

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WILLIAM HOWARTH'S HOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Monroe Street BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 201

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Bransholme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 9 & 10 **SECTION:** 12 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BRANXHOLME

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 J; VicRoads 223 S3, at the south-west corner of Monroe and Lynch Streets, in the township of Bransholme.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



William Howarth's House, 2 Monroe Street, Bransholme.

Image Date: 26/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and all of the land.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WILLIAM HOWARTH'S HOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Monroe Street BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 201

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The rear section of the residence, built of stone in or soon after 1858, is set back a distance from the front street boundary. It takes the form of an early colonial bungalow with a verandah on four sides, partly enclosed across the south and rear elevations. The rear skillion has been raised slightly with higher walls. The main and verandah roofs are contiguous, low pitched and covered in corrugated iron.

The front section of the residence, built in 1865, is a simple but particularly distinguished example of late Georgian architecture which would be as likely in pre-1840 New South Wales or Tasmania. It is single storeyed, symmetrical and has a simple hipped roof. The roof is still clad with the original very short sheets of galvanised iron. The walls are very finely dressed bluestone with remarkable quoining at the corners and around the door and windows. The quoins are in a distinctive orange sandstone, probably from the Grampians, in marked contrast to the muted grey of the bluestone. A powerboard, introduced on the right side of the front door, is the only compromise to the original condition of the façade.

The interior is simple and conventional with a central passage, two rooms on the north side and, unusually, one large room on the south side. The interiors appear not to have changed since before the Second World War with decoration, paint and paper finishes, and joinery details intact.

HISTORY:

The 'Hamilton Spectator' (6/09/1904) notes in his obituary "Howarth, William, about 90 of Branxholme who lived alone, was buried there 06/09/1904. Born in Lancashire, England, he arrived in Sydney and was a miner and came to Branxholme, where he was a storekeeper and J.P. about 43 years ago." 'Branxholme 1843-1973' states that he was a "fine old English gentleman, well educated and remembered for the grey bell-topper hat he always wore" (Walter, 13). Howarth was the Magistrate in Branxholme between 1874 and 1903. He was also one of the trustees of the Mutual Improvement Association which built the local Mechanics Institute in 1883. Howarth was the first president of the committee.

The land which William Howarth's house now stands is Section 12, allotments 9 & 10 of the Plan of the Township of Branxholme, dated March 31, 1858 does not show William Howarth as the owner of any land. The plan shows that prior to the survey of the township in 1853?, the unmade roads to Portland town, Bassett's Station (Bassett) and Elm's Station (Audley) passed through these allotments. The confluence of these tracks, the proximity of these runs and the presence of the Arrandoovong Creek were the triggers for establishing the town of Branxholme.

'Branxholme 1853-1873' states that Howarth purchased the land in 1858, which is confirmed in titles deeds held by the present owner, and that he erected a stone house and store at the corner of Monroe and Lynch Streets (Walter, 13). He paid 16 pounds for allotment 9 at the rear facing Best Street and 26 pounds for allotment 10 at the front facing Monroe Street. He probably built the original cottage soon after purchasing the land. In 1861, he opened a shop called the 'New Store' and acted as a banker as well as supplying a variety of goods. He had the stone house built in front of his first residence in 1865. The stone he used is said to have been used as ballast on a ship (from England?) but the bluestone is common to the area and the distinctive quoins and other details could be Grampians sandstone. The builders were Charles Fox, Phillips and Co. The quality of the detailing and workmanship, suggest that the house was designed by the leading Hamilton architect, Charles Henry Fox. The property was not mortgaged until 1896 and then for only 60 pounds.

The general store finished trading in 1871. There is a local story that Howarth's fiancée was coming from England to meet him when her ship sank and she drowned. Howarth remained a bachelor until his death in 1904, aged 90 years. William Howarth, in a will prepared two years before his death, left all of his real estate interests to the grazier, William Begg, his executor. A detailed chain of titles survives in the possession of the present owner which provides clear evidence of the ownership of the property after Howarth's death.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WILLIAM HOWARTH'S HOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Monroe Street BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 201

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

When Begg died in 1915, the house and land were transferred by his executors Agnes Gough, James Gough and James Begg to the beneficiary, Mary Ann Gough. In 1916 the property was transferred to Jessie Beatrice Reid for 250 pounds. She sold to Frank Armytage, described as a grazier, in 1926. In 1930 he sold to James Ernest Dennis who, at some stage, transferred the property to James F Bell. In 1945 Bell sold to Nathaniel John Burgess. In 1965 the Union Fidelity Trustee Co. sold to Julia Edith Burgess who, in 1970, sold to the present owner. Mrs. Joan Jaensch, recently widowed, modified the house by constructing an addition which linked the house at the front to the cottage at the back.

NB William Howarth does not appear in the VPI or in the Cemetery Index. Was he not buried at Branxholme?

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.19 Marketing and retailing

Theme 7: Governing
7.6 Administering Australia
7.6.4 Dispensing justice

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 original cottage is in poor condition externally and internally. The front wing is in excellent condition throughout.

INTEGRITY:

Excellent degree of integrity for the exteriors of both sections. The interiors of the original cottage are in poor condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

William Howarth's house is located at the southern end of Monroe Street, Branxholme. William Howarth J.P. was born in Lancashire, England, arrived in Sydney, then came to Branxholme in the late 1850s where he was a storekeeper. He was the magistrate in Branxholme between 1874 and 1903. He was also one of the trustees of the Mutual Improvement Association which built the local Mechanics Institute in 1883. Howarth purchased the land in 1858 and built a simple vernacular building towards the rear and on one side. This survives, little altered and in fair condition although with some structural failure. In 1861, he opened a shop called the 'New Store' and acted as a banker as well as supplying a variety of goods. He must have prospered because he had the stone house built in front of his first residence in 1865. The quality of the detailing and workmanship, suggest that the house was designed by the leading Hamilton architect, Charles Henry Fox. The façade is particularly distinguished for its combination of bluestone ashlar and Grampians freestone quoins and lintels. The latter are very finely dressed and carved with unusual iconography. The second house retains an excellent degree of integrity and is in good condition. The juxtaposition of two dwellings in an urban context is rare. The short sheeted corrugated iron surviving on the main roof is also rare.

How is it significant?

The William Howarth House, Branxholme is of historical, social and architectural significance for the Southern Grampians Shire and the State of Victoria.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WILLIAM HOWARTH'S HOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Monroe Street BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 201

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Why is it significant?

The William Howarth House, is of historical significance for its link with the successful British immigrant William Howarth, who came to Australia during to Gold Rush period and became a modestly successful storekeeper. It is of social significance as a reflection of his life as an important citizen in a small township. The complex of two dwellings is of architectural significance for its juxtaposition of the two dwellings, the distinguished design and excellent construction of the second dwelling and for its probable connection with the important architect, Charles Henry Fox.

COMPARISON:

H249 Cottage, 64 Campbell Street, Port Fairy
H250 Norina, 66 Campbell Street, Port Fairy
H325 Chatsworth House, Hamilton-Chatsworth Road, Chatsworth
213 Doctor's Residence, 2 Monroe Street, Branxholme
065 General Store and Residence, Port Fairy-Hamilton Road, Byaduk
167 McColl House, 39 Coleraine Road, Balmoral (rear section only)
179 Balmoral General Store and Residence, 14 Glendinning Street, Balmoral
039 J E Goody's Store and Residence, 64 Whyte Street, Coleraine
028 Store and Residence, 102 Whyte Street, Coleraine
075 Store and Residence, 100A Whyte Street, Coleraine
070 Store and Residence, 95 Whyte Street, Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

31-Jan-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
	Obituary, 'Hamilton Spectator'	1904	
Agnes V. Walter	Branxholme 1843 - 1973	1973	13