Pastoralism and the Landscape:

A lower Lachlan Survey

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy

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The University of Sydney
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Volume III
Site HW : Summary

Name of Property: Hunthawang
Town/district: Hillston
LGA: Carrathool
Location: On the Lake Cargelligo to Hillston road 16 km west of Merri Merrigal
Map: 83/10 on Hillston 8031-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. HW1
Owner: T. A. Field & Co. There is a resident manager. This family company also held Lanyon in the A.C.T., until it was resumed in the 1970’s.
Sites: Homestead Complex : Site HW Report 1
Shearing Shed : Site HW Report 2
Swinging Bridge : Site HW Report 3
Features: Pise Homestead and ancillary buildings in an excellent state of preservation.
Run very much in the traditional way with the addition of modern technology, which has not been allowed to destroy the architectural heritage, Hunthawang is almost an open-air museum of pastoral life on the Lachlan.

Landscape:
A huge property centred on the rich black soils of the Lachlan River plain, Hunthawang includes extensive red soil cleared areas in the hinterland. It is very level country and the black soil near the river is very fertile, producing much thick and varied herbage, including barley grass, trefoil, white top and daisy. The original perennial saltbush has been virtually extinct since the drought of the 1890’s, but has been replaced with many annual species. Clearing has been widespread but ample shade trees have been preserved.

Photographs: Figs. HW2 - HW36
Diagrams: Figs. HW37 - HW39

Published Sources:
2. NSWGG, 11July 1885:
Comprising : Gummel, Wallandra South, Warrie or Block A, Narraweh, or Gummell block B, and Stackpoole’s Tender Runs.
Leasehold Area : Land District of Hillston, County of Nicholson. The Crown Lands within the boundaries of these parts of Gummell, Wallandra South, Werrie or Block A, Narrawah or Gummell block B, and Stackpoole’s Tender Runs lying within the boundaries of the dividing line.
Summary HW

Resumed Area: Land District of Hillston, County of Nicholson. The Crown Lands within the boundaries of those parts of Gummell, Wallandra South, Weerie or Block A, Narrawah or Gummell block B, and Stackpoole’s Tender Runs lying to the south, east and west of the dividing line.

The area, annual rent, and rate per acre;
Leasehold; 116,780 acres. Annual rent £364.18.9.
Rate per acre, 0.75 pence.
Resumed; 110,113 acres. Annual licence £485.16.1.
Rate per acre, £2.13.4.

Name of holders; Australian Mortgage, Land and Finance Co.

Unpublished Sources:
AML&F Co. papers at ANU/ABL in Deposit 6/53. Original station books are included in this deposit, and are referred to in the Site Reports where details are cited.
Site HW: Report 1

Name: Hunthawang Homestead Complex
District: Hillston
LGA: Carathool
Location: 16 km west of Merri Merrigal on the Lake Cargelligo to Hillston road
Map: 83/10 on Hillston 8031-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. HW1
Photographs: Figs. HW2 - HW25
Diagrams: Fig. HW37 - HW38
Date of Site Visit: 30 December 1981

Recording Circumstances:
The site visit was brief, only one day, because this is still very much a working property. Hospitality was in the lavish local tradition, so that we were invited to lunch in the formal dining room with the manager, his family, the overseer and several jackaroos. A full three-course meal with all accompaniments was served despite the 42°C degree heat. As much information as possible was gathered at this opportunity but little precise dating was known for the pre-1940 period, although a tradition of an extensive social role was remembered. An annual ball for the entire district was a focus of activity: it entailed clearing most of the homestead for the feasting and dancing and providing accommodation for scores of visitors. The manager felt that the tradition started last century.

The homestead complex at Hunthawang is a very extensive area, almost an entire self-sufficient village. To record it in detail would take months. The aim of this site visit was restrained to noting the overall layout of the complex with more detailed recording of only the main structures. At all times we were escorted by the manager or the overseer who provide much information about each feature as we recorded it.

Structures:
Piše homestead
Guest wing - timber
Separate kitchen block
Staff dining room
Cooks’s room
Laundry/boiler room
Storerooms
Office
Jackaroos quarters
Meat house
Coach house

B89
Bulk store
Single men's quarters
Blacksmiths shop
Garage
Shed - now used for trucks
Hay shed
Stable

The homestead complex includes a wide variety of structures, of different ages and materials, rambling along the river bank. A certain visual unity has been achieved by painting each of the buildings a bright cream with a green roof. Even the shearing shed, several kilometers away, has been included in this treatment. With its vast resources, Hunthawang maintains all these many structures in impeccable condition.

**HOMESTEAD**

The main block is of pisé construction. The obvious stylistic similarity to Merri Merrigal (Plates MM2, MM3) was noted by Cantlon who suggested "that 'Hunthawang' and 'Merri Merrigal' are both by the same designer and/or builder".¹ This seems quite plausible although both have diverged somewhat in recent years.

A central hallway divides the main block. On the western side is a living room, 4.9 m by 4.9 m, with a brick fireplace which opens onto a dining room of similar dimensions. Both rooms have coved cedar ceilings. Behind this is a small pantry for the use of the manager and his family when the main kitchen is closed. This has involved enclosing part of the verandah (Fig. HW9).

The house faces south, away from the river, and has a verandah across its facade (Fig. HW2). The 2 m wide verandah is of wooden boards which are edged by a verge of concrete, a measure to delay water damage (Fig. HW5). It is lined with sawn timber (Fig. HW3). The verandah posts are set in concrete with a metal plate. They are spaced at varying distances apart (2.70, 3.70, 3.20, 3.70, 2.80 and 5 metres respectively), which enhances the facade as the spacing echoes the placing of the windows and doors. Windows are of delicate twelve-pane type.

The house is set in well maintained lawns with many exotic trees, including palms and jacarandas, a small fountain and a gazebo, which provide an oasis of cool and comfort during the hot, dry summer months.

In the Company Balance Sheet for 31 December 1892 there is an entry for the cost of:

"Removing old house : £1".²

There is no clue as to the location of this structure but it may be an early phase of the kitchen block which is now of sawn timber, a possible update of an original slab or drop-log structure. In the 1894 Balance Sheet³ a sum of £20.19.03, is recorded as the cost for repairs to the roof, but again no details are provided.

**GUEST WING**

On the western side of the main block and joined to it by a by a breezeway, is a wooden wing with bedrooms and bathrooms for guest accommodation (Fig. HW7). Its external
dimensions are 11.68 m by 10.85 m. A panel built of eight sawn boards enclose the lower portion of the verandah while the top is gauzed.

**COVERED WALKWAY 1**
Joining the main block to the kitchen is a galvanized iron and timber roof. It is 1.68 m wide from gutter to gutter (Fig. HW9).

**COVERED WALKWAY 2**
From the back wall (north) of the kitchen to the door in the east wall of the mess hall. In a gentle curve, subtly executed. (Figs. HW12 and HW13).

Note that both walkways are fitted with guttering, despite the small catchment area, which is indicative of the desperate need for fresh water even on this most well provided river station.

**KITCHEN**
The separate kitchen has external walls of 15 cm sawn timber with a verandah on the north side (Fig. HW10). In the Balance Sheet for 30 June 1892 an entry reads:

"Building Chimney and Oven: £8.0.0."\(^4\)

In 1895 a scullery cost £2.5.0. while repairs to chimneys and ovens required an outlay of £5.15.0\(^5\).

**MESS HALL**
The dining room for employees is a large timber room which was in use at the time of the site visit. It is approximately 7 m long and 5 m wide with a high galvanized iron roof. (Fig. HW13).

**COOK'S ROOM/ BOILER ROOM/ LAUNDRY**
To the east of the kitchen is a wooden block including a verandah, cook's room, boiler house and laundry (Fig. HW11).

**ELECTRICITY PLANT**
A small building 4.33 m by 3.1 m, of sawn timber with a galvanized iron roof. Specially made metal awnings with decorative scollop edges shield the windows. Date of construction is unknown.

**STORE ROOM**
A large storeroom with verandah is 1.45 m to the east. It was possibly an early cottage, perhaps from the second phase of occupance.

**MEAT HOUSE**
To the north of the electricity plant is a timber and gauze wire meat house. It has mouse-proof metal baffles on top of its wooden foundations (Fig. HW14). This local technique of dealing with the recurrent mouse plagues was used at several sites including Hyandra and Merri Merrigal.
OFFICE AND JACKAROOS QUARTERS
A neat well-maintained building with the appearance of a cottage. A hedge (Fig. HW15) shields it from the working areas. This structure is old and may represent one phase of the evolution of the homestead, built to use as a cottage before the construction of the pise block which must have been delayed quite some time after settlement. It is now divided into office space and a self-contained unit for a jackaroo.

SUNDRY BUILDINGS
Many small buildings, most of them modern, are scattered throughout this whole area. They include garden sheds, store rooms, car garages etc. To record them in detail is beyond the scope of this survey.

WATER
Hunthawang is set right on the banks of the Lachlan but much effort is made to capture all possible rainwater with gutters on all surfaces and storage tanks are dotted around the entire complex.

To the east of the office stretches a line of old buildings which extend along the river bank to where it bends south. They include some of the oldest structures on Hunthawang.

COACH HOUSE
A sawn timber building with a gable that extends over two of its three rooms. It is now used to house cars and machinery. (Fig. HW18).

HAYSHED
Timber structure with iron roof. An entry in the Balance Sheet for 31 December 1894 records:

"Erecting new Hay Shed : £16.0.0".6

STABLE
Timber with galvanized iron roof. A buggy room adjoins on one end and a harness room at the other (Fig. HW19).

BULK STORE
A large drop-log building with uncut pine logs for its floor. The gable end is of sawn timber. A galvanized iron lean-to is attached to the north-east side (Figs. HW16 and HW17). This is a very old structure which remains in superb condition. Now called a bulk store, there is no doubt it is the "barn" referred to by Cantlon7. The structure is now painted cream with a green roof, unusual for a drop-log building.

SINGLE MEN'S QUARTERS
At the end of the line of original buildings is a cottage-like structure which provides accommodation for single men (married men and families have cottages elsewhere). A simple wooden building with galvanized iron roof, it has a verandah at front and back, a water tank, and is fenced from the service buildings (Figs. HW20 and HW21).
BLACKSMITH'S SHOP

Some 70 m to the south stands the smithy. It is covered in galvanized iron with a gabled roof and lattice double doors at its southern end (Fig. HW22). The main uprights are of uncut logs and the rest of the timber is sawn. Station made galvanized iron shutters provide light and ventilation at the southern end (Fig. HW23). A rough workbench runs along the eastern wall and includes an unusual hand-operated vertical drill (Fig. HW24). The old bellows remain (Fig. HW25) as does a quantity of old material and tools.

At the far (north) end is an area now used for a workshop. It may represent an extension as the window is of six-pane type.

The Balance Sheet for 31 Dec. 1896 has the following entry:
“Dr/ Erecting Blacksmiths Shop : £3.10.0”.

In the same Balance Sheet is the cost of:
“Erecting a Telephone Line : £12.11.8”.

These costs were incurred at a time when Hunthawang carried 51,187 sheep and the combined Hunthawang and Willandra Stations were valued (with stock and improvements) at £60,965.19.0.

MACHINERY DUMP

To the south is a large unbounded area used to store discarded machinery as well as modern machines not in current use. It is a veritable repository of technology of all periods. Of particular interest is a grader built on the property for local conditions.

A large modern hayshed with ancilliary features (loading ramp and overhead tanks) and a modern machinery shed complete the major working facilities of this complex.

Notes:

The AML&F Company papers in Deposit 6/53 at ANU/ABL, Canberra, contain the complete station records for most of the drought years of the 1890’s and on into the 1900’s. There is much specific information about costs of goods and services in the area and these will be referred to extensively in the body of the text. There is also much detail about the conditions within the region in the drought and these will be taken as a benchmark for the area with due allowance for local variations.

Works Referred to in the Report

2. ANU/ABL, AMF&F Co. papers in Deposit 6/53. Entry in the Company's annual Balance Sheet for 31 December 1892.
5. ANU/ABL, AML&F Co. papers in Deposit 6/53. Entry in the Company's annual Balance Sheet for 31 December, 1895.
7. Cantlon, p. 139.
Site HW: Report 2

Name: Hunthawang Shearing Shed
District: Hillston
LGA: Carathool
Location: On northern side of the river, 0.7 km in a straight line or 1.5 km by road from the homestead
Map: 83/10 on Hillston 8031-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. HW1
Photographs: Figs. HW26 - HW33
Date of Site Visit: 30 December 1981

Recording Circumstances:
As explained in the report on the homestead (Site HW Report 1), the recorders were given access under the supervision of the station manager. There was a time constraint but every effort was made to answer questions and explain the operating procedures.

Structures:

SHEARING SHED

A large modern shed of galvanized iron on wooden posts (Figs. HW26, HW27 and HW30). Like all the buildings at Hunthawang it is in superb condition and painted the characteristic cream and green.

It is thought by the manager to date from the 1920's but the fate of the earlier woolshed is unknown. It bears a strong resemblance to the shed at Merri Merrigal (Site MM Report 2) which is also thought to date from this time. Note especially the windows of three double panes set in the elevated roof (Fig. HW32). An unusual refinement are the dust covers on the downpieces of the shears (Fig. HW33). Also like Merri Merrigal, the wool room is lower than the shearing board. A metal device for lifting the bales stands outside the wool room door near a loading platform (Fig. HW31). At Merri Merrigal the solution to the problem was the construction of the stepped loading ramp (Plates MM27 and MM28).

There is ample shelter for sheep under the shed. The sheep yards are neat and capacious, built of wooden posts and cut rails (Figs. HW26 and HW28). There is also an ingenious station-built ramp for loading sheep onto multi-level transports with a device for adjusting the angle of the ramp (Fig. HW29).

Landscape:

Very flat red soil plains with little tree cover. Probably once covered with the typical salt bush of the area, the century and more of grazing has left little trace of the very vegetation which first supported the new pattern of land use. The land here is very carefully managed so little trace of erosion or other obvious degredation is present. This is an example of the very manufactured type of landscape often thought of as typically Australian. Huge paddocks of golden grasses are dotted with stands of old established eucalypts. The river is fringed by a ribbon of trees.
Site HW: Report 3

Name: Hunthawang Swinging Bridge
District: Hillston
LGA: Carathool
Location: About 1.5 km by road from the homestead or 0.7 km in a straight line
Map: 83/10 on Hillston 8031-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. HW1
Photographs: Figs. HW34 - HW36
Diagrams: Fig. HW39
Date of Site Visit: 30 December 1981

Recording Circumstances:
As for Site HW Report 1, the recorders were accompanied by the station manager at all times.

Structures:
SWINGING BRIDGE

A steel cable and wood suspension bridge. Thought by the manager to replace an earlier bridge, the suspension bridge is said to date from the 1930’s. In the Annual Balance Sheets for the station are a series of entries relating to bridge work, e.g. 31 Dec., 1892, includes an entry in the Sundry expenses group of:
“Clearing timber from Bridge £14.3.1”
and on 31 Dec., 1896, the Improvements Account has an entry for:
“Building Sheep Bridge over Lachlan River £6.8.0”

This suggests that a long series of practical structures were built on or near this site, as it is the most suitable ford for some distance. The bridge is a much smaller structure than the one at Merri Merrigal. It is on a quiet internal station road near some irrigation paddocks and was clearly intended to ease movement of stock within the boundaries. The approach road is not closed by gates but has a post and four-rail guard fence either side between the support post and the bank (Fig. HW34).

Three steel cables are suspended in wooden posts set into the river bank and braced below with cross posts (Fig. HW36). The cables fit into metal caps on top of the posts which are themselves braced with guy-cables emerging about 0.3 m below the top and set into the bank 4 m behind.

The 3 m wide deck spans 20 m of approach and river. At the mid-point the cable comes down to within 1 m of the deck. The sides are protected with wire only (Fig. HW35).

LANDSCAPE

On the river bank with large eucalypts near the watercourse and flat red soil plains stretching to the horizon in all directions. This is in the centre of a very developed property with extensive irrigation, improved pasture and cleared paddocks which have
been intensively managed for about 150 years. No trace of the original saltbush is in
evidence. The land appears to be in superb condition with little erosion.

Notes

References
1. ANU/ABL, AML&F Co. papers in Deposit 6/53. Entry in the Company’s annual
   balance sheet for 31 December, 1892.
2. ANU/ABL, AML&F Co. papers in Deposit 6/53. Entry in the Company’s annual
   balance sheet for 31 December, 1896.
Fig. HW1: Location map showing the homestead, the woolshed and the swinging bridge at Hunthawang station. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. HW2: Hunthawang homestead. The front of the piñe block from the south. The homestead faces away from the Lachlan.

Fig. HW3: Hunthawang homestead. The front verandah of the piñe block with a cement edge and lined ceiling.
Fig. HW4: Hunthawang homestead from the southeast. A white fence separates the house from the work areas nearby.

Fig. HW5: Hunthawang homestead. Detail of the verandah showing the cement edge and the double corner post set on a cement base.
Fig. HW6: Hunthawang homestead. The western side of the pise block from the west. Exotic trees provide shelter from the heat and dust and a corrugated tank stores rain water from the roof. The double roof is visible behind the tree.

Fig. HW7: Hunthawang homestead. The weatherboard guest wing from the southwest. Gauze fly-wire encloses the verandah.
Fig. HW8: Hunthawang homestead. The breeze-way which connects the piše block with the guest wing.

Fig. HW9: Hunthawang homestead. The covered walkway connecting the verandah of the piše block with the kitchen.
Fig. HW10: Hunthawang homestead. The back wall of the kitchen from the east. Shows the start of the second covered walkway.

Fig. HW11: Hunthawang homestead. The second covered walkway as seen from the kitchen veranda.
< Fig. HW12: Hunthawang homestead. The curve of the covered walkway as it approaches the staff dining room.

Fig. HW13: Hunthawang homestead. The covered walkway which connects the back of the kitchen to the staff dining room.
Fig. HW14: Hunthawang homestead. The gauzed meat-house from the south. It is used even now to hang a carcass overnight following slaughter.

Fig. HW15: Hunthawang homestead complex. The drop-log office and jackaroo’s quarters. Painted cream with a green roof, as are all buildings at Hunthawang, this structure is in excellent condition.
Fig. HW16: Hunthawang homestead complex. The barn or bulk store with drop-log walls and a floor of similar logs laid crossways. The gable end is of sawn timber.

Fig. HW17: Hunthawang homestead complex. The barn or bulk store from the west. The Lachlan is just behind the trees.
Fig. HW18: Huntawang homestead complex. In the foreground is the coach house, then the stable, bulk store and staff quarters in a long row along the river bank towards the bend in the river. From the west. Some working dogs are enjoying a run between engagements.

Fig. HW19: Huntawang homestead complex. The large drop-log stable from the southeast. The original plan is intact.
Fig. HW20: Hunthawang homestead complex. The line of buildings from the staff living quarters, bulk store, stable, coach house and office towards the house looking back from the bend in the river. From the east.

Fig. HW21: Hunthawang homestead complex. The staff living quarters with the traditional structure of a cottage with verandahs and corrugated water tank.
Fig. HW22: Hunthawang homestead complex. The blacksmith's shop with lattice doors and galvanized iron window shutters.

Fig. HW23: Hunthawang homestead complex. The interior of the smithy with a work bench below a station made window shutter.
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Fig. HW24: Hunthawang homestead complex. The smithy with its sturdy workbench and hand-operated vertical drill.

Fig. HW25: Hunthawang homestead complex. The bellows in the corner of the smithy.
Fig. HW26: Hunthawang woolshed. Along the sheep yards to the sheep ramp into the shed.

Fig. HW27: Hunthawang woolshed.
Fig. HW28: Hunthawang woolshed. Sheep yards at rear of the shed. Shows the row of corrugated iron shutters and the elevated roof with ventilators.

Fig. HW29: Hunthawang woolshed. A station devised sheep ramp to load stick onto multi-decked transports. The ramp is adjusted by raising and lowering the wheel.
Fig. HW30. Hunthawang woolshed. A corner of the woolroom showing the wooden posts used for foundations.

Fig. HW31: Hunthawang woolshed. The loading platform and lifting device for loading bales of wool, in front of the woolroom.
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Fig. HW32: Hunthawang woolshed. The roof where the board joins the woolroom, showing the elevated roof with windows and ventilators.

Fig. HW33: Hunthawang woolshed. The shearing board with the machinery in dust covers and the typical cream Hunthawang finish to the stands.

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Fig. HW34: Hunthawang swinging bridge, from the southwest. The supporting piers and guy-wires braced to the riverbank.
Fig. HW35: Hunthawang swinging bridge, from the southwest. Shows the wooden roadway of the bridge.

Fig. HW36: Hunthawang swinging bridge. Taken from the riverbank below to show the support system for the roadway.
Fig. HW37: Schematic layout of the Hunthawang homestead complex. Not to scale.

KEY:
1. Fountain
2. Gazebo
3. Pinf block
4. Guestwing
5. Kitchen
6. Staff dining room
7. Shed
8. Shed
9. Storeroom
10. Laundry
11. Woodpile
12. Car garage
13. Shed
14. Petrol bowser
15. Water tank
16. Stable
17. Harness room
18. Buggy room
19. Drop-log bulk store
20. Log floor
21. Galvanized iron lean-to
22. Modern shed
23. Shed
24. Shed
25. Bachelor housing
26. Smithy
27. Garage
28. Graveyard: 100 metres
Fig. HW38: Hunthawang homestead. Sketch plan of the house.
Fig. HW39: Tracing of a sketch of the Hunthawang swinging bridge, over the Lachlan River.
Site HY : Summary

Name of Property: Hyandra
Town/district: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Cobar
Location: 20 km west of Euabalong on the Euabalong-Hillston road
Map: 29/24 on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map, (CMA of NSW). Fig. HY1
Owner: Mr. W. Cannon
Sites: Homestead complex : Site HY Report 1
Dip and stock yards : Site HY Report 2
Features: Brick homestead built in 1880's
Stables : drop log construction
Shearing shed : drop log construction
Immersion dip
Landscape:
Located at the junction of Booberoi Creek and the Lachlan River, Hyandra has extensive black soil plains formerly covered in thick saltbush but now cleared for grazing and irrigation cultivation.
Away from the river, there are gently rolling slopes with box and pine and finally sandy red soil plains with some mallee. In the north-west corner is a rocky area and several low hills.
Photographs: Figs. HY3 - HY30
Diagrams: Figs. HY31 - HY34
Published Sources:
2. Riverina Grazer July 15,1890
Unpublished Sources:
1. Budd Journal
2. File at WLC, including Surveyor’s reports
3. Oral reports, including owners and former employees. Details are included at end of reports.
Site HY: Report 1

Name: Hyandra Homestead Complex
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Cobar
Location: About 20 km from Euabalong on the Euabalong to Hillston road
Map: 29/24 on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map, (CMA of NSW). Fig. HY1
Photographs: Figs. HY3 - HY20
Diagrams: Figs. HY31 - HY33
Date of Site Visit: Multiple visits

Recording Circumstances:
Access was available on many occasions and much discussion was held about the history of the various sites, with family records and photographs dating back to 1890 being available.

Structures:

HOMESTEAD
The present structure is the second house to have been built on Hyandra. An earlier structure had been located close to the river but it was damaged by flooding and abandoned. Traces of posts can still be seen and a depression marks the site of the cellar. Small fragments of various patterns of domestic pottery are scattered about the surface nearby. The area has been flooded many times since it was replaced about 120 years ago and grazing animals have also added their toll to its levelling. No impression of the form of the structure can be gained from surface inspection. A family tradition records that it was used partly as a tavern by travellers who often crossed the Lachlan at this point (1). The surface scatter of many different pottery patterns around the area is consistent with such a use rather than a purely domestic one.

On a sandhill, about 1.5 km from the river, stands the homestead complex. It has never been flooded but is cut off for months on end by heavy rises in the river. A resident of Hyandra in the 1890’s, Mrs. Milthorpe, stated in “The Dusts of Time,”¹ that the house was built about 1871 by the contractor who built Brotheroney (Site BL Report 1), and comparison of the fabric and style of the houses leaves no doubt of this (compare, for example, Figs. BY2 to BY5 with Figs. HY3, HY5).

There are two distinct parts to the house, the large brick block and a kitchen and service block that was separate until renovations in the 1940’s joined them with the construction of a small bathroom. The weatherboard service block appears to be a much earlier construction than the brick section with a shingle roof remaining under the galvanised iron, uncut timber framing and small windows (Fig. HY12).

A lean-to structure was used as a laundry until it was demolished in 1947 and replaced by the present timber rooms behind the kitchen. This early laundry was

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constructed of timber slabs for cladding the walls and bark for the roof. When demolished, these timbers were found to house an interesting collection of wildlife, but to be quite sound before they were recycled as house firewood.

A Surveyor's Report on Improvements, dated 1887, is included in the Hyandra station file at the Western Lands Commission in Sydney which states that "I was unable to ascertain the dates of erection of the various improvements but the House I should imagine was built in 1875 and the majority of fencing about 4 to 6 years ago, the rail fencing from 15 to 20 years ago."2

Also in the station file at the Western Lands Commission is a Memo from the District Surveyor dated 12 March 1888,3 which lists the value of the improvements as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick House (7 rooms)</td>
<td>£900.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherboard Kitchen</td>
<td>£60.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store</td>
<td>£25.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Tank</td>
<td>£25.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing around Homestead</td>
<td>£15.1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>£45.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's Hut</td>
<td>£30.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockyard</td>
<td>£14.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This valuation represents an enormous investment of resources for the area at this time. There is a family tradition that the owner at the time overcapitalised to the extent that he was forced to sell the property which then passed through several hands in rapid succession before stabilizing in 1900 when purchased by the Cannon family who still hold it (3). From 1901 it has been covered by the provisions of the Western Lands Act which provided strict stocking controls and so afforded environmental protection in the wake of the drought of the 1890's.

The brick block is solidly constructed in colonial bond of locally made double bricks. They were made near the Lachlan river, on that part of the original lease that is now "Doone". Tuckpointed in the 1940's renovation, the bond is sharply defined (Fig. HY7). Above the doors and windows the mortar surrounds are shaped like eyebrows (Figs. HY7 and HY8). This finish is also used on Brotheroney (Site BY, Fig. BY9) which is clearly the work of the same unknown builder. The present iron roof, sloping all in a single run from ridge to the edge of the verandah, covers the house like a wide-brimmed hat (Fig. HY3). It replaces an original roof of the more usual double slope as recorded on various photographs in the family archive.

A wide central hallway divides the house and allows the rapid circulation of air when needed. The large living area was used for entertaining and was cleared for dancing when balls were held (4). There is also an office cum sitting room and five bedrooms all with doors directly onto the surrounding verandah for maximum ventilation in summer. The thick walls gave effective insulation against the heat of summer and excluded drafts in winter.

At the northern end of the house yard, parallel to the kitchen block, was another timber wing (the photograph in Fig. HY9 was taken about 1928). This structure was of vertical slab construction set directly on bearers in the foundation trench. There
was a verandah at the front and a chimney of rough stone topped with flat galvanized iron at the side. The windows were small. There is no record of the original use, but it seems likely that this was the earliest structure at the sand-hill site and served as the first house after the move there. It was demolished in the 1940's and no trace remains. A modern cottage was recently erected on the site.

A well said to be 70 feet (25 m) deep was in the house yard during living memory but it has been filled in for safety reasons as collapse was beginning (5). The large underground rainwater tank was probably built at the same time as the house, as it mentioned in the survey of 1887 and a similar one is known at Brotheroney. Booberoi also has a similar tank in current use.

A galvanized iron fence surrounds the north-west corner of the house yard. Such fences were a local strategy to control the drifting sand which permeates everything on this sand hill. At times quite extensive flower and vegetable gardens have been established in the house yard with the use of water pumped from the creek. However, the sand does not hold water and the plants die very easily.

**JACKAROO’S HUT**

A men’s hut was valued at £30 in 1888, and probably stood on this site. The present structure was built the 1930’s and was still in use by stockmen in the 1970’s but with the increased use of day labour it has been allowed to deteriorate and is in a very fragile condition. It consists of a single room with a brick fireplace and has a verandah at front and back. A timber frame covered in weatherboards rests on sturdy wooden posts set directly into the ground.

**STABLE AND ORIGINAL SHEARING SHED**

About fifty metres to the north of the house is the stable, a fragile structure of various wooden fabrics (Figs. HY16 to HY19). On the southern side is a row of animal stalls of dropped log construction (Fig. HY20) with a wooden frame for fodder above. The floor in this part is a mosaic of cypress posts hammered into the ground. The early focus of production on this station was on cattle so this structure was primarily to shelter horses and horse-drawn vehicles. Family tradition records that it was also used to service the Cobb and Co coaches which travelled along the river route from Hillston to Condobolin and changed horses along the way. The old coach road through Hyandra came through the black gate, a homemade gate of blackened cedar which survived in situ until the 1960’s, where a bugle was sounded to alert people of its approach as required by the Company’s regulations.

A loft for the storage of fodder is above the main span. A door sits in the gable end (Fig. HY18). Used mainly for storing farm equipment now, this building is increasingly fragile and is losing its cladding to a serious extent.

Budd, in his journal about life in the area, remarked that “at first cattle were generally the stock grown on the earlier stations as they were considered to be not so liable to the danger of loss as sheep and therefore did not require so much care and supervision as sheep.” This goes some way towards explaining why the first woolshed on Hyandra is a narrow wooden corridor built onto the side of this stable (Fig. HY19) and providing nothing more than a board with two stands. The main span of the
stable has been made into a woolroom and sheep pens run along the back wall. There is little shelter for sheep and improvised shelters of canvas were used to provide more in the 1940’s (6). The shearing board has been constructed by enclosing an earlier passage at the end of the stable with vertical boards (Fig. HY19). The shelter for the steam engine was in the adjoining shed which also housed the smithy. It may be seen, set at an angle, in the 1928 photograph, Fig. HY16.

A set of “skids”, little more than an open ramp, stand outside the shed ready to use to load bales of wool onto transport by pulling them up the skids with a horse or tractor. This is a simple but effective loading technique.

Stock yards abut the stable and they too are succumbing to the elements. Ramps for loading stock remain at these yards rather than at the new woolshed, so they continue in regular use.

MODERN SHEARING SHED

A modern steel shed was erected in 1958 on the bank of Booberoi Creek together with new yards, but as the only ramp for loading stock onto trucks is in the old complex, those yards are still often used.

A block of shearers’ huts remain. While the date of the extant structures is uncertain it is probably not earlier than the 1920’s when extensive renovations are known by the family to have been carried out. The kitchen and two bedrooms are the oldest sections with new rooms added in the 1950’s. All the structures in the hut group are weatherboard in the traditional plan of a row of bedrooms with a separate kitchen, expert’s room and bathroom.

SHEDS AND SILOS

A line of storage sheds of varying ages and construction stand nearby. The hayshed is from early this century (7) and there are later structures of all periods and sizes.

TREE WITH ABORIGINAL CARVINGS

To the west of the work complex stands a box tree with faint markings still visible in its bark which are locally thought to have been made by Aborigina ls in association with a traditional burial ground nearby. The pattern of hatchings is not distinct and is becoming faint as the tree grows.

GRAVEYARD BEND

Right on the bank of the Lachlan in an area much flooded, is a small graveyard used last century for local burials. Several monumental headstones remain but flood damage and animal incursions are rapidly taking their toll. One stone commemorates Sarah Elizabeth Grace, who died on 21st October, 1866 at the age of 1 year 6 months. Remnants of a picket fence surround another grave.

It is also believed that an infant was buried in the house yard beside the gate where white stones form a circle and shamrocks still grow.5

Landscape:

On a small rise, the homestead commands sweeping views of a large river plain which was once covered in a dense growth of saltbush. In the Journal which he wrote in
Report HY1

retirement, Mr. William Budd, who was born on Hyandra in 1849 and spent much of his life there, wrote:

“One of the prides of the Hyandra East Station was a beautiful giant saltbush horse paddock consisting of about 700 acres in extent. This paddock formed a perfect scrub of salt bush exclusive almost to any other shrub growth, reaching to 12 and fourteen feet in many places. The whole surface of the ground being literally covered by the high bush stock being seen with difficulty in the area. It was acknowledged the best growth of giant bush on the Lachlan and was in the Budd ministry zealously guarded and protected from destruction from the inroads of sheep. Overstocking from sheep always destroyed the giant salt bush and with the careless indifference to destruction not a vestige of the splendid show of former days now remains and is questionable if it can be produced again. It would have to be exempted from stock grazing for many years, so fond are all stock of this valuable pastoral bush.”

TABLE: HYANDRA 1: STOCK RETURNS

These figures are from the Report of the Royal Commission into the Condition of Crown Tenants in the Western Division of New South Wales, 1901. Part 11.

Return shows Owners Names and the Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condobolin (Western Division) on 1st January in each year from 1882 to 1990 inclusive, as per Owners’ Returns.

Cannon. Hyandra.

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<th>SHEEP</th>
<th>CATTLE</th>
<th>HORSES</th>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1,542</td>
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DOCUMENT

In the files at the Western Lands Commission, Sydney, are short comments on various lease arrangements over many years. One of the more unusual is an undated entry in the context of papers dating to the late 1890’s recording that on 23 February (no year specified), one Katie Smith applied for the lease. As she had subsequently married G.P. Irvine, who then held HL 85/11 (Doone), the lease was “refused as no married woman is capable of holding a Homestead Lease”.

NOTES

References
Report HY1

2. Hyandra station file held by the Western Lands Commission, Sydney.
3. Hyandra file at W.L.C.
A personal account of life on the Lachlan by a local resident. William Budd, 1849–1926, was born on Hyandra station. Following education in Melbourne, he returned to the district and spent the rest of his life there. Among his activities were mail contracts and extensive stock work. The journals were first written during Budd's retirement during the 1914–1917 war. They were destroyed in a house fire and then re-written. The Journal is held by the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society, which published some extracts from it in a series of short excerpts in The Lake News during 1968 and 1969, p. 62(1).
6. Budd, p. 38(1) and p. 38(2).

Oral Sources
2. The late Mr. J.F. Cannon, Hyandra.
5. John Cannon.
6. The late Mr. J.F. Cannon.
Site HY: Report 2

Name: HYANDRA SHEEP DIP
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Cobar
Location: On bank of Booberoi Creek about 0.5 km west of shearing shed
Map: 29/24 on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. HY1
Photographs: Figs. HY22 to HY30
Diagrams: Fig. HY34
Date of Site Visit: 24 March 1987

Recording Circumstances:
Free access was available so measurement was made on one occasion in July 1986 and several subsequent visits were made to observe details.

Structures:
SHEEP DIP
On the banks of the Booberoi Creek to take advantage of the water supply, is a large sheep dip and associated yards. Thought to have been heavily re-built in the 1920's on the site of an earlier dip, some of the yards could well be of the earlier vintage, but the construction is of such variety it is hard to judge which parts are renewals (Fig. HY22).

The dip is on a flat area only a few metres above the creek from which water was hand pumped. There are four functional areas:
1. Holding yards
2. Forcing pens (including ramp and decoy pen)
3. Dip (immersion race)
4. Draining pen

HOLDING YARDS
Large enough to hold several thousand sheep, the yard takes advantage of the natural boundaries and trees (Fig. HY21). Parts of an original brushwood fence are incorporated in the present yards.

FORCING PENS AND DECOY PEN
Rough post and rail construction in the classical narrowing funnel design. Sheep did not like going into the dip. As it was also believed that they liked walking up slopes, a ramp was constructed that expressed this belief while obscuring the dip. On the slope up it has rungs to prevent slipping, and a platform runs on its external wall so the operator could follow and guide the sheep.

On the dip side is a steep slope onto a sloping “pan” or iron cover (Fig. HY25). The design is an attempt to solve the technical problem of getting sheep to move into the dip in a steady flow, the right side up and facing the exit.
A most ingenious element in this strategy is the decoy pen. To the fence at the
end of the slide has been added a short fence making a small triangular space with
space for a single sheep to stand at the other side of the slide. The theory was that
a sheep arriving at the top of the ramp would go toward the decoy sheep and thence
slip down the slide into the race.

All that remains of the decoy pen is a triangular shaped corner of yard and without
oral reports its role would not be obvious, especially as rough modern repairs obscure
much of it (Fig. HY25).

To operate this dip a minimum of three people were needed and five or six were
usually employed, in penning sheep, urging them up the ramp and then pushing them
under the water using a forked stick behind the ears. Long poles were used to turn
around the many animals that tried to go the wrong way. Maintaining the rhythm
of the work flow was important because it was hard to restart if interrupted. Local
opinion favoured immersion dips over spray dips in this regard.

The sheep left the dip via a ramp to a concrete draining yard, which is divided
by a swinging gate, which is used to direct the sheep to the appropriate pen. They
spent at least five minutes dripping here with the solution running back down to the
dip. It needed topping up after about two hours (figs. HY28, HY29).

In the 1940’s at Hyandra the dipping was done in a day. The dip was prepared
the day before dipping was planned so that work could start at 4 AM as it was felt
that it had to be done in the cool of the morning or else the sheep’s skin would suffer
sun-burn if exposed while wet to the sun. It took about six hours to hand pump water
from the creek. Until the 1960’s a powder dip based on arsenic was mixed with water
in a four gallon drum and then poured into the race. A plunger was used to mix it.

The dipping solution was thought to kill lice, ticks and keds and to protect against
blowfly strike. New sheep were dipped on arrival. Sometimes the sheep were also
dipped in summer, usually after crutching, to minimise blowfly strike.

On completion of operations, the dip was emptied out onto the earth on the creek
side, so that when it rained next the concentrate washed into the watercourse.

Landscape:
The dip is located in the triangle formed by Booberoi Creek as it approaches the
Lachlan, the soil is heavy and black. A band of eucalypts follows the watercourse and
successive floods have encouraged the re-growth of thick clumps of eucalypt secondary
growth which produces a mallee-like density of impenetratable scrub. Where allowed
to flourish they prove a barrier to stock. Several such bands occur between the dip and
the river.

Notes
The details of the history and operation of the structure were provided by members
of the Cannon family over several discussions at the site and later with the family
archives.
Key
HY1: Hyandra homestead complex
HY2: Hyandra stable
HY3: Hyandra sheep dip

Fig. HY1: Map showing location of the homestead complex and the dip at Hyandra. Map: Photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map of CMA of NSW.
Fig. HY2: Photocopy of an 1884 Surveyor’s map of Hyandra which includes a sketch of the improvements then existing. The house with a separate kitchen, store and tank is enclosed by a wooden fence. Map: Cannon family archives.
Fig. HY3: Hyandra homestead. The main brick block from the southeast. The 1930's replacement verandah was built at the same slope as the house roof. Several verandah supports have collapsed causing the roof to sag. A rain-gauge rests on the post in front of the house.

Fig. HY4: Hyandra homestead in 1938. The main block from the east. The brick walls show signs of deterioration, especially near to openings and at corners. Tuckpointing in the 1940's restored the surfaces. Photo: Cannon family archives.
Fig. HY5: Hyandra Homestead. The northern side of the main block showing the partial re-flooring of the verandah in the 1960's, and the junction with the kitchen block.

Fig. HY6: Hyandra Homestead. Detail of the verandah showing the rather delicate ventilator and the sharp tuck-pointing of the bricks.
Fig. HY7: Hyandra homestead. A window in the brick block showing the eyebrow style lintel above and the wide ledge below. The detail is very similar to windows at Brotheroney (Fig. BY8).
Fig. HY8: Hyandra homestead. The doorway to the dining room with an eyebrow style lintel above and a cement doorstep. It resembles the doors at Brotheroney (Fig. BY9).
Fig. HY9: Hyandra homestead from the east. The back of the main block and the front of the separate kitchen block. The slab structure shown in Fig. HY9 stood just inside the fence, parallel with the service block, and formed a U-shaped courtyard.

Fig. HY10: Hyandra homestead. A 1929 photograph of the vertical slab structure which stood until 1947. Probably the first dwelling on the sand-hill site, this low structure was used for housing shearsers and stockmen this century. Photo: Cannon family archives.
Fig. HY11: Hyandra homestead. The junction of the brick block with the service block showing the awkward roof treatment.

Fig. HY12: Hyandra homestead. The front of the service block showing various collection pipes to direct rainwater from the roof to the underground tank, covered by the concrete area in the foreground.
Fig. HY13: Hyandra homestead. The chimney at the western side of the service block. Rough stones form the base for the brick chimney. The pipe and corrugated iron tank belong to the hot water heating system connected with the wood stove.

Fig. HY14: Hyandra homestead. The fireplace in the kitchen with a wood burning stove. The door beside it is to the wood box which could be filled from outside.
Fig. HY15: Hyandra homestead. The store room in the service block with the original shingle roof and a metal vermin baffle on the rafter. Many things were stored here including stock medicines, tools, household supplies of all sorts and bulk foodstuffs. A table to store flour in bags with metal baffles is also present.
Fig. HY16: Hyandra stable in 1930. The internal walls are of drop-log. A shearing shed was improvised at the far side and the end. The board was located inside the open doorway at the right of the photograph, with the steam engine in the adjoining shelter. Photo: Cannon family archives.

Fig. HY17: Hyandra stable, 1988. The fabric of the structure has deteriorated but the harness room, the horse stalls and the buggy room can still be recognised. The adjoining shed has been replaced.
Fig. HY18: Hyandra stable from inside the stock yards. Sheep were held in these yards and moved into the shed for shearing. The door to the original loft survives in the end wall.

Fig. HY19: Hyandra stable from the north. The section with vertical timber walls was the shearing board while sheep were held in sweating pens along the side.
Fig. HY20: Hyandra stable. Interior of horse stalls, showing drop-log walls and frame above to hold fodder. This stable was used by the Cobb & Co. coaches on the Forbes to Hillston route.

Fig. HY21: Hyandra sheep race, 1930. After shearing, the sheep were held in the adjoining yards and then pressed firmly into this race for branding, as is occurring here. Photo: Cannon family archives.
Fig. HY22: Hyandra sheep dip. The holding and forcing yards of improvised materials and convenient trees.

Fig. HY23: Hyandra dip. The ramp into the immersion trough and the draining pens.
Fig. HY24: Hyandra sheep dip. The sheep ramp to the slide and immersion trough. Extensive use of eclectic materials has been made.

Fig. HY25: Hyandra sheep dip. The slide to the immersion race from the top of the forcing ramp. At the end of the metal slide are the remains of the decoy pen where a single sheep was held to reassure and encourage the others.
Fig. HY26: Hyandra sheep dip. The immersion race where sheep were soaked in the dip solution as they swam from this end to the other.

Fig. HY27: Hyandra sheep dip. The external wall of the immersion race from the bank of nearby Booeroei Creek.
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Fig. HY28: Hyandra sheep dip. From the draining pens back along the whole structure.

Fig. HY29: Hyandra sheep dip. The draining pens from outside. The central posts supported a fence, while a flexible gate at the entry allowed the operator to direct the flow of sheep into the appropriate pen.
Fig. HY30: Hyandra. The hand pump that was used to raise water from Booheroi Creek to fill the dip. Now in store room at the homestead.
Fig. HY31: Hyandra Homestead. Schematic plan of the layout.
KEY

1. Hut (1860 - 1940)
2. Brick homestead (built 1870's)
3. Kitchen and storeroom (built 1870's)
4. Bathroom (built about 1910)
5. Storeroom (built about 1910)
6. Laundry & meatroom
   (bark roof 1870's, rebuilt 1948)
7. Shower room (built 1940's)
8. Bathroom tank (removed 1980)
9. Lavatory (1950's)
10. Well site (now filled in)
12. Underground tank (built 1870's)
13. Overhead tank (1900 - 1960)
15. Infant's grave (1860's)
16. Cottage (1898)
17. House fence.
   Paling until 1940, then post, rail & netting
   Paling until 1940, then tin
19. Jackaroo's hut
   (original 19th century, rebuilt 1940's)
20. Tank for jackaroo's hut
21. Woodheap
22. Grindstone
23. Ash heap
24. Windmill (1948)
25. Tin heap
26. Pit lavatory site
27. Fowl house
28. Dog kennels: as in 1950's
29. Overhead tank
   (was steam engine tank)
30. Stable/coach house/shearing shed
31. Extension of hay room for sweating pens
32. Shearing board
   (rebuilt 1948)
33. Shed for steam engine (1890 - 1960)
34. Machinery shed (built 1960)
35. Tank for steam engine (removed 1953)
36. Counting out pens
37. Branding race
38. Gallows
39. Drafting yards
40. Forcing pens for shearing shed
41. Cattle yards, extended & rebuilt
   (1870's, 1930's & 1960's)
42. Cow bail (19th century)
43. Cattle loading ramp
44. Cattle race
45. Calf pen
46. Machinery shed
47. Night horse paddock
48. Hay shed (built 1900)
49. Stage for stacking grain (built 1960's)
50. Hayshed (built 1960's)
51. Haystacks (until 1965)
52. Haysheds (built 1955)
53. Hayshed (built 1970's)
54. Grain silos (1970's)
55. Grain silos (1980's)
56. Tennis court (removed 1940)
57a. Shearers' huts (1900)
57b. Extensions to shearers' huts (1951)
58. Tank for huts
59. Woolclasser/overseer hut (1958)
60. Ablutions block
61. Lavatory for shearers' huts
62. Machinery shed (1890 - 1954)
63. Old machinery repository
64. New shearing shed (built 1958)
65. Tank for shearing shed (built 1958)
66. Lavatory for shearing shed
Fig. HY32: Schematic plan of the Hyandra homestead complex.
Fig. HY33: Schematic plan of the Hyandra stable, which was also used as a shearing shed until the 1950's.
Fig. HY34: Schematic plan of the immersion sheep dip at Hyandra.
Site MM : Summary

Name of Property: Merri Merrigal
Town/district: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On the southern Lake Cargelligo to Hillston Road, about 30 km from Lake Cargelligo
Map: 10/04 (homestead), 08/03 (woolshed), 12/07 (swinging bridge), on the Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. MM1
Owner: Mr. J. Triggs
Sites: Homestead Complex : Site MM Report 1
Shearing Shed : Site MM Report 2
Swinging Bridge : Site MM Report 3
Features: Pise homestead
Drop-log stable
Swinging bridge with auger

Landscape:
A large property centered on the Lachlan with much rich black-soil river flat and a belt of sandy red soil plain. Most of the timber is cleared and the land is covered in a variety of carefully managed pastures and crops. Extensive irrigation lines the river.

Photographs: Figs. MM2 - MM29
Diagrams: Figs. MM30 - MM34

Published Sources:
2. Freeman (1980)
3. NSWGG 11July 1885
Merri Merrigal. Pastoral Holding No. 103
Comprising Mary Merrigall, Carilla, Bogia, Gelong or Pine Camp and Naradhan Runs Leasehold; Land District of Hillston; Counties of Dowling and Nicholson. The Crown Lands within the boundaries.
Area;
Lease: 110,270 acres- Rent £689.3.9.- per acre 1.5 pence.
Resumed: 110,953 acres- Licence £462.6.1. - per sec. £2.13.4.
Holders: Messrs. William Murray and Hugh Murray Strachan
4. The Pastoralists Review, July 15, 1911. A copy is held at ANU/ABL.

Unpublished Sources:
1. Budd Journal
2. Oral information from owner, late owner, local residents and the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society, as detailed in reports.
Site MM: Report 1

Name: Merri Merrigal Homestead Complex
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: Beside the southern Lake Cargelligo to Hillston Road about 30 km from Lake Cargelligo
Map: 10/04 on Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW) Fig. MM1
Photographs: Figs. MM2 - MM13
Diagrams: Figs. MM30 - MM31
Date of Site Visit: August, 1981

Recording Circumstances:
Recording was permitted in the presence of the late owner, Mr. Inigo Triggs, who gave much explanation about the complex and its operation. Only one day was available for this part of the property as Mr. Triggs had other commitments.

Structures:
Piše Homestead
Separate slab kitchen
Sleepout - timber and gauze
Office - drop-log
Service buildings
Storeroom - Drop-log
Cottage - timber
Old shop - timber
Stables - piše with stump flooring
Water tanks

HOMESTEAD
In the record of an interview given to Mrs. J. Nixon and held by the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society it is stated by a local resident with early Merri Merrigal connections, Mrs. Minnie McDonald, that “John Brewer and Frank P. Hines bought this cattle station about 1871-2. John Brewer and family lived there and managed it until the late 1880's”. This accords well with the local tradition of ownership by Brewer who was a well-known horse racing enthusiast. The record goes on to say “There was a cemetery but not for humans but for thoroughbred and favourite horses”(1). In his short report on the homestead Cantlon also refers to ownership by Brewer.¹

By 1885, Merri Merrigal was held by Murray and Strachan (see NSWGG), and by 1911 was in the hands of Mr. A.B. Triggs an English accountant who held a series of properties from his base at “Linton” at Yass. As The Pastoralists' Review of July 15, 1911 explains, “Mr. Triggs has carried out the principle of not putting all his eggs in one basket to perfection, for his baskets are so placed that his eggs are not

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Report MM1

broken when moved from one to the other. There is perhaps no buyer of sheep who can operate with such absolute confidence, and his ability to purchase when it would be unsafe for others to do so has undoubtedly been the means of maintaining the values of sheep in various parts of New South Wales.”

It has also been said locally that “the 1914 drought broke many, but it made A. B. Triggs’” (2).

The homestead at Merri Merrigal does not compare in grandeur to that at Linton, Yass, but what it lacks in formal polish is more than compensated for in its very individual sense of serenity and self-sufficiency arising from its sympathetic siting.

On the southern bank of the Lachlan River, the homestead faces south, away from the river. (Fig. MM2). It is protected by extensive levy banks.

The main block of four rooms with a central hallway is of piéé construction which has been finished inside with a fine plaster. The ceilings are also of plaster and the walls are gently curved to meet the the ceiling (Fig. MM6). A delicate plaster fireplace is located in the sitting room. (Fig. MM7).

The roof of the homestead is of galvanized iron and the external walls have been smoothed and painted white. Windows are of twelve-pane type with delicate wooden dividers.

The verandah is low, almost level with the lawn, with a concrete floor. Round posts are used at the corners but between them are set lighter, rectangular posts, 11 cm by 13 cm, which rest on metal supports let into the concrete floor to prevent damage by white ants and weathering. The verandah ceiling is lined with sawn pine (Fig. MM5).

Joined by a verandah to the west of the main block is a wing of three rooms constructed of piéé. They were originally family accommodation and are now used as guest bedrooms.

SLEEP-OUT

In front of the main block of the homestead, to the south, is a separate sleep-out set on sixteen posts in a four-by-four array supporting a wooden platform. The frame is of sawn timber covered in metal gauze. It has a steep galvanized iron roof topped by what appears to be a lightning conductor. There is a wooden staircase and a railing with criss-crossed bars (Figs. MM2 and MM4).

KITCHEN

The separate kitchen is joined by a verandah to the main block. The interior is made of slabs approximately 15 cm wide and about 2.4 m high. It has been well maintained and several times updated and is still in use. The exterior is clad with sawn timber. This structure is the earliest one now extant on Merri Merrigal, and probably represents the earliest phase of settlement.

It is now a pleasant and comfortable kitchen with air-conditioning and modern appliances giving little idea of the rough conditions its earlier inhabitants must have endured.
SERVICE BUILDINGS

Behind the house, straggling down toward the river bank are various service buildings including a large meat house of wood and wire gauze, a partially sunken cellar/dairy and several wooden store rooms of various sizes and types of construction.

The time constraints on this site visit allowed only the opportunity to note their presence and their general character and place in the overall village of the complex.

OFFICE

To the east of the homestead is a three room drop-log structure now used as an office but probably originally used as a house (Fig. MM12). At the front, where protection is provided by a verandah, it is in good condition and the careful adze work on both the uprights and openings is visible (Fig. MM13). The exposed south wall shows some deterioration. (Fig. MM9).

STOREROOM

Behind the office is a drop-log structure now used as a storeroom with two rooms, in good repair. The exterior shows little sign of weathering (Figs. MM10 and MM11).

COTTAGE

To the east, and maintaining the line of the office, is a sawn timber cottage with a verandah. It is thought by Mr. Triggs to be a staff house from the earliest period. One phase of its life was as a station schoolroom for the children of employees when a teacher was employed by the station to take classes for all age and ability ranges in the one small room.

STATION SHOP

Behind the cottage, to its north, is a small timber structure which was used as a station shop to provide the goods needed by the little community which were not met by the weekly ration. Groceries, simple haberdashery, hats, tools and stationary were sold, often on credit against future earnings. Shelving and a counter remain in this building which readily evokes the isolation and limited possibilities of those who worked here in the pre-motor transport era. The room was also used by the station bookeeper, who was called on to run the retail side of the operation as well as his other duties.

STABLE COMPLEX

North-east of these service buildings is a row of structures, starting with a large water tank, and including several small rooms used for harnass and gear. The stable proper incorporates a pise dividing wall and has a floor made by driving blocks of wood into the soil producing a cobble-like surface. A similar floor is in the stable at Hunthawang and also in the fragile old stable at Boorithumble.

SUGGESTED DATING

The slab kitchen is thought to be the earliest structure, both by the owner and local tradition. The drop-log building next to it probably dates from the second phase of construction. No firm date can be attached to either building as the 1848 application for the lease does not detail any improvements although it cannot be assumed that
none existed at this time. The piše homestead must have come next and was surely included in the 1875 survey which values the house and huts at £1,000, as set out in his study of homesteads by Cantlon.³

Landscape:
The homestead and its surrounding complex are situated on the southern bank of the Lachlan River, about 30 m from the stream. Although the southern side is less subject to flooding than the lower northern side, extensive levy banks have been built to protect against inundation of the homestead.

The complex is about 0.5 km from the main all-weather road from Lake Cargelligo to Hillston which runs along the south side of the river. The northern road is considered to be a dry-weather road, as it soon becomes impassible in wet weather, and is under water for long periods during floods.

In the interview that she gave to Mrs. Nixon in 1977, Mrs. Minnie McDonald described Merrigal: "It was a large and good station, prettily situated alongside the river. Well timbered in places and some scrub area with a range of highish hills running in a southerly direction along its western side. The Lachlan Range - of which 'Tootewoolongong' is the highest peak on the run."(3)

The present landscape is a very manipulated one which reflects over a century of commercial use. Much clearing has occurred. The range of species of grass and herbage is limited and the saltbush is extinct. Eucalypts are mature trees and grow only where it is convenient for station purposes. The land is kept in good condition so that erosion is not a problem. Large areas of irrigation farming flank the river, so a web of irrigation canals are prominent features of the river belt. Cropping is largely confined to the red soil plains to the north of the river where mallee has been cleared in large blocks.

NOTES

Local Informants
1. Document: record of interview held on 26 July 1977, between Mrs. M. McDonald, the daughter of John Brewer, who spent her childhood on Merri Merrigal, and Mrs. J. Nixon of the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society, which holds the document in its collection.
2. M. O’Kane and other local residents.
3. The document detailed in Note 1, above.

References
3. Cantlon, p. 139.
Site MM: Report 2

Name: Merri Merrigal Shearing Shed
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On an internal station road, west of the old homestead
Map: 08/03 on Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 &111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. MM1
Photographs: Figs. MM14 - MM23
Date of Site Visit: 18 May 1982

Recording Circumstances:
Throughout the visit to the shearing shed we were at all times escorted by Mr. James Triggs, the owner of the station.

Structures:
SHEARING SHED
The present woolshed is a relatively modern structure and does not seem to reflect the old and established position of the station. The interview with Mrs. Minnie McDonald held by the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society includes an account of happenings in the district which may explain this: "Another part of the run was called 'Naradhan'. There was a shanty there where shearers and others would 'blue' their cheques and was frequented by undesirables and was a thorn in the side of station owners. John Brewer tried to have the place delicensed so the licencee - a woman - paid a fellow £5 to burn down the 'Merrigal' woolshed - this was proved and the culprit got goal and the woman only escaped on account of her advanced years and the licence was withdrawn." (1)

After such fires, a woolshed is often rebuilt on the same site to take advantage of the existing stock yards and ramps which usually survive the blaze undamaged. Later, the yards are repaired or replaced and so the sequence of construction becomes obscured.

The shed is constructed of galvanized iron on a wooden framework. It now has eight stands but the original number is not clear. Behind the shearing board is an unusually high wooden wall (Fig. MM18) which separates the board from the catching pens. The post and rail pens are fitted with gates on metal pulley-type wheels that slide on metal piping and use a counter-weight to open. A wide wooden railing about 1.3 m from the floor holds the top of the gate and must be a source of considerable inconvenience to those who must pass under it many times in a working day during shearing (Fig. MM19).

The distance between upright posts varies from 2.8 m to 3.3 m but the average separation is about 3 m, which is almost exactly 10 feet, a common span in bush carpentry. High windows on three sides give light. They are grouped in sets of three, each of four panes. A very similar arrangement can be seen at Hunthawang, Site HW Report 2.
Report MM2

In the wool room is a hydraulic wool press set on three wooden rails which can be moved along to the appropriate wool bin for loading (Fig. MM20). An old scale remains in situ (Fig. MM21).

To the west of the shed is a drying frame for wet or soiled wool. An old steam engine stands near the shed, and bears the mark “Brittania, James Martin, NSW Agent” (Figs. MM14 and MM16). The chimney with its spark catcher to prevent sparks causing bushfires is intact.

Outside the shearing shed is a loading platform. It is made of packed earth enclosed with walls of railway sleepers. The upper decks are each two sleepers high, less than a wool bale so that two men could have lifted a bale up to the next deck. So, to load a vehicle, bales would be rolled up to the first deck and across to the truck. When it was full, the bales would be taken up to the next deck to make the higher layer on the vehicle.

The structure is now covered by a galvanized iron wall on the west side and a roof (Fig. MM22 and MM23). This shelter may have been built to expand wool storage space at times of high demand.

Near the shearing shed is a set of sheep yards and a dip. A gallows for butchering stands near the yard (Fig. MM17). As on most of the properties in the area, this essential facility is made of local materials and is of the simplest, most traditional design.

The Merri Merrigal woolshed as it stands appears to date from the early 1930’s. It occupies a special place in the local social calendar as the tradition, whose origins are lost in the mists of time, of holding a woolshed dance there is still kept every year.

Landscape:
On a slight rise and near the new modern house occupied by the younger generation of the family, the woolshed stands away from the immediate vicinity of the river. It has a set of water tanks to supply the needs of the shed and the dip. On a plain once covered in lush saltbush which has been extinct since the environmental catastrophe of the 1890’s, open grasslands with a scattering of eucalypts surround the woolshed.

Notes
1. Document: Record of interview detailed in Report 1 this site.
Site MM: Report 3

Name: Merri Merrigal Swinging Bridge
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On a station road about 2.5 km from the main northern road along the Lachlan
Map: 12/07 on the Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 & 111, topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. MM1
Photographs: Figs. MM24 - MM29
Diagrams: Figs. MM33 - MM34
Date of Site Visit: 21 May 1982

Recording Circumstances:
Permission was given for independent recording of this structure

Structures:
WOODEN SUSPENSION BRIDGE WITH HORIZONTAL AUGER

Joining the north and south banks of the Lachlan River is a private suspension bridge. There are few public bridges across the river, the nearest to Merri Merrigal being approximately 40 km away by road at Murrin Bridge or at Wallanthry about 26 km to the west. As Merri Merrigal has for most of its history been made up of land on both sides of the river, a more accessible way of crossing stock, machinery and produce was needed. The present bridge is only the last in a long line of bridges.

Lying on the main station road to the homestead, the bridge is protected by a gate across the roadway 22 m from the deck. There are large stock yards on either side of the river (Fig. MM34). The decking of the approach rests on concrete supports (Fig. MM29). The main span is supported by cables which are suspended on pylons made of metal posts 8 m high. They rest on concrete supports, 2 m high, set into the river bank (Figs. MM24 and MM25). The posts are 4 m apart.

Two metal cables, top and bottom, run between the pylons. Cable separators are set about 5 m apart and consist of a strut and a plate (Fig. MM25). The three guy-cables are anchored with a concrete block set into the bank 17 m from the upright.

The decking is of railway sleepers on heavy wooden beams and it is reinforced by nine concrete cross-piers, 4.9 m apart, which are clamped with 0.75 inch steel U-irons (Fig. MM29). Metal cross beams are also present.

The deck is 3.5 m wide but a wood and wire railing on either side leaves 3.1 m (the old 10 feet) for the roadway. The railing is 1.2 m high and the posts are 2.6 m apart.

A most unusual aspect of the bridge is a horizontal auger incorporated in its side. This was added to the existing bridge in the 1960's when wheat was first grown on the north side of the river on any scale. The bridge could not support the weight of the loaded wheat trucks and to drive them to the silos at Lake Cargelligo via the very inferior dry-weather road on the north side of the river added greatly to the trip. An
ingenious solution is seen in the auger mounted horizontally along the guard rail (Figs. MM28 and MM29).

On the northern side of the river, to the west of the bridge, are three underground grain storage pits (Fig. MM27). A horizontal auger is mounted so as to allow grain to be lifted from the pits to the nearby bridge railing where another auger is mounted horizontally. Station informants advise that the auger was run from the power take-off of a tractor.

The horizontal auger is set in a box 0.31 m by 0.31 m and runs approximately 81 m across the bridge (Fig. MM28). At the southern end is a chute located so that a truck could be loaded when driven into position under the decking of the bridge (Fig. MM29).
Fig. MM1: Merri Merrigal. Location map for the homestead, the woolshed and the swinging bridge. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. MM2: Merri Merrigal homestead from the south. The main facade of the pise block with the elevated and gauzed sleep-out in front.

Fig. MM3: Merri Merrigal homestead from the south-east. The house is low, and faces away from the Lachlan River which runs behind the trees to the rear of the house.
Fig. MM4: Merri Merrigal homestead. The sleep-out from the east. The structure is elevated on sixteen sturdy posts and has a railing around the platform. The grape vine provides extra shelter in summer.

Fig. MM5: Merri Merrigal homestead. The front verandah from the east showing protective footings for the posts and the sawn boards lining the ceiling.
Fig. MM6: Merri Merrigal homestead. Interior of the sitting room with the coved plaster ceiling and part of the fan-light over the window.

Fig. MM7: Merri Merrigal homestead. The fireplace in the sitting room.
Fig. MM8: Merri Merrigal homestead. The eastern side of the pié block with the verandah enclosed by gauze fly-wire. The roof of the kitchen block is visible at the corner.

Fig. MM9: Merri Merrigal homestead complex. The north wall of the drop-log office. Some weathering of the unprotected surface is beginning. The guttering suspended on the post is to take the roof water to a large tank.
<Fig. MM10: Merri Merrigal homestead complex. The drop-log store building situated behind the office, from the east. More suspended guttering conserves roof water.

Fig. MM11: Merri Merrigal homestead complex. The store and office from the north showing the twelve-pane window and the chimney.
Fig. MM12: Merri Merrigal homestead complex. The drop-log cottage used as an office, from the south. This was probably the main housing during one phase of occupation of the station.

Fig. MM13: Merri Merrigal homestead complex. The window is carefully let into the drop-log wall of the office.
Fig. MM14: Merri Merrigal woolshed from the north-east with the old steam engine in front. The high chimney has a spark-baffle at the top.

Fig. MM15: Merri Merrigal woolshed from the west. The shed is high and provides sheep shelter underneath. The yards are of traditional post and rail construction.
Fig. MM16: Merri Merrigal. The old steam engine outside the woolshed. Such engines were often used for diverse purposes on a station after the shearing season and could be moved by horses. The brake pads are still in place.

Fig. MM17: Merri Merrigal sheep yards. Outside the yards are the cement block and gallows for butchering sheep. Made of local timber, it is of the traditional design used on most stations in the area.
Fig. MM18: Merri Merrigal woolshed. The shearing board with the unusually high wall behind. The four-pane windows are set in groups of three, as at Hunthawang.

Fig. MM19: Merri Merrigal woolshed. Sheep pens showing the sliding gates which maximise sheep shelter and provide convenience of operation.
Fig. MM20: Merri Merrigal woolshed. From the woolroom to the higher board area through the wool bins. The press in the foreground is mounted on three rails so it can be moved to the appropriate bin for loading.

Fig. MM21: Merri Merrigal. The traditional wool scales in the wool room of the woolshed.
Fig. MM22: Merri Merrigal woolshed. The stepped loading ramp and platform surrounded by a shelter wall and roof. A block and tackle for loading heavy objects stands at the end. From the north-east.

Fig. MM23: Merri Merrigal. The stepped loading platform constructed of railway sleepers filled with earth. The wool bales are rolled up the ramp and stacked in steps ready for loading onto the transport.
Fig. MM24: Merri Merri-gal swinging bridge. The span of the bridge over the Lachlan River, from the south. It links the main area of the station on the southern side of the river to those sections on the northern side.

Fig. MM25: Merri Merri-gal swinging bridge from the south-west. It runs on the main station road from the homestead to the public road along the northern side of the river.
Fig. MM26: Merri Merrigal. The swinging bridge from the riverbank below showing the construction of the roadway from heavy timber on concrete cross bearers.

Fig. MM27: Merri Merrigal swinging bridge. The auger used to transport grain across the river. In foreground, under the sheets of iron, are the underground pits to store grain awaiting transfer. From the west on the northern bank.
Fig. MM28: Merri Merrigal swinging bridge. The auger running beside the roadway of the bridge with the inspection cover open to show the grain box and auger shaft. From the north.

Fig. MM29: Merri Merrigal swinging bridge. The site on the riverbank where a truck can be driven under the bridge to be filled with grain from the auger above. On the southern side of the Lachlan, from the west.
Fig. MM30: Merri Merrigal. Schematic drawing of the piše block of the homestead.
Key:
1. Homestead
2. Verandah
3. Slab kitchen
4. Sunken dairy
5. Meat house
6. Store room
7. Levee banks
8. Drop-log store
9. Drop-log office
10. Station shop
11. Water tank
12. Harness room
13. Stable
14. Pisé wall
15. Stock yards
16. Grain silo
17. Machinery shed

Fig. MM31: Merri Merrigal. Schematic plan of the homestead complex.
Fig. MM32: Merri Merrigal. Schematic plan of the woolshed.

KEY:
1. Woolroom
2. Engine room
3. Wool press
4. Wool bins
5. Wool table
6. Shearing board
7. Catching pens
8. Sweating pens
9. Sheep race
10. Entry ramp
11. Loading platform
12. Ramp
13. Stepped loading platform
14. Steam engine
15. Wool drying frame
Fig. MM33: Merri Merrigal. Sketch of the swinging bridge.
Fig. MM34: Merri Merrigal. Sketch plan of the swinging bridge.
Site NR: Summary

Name of Property: Naradhan
Town/district: Naradhan
LGA: Lachlan
Location: About 2 km from Naradhan township on the southern side of the Naradhan to Rankin Springs Road
Map: 37/78 on Naradhan 8130-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW), Fig. NR1
Owner: Mr. T. Templeton
Sites: Shearing Shed: Site NR Report 1
Features: Shed built by McFadzean in 1888, showing many fine details in the woodwork which facilitate the smooth functioning of the wool factory

Landscape:
At foot of a hill of Lachlan range on a flat plain mainly cleared of its cover. Soil is powdery red, some eucalypts remain and cypress pine cover the hill behind.

Published Sources:
1. Freeman (1980)
4. NSWGG 11 July 1885:
   Naradhan - Pastoral Holding No 539 Land District of Hillston, County of Dowling.
   Lease: 97,118 acres, Rent £404.13.2. Rate per acre: 1 pence
   Resumed: 102,136 acres. Licence £425. 11.4. Rate per section £2.13.4.

Unpublished Sources:
1. Oral informants from area as detailed in the report
2. Budd Journal
Site NR: Report 1

Name: Naradhan Shearing Shed
District: Naradhan
LGA: Lachlan
Location: 2 km from Naradhan on Naradhan to Rankin Springs Road
Map: 37/78 on Naradhan 8130-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW), Fig. NR1
Photographs: Figs. NR2 - NR23
Diagrams: Fig. NR24
Date of Site Visit: 13 May 1982

Recording Circumstances:
Access was granted by the owner to record independantly before discussions.

Structures:

SHEARING SHED

Until 1859 Naradhan was one of five stations making up the “Errybendry” run of the O’Sullivan brothers. Their claim was only nominal as there was no sign of occupation found by the Government surveyors in 1859, so Naradhan was taken up by a Dr. Stitt. The neighbouring Conapaira station was taken up in the same year and, as stated in the Naradhan Golden Jubilee Book, “these two properties comprised two of the best ‘back country’ holdings.”¹ The account goes on to explain that “what is meant by ‘Back Country’ are those areas which have no running permanent water frontages, and (in this district), possessing herbage and grasses of splendid fattening qualities, also a variety of edible bush naturally watered by mountain springs, independant of artificially conserved water, with which they are well provided.”²

On 11 July 1885, it was gazetted as comprising 97,118 acres plus 102,136 acres resumed and held by the N. Z. Loan and Mercantile Agency Ltd. Naradhan was taken up by Mr. Pat Hill Osborne during the 1880’s and a rent of £812 was assessed on that acreage. The Naradhan Jubilee book reports that “a nice homestead was built over by the Spring at Naradhan Gap ... there were a number of men to ride the ranges ... all goods and provisions came from Wyalong or Narrandera by bullock team; the wool went out on the bullock wagons. There is an old track across the woolshed paddock to this day.”³

The homestead referred to is remembered as being a large timber structure with smaller houses for the overseer and a large number of men. There was a large and successful garden with fruit and grapes and vegetables. The census of 1891 included Naradhan as Sub-district 74 of Hillston and listed three families comprising twenty males and eight females as living there as well as another group of three males living nearby. The latter group may have been a Chinese ring-barking team as such teams were active in the area at the time.

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The homestead has gone now, leaving only a grove of exotic trees, especially willows, to mark its site. This pleasant shaded area has been used as a recreation area and gymkamas were held there recently (1).

The Naradhan Jubilee book reports that “in 1888 Naradhan Station Woolshed was built, and presumably designed, by William McFadzean of Narrandera, who was considered the most famous of the woolshed builders in the Riverina ... stayed in use as Naradhan Station until sometime in the late 1920’s, when it was purchased by Thomas Templeton. After that it became a depot shed for the district. A contractor would operate the shed until the sheep from most of the local farms were shorn. This arrangement carried on until somewhere in the 1930’s.” This efficient and unusual practice has not been revived and the shed now serves only the one property.

The date and builder were confirmed by events reported in the Naradhan book which recounts that “the authenticity of the date was proven recently when in January 1977 a violent storm blew off portion of the eastern end of the roof. Whilst replacing the roof, Tom Templeton found the date and two names written on a rafter.” This signature is an unusual gesture on a vernacular structure and indicated a craftsman’s pride in his work.

There are stands for 28 blade shearsers, though a figure of 30 is mentioned locally. When a new oil engine was installed in 1903 only 12 or 14 stands were connected to it to remain in use (Fig. NR11).

Known as the “Black Woolshed” in early days, it is probable that the exterior was painted with heated tar oil, a treatment still used in the district for external wooden structures such as stock yards. The pleasant weathered appearance of Naradhan shed is consistent with such a surface coating (Figs. NR2 to NR7).

Construction

A solid frame of uncut pine is clad with sawn boards (Figs. NR2 and NR12). The roofing timbers were mainly cut pine (Figs. NR22 and NR23). The roof is of “Gospel Oak, Finest Quality” galvanized iron.

The wool room is 1.83 m (6 feet) lower than the shed, but it is still elevated somewhat on pine posts (Figs NR2, NR20, NR21). A loading platform once stood in front of the wool room door, but no traces remain. Freeman* includes in his book about Riverina woolsheds a sketch based on an old photograph which shows an arrangement similar to that at Uabba woolshed, which was also built by McFadzean (Site Summary UB). An engine from Birmingham, England, is housed in a shelter on the western side of the woolroom.

Trap-Doors

In the floor beneath the wool bins are set small trap-doors (Figs. NR18 and NR19) which allow the underfloor area to be used to store wool.

Wool-bin Racks

Flexible removable wooden rails are set on wooden brackets at the back of the wool bins. This allows the wool to be piled high as it is shorn and then to be removed from the back of the bin which is conveniently near the wool press (Fig. NR17).
Sliding Pen-doors
Finely made wooden doors of sawn boards are set on small wooden wheels which run in a groove in the floor (Fig. NR14). This is a great advantage in handling sheep in a confined area and allows a greater number to be yarded in each session. Similar doors can be seen in another McFadzean shed, Wooyeo.

Raisable Gates with Counterweight
Along the central division of the shed (Fig. NR12), now used for sweating pens, are several raisable gates which are controlled by means of wooden counterweights set on a pulley at each end of the gate (Fig. NR13). This is a great convenience when handling sheep in the confined space of the shed. Similar gates were used at Uabba (Site Summary UB, Figs. UB26 and UB27). The damage to the third McFadzean shed in the area, Wooyeo, is such that it is hard to tell if such gates were ever installed there.

Shearers Huts
Near the shed stood a set of shearers huts of the traditional long plan with accommodation for about thirty people (2). They are thought by the owner to have been built at the same time as the woolshed with various repairs and changes over the years and total removal over the past twenty years. The are remembered, by the owner and other local people, to have included a block of rooms for shearers, a separate block with kitchen and dining room, a room for the contractor and the woolclasser and a meat-house. There was a bread oven in the kitchen.

The huts were a local resource as they were used for many different purposes including shelter for itinerants during the Depression of the 1930's. This is discussed in the Golden Jubilee book about the town: “By this time the depression had become so bad, men of all walks of life walked the road between Rankin Springs and Lake Cargelligo - they used to stop by at the shearers huts and have a rest - they could at least be warm for a night or two, there was a lovely big, old open fireplace in the kitchen.”

The huts were also used by local people during the course of many different activities, for example, they were made available for accommodation for contractors working on the roads and the railway (3) and also for informal social events (4).

Landscape:
The shed is right at the base of a small outlying hill of the Lachlan range (Figs. NR2 and NR6) and its slope is beginning to fit into the lie of the land. Sandy red soil supports a grass cover of seasonal varieties. The original tree cover included mallee, yarran, dogwood, box, sheoak and balah as well as the dominant cypress pine. Most of this has been cleared but scattered eucalypts remain on the plain and cypress pines cover the hill. There is no source of running water and this is probably why Naradhan remained an out-station of Erry bendry in the early period of settlement. Of all the early leases in the study area, Naradhan is the only one to be a substantial distance from the river. It was only when a portion of the original holding was selected and intensive water conservation, by means of storing water in both house and earthen
Report NR1

tanks, was instituted that a permanent settlement could be attempted. Various closer settlement schemes have been applied to this area and it is now a mosaic of small farms with mixed grazing and cropping areas which produces a variety of vegetation.

Notes

References
2. Hart and Templeton, p. 4.
3. Hart and Templeton, p. 4.
5. Hart and Templeton, p. 5.

Oral Informants
1. Mr. M. O’Kane, local resident and sportsman.
2. Mr. T. Templeton, owner of Naradhan station.
3. Mrs. N. Templeton.
4. Mr. M. O’Kane, who camped there in the 1930’s while contracting road work.
5. Miss N. O’Kane, a local resident, whose sixteenth birthday party for over a hundred people was held there.
Fig. NR1: Location map for Naradhan woolshed. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. NR2: Naradhan woolshed from the north. The shed was known as the “Black Shed” and still keeps its dark aspect. The hill behind remains covered with the local cypress pine of which the shed is built.

Fig. NR3: Naradhan woolshed from the south. The sag of the floor is particularly obvious at the eastern end.
Fig. NR4: Naradhan woolshed from the north-east. The woolroom, which is elevated on wooden posts and lit by the windows.

Fig. NR5: Naradhan woolshed. The western side of the shearing board area from the west. The sheep chutes are lost but wooden shutters remain in place.
Fig. NR6: Naradhan woolshed from the west. The lean-to structure was to house “Margaret”, the diesel engine, which replaced the old steam engine in 1903.

Fig. NR7: Naradhan woolshed. Detail of the engine shelter and the front of the board area.
Fig. NR8: Naradhan woolshed. The sheep ramp entering the western end of the shed. It is unusual in that the slope continues inside the shed.

Fig. NR9: Naradhan woolshed. Detail of ramp showing the finely adzed sheep pens.
Fig. NR10: Naradhan woolshed. A shearer's stand looking from the board.

Fig. NR11: Naradhan woolshed. Along the board.
Fig. NR12: Naradhan woolshed. Down the centre of the shed along the sweating pens with the raisable gates in place.

Fig. NR13: Naradhan woolshed. One of the raisable pen gates showing the heavy wooden counterweights.
Fig. NR14: Naradhan woolshed. Sliding gate to a catching pen. The gate is set in a groove and has a wooden catch at the top.

Fig. NR15: Naradhan woolshed. The sweating pens of large cypress posts and adzed pine rails.
Fig. NR16: Naradhan woolshed. A gate to a catching pen with a wooden latch.

Fig. NR17: Naradhan woolshed. The removable rails in their sockets at the back of the wool bins. The rails can be moved to allow easier access to the wool.
Fig. NR18: Naradhan woolshed. The wooden trapdoor to allow wool to be swept down to the storage area below.

Fig. NR19: Naradhan woolshed. The woolbins beneath the floor where the less valuable wool could be quickly swept to maintain the pace of workflow on the board.
Fig. NR20: Naradhan woolshed. The woolroom from the board. Light is beginning to show through the side walls of sawn pine.

Fig. NR21: Naradhan woolshed. The woolroom looking toward the door. Heavy posts support sawn roof timbers.
Fig. NR22: Naradhan woolshed. A detail of the roof.

Fig. NR23: Naradhan woolshed. Detail of the roof showing the elegant resolution at the junction of the half-hipped roof and the wall.
KEY:
1. Woolroom
2. Office
3. Wool press
4. Wool bins
5. Wool table
6. Wool table
7. Shearing board
8. Catching pens
9. Sweating pens
10. Sheep race
11. Entry ramp
12. Engine shed
13. Loading platform

Fig. NR24: Naradhan woolshed. Sketch plan of the woolshed.
Site NW : Summary

Name of Property: North Whoey
Town/district: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Cobar
Location: On Lake Cargelligo to Hillston road, about 5 km from Mur­rin Bridge
Map: 32/31 (homestead), 31/31 (shearing shed) on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. NW1
Owner: Mr. A. Naughton
Sites: Shearing Shed : Site NW Report 1
Homestead : Site NW Report 2
Features: Woolshed, now destroyed, was one of earliest in the district, probably built in the 1860’s.
Homestead had galvanized iron billard room and a sur­rounding complex of service buildings

Landscape:
North Whoey is a large property and so includes the full local range of land, soil and vegetation types. It has a large river frontage with black-soil flood plains, open red-soil grasslands, Booberoi Creek and much cleared country as well as thickly timbered mallee areas away from the river.

Photographs: Figs. NW2 - NW17
Diagrams: Fig. NW18 - NW19

Published Sources:
1. Royal Commission to inquire into the Condition of the Crown Tenants of the Western Division of New South Wales. Part 11. 1901.

Unpublished Sources:
1. Budd Jnl
2. Oral reports from local informants as listed in reports.
Site NW: Report 1

Name: North Whoey Homestead
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Cobar
Location: On private station road, on south bank of Booberoi Creek opposite the shearsers huts on the northern side of the creek
Map: 32/31 on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. NW1
Photographs: Figs. NW2 - NW8
Diagrams: Fig. NW18
Date of Site Visit: 18 Aug 1981

Recording Circumstances:
Permission was given for independant recording

Structures:
Homestead
Stable
Dairy
Smithy
Workshop
Loading Stage
Meathouse
Storerooms

HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

On a rise beside Booberoi Creek, in a grove of exotic vegetation, stands the now unoccupied remains of an early homestead. The location is at first sight surprising, but makes sense when the pattern of encroachment of small selectors is remembered as much of North Whoey's riverfront land was once taken in the first fever of subdivision. The impossibility of such small holdings providing a living in this harsh and isolated area is demonstrated by the disappearance of each one of them. North Whoey now holds its riverfrontage again, and only a hint of the selections remains in the varied land titles of some paddocks. At the meeting of the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society on 19 October, 1969, it was recorded that the original bark-roofed Murrin school was sited in the river bend on what was then called Windmill Farm, now the present North Whoey homestead area. No trace of either a windmill or the school building was found by walking the area along the river. However, the whole area has been extensively flooded many times and much irrigation and other farming development has taken place recently.

The old homestead is sited to take advantage of the other water supply, Booberoi Creek and is opposite the shearing shed and huts. This site is subject to flooding as it is right in the centre of a depression connected with the creek. The river site now

B199
used for the modern homestead and complex was heavily inundated in the series of floods in the 1950's but remains in use with levee banks to protect the buildings. It was again affected in the 1990 floods, but remained the centre of station operations and provided a boat service to cross the Lachlan. This was the only crossing between Condoblin and Hillston.

A wooden wing is probably the earliest part of a structure that has grown in several directions (Figs. NW2, NW4, NW5). At one end is a more recent brick block (Fig. NW3). It is connected by a row of rooms with a verandah in front to a galvanized iron billard room (Fig. NW3). No firm dating is possible but the 1870's seem most likely as the start of occupation at this site.

The surrounding complex of structures is in varying states of disintegration. Of a motley and practical nature they never seem to have had the structural unity of such complexes as Hunthawang or Merri Merrigal. Although the property has been in the hands of the same family for at least three generations, it was not the prime business concern of its early owners.

**Landscape:**
In a depression beside Booberoi Creek, the homestead has a view of the river flats to the south with scattered clumps of trees on the plain and open grassland on the red-soil area.

**TABLE : NORTH WHOEY 1 : STOCK RETURNS**
Figures are taken from the Royal Commission into the Condition of the Crown Tenants in the Western Division of New South Wales. Part 11. 1901. Return shows Owners' Name, the Number of Stock on 1st January each year from 1882 to 1900, except for 1883, 1884 and 1885 when no return was available.

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<tr>
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</table>
Site NW: Report 2

Name: North Whoey Shearing Shed
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Cobar
Location: On private station road, about 1 km from Booberooi Creek about 6 km downstream from the Mt. Hope to Lake Cargelligo road
Map: 31/31 on Euabalong 8131 - 1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. NW1
Photographs: Figs. NW 8 - NW17
Diagrams: Fig. NW19
Date of Site Visit: 5 January 1981 (preliminary reconnaissance), 12 May 1982 (following destruction)

Recording Circumstances:
The first preliminary visit was made in passing on the way to a more distant site where only occasional access was possible.

The shed at that time was only a shell as most of the galvanized iron cladding had been removed for reasons of safety but it did not appear to be in any immediate danger. A few photographs of general interest only were taken on that day and now, unfortunately, form the only photographic record of what was probably the oldest permanent woolshed in the district. Local tradition claims that it was erected in the 1860's (1) and this seems quite probable in the light of the simple improvised timbers and the many and varied construction methods used. Moreover, the relatively small size of the shed suggests that it was built to service the run at the time of smaller sheep flocks when cattle were still the dominant industry of the area. This was before the expansion of the wool industry in the 1870's, when the large and sophisticated sheds on Whooyeo and Uabba were built.

The owner informed me of the destruction of the shed when I next sought permission to record it in detail. It had been burnt as a hazard to the cropping operations which now engulf the site.

As it had not rained since the fire, it was possible to measure the larger features of the structure in an approximate manner, so that overall dimensions were recovered plus the location of many of the posts.

Structures:
Woolshed
Huts

WOOLSHED
At the first visit, the shed consisted of a fairly intact but partially collapsed framework of both sawn and round timbers. The photographs Figs. NW9 to NW12 show this shell. Unfortunately, they are the only known record of the shed as it stood. The
sturdy frame had been covered with galvanized iron, most long removed as a safety hazard, which was thought by the owner to have replaced the original timber cladding in the 1930's. The timber was secured with hand made nails, both the rectangular type with a flat head and the round variety with a round head (Fig. NW13).

The frame was made of a central box of sturdy pine posts with the pen areas attached at the sides. A steeply pitched roof frame made of round pine covered the whole area and ended in gables (Fig. NW11). The floor was largely made of thin uncut rods except for the central block where large beams supported wide, cut planks (Fig. NW12).

A rectangular shed of symmetrical plan, it seems to have had 24 stands, arranged in two rows either side of the board (Fig. NW12). There were chutes to the counting out pens under the catching pens behind the stands. There was a row of sweating pens across the northern end of the shed, to be seen in Fig. NW9 as a fragile floor in front of the board area. There was no other sheep shelter provided.

The wool room was at the southern end of the board area and maintained the rectangular plan of the shed (2). The wool press stood here when the shed was operational, although its remnants were lying on the ground outside at the time of the site visit. It was a Humble and Nicholson "Ferrier" wool press of the screw type.

A pulley was fitted to the beam near the western door, where a skylight gave light to the interior of the shed, and is thought to have been used to open sheep-pen doors from a distance (3).

The vestiges of a large metal water tank used to supply a steam engine remained on the site. The steam engine is intact but has been moved about 2 km to serve as a mailbox beside the road approaching the new homestead complex (Figs. NW16 and NW17). The chimney has been lost.

On the second visit, it was found that the shed had been burnt to the ground (Figs. NW14 and NW15) Fortunately, it had not rained since the fire so it was still possible to distinguish many of the features of the main structural members. The overall dimensions were clear, if a little fuzzy, and stumps and post holes indicated the location of most support posts. The diagram in Fig. NW19 shows these details.

The fire had also destroyed the wooden parts of a fine old screw press which had lain beside the shed. The metal parts survived and were measured and photographed.

A sheet of iron remained with a brand mark of a ship and the name "Gosper & Oaks".

HUTS

About 750 m from the woolshed on the banks of Booberoi Creek are a set huts of various materials and methods of construction suggesting periodic repair and extension. The oldest part is of drop-log, a portion with rough uneven shiplock adjoins and galvanized iron sections complete the main block. A large wire netted meat house stands behind the huts and a wash house is beside it. Traces of other structures, mainly wooden footings and brick fireplaces, are scattered about the area. They are said by the owner to have been accommodation blocks.
Landscape:
On the north bank of Booberoi Creek on a red soil plain cleared for wheat cropping. A line of eucalypts follow the watercourse. To the west cypress pine are visible and mallee appears to the north.

Notes
Oral Informants
1. Mr. A. Naughton, the owner of North Whoey.
2. J. Cannon, who knew the shed as a child.
3. Mr. A. Naughton.
Fig. NW1: Location map of the North Whoey woolshed site and the old homestead. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. NW2: North Whoey homestead complex. The row of buildings which are joined by the verandah to make the main facade. The brick room is at the right and the galvanized iron billiard room to the left behind the tree.

Fig. NW3: North Whoey homestead. The brick room used as a sitting room has curved barge boards. The window has been removed and some bricks taken, probably for recycling.
Fig. NW4: North Whoey homestead. The front of the billiard room, from the south. The front wall is clad in corrugated iron painted red.

Fig. NW5: North Whoey homestead. The back of the billiard room, which is clad in weatherboard and painted white.
Fig. NW6: North Whoey homestead. The side of the billiard room with only the frame of the verandah left standing.

Fig. NW7: North Whoey homestead. The service block of weatherboard and galvanized iron.
Fig. NW8: North Whoey homestead complex. The workshop from the south-east.
Fig. NW9: North Whoey woolshed from the north. The frame of the structure is exposed after removal of cladding. The central box houses the board while the floor of the sheep pen area is visible in the foreground.

Fig. NW10: North Whoey woolshed from the north-east. This is the corner of the shed where the sheep ramp entered the structure.
Fig. NW11: North Whoey woolshed. The round timbers of the roof frame are outlined against the sky.

Fig. NW12: North Whoey woolshed. The central shearing board where twelve stands are located at each side of the board. Wide floor boards are used in this area.
Fig. NW13: North Whoey woolshed. Handmade nails used in the shed. The upper nail is thick and rectangular with a flattened head. It has broken off at about 9.75 cm in length. The lower nail is round. It is eleven cm long with a rounded head little distorted by use.
Fig. NW14: North Whoey woolshed site about three weeks after the destruction by fire of the old shed.

Fig. NW15: North Whoey woolshed site after the fire. The tank for the steam engine is in the foreground.
Fig. NW16: North Whoey. The steam engine once used in the old shearing shed in its new role as mailbox for the modern homestead complex.

Fig. NW17: North Whoey. The steam engine from the west. The chimney has been lost. The steam engine now stands beside the northern Lake Cargelligo to Hillston road.
Fig. NW18: Schematic plan of the North Whoey homestead complex.
Fig. NW19: Sketch plan of North Whoey woolshed. Reconstruction only, based on measurements taken after the shed was destroyed by fire. All measurements are approximate.
Site UB : Summary

Name of Property: Uabba
Town/district: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On an internal station road, about 0.5 km from the Lachlan
Map: 15/16 (homestead), 18/15 (shearing shed), on Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. UB1
Owner: Mr. Geoffrey Gabriel (in 1990). At time of site visit in 1982 Uabba was owned by Mr. William Moppett.
Sites: Homestead Complex: Site UB Report 1
Shearing Shed: Site UB Report 2
Features: Piše block in homestead
Drop-log stable
McFadzean woolshed built in early 1880’s. This shed was destroyed by fire on 10 December 1988.

Landscape:
On south bank of Lachlan River on flat grassland with clumps of eucalypts. This is a property with a history of over a century of closely managed grazing which has subtly changed the range of grasses to those favoured by the introduced animals. Large areas of irrigation have expanded the range of vegetation. There are eucalypts along the water courses and scattered throughout the paddocks.

Photographs: Figs. UB2 - UB27
Diagrams: Figs. UB28 - UB31

Published Sources:
1. Freeman (1980)
3. In NSWGG of 11 July 1885, Uabba is listed as in
   Land District of Hillston, County of Dowling. Pastoral Holding No. 73.
   Lease : 43,061 acres. Rent £287.1.6 - per acre: 1.6 pence
   Resumed : 45,148 acres. Licence £188.2.4 - per acre: £2.13.4
   Holder - James Dickson

Unpublished Sources:
1. Budd Journal
2. Lake Cargelligo Historical Society, as set out in reports
3. WLC Reports (held in Sydney)

B216
Site UB: Report 1

Name: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On southern bank of Lachlan River, on an internal station road
Map: 15/16 on Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. UB1
Photographs: Figs. UB2 - UB11
Diagrams: Figs. UB28 - UB30
Date of Site Visit: 5 January 1982

Recording Circumstances:
The owner agreed to the visit and provided some background information, but had only owned the property for a few years and did not have much detailed local knowledge. Uabba is a large property but has passed through many hands including several financial institutions, so that it lacks the united character of those runs which were held by a family for long periods. The homestead was undergoing major modification and extension at the time of the visit which made access difficult. Several old outbuildings (store, office, married quarters) had recently been demolished to make way for the new work. The owner was able to indicate their former extent. Mr. Moppett accompanied the recording team at all times.

Structures:
Piše homestead block
Brick homestead block
Cottage
Drop-log stables
Blacksmith (no access)
Poison hut (no access)
Machinery shed (modern)

HOMESTEAD
A complex structure of several phases, many modifications and in the process of major extension and remodelling at the time of the site visit. Detailed measurement was not possible.

At present, there are two main blocks in the homestead. The older, piše, block is approximately 6 m by 8 m. It has mainly been used for living and dining areas (Figs. UB4 and UB5). However, in the 1950's the E S Co., which owned Uabba at the time, demolished the old separate kitchen at the back of the house and installed a modern kitchen in this area with consequent damage to the fabric, especially the walls.

Like the other two piše houses (Merri Merrigal and Hunthawang) the roof at Uabba is of galvanized iron (Figs. UB2 and UB3). It has a gutter fitted to it at wall level as well as on the verandah below.
Adjoining the pise block via an enclosed verandah is a larger, 12 m by 9 m, brick wing. It houses four bedrooms and a bathroom. Of uncertain date, this wing has a somewhat unusual style with doorways in the form of rounded arches. The roof of this block is double-hipped corrugated iron (Fig. UB3) and recalls the treatment at Booberoi (Site Report BB). In front is a large enclosed sleepout (Fig. UB2). The ceilings are approximately 3.5 m high. The windows are of twelve-pane type. Cracks suggest that some may have originally been French windows.

Some fittings for gas lights remain but no lamps are present and the source of the gas is not obvious. Shutters are in the Italian style with a lower half that can be opened. The front door is of panelled cedar with glass surrounds but the coloured glass has been lost.

Floors are low. Throughout, newish concrete obscures the old lime mortar. Patterned pressed metal was used for both walls and ceiling in the living room.

COTTAGE

A weatherboard cottage with twelve-pane windows is located near the stables. It has a brick chimney and a verandah at both front and back. It has been used for staff housing for most of this century (Fig. UB6).

STABLES

Local opinion dates the stables to the 1860's.

Flooring is of hardwood but the planks are not of even size. Walls are of drop-log pine, accurately adzed (Figs. UB8, UB10, UB11). Uprights have wooden braces at the tops and a series of rounded holes. The central rafter is of uncut pine resting on the outer joists and in turn supporting horizontal rafter beams. The roof is of round timber with a sawn ridge pole. The ceiling is of sawn timber (Fig. UB10).

A wooden feeding trough survives as does a well-made wooden manger (Fig. UB11) A small stall nearby was probably for a foal.

An opening with wooden doors gives access to a loft in a gable in the roof. Gable is framed with sawn timber and made of eight boards. Doors are wood. (Figs. UB8, UB9). The sawn timber stable ceiling made a convenient floor for this storage area.

DOCUMENT

Among papers held by the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society is a letter from Mrs. H.R. Leonard, dated 10 March 1977, to the Society on receipt of the centenary book The Dusts of Time. Mrs. Leonard was the daughter of Mr. George Percy Circuitt, who was part owner and manager Uabba from 1911-1940, and she spent many years on the property.

Following are some extracts from this letter which give some details of the life and times of this station:

P.3: I will never forget the fantastic wild flowers that area produced - the plains and Lachlan Range were a blaze of colour in the spring - The plains a (illegible) - just masses and masses of yellow everlasting daisies for miles, offset along lagoons and creeks by a beautiful purple pea, and white everlasting daisies in deep borders - my mother a
Report UB1

fabulous gardener grew every flower imaginable - she even had a large bed of sturts desert pea - a vivid splash of colour in an ever colourful garden.

P.4: My father was a Councillor representing the Lake Cargelligo District on the Lachlan Shire.

P.4: Numerous Clergy - Bishops - Bush Preachers Etc stayed with us - also Rabbit Inspectors, Engineers - and anyone in distress or needing shelter seemed to be taken in.

P.4-5: The highlight of our childhood was Jungla's visit - the marvelous old Indian Hawker with his horse drawn covered wagon - he had gifts for all the children and a fantastic assortment of goods for Adults - On account of his Religion it was necessary for him to kill his own meat - my father gladly presented him with a fowl—he was a fine man, fought with the Australians in the 1st War returning to the Lachlan.

P.5: What fun we had fishing on that beautiful river - the best cod ever I think. We were all keen riders and had some top stock horses - many brought down from the Snowy - round Cooma, Adaminiby - which made them very sure footed in our Uabba hills. I will always remember that lovely old home enhanced by its really beautiful garden - nice cottages for staff - good stables and horse yds - All the wonderful people on the property - who were so much a part of it.

P.6: In our time the Chinese gardeners played a very important role on all the stations, and were highly thought of - they grew every kind of vegetable in the neatest of gardens.

From a further letter, dated 4–7–77:

P.2: My father George Percy Circuitt was adamant that all the original soldiers settlement blocks were far too small, he tried to have this rectified but the Experts would not listen to him - it was not long before he was proved right. Many of the selectors went broke, it was a very sad business really, heart breaking for many of them!!

REPORT

In the file at the Western Lands Commission in Sydney are several reports dating to the 1890's from Mr. George Logue Dickson who owned “Uranaway” and worked it in conjunction with Uabba at that time.

The report contains many details relating to Uabba and to conditions generally in the area. Some extracts are included below.

“Uranaway is worked with Uabba all sheep are shorn at Uabba. During the whole year of 1890 I had about 4,000 sheep on the Leasehold area which is 68,000 acres. ... Since '85 I have spent £800 in ringbarking on the Leasehold area. ... I have had 17,000 acres ringbarked at 1/6 per acre £1780 in all. Before the Lease I spent about £700 or £800 in tanks: about 2500 acres of the Leasehold is taken up for stock Routes Reserve. I think 100,000 sheep per year pass near it and for that land I have been paying rental.

“Dogs are troublesome and are difficult to destroy on account of the nature of the country.
"It is very heavily infested with Rabbits. It was in consequence of the Rabbits that I had to move all stock off this year and in consequence of the Rabbits the country has deteriorated. I have spent £300 on Uranaway for destroying the Rabbits independently of that spent on Uabba.

"About 20,000 acres out of the 68,000 acres only is worth paying rent on.

"This area has carried 7 or 8 thousand sheep before the rabbits appeared.

"I intend to wire net only a part of the Run. It would require much less netting than for all the extreme boundaries. It would take 20 miles to wire net the 20,000 acres.

"The £300 spent in rabbit destruction extends over a period of 5 months the Rabbits were bad before this but we did not take any steps to get rid of them."

In a sworn statement of 21 August 1896, Dickson stated that he had run the property for about 20 years and made the following points;

"On average during the past five years I have carried 3500 sheep per annum. This is considering the way the country has been overrun with rabbits, it was fully stocked, the scrub deteriorates the value of the fleece and the sand discolors it which depreciates the value of the fleece. The best class of sheep run on this country will deteriorate.

"I would describe the wool grown on Uranaway as nasty, seedy, dirty and burry. Sheep get bur on the points going through the scrub.

"The total amount spent in Rabbit proof netting is £478 and I have spent in rabbit destruction since 1890 £1500 on Uranaway.

"Wild dogs are very bad in this country this is chiefly due to the unoccupied area adjoining which is a breeding ground for them.

"It costs from £12 to £15 per year actual expenditure for scalps.

"I estimate the loss of sheep through dogs per annum at 500.

"The extra expenses in management would be just double in this class of country than in ordinary country. I know this by my own experience.

"The travelling stock route through the run is much used some years it is almost valueless to me.

"I have had as many as 7,000 sheep on Uranaway for 3 months. I have 3,000 sheep on the Run now. I move the sheep from one station to the other. Uranaway sheep are shorn at Uabba and the average weight of the whole clipp is from 5 to 5 1/2 pounds.

"The woolshed on Uranaway claimed by the Crown is of no annual value to me. It is unused. The reason the woolshed is unused is because I shear at Uabba."

Also in the file is a list of returns for wool showing the falling prices obtained for the clip.
Report UB1

Prices obtained for Uabba and Uranaway clips.

1890 clip - 553 bales - excl. carriage £7399.15. 9
1891 clip - 519 bales - excl. carriage £5899
1892 clip - 366 bales - excl. carriage £3941.18.
1893 clip - 432 bales - excl. carriage £4101
1894 clip - 527 bales - excl. carriage £5302
1895 clip - 323 bales

These returns are contrasted with the proceeds obtained, Carriage paid.

1889 - 593 bales - netted average - £13.0.0 per bale
1890 - 533 bales - netted average - £11.17.2 per bale
1891 - 519 bales - netted average - £9.12.0 per bale
1892 - 336 bales - netted average - £10.1.11 per bale
1893 - 423 bales - netted average - £8.0.0 per bale
1894 - 527 bales - netted average - £9.0.10 per bale

B221
Site UB: Report 2

Name: Uabba Shearing Shed
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On a broad red soil plain about 5km from the homestead. The shed was destroyed by fire on 10 December, 1988.
Map: 18/15 on Lake Cargelligo 8131-11 & 111, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. UB1
Photographs: UB12 - UB27
Diagrams: UB31
Date of Site Visit: 5 January 1982

Recording Circumstances:
A short independant visit was permitted after the recording of the homestead complex. In 1990 I was informed by Mrs. J. Nixon of the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society (1) that this fine old shed was destroyed by fire on 10 December 1988.

Structures:
Shearing Shed
Shearer's huts
Cottage

SHEARING SHED
In his study of the woolsheds of the Riverina, Freeman gives a general description of the shed. He states that it is “almost identical in plan and detail”1 with the shed at Naradhan which was also built by McFadzean in the 1880’s.

This is a sophisticated and developed design which shows the benefit of the experience gained on such early sheds as Wooyeo, a much larger structure built for the early period of large scale sheep grazing in 1873. By the time Uabba, and also Naradhan, was built the scale of the industry has stabilized and the size of properties had been reduced. The resulting sheds were smaller and so have been more appropriate to the needs of the properties which has ensured their maintenance.

A large T-shaped building of wood, the Uabba shed included many interesting and unusual details, especially a system for raising and lowering a series of wooden sheep gates along the sweating pens (Figs. UB26 and UB27). A similar arrangement has been built at Naradhan, Site Report NR. The gates are balanced by a pair of wooden counter-weights on a pulley set at each end. The wide opening and ease of operation would allow ready movement of sheep into this area. Such practical details, smoothly executed in the local cypress pine and hardwoods, are included in all three of McFadzean’s shearing sheds.

The roof is a half-hipped design built of corrugated iron (Fig. UB2). The roofing timbers are of cut pine and sit on the central box frame (Fig. UB20). The wood work
Report UB2

is very detailed throughout. Externally, an instance is seen in the fine work on the south end wall (Fig. UB17) with holes cut in the posts to receive the cross beams. Inside, the work is no less fine as, for example, the wooden hinges on the sheep-pen gates (Fig. UB25), the finely adzed sheep-pens (Fig. UB21).

There is ample sheep shelter under the shed to keep a supply of sheep dry in wet weather and capacious sweating pens are installed in the shed itself.

The wool room (Fig. UB12) is at a lower level than the rest of the shed and has a wooden loading platform set in front of its door (Fig. UB14). This would have helped greatly when loading the wool bales onto the drays.

SHEARER’S HUTS

About 150 m from the shearing shed are a group of buildings to accommodate the shearers (Fig. UB19).

The date of construction is uncertain, but it appears to be later than the shed. The six-room dormitory block is of sawn timber with a galvanized iron roof, as are the ablution blocks nearby. There is no suggestion that McFadzean built these structures.

COTTAGE

The owner suggested that the small timber and galvanized iron cottage may have been provided to house the woolclasser, who would have expected separate quarters (2). However, the large double oven beside the chimney imply that it was used as a kitchen and dining room for the shearers.

Landscape:

The shed was on a flat area of sandy red soil. Most trees have been cleared except a scatter of shade trees. This property was extensively ringbarked in the 1890’s and subject to heavy rabbit infestation which wiped out the varied natural herbage and salt bush. Grasses now predominate and there are few edible shrubs.

Notes

References


Oral Informants

2. Mr. W. Moppett.
Fig. UB1: Location map of the homestead and woolshed at Uabba. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. UB2: Uabba homestead from the north-east. The enclosed verandah in front of the bedroom block.

Fig. UB3: Uabba homestead from the west. The three distinct sections of the roof are visible.
Fig. UB4: Uabba homestead from the north-west. The pisé block. Guttering is fitted to both levels of the roof.

Fig. UB5: Uabba homestead from the south-west. The stacks of bricks were in use for extensions being made to the house.
Fig. UB6: Uabba homestead complex. The cottage used for staff housing. It is of classical plan with weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron roof and twelve-pane windows. From the north.

Fig. UB7: Uabba homestead complex. The stable from the north. The buggy room is at the left end.
Fig. UB8: Uabba homestead complex. The stable, from the north-west showing drop-log walls and corrugated iron reinforcements.

Fig. UB9: Uabba homestead complex. The door to the loft in the stable with a weatherboard pediment.
Fig. UB10: Uabba homestead complex. Interior of the stable showing the roof system and drop-log walls.

Fig. UB11: Uabba homestead complex. The wooden loose-box against the drop-log western wall of the stable.
Fig. UB12: Uabba woolshed from the east. The wool-room is in the foreground with the loading platform in front.

Fig. UB13: Uabba woolshed from the south-east. The shelter for an engine has been added to the side wall.
Fig. UB14: Uabba woolshed from the north-east. The loading platform is in front of the woolroom. A separate storage shed stands beside the woolshed.

Fig. UB15: Uabba woolshed from the north. There is a double sheep ramp to increase the flow of animals.
Fig. UB16: Uabba woolshed from the south, showing the distinctive half-hipped roofline.

Fig. UB17: Uabba woolshed. Detail of the south wall. The area under the shed is fenced to provide shelter. The timber joinery makes a strong pattern of contrasts.
Fig. UB18: Uabba woolshed from the west. This view of the back of the shed gives an impression of its size.

Fig. UB19: Uabba woolshed area. The group of shearers huts and associated buildings near the woolshed.
Fig. UB20: Uabba woolshed. Looking along the sweating pens from the northern end.

Fig. UB21: Uabba woolshed. The sheep race along the back (west) wall, now fitted with modern metal gates.
Fig. UB22: Uabba woolshed. Stands along the shearing board.

Fig. UB23: Uabba woolshed. The catching pens from the board.
Fig. UB24: Uabba woolshed. Disused portion of the shearing board showing catching pens and front wall.

Fig. UB25: Uabba woolshed. The gate to a catching pen showing the wooden hinge still functional after a century of hard use.
Fig. UB26: Uabba woolshed. A set of counterweights to control the raising and lowering of the sheep-pen gates.

Fig. UB27: Uabba woolshed. A raised gate.
Fig. UB28: Uabba homestead. A schematic plan of the house and associated domestic structures.
KEY:
1. Homestead
2. Stable
3. Smithy
4. Staff cottage
5. Cattle yards
6. Poison hut
7. Machinery shed
8. Shed
9. Shed
10. Lachlan River

Fig. UB29: Plan of the layout of the homestead complex at Uabba.
Fig. UB30: Uabba stable. A sketch plan of the building.

KEY:
1. Buggy room
2. Stable
3. Loft
4. Loose box

Not to Scale
Fig. UB31: Schematic plan of Uabba woolshed.
Site WL : Summary

Name of Property: Willanthry Store
Town/district: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: 33 km from Hillston on the Lake Cargelligo to Hillston Road where it meets the Matakana to Hillston Road. Part of the homestead has been moved to the Yarramalong Valley to a 24 ha property, and was recently offered for sale.
Map: 91/09 on Hillston 8031 2 & 3, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. WL1
Owner: W. and A. Milthorpe
Sites: STORE (Summary only: no Report included)
A large structure of which Freeman remarks that "This modest store building, isolated from townships and traffic, is perhaps the best extant example of drop-log building technique in the Riverina."1
His publication includes a good plan, so the site is included here for purposes of comparison with that other huge drop-log structure, the homestead at Whoey. A comprehensive investigation of the site was outside the scope of the original survey as the site was never a pastoral one. Recently, the structure has been dismantled and part of it moved to another area for re-use as a farmhouse.
Features: An advertisement in The Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, August 3, 1991, p.45, reports the forthcoming auction of: "Willanthry Homestead, Cedar Glen, Brush Creek Road, Yarramalong Valley: This 1862 cypress pine house was moved from its original site in the western Riverina. ... around $400,000."

Landscape:
On the Lachlan at the only ford for many kilometers, in a band of surviving river gums and surrounded by flat red plains this is a small oasis in a vast isolated river plain which once was covered with salt bush but now supports a motly range of native and introduced grasses.
Photographs: Figs. WL2 - WL3
Diagrams: Fig. WL4. This is a photocopy of the plan in Freeman2 and is included for comparison with the homestead at Whoey, Site WH.
Published Sources:
Summary WL

2. Freeman, p. 139.

Unpublished Sources:

Oral reports from local residents including:
3. Milthorpe family, owners of Willanthry for several generations.
Fig. WL1: Location map showing Willanthry store at its original site near the Lake Cargelligo to Hillston road. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. WL2: Willanthy store. The front veranda of drop-log panels with twelve-pane windows, from the west. Photographs from damaged negatives are included as building has since been moved from the area.

Fig. WL3: Willanthy store from the north, giving an impression of the large size of this drop-log structure. Damaged photograph.
Fig. WL4: Willanthry store. Photocopy of the plan by Peter Freeman (Freeman, 1982, The Homestead, p. 139). This plan is included here for comparison with the drop-log homestead at Wooyeo, Site WY Report 1.
Site WY : Summary

Name of Property: Wooyeo (also known as Whoyeo and Whoey)
Town/district: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: See individual Reports as the old lease has been broken up and the homestead and woolshed now stand on different farms in the area between the town of Lake Cargelligo and the Lachlan River not far from the Lake Cargelligo to Euabalong Road
Map: 35/26 (homestead) and 38/23 (woolshed) on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. WY1
Owner: Homestead is on farm of Elwin family. Woolshed is on the farm of the Small family, who reside in Lake Cargelligo township
Sites: Homestead complex - Site WY Report 1
Shearing Shed - Site WY Report 2
Features: Huge drop-log homestead. Main block built in 1860 and some parts are thought to date from as early as 1843. The first woolshed built in the area by McFadzean, preserving many fine details in the woodwork including sliding gates and trap-doors for wool.

Landscape:
The homestead is on a flat plateau just before it drops away steeply to the river. Box trees remain along the river but most timber has been cleared to allow cropping. The woolshed stands alone on a large plain of cleared cropland with scattered gums and cyprus pine and an outlook to the rolling foothills of the Lachlan Range to the west.

The soil here is red and very suited to growing the cereal crops that now dominate the landscape. The process of subdivision of the pastoral leases has been centred on this area near the town with its access to transport and flat open plains. The resulting mosaic of intensive cropping and small-scale grazing has evolved considerably from the original landscape of cyypress pine and open grassland.

Photographs: Figs. WY2 - WY31
Diagrams: Figs. WY32 - WY33
Published Sources:
2. Freeman, P. 1980. The Woolshed
Continued overleaf
Summary WY

3. NSWGG, 5 August, 1885

Wooyeo : Pastoral Holding No. 654
Land Districts of Condobolin and Hillston. County of Dowling.
Area :
Lease 160,455 acres - Rent £1,169.19.8. Rate per acre : 0.75 pence
Resumed 150,452 acres - Licence £683.13.7. Rate per sec.:£2.16.8
Holder : Late Mr. Duncan McKeller

Unpublished Sources:
1. ANU/ABL. Goldsborough Mort & Co. papers. Deposit 2/562/2. Details are cited in the Reports.
2. Budd Jnl
3. Oral sources (see Notes for details)
Site WY: Report 1

Name: Wooyeo Homestead. Also known as Whoey, which is the name of the block on which it now stands

District: Lake Cargelligo

LGA: Lachlan

Location: About half a kilometre from the southern bank of the Lachlan River, about 5 km downstream from Murrin Bridge. Reached by a private farm road.

Map: 35/26 on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. WY1

Photographs: Figs. WY2 - WY19

Diagrams: Fig. WY32

Date of Site Visit: 2 January 1982

Recording Circumstances:

At the new house on the farm, Mr. Elwin first gave his account of the history of the site, where his family have lived for several generations. He then gave permission for independent recording of the structures in the old homestead complex.

At the homestead heavy encroaching vegetation made access very difficult, and impossible at some points, so that measurement of the western side was not feasible. Moreover, the photographer retired injured after several encounters with 3 m high cactii.

Structures:

Homestead - 2 blocks - drop-log
Dairy
Store-keepers cottage and office
Stable (now woolshed)
Poison hut

HOMESTEAD

The house is sited on the block now called “Whoey”, but is the homestead of the old Wooyeo lease which also held the woolshed, Wooyeo, recorded in Report 2, this site. There is considerable variation in the spelling of the name in contemporary reports and on maps. However, there is no doubt that both structures were on the Wooyeo run during the period of pastoralism when both were built and used to capacity. The connection is well known in the district and is confirmed by documents relating to the sale of the property in 1911 which include full inventories of structures and equipment as well as details of the various blocks which comprised the run at that date. These documents are held at ANU/ABL as part of the Golsborough Mort & Co. papers.1

Sited near the river, the house is about 2 km in a direct line from the huge McFadzean woolshed now known as Wooyeo, which is a typical distancing of such
functional units from the living area. There is an old dirt road linking the two complexes. The final separation of the two structures was a result of the new pattern of land use which developed with land selection and the successful cultivation of wheat in the area. This lease is one of the most markedly affected by these changes and the only one where the central operating units of homestead and woolshed have been disengaged.

The house has been deserted since the family moved to a new modern house on the farm. The owner, Mr. A. Elwin, believes that the older, northern block was built in 1843. It is known that T. Sullivan held the lease in 1845, so this is possible and would make it one of the earliest structures in the area.

The older block, north of the large drop-log one, is of timber with a galvanized iron roof (Fig. WY14) and in a state of considerable dereliction as may be seen from the rough supports of the verandah. The many encroaching bushes are well established (Plate WY15) and are damaging the fabric of the building. Fig. WY15 shows the last usage of the structure which included an office as well as the staff dining room, a bathroom, the kitchen, laundry, and space for a separator, a device introduced in Sydney in 1883. The two chimneys can be seen in both of these photographs. It seems quite likely that this was the original house built on the run.

Nearby is the old partially-sunken dairy (Plate WY13), similar to the one at Merri Merrigal, Site MM Report 1.

The old block was joined to the newer phase of the house by a “gangway”, that is, a covered walkway. The area is now completely overgrown by large bushes (Plate WY12) and few traces can be found. Hunthawang has a well developed system of such shelters as described in Site HW Report 1.

The main block of the homestead is thought by the present owner to have been built in 1860 (1). It is a large structure of finely adzed drop-log with a strong resemblance to the store at Willanthry, Site Summary WL, which Freeman describes as “perhaps the best extant example of drop-log building technique in the Riverina.” Freeman has not seen the house at Whoey (2), but it appears to have all the detail of Willanthry and on a larger scale. The house is set on a rise commanding extensive views over the open plain which was once part of the original 160,000 acre lease. The house is heavily overgrown by once-cultivated plants that have gone wild (Plates WY2–WY3).

The house was built of finely adzed drop-log. On the front of the house these were in panels of approximately 1.35 m, held by grooved battens. This corresponds to the old measurement of seven feet which was a common length for such panels as there were plentiful local supplies of trees of that height. A verandah, 2.4 m wide, lined with sawn timber (Figs. WY4, WY5) crosses the front which is enclosed at the west corner by a bathroom added at a later time. On the eastern side is a pleasant latticed verandah (Figs. WY6, WY7), enclose by gauze fly-wire.

The roof is in an unusual half-hipped shape with octagonal openings in the end gables (Figs. WY6, WY12). There is a similar ventilator in the roof of the storekeeper’s cottage (Fig. WY16) and the characteristic half-hipped shape is also used on the old stable, now used as a woolshed (Fig. WY17). This suggests that the same
The report by WY1 builder was responsible for the various structures whose spread reflects the prosperity of the wool industry in the 1850's and 1860's, and how people living in this remote and demanding environment expressed their developing relationship with the area.

Inside the house there are a range of finishes. In the main bedroom there are traces of the original hessian lining, with grooved battens rounded at the top. Drop-log is visible where the lining is gone (Fig. WY10). The floorboards throughout are about 0.15 cm (6 inches) wide and the ceilings are of varnished pine boards with battens (Fig. WY10).

The entrance hall has a lower register of vertical boards (Fig. WY9) and two corner shelves at the inside end, probably for vases of flowers. The original shingle roof can be seen through a hole in the ceiling of another bedroom (Fig. WY11). The bathrooms have concrete floors and tub with fibro walls and unlined galvanized iron ceilings.

**STORE-KEEPERS COTTAGE AND OFFICE**

To the north of the homestead, of sawn timber with a galvanized iron roof showing the signature round gable opening (Fig. WY16), is a small cottage of traditional plan with a verandah.

**STABLE**

To the north-west of the homestead, of sawn timber. It has the typical Whoey roof of half-hipped galvanized iron with a round opening in the gable (Fig. WY17). It is now used as a shearing shed for the mixed farm on which it now stands.

**POISON HUT**

To the north of the homestead, built of drop-log with a galvanized iron roof (Fig. WY18), the hut is now suffering from weathering and the vigorous encroachment of the now uncontrolled vegetation. It is similar to that on Boorathumble, Site BL Report 1.

**OTHER**

On the riverbank about half a kilometre to the north of the house is a high tank-stand with the remains of a windmill base beside it (Fig. WY19). This is all that remains of the once elaborate system to bring a reliable supply of river water to the house.

**Notes:**

**References**

1. ANU/ABL, Goldsborough Mort & Co. papers. Deposit 2/562/2. Papers relating to the sale of Wooyeo in 1911.

**Oral Informants**

1. Mr. A. Elwin
2. Peter Freeman, personal communication, 1982.
Site WY: Report 2

Name: WOOYEO SHEARING SHED
District: Lake Cargelligo
LGA: Lachlan
Location: About 7 km from the town, a short distance from the Lake Cargelligo to Euabalong road, on private land now owned by the Small family of Lake Cargelligo
Map: 435/894 on Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. WY1
Photographs: Figs. WY20 - WY31
Diagrams: Fig. WY33
Date of Site Visit: August, 1981

Recording Circumstances:
Permission was given to record alone as convenient

Structures:
SHEARING SHED

In his study of Riverina woolsheds Freeman\(^1\) includes a fairly full account of Wooyeo, so this report will focus on those aspects he did not emphasise. In particular, the details which allowed the smooth functioning of the structure as a wool factory will be described.

The shed is in poor condition and damage is spreading rapidly, "losing each year some fabric to the earth around it" as Freeman\(^2\) has remarked. It is built of round timbers with sawn pine cladding (Figs. WY20, WY21). The roof is of galvanized iron resting on cut rafters supported by round joists (Figs. WY28, WY29). Originally built with 52 stands and a large woolroom, only 4 stands are now used, the rest of the surviving structure being used to store grain, hay and farm machinery as part of its new role on a small mixed farm.

Like the other two McFadzean sheds in the area, Naradhan and Uabba (Sites NR and UB) this woolshed has the trademark fine detail of its builder. In particular, the shearers' stands are bordered with a narrow end timber (Fig. WY25). The sheep-pens were carefully morticed (Fig. WY27). The gates to the sheep-pens were also carefully morticed and slide on small wheels in grooves, making the movement of sheep easier and allowing larger numbers into the pens.

Finally, a trap-door is located on the board near the wool room (Fig. WY31). This would allow easy clearing of the less valuable scrap wool, such as locks, during the busy shearing phase when the fleeces shorn by 52 shearers all came to the same point for classing and distribution. The system at the later Naradhan shed is similar, but is a little more finely tuned to the rhythms of work with bins beneath the trapdoors in the floor to ease the later extraction of the accumulated wool.
As at Merri Merrigal, a local social life was centered on this shed. In the case of Wooyeo this was recorded in a song written by Vox Silvis of Euabalong in 1888, called Wooyeo Ball and celebrating

- the fun that they had at the Wooyeo Ball
- where the clans of the Lachlan
- come bent on diversion

... to shake off dull care at least once a year.³

This remembered golden age lasted only a short time before changing patterns of land-use brought selection and subdivision and so the end of the pastoral use of the land.

**Landscape:**

On a red soil plain cleared for wheat growing within a paddock on a small mixed farm, with a range of different trees scattered around the perimeter fences and road verges. About 2 km from the Lachlan with no immediate water supply. Hills of the Lachlan range begin to rise nearby and stony ground is common.

**Notes**

**Oral Information**

Information was given on 31 October 1990 by Mrs. M. Hatwell of Lake Cargelligo whose father, the late Mr. Townsend, was employed on Wooyeo.

Informant had some family papers and remembered family traditions. Mrs. Hatwell said that Mr. Townsend came to the area during the 1870's with sheep from Victoria and worked first on Erribendry where he met and, in 1880, married his wife. A huge Morton Bay fig still marks the place near Murrin Bridge where a house once stood (access is difficult because of later changes in river banks).

Later, Mr. Townsend transferred to Wooyeo and worked there for 28 years. During this period Orange was the nearest railway station for some time. Hay was the business centre for the area, with a Land’s Office and various agencies. It was 170 miles away. Whitton became important when the railway line was extended as it was only 100 miles from Lake Cargelligo. Condobolin, 51 miles away, became a useful centre when the railway reached it.

Some local prices recorded in a Journal of 1878 include:

- men’s wages: £2 to £3 per week
- crutching: 6 shillings for 100 sheep
- pair of shears: 4 shillings and 6 pence
- claw hammer: 3 shillings
- pair reins: 3 shillings and 6 pence

I was also shown an old notebook recording a journey in 1878 when Mr. Townsend took 3010 sheep from Muddah Rocks, in the area, to Melbourne. A Journal was kept with close detail of both the places passed and the condition and numbers of sheep. Travelling by way of Merri Merrigal, Hunthawang, Hay and Euchua the trip took 10 weeks. Some of the sheep were killed for provisions and it was recorded that he paid B253
"£1 and a sheep" to graze the flock on a property on the route. A total of 2968 sheep arrived in Melbourne.

Shearing Shed Re-cycled

It was also mentioned that another McFadzean shed, from the Deniliquin area, has been moved to the Kangaroo Valley area and has been reconstructed as a tourist attraction.

Unpublished Sources

Documents

The Goldsbrough Mort and Co. papers held at the Australian National University, Archives of Business and Labour, include a series of returns and memoranda relating to the sale of Wooyeo in 1911 as well as documents relating to the transfer of various blocks of the station for closer settlement. Some insight into local conditions as reflected in land and plant valuations can be gained from perusal of these papers. Some useful details from these papers are included below.

All documents are from ANU/ABL. Goldsbrough Mort and Co., 2/562/2.

1. ANU/ABL. GM&CO., 2/562/2. A List of Particulars of Contracts in Progress, April 1911, lists a contract for Ringbarking and Scrubbing 30,000 acres at one shilling per acre, to Mr. Ah Lett. Mr. Ah Chow is listed as Suckering 12,000 acres at four pence per acre. Mr. John McInnes is contracted to erect new netting fencing, net old fencing and repair old fencing.

At this time 18,552 sheep, 41 horses and 50 cattle were run on the station. The season was reported to be very dry and rainfall during the month was nil.

2. ANU/ABL. GM&Co., 2/562/2. Agreement on 24 May, 1911, between Executors of the Will of Duncan Graham McKellar and J.M. Niall (General Manager of Goldsbrough Mort &Co. Ltd.) to purchase Wooyeo, in the Central Division of New South Wales “on the Lachlan River near Cudgellico and Euabalong.” The station at this time was cited as consisting of approximately:-

Secured Land:

ACRES
23,582 Freehold
1,771 Conditional purchased
6,280 Conditional leased
Total : 31,634 acres of Secured Land

and land under several tenures:

ACRES
1031 Special Lease
72,923 Improvement Lease
44,413 Pref. Occ. Lease
9,000 Occ. Licence
11,387 Annual Lease

B254
The sale included “about seventeen thousand sheep, fifty one cattle and forty horses at or for the price or sum of Forty-three thousand pounds.” There is no indication as to whether this number included all the stock which were then run on the station. The ratio of sheep to land seems low, but this document relates to the period just after the great drought of the 1890’s and 1900’s so it is likely that numbers had not fully recovered.

3. ANU/ABL. GM&Co., 2/562/2. Inventory of Plant, June 20, 1911. This document is a useful indicator of the extent and type of plant needed on a large pastoral property in this area at the time. Some of the items listed include:
   - Schedule 3A. Pumps and Gear. Total £7.0.0
   - Schedule 3B. Tanks. Total £41.7.0
   - Schedule 3C. Rabbit and Vermin Destruction Plant. Total £31.9.0
   - Schedule 3D. Rolling Stock. Total £142.5.6
   The investments in equipment to conserve water and destroy rabbits were crucial elements in working this area.

   This document includes a list of the structures and improvements present on Wooyeo and gives some idea of the relative values of the different sectors. The inclusion of ringbarking and suckering as improvements was allowed at this time following many years of controversy between the Lands Department and land owners. The value of tanks and drains far exceeds that of buildings and fences, even on a station beside the Lachlan.
   The Improvements listed include:
   - Buildings £469.0.0
   - Fences £323.17.0
   - Yards £16.4.0
   - Telephone £33.10.9
   - Tanks £1178.17.3
   - Drains £246.4.0
   - Ringbarking £118.18.9
   - Suckering £317.14.11
   TOTAL : £2,704.7.2
5. ANU/ABL. GM&Co., 2/562/1–2. Return of Wages due on Wooyeo Station in April, 1911.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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<th>Amt. Owed</th>
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<td>Manager</td>
<td>6–12–1880</td>
<td>£250</td>
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<td>Bookkeeper</td>
<td>19–12–1910</td>
<td>£60</td>
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<td>5–12–1902</td>
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<td>30 shillings</td>
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<td>Summers, William</td>
<td>Boundary Rider</td>
<td>2–3–1903</td>
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<td>Conway, Hugh</td>
<td>Boundary Rider</td>
<td>16–11–1903</td>
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<td>Holmes, A.C.</td>
<td>Cook/Laundress</td>
<td>20–6–1909</td>
<td>20 shillings</td>
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<td>Morgan, Louisa</td>
<td>Housemaid</td>
<td>20–10–1909</td>
<td>15 shillings</td>
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<td>Orr, Percy</td>
<td>Boundary Rider</td>
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<td>McKellar, A.J.</td>
<td>Rabbitting</td>
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<td>Bricklayer</td>
<td>22–2–1911</td>
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<td>Ah Hip, George</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
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<td>Buchannan, James</td>
<td>Boundary Rider</td>
<td>20–3–1911</td>
<td>20 shillings</td>
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<td>Generally Useful</td>
<td>6–4–1911</td>
<td>10 shillings</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Table WY1.

Published Sources

References

2. Freeman, p. 207.

B256
Key

WY1: Wooyeo homestead complex
WY2: Wooyeo woolshed

Fig. WY1: Location map showing the homestead (also known as Whoey) and the Wooyeo woolshed, which were both built on Wooyeo station, which has since been sub-divided. For clarity the original name of "Wooyeo" will be used here. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. WY2: Wooyeo (Whoey) homestead from the south. The facade of the house with encroaching vegetation.

Fig. WY3: Wooyeo homestead. The south-east corner of the house which is built of local cypress pine drop-log panels.
Fig. WY4: Wooyeo homestead. The verandah at the front of the house showing the even drop-log panels and the lined ceiling. From the west.

Fig. WY5: Wooyeo Homestead verandah from the east. The fine detail of the french window is visible in the foreground.
Fig. WY6: Wooyeo homestead. The latticed verandah on the eastern side of the house. The style of the octagonal ventilator in the roof is repeated throughout the complex. From the east.
Fig. WY7: Wooyeo homestead. The latticed verandah on the eastern side of the house from the north end. A bathroom has been made by enclosing the verandah at the south end.
Fig. WY8: Wooyeo homestead. The drop-logs of the wall are visible where the lining has been removed above the fireplace.

Fig. WY9: Wooyeo homestead. The front hall with its varnished panelling and ceiling, from the north end.
Fig. WY10: Wooyeo homestead. A front bedroom with varnished ceiling and drop-log wall visible where the original hessian lining has been removed.

Fig. WY11: Wooyeo homestead. Side bedroom. The hole in the ceiling reveals the original roof of shingle and round timbers.
Fig. WY12: Wooyeo homestead. The main block of the house from the north-east with the roof of the sunken dairy in the foreground.

Fig. WY13: Wooyeo homestead from the north. The main drop-log block showing the double gable of the roof. Heavy vegetation covers the area where the gangway was once located.
Fig. WY14: Wooyeo homestead. The north side of the laundry in the old block which was one of the earliest houses in the district.

Fig. WY15: Wooyeo homestead. The north-east corner of the old block with the copper and its chimney in the corrugated iron addition.
Fig. WY16: Wooyeo homestead complex. The store-keeper’s cottage and office to the north of the homestead. From the west.

Fig. WY17: Wooyeo homestead complex. The old stable, now used as a woolshed, from the west.
Fig. WY18: Wooyeo homestead complex. The drop-log poison hut, from the north.

Fig. WY19: Wooyeo. Tank stand and remains of windmill base. On bank of the Lachlan about half a kilometre from the house, all that survive of the system to raise river water to the homestead.
Fig. WY20: Wooyeo woolshed from the north west. Much of the shed has disintegrated with most severe loss at this end.

Fig. WY21: Wooyeo woolshed from the north. Looking into the shed with the central frame exposed by the loss of cladding.
Fig. WY22. Wooyeo woolshed from the south-west. Sheep yards remain in working order at this end.

Fig. WY23. Wooyeo woolshed from the east. The shed is more intact at this end.
Fig. WY24: Wooyeo woolshed. Looking onto the board area from the damaged north end.

Fig. WY25: Wooyeo woolshed. Looking down the board from the south toward the open northern end.
Fig. WY26: Wooyeo woolshed. Detail: the gap at the top of the cladding. Probably for ventilation.

Fig. WY27: Wooyeo woolshed. Looking down the catching pens. All the old rails have been replaced with metal gates.
Fig. WY28: Wooyeo woolshed. Detail of the roof of the central board area showing the round timbers of the frame.

Fig. WY29: Wooyeo woolshed. The shearing board from the north with the frame clearly visible.
Fig. WY30: Wooyeo woolshed. A shearer’s stand.

Fig. WY31: Wooyeo woolshed. The trap door in the board to allow scrap wool to be rapidly swept into holding bins below. A similar detail was included in the Naradhan woolshed Fig. NR18.
Fig. WY32: Schematic plan of Wooyeo homestead.
KEY:
1. Woolroom
2. Wool bins
3. Shearing board
4. Pens
5. Trapdoor

Fig. WY33: Wooyco. Schematic plan of the woolshed.