



Woolmers Estate in Tasmania is one of the most intact 19th century Australian homesteads developed in the convict era. Established by Thomas Archer around 1817 using assigned convict labour, the Estate stayed in the family until 1994. The buildings and artefacts reveal much about life on this significant property. Woolmers Estate received Australia's highest heritage honour when it was included in the National Heritage List on 23 November 2007.

A significant record of colonial pastoral life

- Woolmers Estate is a rare example of a rural property developed using assigned convict labour and remaining in one family for close to 180 years.
- Most convicts transported to Australia were assigned to provide labour to settlers in exchange for food and clothing. Two branches of the Archer family shared labour between their neighbouring properties, Woolmers and Brickendon.

- The house at Woolmers illustrates the architectural evolution of a gentleman's rural residence over time, including modifications made in the 1840s by William Archer, the first architect born in Tasmania.
- The layout and architecture of Woolmers Estate makes a strong distinction between master and servant, which authorities believed to be important in reforming convicts. The grand residence and formal gardens contrast with convict workplaces such as the woolshed, blacksmith's shop, stables, gardens, coach house and the former convict chapel.

A rare farming homestead

- Woolmers Estate was one of the largest privately owned properties in the Tasmanian colony. The outstanding range of intact buildings, fittings, furnishings and artefacts from every period of the Estate's history provides a unique record of the scale and range of operations of this large pastoral property during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Revealing records

- The Estate and associated records paint a vivid picture of life at Woolmers over the years. In particular, many of the early 19th century convict farm workers at Woolmers can be identified from surviving musters, farm diaries, correspondence and conduct records.

Today, Woolmers and Brickendon Estates are popular tourist destinations. A visit to both National Heritage Listed sites tells the complete Archer family story.