NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF TENEER

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S

STUDY NUMBER:

THE GRANGE, GRANGE BURN NO 2, THE MILL

OF PLACE:

PRECINCT:

outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

SECTION: 11

PARISH:

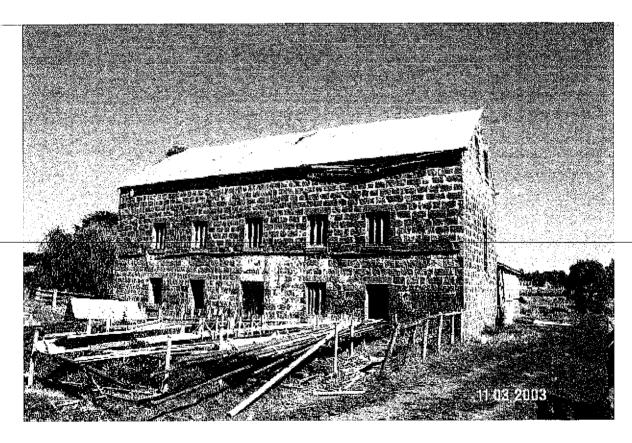
PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432 E60; VicRoads 73 5C; located on the south side of Strathkellar Road about 5.0kms north-east of the centre of Hamilton overlooking the Grange Burn immediately to the south.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING:

State



Prestonholme, Strathkellar Road, Hamilton, Flour Mill

Image Date: 11/03/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the surviving buildings including the main house, the outbuildings, the remains of the flour mill and its associated structures and equipment, the mill pond, the historical plantings in the garden including the Bunya Bunya Pine, Araucaria bidwillii, and an area of land (including any archaeological remains) yet to be determined but approximately .6ha including all of the original garden. 2. Excluding the all the modern nursery structures.

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The homestead at Prestonholme has been constructed in at least three stages, the first dating before 1860 and possibly as early as 1854 when it was purchased by George Younger. The earliest stage, shown in a photograph in Mariposa, (Macdonald, 16), is masonry, has two rooms, each with a twelve paned double-hung sash window and, to either side, a French window. The roof is hipped with a shallow pitch and possibly roofed with slate. There is one chimney at the back of the northern room, now removed. Behind and contiguous with the front range there is a lower service wing with a skillion attached to the side and two chimneys indicating cooking arrangements at the far end. At least the front range survives with its fenestration intact. The walls have since been rendered and coursed to simulate ashlar masonry. This unusual plan suggests strongly that additions were always intended to be made to the homestead.

The photograph also shows the two existing stone outbuildings, conventional in their single storey form, with hipped roofs, massive chimneys and simple verandahs. They survive little altered externally except for a new verandah. There are yards divided by timber fences; paling fences around the house and outbuildings and rail fences further away. There is no garden visible.

In the far distance the flourmill is clearly visible but different from its present appearance. Its form is standard for late Georgian milling technology. It is several storeys high but how many is not certain. The gabled roof is finished with parapet walls and a string course, all treated as a simple pediment with a single opening in the centre. This suggests that the top storey has been removed from the mill because the roof now goes over the walls, there is no string course, and the are two openings in the present gable. The date of the removal, a common practice for tall buildings which become unstable, is not known. The square sectioned, tapered chimney has also been demolished and removed. The stone work for the mill pond, which was used for swimming at least until the Second World War, probably survives. The mill is now derelict and abandoned.

The second stage of the homestead appears to have been the southern range of rooms. The relatively simple internal detailing, and especially the joinery, suggests a relatively early date, probably the 1860s. Another old photograph of the homestead in the 1880s (Macdonald, 17) shows the present bay window with double hung sash windows, the large central sashes divided by central glazing bars which survive. There is a chimney breast in the wall opposite the bay window. This front room has a cellar beneath it and a trap door for access set into the verandah floor. It is not known in detail how the rear elevation was changed at this time but works appear to have occurred.

The third major stage was the construction of the northern range of rooms including, the cast iron verandah and porch (although the verandah may be earlier), the front door and the hall. These appear in the photographed dated as taken in the 1880s. This range was constructed at a slightly higher level, creating an unusual stepped verandah and internal steps from the hall to the passage behind the two original rooms. The scale, bay window and internal details certainly indicate a later nineteenth century date of construction confirmed by the elaborate plaster ceiling rose in the large main room typical of the late 1880s. The white marble mantel of the fireplace opposite the bay window, on the other hand, is relatively standard. This range of rooms survives with a high degree of integrity. There was a shade house or conservatory along the northern elevation which probably dated from the same time or soon after. Plumbing survives at the western end. Post Second World War modernisations have occurred at the rear of the homestead.

HISTORY:

In 1836, the explorer, Major Mitchell camped for the night on the land that became Prestonholme near a hill north of the Grange Burn on his return journey to Sydney. In the morning, having climbed the hill, he discovered a body of water nearby which called Lake Nivelle. 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

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Doling Swamp and is now used as part of the water catchment system.

Major Mitchell's discovery of Australia Felix was the beginning of a 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 and Justices of the Peace played key roles in the administration of justice, the resolution of land disputes and the process of subdividing the Crown lands for various purposes. They also owned land, sometimes extensive areas, in their own right.

The evolution of the land that became Prestonholme is complicated and confusing. It seems that the Wedge Brothers were the first to occupy the land in 1839 laying claim to a large run, which appears to have been centred on the modern city of Hamilton. The home station was located at Strathkellar 8.0kms north-east of Hamilton on the Grange Burn. The length of the Wedges' occupation has not been established clearly but it seems that they remained for a short time only and they gave up The Grange in 1840.

In 1840, The Grange was divided into two runs, the eastern-portion-retaining-the name The Grange and the western portion, but still east of the modern city, being known as Grange Burn. Captain William Lonsdale, the former Police Magistrate of Melbourne, took up The Grange. Grange Burn was taken up by Andrew and William Forlonge and managed by David Edgar until 1845. The Forlonge Brothers subdivided the property in Grange Burn No 1 and Grange Burn No 2. Both of these runs were purchased James Brown in 1845. He had arrived in Port Phillip in March 1840. In the 'Port Phillip Directory, 1847' he is listed as "Jas. Brown, settler, Bourke St., & Grange Burn, Portland" (Mouritz, 65). To avoid confusion, in July 1847 when James Brown sold his interest in the leases, Grange Burn No 1 to the south of the stream became known as Pierrepoint and Grange Burn No 2, to its north became known as Prestonholme.

The brothers, George Napier Craig and Douglas Bannatyne Craig purchased Grange Burn No 2 in July 1847. According to Paul de Serville, they were Scots and "of a good family" (de Serville, 202). In 1850, Dr John Sealy Griffin replaced D. B. Craig in the partnership. A survey undertaken by Lindsay Clarke, Surveyor in 1851 shows "Griffin and Craig's Home Station & Woolshed" located just over 150m north of the track to Melbourne, now the Strathkellar Road. Nothing is shown to the south of the track apart from a lone grave immediately beside the track. Also shown are a cultivation paddock and a hexagonal "grass paddock" which are divided by another track leading to Skene Station. In years to come, the Ararat and Hamilton Railway was to pass through the centre of the hexagon.

In September 1854 the run changed hands again. Although "a substantial part came into the hands of Alexander Affleck, ... the homestead section with the Prestonholme name was bought by George Younger (c1813-1867)" (Garden, 50). The oldest part of the existing homestead is visible in a photograph in Mariposa, which shows two rooms with French doors opening onto a verandah. Since Lindsay Clarke does not note this structure in his very detailed 1851 survey, it must be presumed to post-date the survey. Its construction may have been prompted by George Younger's purchase of Prestonholme in which case it dates from after 1854. George Younger had married Elizabeth Hope Affleck at the Presbyterian Church in Melbourne in 1841 (VPI, Reg. No. 541). Both were born in Fyfeshire, Scotland. Alexander Affleck was her brother. They had four children, including Hope Affleck Younger who was born at Prestonholme in 1858 (VPI, Reg. No. 13040). Don Garden suggests that the George Younger Junior who managed the other half of the original Grange run for John Moffatt might have been the other's son (Garden, 50). No child with the name George is registered as born to George and Elizabeth nor, it would seem, could a son be old enough for such a responsibility.

George Younger was prominent in public affairs in and around Hamilton. In 1858, he was one of the major pastoralists who objected to an increased squatting licence fee based on the number of sheep and cattle they ran (Garden, 54). Don Garden writes that "In June 1862 the first annual Hamilton ploughing match was held at George Younger's Prestonholme property" although this is three years after other sources suggest that he had

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

sold it (Garden, 110). Robert Younger (1842-1900), the eldest child of George and Elizabeth, who was a butcher and farmer became Mayor of Hamilton (HS, 10/11/1900; Garden, 123). Elizabeth Hope Younger died in 1858, aged 38, probably as a result of childbirth, because the son born at Prestonholme died after only one day (VPI, Reg. No. 6609 & 6610). Hope George Younger died in 1867 (VPI, Reg. No. 6609 & 5745). His wife and child's deaths may have prompted the sale of Prestonholme.

Peter Learmonth (1821-1893) purchased Prestonholme in 1859 and in 1860 the licence was cancelled. He was born in Scotland and migrated to Van Diemen's Land in the 1840s to work with his brother William (Moore, in ADB, Vol. 5, 72). Having failed on the Californian goldfields but succeeded on the Victorian field at Castlemaine, he decided to turn to pastoralism. At first he managed Francis Henty's Merino Downs run south of Casterton. In 1859 he turned to flour milling, building and buying mills at Prestonholme on the land he bought there and at Sandford, Byaduk and Penshurst. He also bought land at Dunkeld for his merino flock and established a wool and finance business, P. Learmonth and Co., in Hamilton. "His last investment was to buy a third interest in the Nacimiento estate, Mexico, where he later gave his share of 82,000 acres to two of his sons. A practical citizen, he was an early member of Dundas Shire Council and often its president. He helped to establish the Hamilton Hospital and presided over its committee for years. He also raised capital for founding Hamilton College and Alexandra Ladies' College. He worked hard for temperance and helped to bring railway communication to the district. He died at Prestonholme 19 July, 1893, leaving an estate worth 54,000 pounds, and was survived by his wife Mary Jarvey" (Moore, in ADB, Vol. 5, 73).

Peter Learmonth must have extended the Prestonholme homestead, first on the south side in the early 1860s and much later, probably in the late 1880s, on the north side. When he proposed to sell it in 1871, it was described thus, "The Dwelling-House is built of stone and weatherboard, contains eight rooms, besides, Dairy, Washhouse etc., which are well and substantially built. The out buildings consist of Miller's Cottage, men's Hut, Blacksmith's Shop, Carpenter's Shop, Three Stalled Stable, Buggy House and Harness Room. There is also a Stack-Yard, Milking Yard, Fowl-House and Yard. The Garden about an Acre and a half in extent, is one of the oldest in the district, and is well filled with the choicest Fruit Trees and Shrubs. Great care has been exercised in the selection of these, and great attention given to rearing them" (Macdonald, 24). The flourmill was described separately. The land comprised of 350 acres.

Peter Learmonth and Samuel Allnutt purchased allotment 93B of Section 1 of the Parish of Corea on 15th April 1869 comprising about 76 acres and where Corea homestead stands. Together and separately they purchased much of the land thrown open for selection in the Parish. Peter Learmonth was married to Mary Jervey Pearson in 1854 and they soon moved to Prestonholme (VPI, Reg. No. 3557). Samuel Lea Allnutt married Mary Jervey Simpson in 1859 (VPI, Reg. No. 2989). They had at least three children, all born in Bellarine, an important early flour milling area: James in 1876, Mary in 1877 and George in 1880 (VPI, Reg. No. 13970, 20287, 550). Mary Jervey Allnutt died at Bellarine at the age of 47 in 1882 (VPI, Reg. No. 430). It would seem that, like the Youngers and Afflecks, there was a family connection between Peter Learmonth and Samuel Allnutt but its exact nature has not been determined. Anita Macdonald in Mariposa states that "Peter and Mary often visited their friends, the Allnuts [sic] at Glenholme near Geelong" (Macdonald, 29). There is a further possible connection. One of the flourmills at Port Fairy, later known as the Western Flour Mills, was leased by flour millers, Simpson and Allnutt in 1854 (Jones, 171).

The Hamilton Spectator reporting on Peter Learmonth soon after his death in 1893 noted that "During the 'Great Land Racket' [the sale of land under the Land Selection Acts] he and Mr. S. L. Allnut were each allocated a section of land in the Parish of Corea, and gradually, by purchase, increased the acreage until the present Corea Estate was formed. So little was their land valued at the time, that it was quite a question as to whether it was worth while fencing it in or not. Eventually Mr Allnut sold out to his partner, since when the place has been thoroughly fenced and subdivided and the land that was once thought almost valueless now produces as fine a wool as any in the world" (HS 20/07/1893; Macdonald, 18).

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

The most important investment, which Peter Learmonth developed at Prestonholme, was his flourmill. He built the four-storey bluestone Grange Burn steam flourmill, which began operations in May 1859 (PG 25/4/1859, 1/6/1859; Garden, 49). The surviving structure is three storeys. It was not the first flourmill in the area. Wheat had been grown increasingly in the area and two brothers, John and George Hutcheson, who were from a family of millers in Scotland, had proposed building a mill in the early 1850s about 3.0kms west of Hamilton on the Grange Burn. "Grinding did not start until the end of 1855 or the beginning of 1856" (Garden, 49). "By the late 1850s, the production of wheat in the district was too great for Hutcheson's primitive mill, and a young newcomer with sufficient capital saw the opportunity to start a second mill" (ibid.). It seems that Learmonth prospered at the expense of the John Hutcheson whose building no longer exists. He prospered by producing better flour, by having better equipment and managers, by buying out his competition, and by building mills in competition.

When Prestonholme was offered for sale in 1871, the advertisement that appeared in the Hamilton Spectator, April 1871 provides a detailed description, "The Mill is a four storey bluestone building, with attached bluestone and galvanized iron building, capable of storing 55,000 bushels of grain. The machinery comprises 14 horse power engine, 2 pairs of the best French burr stones, 1 Boddington's improved silk dresser, 2 Smutters, Cooling apparatus, 3 Elevators, with all the latest improvements in Mill gearing. The Mill is also adapted for driving by water power" (MacDonald, 24).

Peter Learmonth also purchased Allotments 4 to 7, 9 and 10 of Section 2, Township of Byaduk, on 12th February 1867 which were beside Scott's Creek for the purpose of building a new flourmill. The memoir of Peter Fraser, a long term resident of Byaduk records that the Byaduk (known as Holmes) Flour Mill was built by Peter Learmonth with George Holmes as manager and miller (Black, 1994;). The mill prospered until about 1893 when it closed due to a downturn in wheat production in the area. Holmes had worked previously in a flourmill at Port Fairy after landing in Victoria from Manchester, England. There were several flourmills at Port Fairy including: John Griffith's Steam Flour Mill (from 1845); Alexander Struth's Post Windmill (from 1847); Dr. Andrew Wilson Hume's Western Flour Mill (from 1852); Joseph Goble's Steam Flour Mill (from 1866); and Dr. Andrew Rusell's Moyne Flour Mill (from 1860) (Jones, 167-71). There was also a very large flourmill at Rosebrook and at least another four close to Warrnambool. Holmes managed Learmonth's Mill at Prestonholme until the Byaduk mill was built in 1867. He died about 1900. For many years, Byaduk flour was widely known. Port Fairy, Warrnambool and Portland stores were supplied from it, notwithstanding the presence of the other mills, and any surplus flour was forwarded to Melbourne.

The Hamilton Spectator noted in 1893 in Peter Learmonth's obituary that "he built the mill [at Prestonholme] and prospered, flour then being sent to the Wimmera district ... still enterprising, he built or bought flour mills at Sandford, Byaduk and Penshurst, and at one time must have been converting as much flour from wheat as almost any miller in the land. As his gains increased, he also added acre to acre, and his estate at Prestonholme, although only some thousand acres in extent, is probably as valuable as any of its size in the Western District" (HS 20/07/1893)

Bodingtons, the leading milling engineers who serviced all the flourmills in the area, serviced the Grange Burn Mill, in 1882 and 1884 so presumably it was in full working order then. They may have supplied and commissioned the original equipment. It appears to have closed about the middle of 1892 (Jones, 177). By this time, Peter Learmonth was seventy-two years old. In any case, most wheat was being grown in the Wimmera and the Mallee and better rail transport meant that flour milling was increasingly concentrated in those areas and on the western fringe of Melbourne where it continues today. The Prestonholme Mill remains, however, one of the largest, most intact and most representative examples of flourmills in western Victoria with particularly significant associations through Peter Learmonth to the milling industry throughout the area.

Like the Hutchesons, Learmonth was not only a miller but was also a keen businessman and he worked his land. Don Garden notes that, unlike the Hutchesons, he was more interested in wool growing and sheep

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

breeding for which he later became renowned (Garden, 49). Again, his obituary is clear about his role as a pastoralist and sheep breeder. "Mr Learmonth took a thorough interest in the breeding of sheep, and having decided on one line, stuck to it through high and lower prices. As a result of these many years of judicious breeding, ably assisted first by Mr. Gow and later on by Mr. Harding as managers, [he] succeeded in raising up the sheep on the place to a degree of perfection that makes their wool command top rates in the markets of the world. In the meantime, a capacious wool store in Gray Street had been built by Clough and Co., the well known wool brokers, and sold to Mr. Fred Ownes, from whom Mr Learmonth bought it in about 1870" (HS 20/07/1893).

Peter Learmonth died at Prestonholme on 19 July 1893, "leaving an estate worth 54,000 pounds, and was survived by his wife Mary Jarvey" (Moore, in ADB, Vol. 5, 73). The notice of the subdivision of Peter Learmonth's estate dated 10 December 1903, shows his holdings as: Prestonholme, 960 acres, which he held for 45 years; Corea, 5,348 acres, 8 miles from Dunkeld; Geerak, 836 acres, 22 miles from Hamilton; Karabeal Farm, 330 acres, 14 miles from Hamilton; and several township allotments in Hamilton.

Allan Learmonth, who had been born at Merino Downs, married Annie Thomson in 1886 (VPI, Reg. No. 4528). Held at the Presbyterian Church, it was probably the most important 'society' wedding in Hamilton for decades (Garden, 158). After living in Mexico at Nacimiento on the family's property, Mariposa, they and their children took up residence at Corea in 1893 for ten years. "The Corea homestead was very small and probably less comfortable than the original house in Mexico. ... The small house to those numerous fires during the years they lived there, but was later burned down" (Macdonald, 210). Allan and Annie Learmonth moved to the family home, Prestonholme in 1903. It seems likely that they added another range of rooms on the north side of the house. This also included a conservatory.

There was no garden around the house in the 1860s. By the 1880s the garden was very well developed and by the turn of the century creepers covered the cast iron verandah and the trees were fully grown. One of the most important surviving trees is a Bunya Bunya Pine, Araucaria bidwillii, typical of the period and which was one of a pair.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

- 3. Developing local, regional and national economies
- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.5.1 Grazing stock
- 3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries
- 3.12 Feeding People
- 3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce
- 5 Working
- 5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The homestead is in good condition. The outbuildings are in good condition. The garden is in fair condition, with much of the small scale detail removed. The flourmill is in poor condition. The Araucaria bidwillii is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Homestead retains a very high degree of integrity. Early 20th C conservatory/fern house has been demolished. Staff quarters and other outbuildings substantially altered to accommodate current nursery business. Mill may have had one storey removed. Gebnerally in poor condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

What is significant?

In 1836, the explorer, Major Mitchell camped for the night on the land that became Prestonholme on his return journey to Sydney. His discovery of Australia Felix was the beginning of a great land rush by squatters overland from New South Wales and over 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 Wedge Brothers first occupied the land in 1839 laying claim to a large run, called The Grange, which appears to have been centred on the modern city of Hamilton with its homestead immediately to the north of the present Prestonholme. In 1840, The Grange was divided into two runs, the eastern portion retaining the name The Grange and the western portion, but still east of the modern city, being known as Grange Burn. Captain William Lonsdale, the former Police Magistrate of Melbourne, took up The Grange in 1840. Grange Burn was taken up by Andrew and William Forlonge and managed by David Edgar until 1845. The Forlonge Brothers subdivided the property in Grange Burn No 1 and Grange Burn No 2, both were purchased by James Brown in 1845. When he sold his interests in 1847, Grange Burn No 1 to the south of the stream became Pierrepoint and Grange Burn No 2, to its north became Prestonholme. The brothers George Napier and Douglas Bannatyne Craig purchased Grange Burn No 2. In 1850, Dr John Sealy Griffin replaced D. B. Craig. A plan by the important local government surveyor Lindsay Clarke published in 1851 shows their homestead complex on the opposite side of the Strathkellar Road from Prestonholme and extending to the Grange Burn. Section 11 of the proposed Parish of North Hamilton became the Grange No. 2 and consequently the Prestonholme Pre-emptive right, thereby linking Prestonholme to one of the earliest and most important sites in the Western District after the Henty family runs further west.

George Younger bought much of the Prestonholme land and the former homestead complex in September 1854, the remainder being purchased by his brother-in-law, Alexander Affleck. The oldest part of the existing homestead, just two rooms with French doors and a service wing at the rear, appears to date from this time. The surviving outbuildings probably date from this time, as well. Peter Learmonth, another Scot who came over Bass Strait from Van Diemen's Land and, through his seven sons, the patriarch of the Learmonth family in Victoria, bought Prestonholme in 1858. He had married Mary Jervey Pearson who had connections with families of millers in Port Fairy and on the Bellarine Peninsula. Learmonth not only extended the homestead in two more stages in the 1860s and 1880s, he also built the flourmill and other associated structures at the rear of the homestead complex and close to the Grange Burn. As well as successful pastoral and financial interests in and around Hamilton, Learmonth through this and other mills became the most successful miller in the further Western District. He was also a leading citizen in public affairs. Over the years a conventional garden was developed around the homestead, much of which survives in its larger scale, including a Bunya Bunya Pine, Aracaria bidwillii, which was one of a pair. The flourmill closed in 1892 and Learmonth died the following year. His eldest son Allan and his wife, Annie nee Thomson returned from the family's Mexican estates to live at Prestonholme. The homestead survives with a high degree of integrity and in very good condition. The outbuildings also survive, although modified internally for modern business uses. The flourmill survives, but with one storey and the chimney removed and in poor condition. The waterworks also survive.

How is it significant?

Prestonholme is of historical, social, architectural and scientific significance to the community of Hamilton, the Southern Grampians Shire and the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Prestonholme is of historical significance for its direct link with one of the oldest sites in the Western District and the distinguished list of persons connected with it as owners and otherwise. These connections are demonstrated particularly in the sequence of development of the homestead, started by George Younger, and especially in the flournill built by Peter Learmonth. The flournill at Prestonholme is of historic significance for its central role in the broader milling industry throughout the further Western District. Prestonholme is of social significance because, by the late 1880s, the homestead was the focus of one of the great dynasties of the

NAME OF PLACE: PRESTONHOLME HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND FLOURMILL ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mill Road Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER:

232

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Western District and the destination for sons returning from their Mexican enterprises. It represents the roles of Peter Learmonth, his wife and sons and their wives played not only in finance and civic affairs, but also in the creation of cultural values in Hamilton and its hinterland. The Learmonths' social legacy continues to this day. Prestonholme demonstrates architectural significance in its typical development as a conservative and modest homestead enhanced by its garden setting. It is also a rare example of a substantial industry, other than pastoralism and agriculture, being located adjacent to a principal residence. The flourmill at Prestonholme is of scientific significance as an excellent example of Georgian inspired colonial industrial design, serviced if not established by Bodingtons, leading flour milling engineers in Victoria.

COMPARISON:

H310 Degraves Mill, Calder Highway, Carlsruhe, near Kyneton

H323 [Bostock's] Flourmill, Mill Street, Mortlake

H330 Former Flour Mill, 1367 Glenrowan-Myrtleford Road, Oxley

H389 Portarlington Mill, 7 Turner Court Portarlington

H395 Flour Mill, 105-107 Barker Street, Castlemaine

H829 John Darling and Son Flour Mill, 74 Sydney Street, Albion

H1072 Echuca Flour Mill, 2 Nish Street, Echuca

H1011 Former Wimmera Flour Mill and Silo Complex, Gibson Street, Rupunyap

H1166 Skelsmurgh Hall (Montpellier Flour Mill House), Calder Highway, Carlsruhe

H1523 Day's Flour Mill Complex, 75 Day Road, Murchison

G 477 Anderson's Mill, off Alice Street, Smeaton

Fortuna, Bendigo

Goble's Mill, Gipps Street, Port Fairy

Moyne Flour Mills, Gipps Street, Port Fairy

ASSESSED BY:

TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

11-Mar-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme I

No Recommendations for Inclusions \Box

REFERENCES:

Author Anita Macdonald	Title Mariposa, a Story of the Learmonths of Western Victoria and Mexico, 1834-1930	Year 1981.	Page var.
Diana M Halmarick, comp.	Thos. Robertson & Sons "Mainstays of Our Earliest Days"	2000	214
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	var.
Edmund Finn, "Garryowen"	The Chronicles of Early Melbourne	1888	var.
Ian Black (ed.)	Early Byaduk Settlers	1994	
J. J. Mouritz	The Port Phillip Almanac and Directory	1847	65
Lawrence Clarke	Allotments in the Parishes of North Hamilton and Warrayure, County of Dundas	1851	
Lewis and Peggy Jones Michael T Moore in Douglas Pike, ed.	The Flour Mills of Victoria 1840-1990, An Historical Record Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 5	1990 1974	var. 72 -7 3
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip		var.