

Laurence Park Homestead, Batesford

Butchers Road, Off Midland Highway,
Batesford

Lot No. **Plan No.**

Municipal Rate No.

Architectural Style

Designer(s)

Contractor(s)

Legislative Registers	Nominated	Registered	Other Registers	Registered
Victorian Heritage Register No.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="H887"/>	National Estate RNE - Database	<input type="text" value="3661"/>
Heritage Inventory No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	RNE Legal Status	<input type="text" value="Registered"/>
Precinct Heritage Overlay No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	National Trust (Vic.) File	<input type="text"/>
Precinct Heritage Overlay Nam	<input type="text"/>		Nat. Trust Classification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Heritage Overlay No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="HO5"/>		

Statement of Significance

National Estate Register:

Laurence Park was named after Thomas Learmonth's (senior) former holding near Falkirk, Scotland. This simple vernacular homestead is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the Geelong region with significant associations with the early pastoral enterprise of the celebrated Learmonth family. The Hill family have been in continuous occupation since c 1860. The original shingle roof is preserved under later corrugated iron cladding.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

Source: Victorian Heritage Register -

Work on the Laurence Park homestead commenced in 1845 for Dr John Lerrmonth (1812 - 1871), the son of the pastoralist Thomas Learmonth (1783 - 1869), following the destruction by fire of an earlier 1842 - 43 homestead. The site in crown portion 25, parish of gheringhap, was part of several large parcels of land owned by the port Philip association, purchased for the famous clyde company. This company was formed in Tasmania with Scottish backing and occupied the Moorabool Valley above Batesford early in 1836. John Ritchie built Laurence Park on land purchased from the Port Philip association by Thomas Learmonth and conveyed to his son in 1845. The homestead was named after Thomas Learmonth's former holding near Falkirk. Laurence Park was sold by John Ritchie in February 1867 to George hope for 6186 pounds. Five

Golden Plains Shire Heritage Database DRAFT

months later he sold it to George Hill for 5913 pounds. The Hill family arrived in Batesford in 1854. The Hills, who have owned the property from the late 1860s until the present time, are responsible for all the post - 1860s alterations and additions. Laurence Park is an h-shaped colonial vernacular building with gabled roofs. The earliest part is brick, that is, the north wing and middle section of the h. The south wing constructed in the 1860s is of random rubble. There are verandahs on the north and east sides. The house has been altered over the years and little remains internally of the original features. The only section in original condition is the upper level of the stone wing. A steep, narrow timber stair leads up to it. The overall condition of the building could be described as good, although the soft early bricks are deteriorating at floor level. Laurence Park homestead has both architectural and historical significance:

1. It is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the Geelong region, work on it having commenced in 1845 for Dr John Learmonth following the destruction by fire of an earlier 1842 - 43 Homestead. 2. This homestead illustrates the pragmatic development of rural vernacular dwellings using local materials. 3. It has significant association with the early history of the Geelong area as an important pastoral region when its site, along with other large tracts of land, was owned by the famous Clyde company and then the Port Phillip Association. 4. From the 1840s the property was significant associations with the early pastoral enterprise of the celebrated Learmonth family and particularly with Dr John Learmonth (1812 - 1871), the son of Thomas Learmonth (1783 - 1869). 5. Laurence Park has been in the ownership of another Scottish family, the Hills, from the late 1860s until the present time, the Hills being responsible for all the post - 1860s additions.

Description

National Estate Register:

Pioneer Scottish squatter Thomas Learmonth acquired the freehold of Laurence Park in 1839 during distribution of the assets of the Port Phillip Association. Eldest son Dr John Learmonth commenced construction of the present H-plan brick and stone homestead at Laurence Park in 1845. New owner, Hill, completed this unadorned vernacular homestead in 1860 when the south wing was constructed.

Condition and Integrity:

Laurence Park has not been inspected.

History

National Estate Register: Not Available.

Thematic Context

Recommendations