



*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Malcolm Bligh Turnbull, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, having considered, in relation to the place specified in the Schedule of this instrument -

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments determined to have been given to the Council under section 324JH of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999; and

being satisfied that the place described in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule, pursuant to section 324JJ of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, include it in the National Heritage List.

Dated 16th day of October 2007

*[signed]*

Malcolm Bligh Turnbull  
Minister for the Environment  
and Water Resources

**SCHEDULE**

## STATE / TERRITORY

Name:

Location / Boundary

Criteria / Values

**TASMANIA****Northern Midlands Municipality****Brickendon Estate:**

About 458ha, Woolmers Lane, Longford, comprising the whole of Lot 1 Title Reference 27652.

**Criterion****Values**

- (a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Brickendon Estate is a farming property dating from the 1820s, with intact convict built farm buildings, Georgian country house and formal garden. It is nationally outstanding for its association with the convict assignment system and for the continuity of farming practice at the estate. Assignment was the most common experience for convicts with 85% of those transported to Australia being assigned.

The assignment system was set up to provide convict labour to settlers in exchange for food and clothing. Masters were responsible for the physical and moral wellbeing of assigned convicts. Male convicts worked as blacksmiths, tanners, bricklayers and agricultural hands on Brickendon while female convicts worked in domestic service. Convict workplaces are extant on the Estate as are the living quarters of female convicts. Also extant is the chapel built for the sole use of convicts – religion being an important part of the reformation of convicts.

Convicts provided the labour necessary to establish and operate prosperous agricultural estates. Brickendon Estate represents an outstanding example of the successes of an industrious 1820s settler family and the productivity of convict labour which established the basis for six generations of the Archer family to develop the estate.

The farming property and historic buildings of Brickendon Estate illustrate a continuity of mixed farming practices in Tasmania from the 1820s. Mixed farming contributed significantly to the growth of the colonial economy in the years before transportation ceased (Butlin 1986). At Brickendon intensive mixed farming specialised in grains, wool and animal husbandry. The farmed landscape is confined within extensive boundary hedges and contains estate buildings, including the two barns, cottages, two granaries, woolshed and stables, cart shed, poultry house, cook house, blacksmith's shop, outhouse, wells and drainage systems and access roads. Together these embody a designed landscape resulting in a significant record of farming practices..

## Criterion

## Values

- (b) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Brickendon is uncommon in the diversity of original colonial features that survive within the boundary of a single property. The estate is uncommon in that it contains the original 420 hectare property which has been continuously farmed by the descendents of the William Archer family for six generations. It therefore retains evidence of its original use and demonstrates the importation of British farming practices into northern Tasmania by the Archer family and the way that the use of assigned convicts facilitated the establishment of these practices in the northern Tasmanian area. The original operation of the early Estate remains legible in the layout.

Brickendon is also uncommon as a designed cultural landscape where the range of buildings demonstrate early colonial agricultural and pastoral farming practices based on British practice and techniques imported by the Archer family and developed over six generations. This uncommon range of building types and construction methods are represented by the timber pillar granary, Dutch barns, the poultry house and the blacksmith's shop with its associated collection of tools.

- (c) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The Brickendon Estate with its farm buildings, Georgian house in its garden setting, hedges, and land use patterns, provides a rare source of information about the living and working conditions of colonial settlers and the convicts assigned to rural estates from the 1820s to the cessation of transportation to Tasmania in 1853. The research potential of the place is enhanced by documentary records associated with the operation of the estate and the convict assignment system, including family diaries and records and early maps which detail the layout and development of the estate. Archaeological remains at the site provide the potential to reveal information about the lives and working conditions of convicts at the estate.

Brickendon contains archaeological sites, layout and buildings functionally associated with convict use, which have the potential to add to our understanding of the assignment system and the living and working experiences of convict men and women on a large estate during the assignment period.

**Woolmers Estate:**

About 82ha, 2km south east of Longford, Woolmers Lane, comprising the whole of Lots 1 and 3 Title Reference 135619.

**Criterion****Values**

- (a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Woolmers Estate is a pre-eminent example of a property established on an 1817 land grant which exemplifies the use of convict labour in the assignment system to establish a large pastoral estate.

The assignment system was set up to provide convict labour to settlers in exchange for food and clothing, and the government saw the employment of convicts as a cost effective measure to develop colonial infrastructure and assist settlers in establishing rural and commercial enterprises, while at the same time reforming the convict through industry. The large country estate quickly became established as the archetypal symbol of the assignment system. Estate architecture was regarded as vital in achieving the aims of the system.

The development of Woolmers is nationally significant as the homestead group provides important evidence of the use of an assigned convict labour force in the evolution of a pastoral property based on wool production. The place contains convict workplaces such as the blacksmith shop, stables, gardens and paddocks, as well as the woolshed, which is one of the oldest in Australia. It contains the former chapel built for convicts to provide for their reformation. The layout and architecture of the estate makes a strong distinction between master and servant which the colonial authorities believed was an important aspect in the reformation of convicts.

Woolmers is outstanding for the longevity of ownership in one family and the retention of buildings, artefacts, and records which provide an important insight into the evolution of the estate as a pastoral property over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Woolmers is rare as a surviving 19th century agricultural homestead group developed during the convict era, along lines to facilitate the convict 'assignment' system. Many large farming estates were established during the assignment period in NSW and Tasmania. However, Woolmers is uncommon for the degree of intactness, and range of buildings combined with the continuity of family ownership.

Woolmers remains as an uncommon representative of an early 19th century colonial rural homestead group, comprising complexes with houses, formal gardens and outbuildings which demonstrate a high degree of integrity. The range of buildings still extant at Woolmers is outstanding. These extant outbuildings, workshops, cottages, plant and artefacts are a rare record of the scale and range of operations of a substantial colonial pastoral estate owned by wealthy colonial pastoralists.

Criterion	Values
(b) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.	<p>Unlike many other colonial houses, Woolmers is also uncommon for the range of related movable cultural objects. It is uncommon in its survival as a largely intact colonial homestead with an unbroken chain of family occupancy, allowing the survival of a range of significant buildings, interior features, and artefacts of every period of its history to the present.</p> <p>Woolmers is a pre-eminent and rare example of the large rural homestead groups which evolved during the assignment period and which retain a range of buildings which demonstrate the evolution of a highly successful agricultural and pastoral property based on a convict labour force during this period.</p>
(c) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>Woolmers contains an outstanding array of buildings, fittings, furnishings, associated collections of movable cultural heritage and extensive documentary and pictorial evidence, from the early 19th century 'assignment' period to the late 20th century.</p> <p>Records associated with Woolmers provide the opportunity to reconstruct life during successive periods at Woolmers. Many of the early 19th century farm workers at Woolmers were convicts and they can be identified from surviving musters, farm diaries, correspondence, and conduct records. This enables a reconstitution of a large and important part of the working population of the property. When combined with the high degree of integrity of the remaining built fabric and the large number of in situ artefacts, the integrity of the assemblages and their inter-relationships makes Woolmers a rich source for future study, and presents significant research opportunities.</p> <p>The place also has a high degree of archaeological potential, as no archaeological excavations have yet been undertaken. This has the potential to yield nationally significant information on aspects of the living and working conditions of convicts during the assignment period.</p>

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For a description of any references quoted above, and more information on each of the places please search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.