

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ENGLEFIELD WOOLSHED AND MEN'S QUARTERS (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Natimuk-Hamilton Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 336

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** WILLAH WOOL

**PRECINCT:** outside

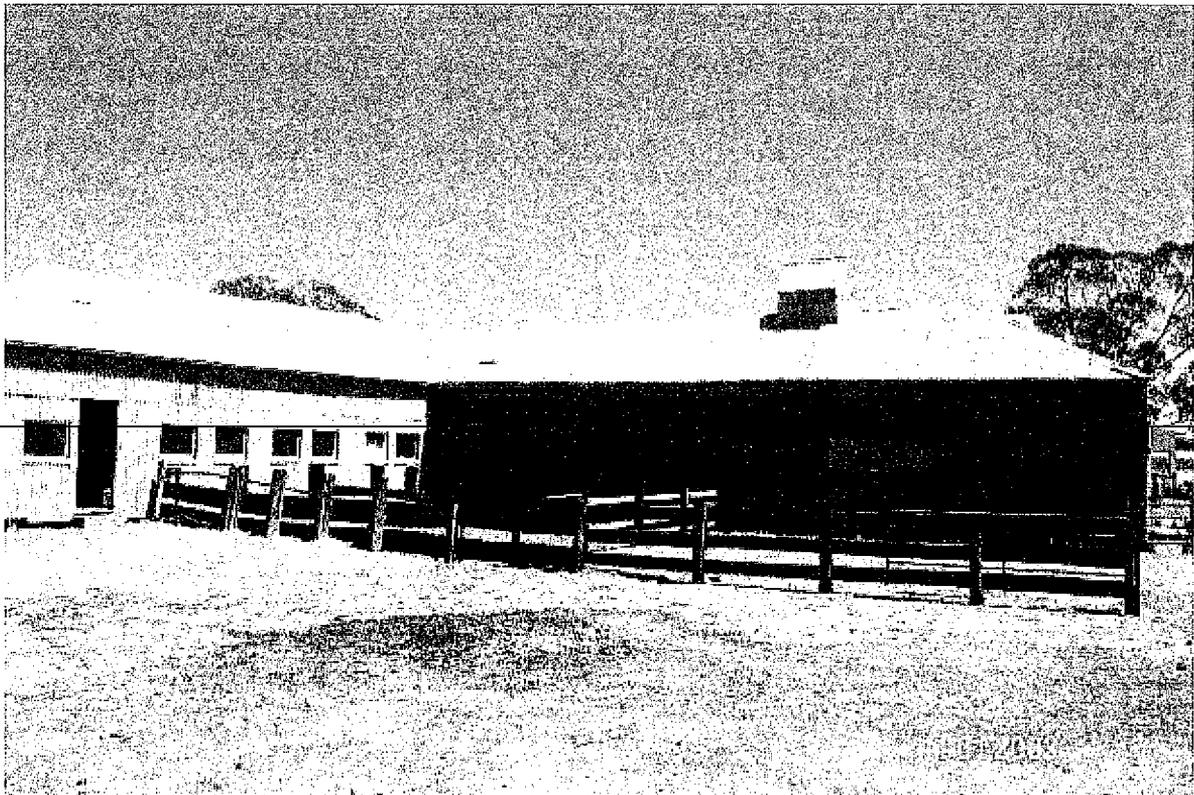
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 8      **SECTION:** 1      **PARISH:** PARISH OF YARRAMYLJUP

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 388 A26; VicRoads 54 F6; 3 kms south of the township of Balmoral on the east side of the Natimuk-Hamilton Road

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Englefield Woolshed (Former), Natimuk-Hamilton Road, Balmoral

**Image Date:** 11/01/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the woolshed and all of the men's quarters, the Plum tree, *Prunus* sp. and the Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, but excluding the modern office building and an area of 10,000sqm around them.

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ENGLEFIELD WOOLSHED AND MEN'S QUARTERS (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Natimuk-Hamilton Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 336

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The woolshed is constructed on sloping ground on the east side of the Natimuk-Hamilton Road and on the opposite side of the road from the homestead complex. It is T-shaped in plan, probably built in two stages. The older wing is partly clad in weatherboards with a monitor for the old wool press extending through its hipped roof. The newer wing has a double hipped roof. It is a large hardwood timber framed building now clad in corrugated iron. It stands on timber-in-the- round stumps with what appear to be pit-sawn hardwood joists and bearers. The floor is either traditional battens or more modern pine floorboard. The original pen doors are made from two timber beaded-edge boards of a fine pine, possibly Kauri, with two rails. Each has a number in a blue circle painted on the inside. The posts supporting the roof at the corners of the pens are adzed timber with arrises. There is a modern extension of covered yards. Close to the northern corner of the woolshed there is a large well which was linked to the homestead by means of channels.

The men's quarters are located about 200m from the woolshed. They are approximately 18m long and 10ms deep. They are single storey, timber framed and clad with weatherboards. The corrugated iron roof has two hips parallel to the façade or west elevation. There are four ledge and brace doors in the façade giving access to small bedrooms. The dado section of the façade has been re-clad in corrugated iron. The windows are all twelve paned double-hung sashes without counterweights. There is a brick chimney on the east elevation. Another, on the south elevation associated with the kitchen in the south-east corner, has a large open hearth partly filled by a 1930s stove and baker's oven. This has remnants of limewash on the internal surface. Much of the lining of the internal walls and some of the framing has been removed.

Outside the back door there is an old corrugated iron kennel. There is a large old fruit tree near the kitchen, possibly a plum tree or other *Prunus* species. Some distance to the north-east of the men's quarters there is a large remnant Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* which appears to have been used for slaughtering and hanging meat.

## HISTORY:

The Englefield squatting lease, according to Billis and Kenyon was taken up by the brothers Henrie and William Montgomery Bell, who arrived in Port Phillip together in 1841 (B&K, 25, 205; Garryowen, 900). W. M. Bell was the first President of the Horticultural Society, became the fifth Lord Mayor of Melbourne and is credited with establishing the first vineyards in the colony at his first home, Avoca in South Yarra (Garryowen, 311 & 429). 'They were staunch and influential Presbyterians of the Free Church branch' (Garryowen, 900). They were in partnership with Isaac Buchanan as merchants in Little Flinders Street in 1841, and were agents for Dennistoun and Co. of Glasgow. The partnership was dissolved in 1847 but W. & H. Bell continued in business at Port Albert as I. Buchanan and Co.

The Register of the National Estate states Edward Bell and James Riley were the initial leaseholders of Englefield, incorrectly citing Billis and Kenyon. However Adam Turnbull, in notes prepared in 1936, apparently at the request of Commissioner East, Chief Commissioner of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, also states that the Edward Bell took up Englefield about the 25th November 1841 (Rogers, 2 & 4). Edward Bell was an Overlander, arriving from Sydney in 1839, who soon became Commissioner for Crown Lands in the Wimmera (B&K, 24-5). A relationship, if any, between Edward Bell and the Bell brothers has not been established.

The Bell brothers' partnership held the lease for one year when it passed briefly to Edward Barker, who had property interest nearby at Kenilworth, only to return to Bell & Co. until 1846. As well as Englefield, the partnership held the lease on Hyde Park, north of Cavendish. In February 1846, Englefield passed to Robert Clerk, who had previously held the Mumumberi[t]ch run, 13kms south-east of Peshurst (B&K, 47 & 255). Clerk was married to Bertha Agnes Clerk (nee Mildmay?) and they had four children: Robert Mildmay in 1845, Henrietta Mary in 1846, Isabel Blanch in 1849, and Albert in 1850, the first two being born in Port Fairy and

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ENGLEFIELD WOOLSHED AND MEN'S QUARTERS (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Natimuk-Hamilton Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 336

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

the second two in Gleneig (VPI, Reg. No. 14282, 30009, 30096, and 22544). In May 1853 the Englefield lease was transferred to Mrs. Anne Greene.

She was the widow of William Pomeroy Greene, one of the earliest squatters in the Port Phillip District. Anne Griffith had married Greene in 1826, in Ireland. He died unexpectedly at Woodlands, near Broadmeadows, in February 1845, 'a gentleman much appreciated by all who knew him' (B&K, 75, VPI Reg. No. 4030, Garryowen, 897). Their son William Frederick, who was born in Ireland, died in 1862 aged 30 years (VPI Reg. No. 1760). William Pomeroy Greene was in partnership with Frederick Armand Powlett, Chief Commissioner of Crown lands and, later Colonial Treasurer in 1852. They owned Pentland Hills, north of Geelong from 1837 to 1838 and Moranding, north of Kilmore from 1838 to 1844. From 1844 until it was cancelled, Anne Greene held the Woodlands squatting licence (B&K, 302).

Billis and Kenyon state that in March 1860 Englefield passed to Duncan Robertson 'of Urana' (B&K, 205). Paul de Serville, (P&P, 485) however, ascribes Englefield to the Duncan Robertson who was the son of William Robertson and Margaret Stuart and not to his cousin, the Duncan Robertson who was the son of John Robertson and May McBain. The Englefield squatting lease was cancelled in 1881 (B&K, 205). The Robertson families are extensive and complicated. One of the more important branches is the line introduced by John Philip and Margaret Philip nee Robertson of Victoria Lagoon who held that licence between March 1849 and March 1859 (B&K, 294).

Englefield went through a turbulent period of ownership in the late nineteenth century. The developer and 'land boomer', James Mirams, former MP and founder of Melbourne's largest building society, the Premier Permanent Building Association, purchased Englefield in the later 1880s. It was one of several properties across Victoria which he and his partners in Freehold Farms Co. Ltd. planned to subdivide into nut and fruit farms (Cannon, 112ff). The Englefield enterprise failed and, through this small and a succession of much larger disasters, Mirams went bankrupt and 'was one of the first boomsters to fall' (Cannon, 121). Exonerated on other counts, he was jailed for issuing a false balance sheet for the Association (Cannon, 122). Quoting Cannon, Rogers states that next the "Collins Street Farmers" in the form of Gotch, Chrystal, LeFevre and Co. were its owners and R. Douglas its manager' (Rogers, 25). The Gotch and Chrystal families were interrelated. ~~Dr George LeFevre was a Collins Street specialist and a politician. He was associated with the Freehold~~ Investment Co. Ltd and, like the Premier and other leading politicians at the time, with the temperance movement (Cannon, 62-4). They held 15,354 acres but also failed because, in 1892, Englefield was advertised for sale in small lots (Sutherland, 57; Rogers, 25).

The son of John and Margaret Philip, John Philip who was born at 'Dundas' in 1855, purchased Englefield (and Lower Crawford on the Crawford River) about 1901 (VPI, Reg. No. 2128; Halmarick, 209). He had married 'Katie' Swan in 1880 (VPI, Reg. No. 3199). 'John and his wife Kathrin moved to Englefield, in 1902, and in 1905 rebuilt the old home, originally built by a Mrs. Greene who owned the station from 1853-60' (ibid.). While living at Englefield, John played an active part in the local community, becoming president of the Balmoral Mechanics Institute as well as Vice-President of the Balmoral Pastoral society. 'Like the rest of the Philip and Robertson family, John, a fervent Presbyterian, became an elder in 1905' (ibid.). 'He was a passionate advocate of the railway system and in the late 1880s was a delegate on a railway league. He became Chairman of the Toolondo-Cavendish Railway League which was responsible for linking Hamilton to the Wimmera' (ibid.). John Philip died on 12 July 1916 of a heart attack, aged 61. Kathrin Philip died on 11 March 1929 at the age of 72 years at Glencairn, Nagambie South Australia. Both John and Kathrin Philip are buried in the Hamilton cemetery. Their son, Alexander Stuart Philip returned to Englefield, presumably to manage it, after his father's death.

It is not known where the original woolshed and men's quarters were situated, although they were almost certainly in the same position as the existing. A preliminary parish plan, dated 1863, of 'Special and Country Lands Parish of Yarramyljup County of Dundas' shows a sheep yard located adjacent to the north-south road

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ENGLEFIELD WOOLSHED AND MEN'S QUARTERS (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Natimuk-Hamilton Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 336

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

directly opposite 'Mr. D Robertson's Pre-emptive Section Englefield. Also shown are brush fences and a sheep wash 160 chains to the east. All the adjacent land is purchased under the Land Selection Acts by D Robertson in November 1863.

Nor is it known when exactly the woolshed was built but from its traditional form, use of materials and certain details, it appears to be relatively early, possibly dating from the mid-1860s. Gates from pens, some now removed for safe-keeping in the men's quarters are made from timber which is likely to date from about the 1860s. In 1887-88, despite the season wool prices were quite satisfactory. According to W. J. Rogers, Englefield's top price for fleece was 11 and three-quarter pence and 12 and three-quarter pence for lambs wood. Englefield, it seems was profitable producing 151 bales off 14 000 sheep running on 15 000 acres of freehold and 4 000 acres of leased scrub (Rogers, 24).

Interestingly, Englefield was not included in the 1887 'List of Sheds' employing non-union labour published by S. Stretch, secretary of the Western District Sheepfarmers Association. It was 'published for the information of Shearers wanting employment under the Shearing Agreement of the Association' (Fawcett, 2003). This may be due to the subdivision activities of Freehold Farms Co. Ltd. and Gotch, Crystal, LeFevre and Co.. They were very tense and difficult times. Rogers writes 'As the 1890 shearing season approached Balmoral wondered who would win in the local sheds. When Congbool started in early September with 15 non union shearers the union organisers moved in the district, however when Mt. Talbot, Fulham and Gringegalgonia started later in September they were all employing union labour. It was reported that Englefield was refusing to employ unionists but it was expected that the union would will because all the district shearers were union members and the shilling per hundred that would be saved by employing non unionists would not pay the cost of bringing shearers from other districts' (Rogers, 32).

It is not known when the men's quarters were built. They are similar in construction to parts of the woolshed and probably also date from the mid-1860s. There is no evidence, for example, that they were roofed with shingles and the framing timber and pine lining boards are machine sawn. The provided typical accommodation for itinerant shearers with a large kitchen and eating area at one end and bedrooms at the other end.

Eventually, the state Government bought Mooralla, Kenilworth, Englefield, Kongbool, Melville Forest and Wootong Vale and Hyde Park for Soldier Settlement and subdivision. William Philip of Braeside could comment in 1926 'so that from Hamilton to Harrow, a distance of 60 miles, instead of the large pastoral holdings which a few years ago occupied the whole of his territory, the traveller now passes through small holdings devoted to mixed farming' (Rogers, 15).

Further subdivision occurred under the Soldier Settlement Scheme after the Second World War. This isolated the woolshed and men's quarters, which are across the Hamilton-Natimuk Road, from the homestead. The whole had been linked by a substantial irrigation system, using the roof of the woolshed to provide water for the homestead.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

## **CONDITION:**

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ENGLEFIELD WOOLSHED AND MEN'S QUARTERS (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Natimuk-Hamilton Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 336

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

Woolshed is in good condition  
Men's Quarters and in poor condition

## **INTEGRITY:**

Both buildings have a high degree of integrity.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Englefield Woolshed and Men's Quarters are located about 1.6kms south of Balmoral on a rise overlooking a creek which runs into the Glenelg River. Originally, the property straddled the Natimuk-Hamilton Road, the principal route north into the Wimmera from the coastal ports. The homestead complex began in the early 1840s during the occupation of the brothers William Montgomery and Henrie Bell, successful Melbourne merchants, the former being Melbourne's fifth Lord Mayor. but the woolshed from this time does not survive. Between 1853 and 1860, Englefield was occupied by Anne Greene, with her son William Frederick, but in her own right. She was the widow of William Pomeroy Greene, one of the earliest squatters in the Port Phillip District. Duncan Robertson, the next occupant, purchased the Englefield Pre-emptive right. He was a member of the large Western District family of Robertsons and Philips. It is possible that he built the woolshed and men's quarters in the 1860s. In the 1890s, Englefield was again owned by absentee proprietors, this time some of Melbourne's most notorious property speculators. Their proposal to subdivide the land for fruit and nut farms failed. John and Kathrin Philip purchased the Englefield freehold in 1901 and over the next few years added a major extension in front of the original dwelling. John Philip was a leader in the broader community. The land was then purchased and subdivided under the Closer Settlement Scheme and the Soldier Settlement Scheme. Englefield woolshed retains a fair degree of integrity and is in good condition. The men's quarters retain a good degree of integrity but are in a very poor condition.

How is it significant?

Englefield woolshed and men's quarters are of historical, social and architectural significance to the community of Balmoral and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Englefield woolshed and men's quarters are of historical significance because of its connection with its later owners including Robertson and Philip families. Englefield is of social significance because the Robertson and Philip families combined represent one of the most extensive and influential dynasties across the Western District. Although altered, Englefield woolshed and men's quarters are of architectural significance as a typical example of such building types.

## **COMPARISON:**

047 Winninburn Homestead and Woolshed, Heenan-Ferrier Road, Tarrenlea  
125 Bochara Farm Homestead Complex, Clayton's Road, Bochara (Woolshed)  
222 Glenlogie Homestead Ruins and Woolshed, Wallacedale-Branxholme Road, Branxholme  
458 Morgiana Woolshed, Morgiana Road, Wannon

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh, mgt, acn

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

03-Jan-01

## **EXISTING LISTINGS:**

## **HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## **REFERENCES:**

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ENGLEFIELD WOOLSHED AND MEN'S QUARTERS (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Natimuk-Hamilton Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 336

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Page</b>
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol 11	1888	57
Diana M Halmarick, comp.	Thos. Robertson & Sons "Mainstays of Our Earliest Days"	2000	208- 9, 265
Edmund Finn (Garryowen)	The Chronicles of Early Melbourne, Vol 1, 2, 3	19	var.
Jan Critchett	A Distant Field of Murder	1990	187
Lyall Harris with the Balmoral Historical Society	Welcome Back to Balmoral	1975	3
Michael Cannon	The Land Boomers	1976	112
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	146, 275
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	25 & 205
W. J. Rogers	History of Balmoral	2003	var.
William Philip [of 'Braeside']	'Hamilton District' in Denney's Lascelles Annual	1926	