that makes everybody glad to be present. The beautifully situated homestead was never seen to better advantage than when the hunting men and those who were out to see the sport roamed round the place looking out upon the wide reach of country from Mt. Napier to Mt. William ...". This coincided with the revival of organized hunting in the district with the establishment of the second Hamilton Hunt Club in 1892 "which held fortnightly meetings at first, although they became less frequent later in the decade" (Garden, 128). The son of Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, who was named after his father, was one of the greatest horsemen in the Western District and may have attended the Doling run.

Doolan Doolan was one of the finer homes and gardens in the 'suburban' area of Hamilton and could be described as a picturesque villa set within the broader landscape. In this sense it can be compared directly

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with its neighbour, Correagh as an example of the Picturesque aesthetic. Both were designed to see and be seen, and to invoke particular associations of a self-sufficient, gentlemanly life in retreat from the town. The house was approached by a winding drive, which climbed the hill through a park of exotic trees and past an orchard. The drive commenced at a gatehouse, since demolished, as is the house. From old photographs, it is clear that the single-storey house was extensive and had been added to. French doors opened onto an enclosing verandah, emphasizing the link between its interiors and the extensive view across Lake Doling Doling towards the Grampians. It is not known if the grounds were landscaped professionally, although the selection of plants is of interest for their range and rarity. It seems likely that the neighbour, Fetherstonhaugh would have been involved since he was president of the local horticultural society for many years.

The stables do survive, although in a ruinous condition. There seems no reason to doubt that they date from the late 1860s and were contemporary with the house. They must have been an important factor in the organization of the Doling run. They are large and well appointed for a relatively small residence and all the more interesting since David Laidlaw had been a saddler by trade. They are also of interest for the construction of the cellar, which is incorporated into the side of the stables adjacent to the site of the original house.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 7 Governing

7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

The stables and cellar are in ruinous condition. The garden is abandoned and overgrown.

## **INTEGRITY:**

The drive and an extensive garden, the park and much of the orchard survive along with the timber stables and ancillary structures. The latter are in a ruinous condition but retain a high degree of archaeological potential while the garden, park and orchard are overgrown and incomplete.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

Doolan Doolan (formerly Doling Doling), Roger's Road, North Hamilton was built in 1867 and developed further in 1868 for the local businessman, Henry Scott and family. Hector McLean designed the main house and a cottage that was possibly used as a gatehouse. He probably designed the surviving adjacent stables because of the quality and unusual character of their construction. The whole was a substantial villa complex set picturesquely on a hill within a broad landscape. The view had been praised by its discoverer, Major Mitchell, Surveyor General of NSW who had named the Doling Doling swamp Lake Nivelle. Lindsay Clarke, the District Surveyor had selected the land. David Laidlaw, businessman and local politician owned the property after Scott from 1874 until 1891 and then J d'A Moynan, architect and local shire engineer owned it into the early twentieth century. Laidlaw began life as a humble saddler and all the owners of Doolan Doolan have been good horsemen. Moynan was associated with the revived Hamilton Hunt, entertaining the riders at Doolan Doolan. The place makes an important pair and comparison with Correagh, the intact complex of house, garden, park, orchard and outbuildings on the adjacent hill, which enjoys the same position in the broad landscape. Correagh was the home of Cuthbert Featherstonhaugh Junior, one of the great horseman of colonial Victoria and best friend of the notorious rider and poet, Adam

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Lindsay Gordon. The Doolan Doolan house and gatehouse were demolished in the 1980s. The drive and an extensive garden, the park and much of the orchard survive along with the important timber stables and ancillary structures. The latter are in a ruinous condition but retain a high degree of archaeological potential while the garden, park and orchard are overgrown and incomplete.

**How is it significant?**

Doolan Doolan is of historical, scientific and aesthetic significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

The Doolan Doolan complex, especially the stables, is of historical significance as an example of a lost way of life and for its associations with a succession of important figures and their families including: Lindsay Clarke, Land Surveyor, Henry Scott, businessman, David Laidlaw, businessman and local politician, and J d'A Moynan, shire engineer and architect. It is very likely that Cuthbert Featherstonhaugh and Adam Lindsay Gordon were visitors. The mature and substantial garden of exotics, which survives, is of scientific and aesthetic significance as an example of the suburban villa lifestyle, although the house and gatehouse have been demolished. Doolan Doolan is also of significance for its proximity to and relationship with its neighbour, Correagh.

## COMPARISON:

119 Konongwootong Creek Homestead Garden, Coleraine - Balmoral Road, Konongwootong.  
229 Correagh, Rogers Road, Hamilton

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

14/12/2003

## 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
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Garden, Don	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	var.
James Bonwick, C E Sayers, ed	Western Victoria, Its Geography, Geology and Social Condition	1858	70, & 113, 1970 & 118n.
Ray Tonkin	Tender and other Notices from the Warrnambool Examiner	1973	74
Raymond Wright	The Bureaucrats' Domain	1989	70, 121