

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DRUMLAYNE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Highway YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 459

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** XXIII **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON SOUTH
(23)

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 B11; VicRoads 72 H6; located on the east side of the Henty Highway opposite the intersection of Church Road and immediately west of the crossing with Muddy Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Drumlayne, Henty Highway, Yulecart

Image Date: 25/07/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house but excluding the interiors, the Canary Island Palm in the front garden, the woolshed and dairy and all of the land.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DRUMLAYNE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Highway YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 459

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Drumlayne is a simple single-storey bluestone house with an asymmetrical façade about a central front door. It is designed in a much reduced version of the Italianate style which had been used for major residences such as Warrayure and Koorong. The masonry construction of the walls is relatively crude. The timber front verandah is plain and may be missing minor details such as the quadrant brackets terminating with turned finials. The double hung sash windows are divided into four panes. This and the verandah suggest a date of construction in the late 1860s or 1870s, that is probably about the time the land was selected in 1872. The hipped roof is now covered with corrugated galvanised iron. The single chimney, opposite the verandah window, is constructed with brown bricks. There have been alterations and extensions at the rear. There is a mature Canary Island Palm, *Phoenix canariensis*, on axis in front of the house. The small timber woolshed and dairy are believed to survive as outbuildings.

HISTORY:

William Watson purchased allotment 1 of section 23 of the Parish of South Hamilton comprising about 10 acres in March 1872. From its scale, form, materials and detailing, the present house appears to have been built soon afterwards. The block was situated immediately adjacent to the crossing of the road to Portland from Hamilton (the Henty Highway) over Muddy Creek. Major Mitchell had camped in this area on 11th September 1836. The squatter, Alexander Thompson of Pierrepont or Grange Burn No. 1 purchased most of the surrounding land to the north and east after subdivision under the Land Selection Acts. The squatter and former Hamilton Police Magistrate, Acheson French purchased all of the land across Muddy Creek in the Parish of Yulecart.

Nothing much can be discovered about the identity of this William Watson. He bought no other land in the Parish. He may have been a dummy for Alexander Thompson but this seems unlikely considering the amount of land Thompson bought in his own name. Another possibility is that Watson intended to establish an inn, or an industry requiring water such as a flour mill or tannery, because of the strategic location of the site beside the creek crossing. This is doubtful because of the site's proximity to Hamilton and the inns already established at Branxholme and Watson does not appear in any references associated with other licensed premises. Flour mills by this time were driven by steam. Nor are any children recorded as born in Hamilton with a William Watson as their father. He may have been one of the two William Watsons who lived near Belfast.

One, William Hodge Watson, a Londoner died in 1879 aged 62 (VPI, Reg. No. 5136). He had married Elizabeth Hindes with whom he had at least two children, Janet Sarah and Mary Ann, who were born in Belfast in 1852 and 1854 (VPI, Reg. No. 30278, 772). The other, William Wood Watson was a tanner who was active in the Rosebrook area from the late 1840s (Powling, 84, 140, 179, 226). There is some confusion about his private life, unless there were two men of that name, because not only does he seem to have married twice but he fathers children with the first wife after his marriage to the second. Firstly, he married Mary Hosking in 1857 with whom he had seven children (VPI, Reg. No. 4415). Secondly, he married Hephzibah Wright (also known as Hephzabah Newton) in 1862 with whom he had four children. The births are recorded at Belfast, Warrnambool, Kirkstall and Tower Hill.

The bluestone for the house is said to have been quarried on the site and a pit survives on the western side of the block (Yee, pers. comm.). There was a detached timber kitchen at the rear and beyond a timber dairy with a cobbled bluestone floor.

During the Interwar years, the Kirkwood family who owned the property ran it as a dairy farm. It was inherited about 1953 by their adopted daughter, Dorothy Wilson who was raised there (Pitman, pers. comm.). She married Lawrence Pitman and the Pitman family lived at the property after the Second World War when it continued as a dairy farm and extended further along the creek "with a few cattle and fat lambs and a woolshed of just 2 stands" (Yee, pers. comm.). The house block was subdivided into two lots in 1986. It was sold to

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DRUMLAYNE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Highway YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 459

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Brendan Kenny and then the house was owned briefly by Alexander McEachern (Pitman, pers. comm.). When he died, lot 1 of plan of subdivision 201576P was sold to John Donnelly and Simone McVicker. The new owners named the house "Drumlayne" which is a place in Ireland.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.12 Feeding People

3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce

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:

The house is in good condition and the woolshed and dairy are in fair condition. Only the palm is of interest in the garden.

INTEGRITY:

good degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Drumlayne, located on the Henty Highway immediately west of the crossing with Muddy Creek, is a single-storey, asymmetrical bluestone house. The house is in a much-reduced version of the Italianate style, fashionable at that time. It appears to have been built soon after the land was purchased by William Watson in 1872. Little is known of Watson who may have been acting as a dummy for local squatters but may also have wanted the block near the creek for strategic reasons. There was a William Watson who operated a tannery at Rosebrook from very early times. For most of the early twentieth century the property was run as a dairy farm by the Kirkwood family and, through their daughter Dorothy, the Pitman family from 1953. A small woolshed also allowed for sheep, fat lambs and wool. The main block was subdivided in 1986 and has had a series of residential owners subsequently. This triggered changes and modernisations. The house is in good condition and retains a fair degree of integrity. The woolshed and dairy also survive in fair condition.

How is it significant?

Drumlayne is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Drumlayne is of historical and architectural significance as a modest example of domestic architecture representing the Land Selection period and subsequently as a the residence associated with a small mixed farm in the twentieth century.

COMPARISON:

109 Warrayure Homestead Complex, Rudolph's Road, Warrayure
143 Koornong Homestead Complex, Henty Highway, Branxholme
201 William Howarth's House, Monroe St, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

25-Jul-02

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DRUMLAYNE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Highway YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 459

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

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
Chris Yee Department of Crown Lands & Survey	personal communication, telephone conversation 23/3/04 Parish of Yulecart, County of Normanby		2004
Department of Crown Lands & Survey	Parish of South Hamilton, County of Normanby	1918	
J. W. Powling	Port Fairy, the First Fifty Years	1980	var.
Kevin Pitman	personal communication, telephone conversation 23/3/04		2004