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# Ledcourt Homestead, 125 Ledcourt Road, LEDCOURT



LD 03 - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004



LD 03 1 - Undated photograph, Stawell Historical Society Collection - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004



LD 03 2 - Undated photograph, Stawell Historical Society Collection - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004



LD 03 3 - Undated photograph, Stawell Historical Society Collection - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004

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## Location

125 Ledcourt Road LEDCOURT, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0339

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO20

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 31, 2004

Captain Robert Briggs took up the Ledcourt run in 1840 and it was bought by an absentee owner Benjamin Boyd in 1842. Thomas Young, a merchant from Launceston, purchased Ledcourt from Boyd in 1849. John Carfrae, who married Young's daughter in 1848, settled on the run and it was divided into three holdings; Ledcourt of 74,500 acres which includes the present homestead site, Newington and Swinton. The original homestead was probably built at some time between 1846 and 1850 - it was the subject of a sketch by Lt. Governor Charles LaTrobe during his visit in March 1850. Carfrae sold the Ledcourt license in 1858 to the de Little brothers, Henry and Joseph and their brother in law, Alfred Douglass. John Holt, a noted pastoralist, took over the license in 1868 after arriving in 1863, and was responsible for the 1875 additions to the homestead. Marcus Clarke was employed on the property for a short period and lived in a two-roomed cottage near the homestead (no longer evident). In June 1866 he described the property; 'a most fearfully rocky mountainous spot surrounded by magnificent scenery. It is almost worthwhile to come to Australia to see the sun rise and set over these mountains'. The original Colonial Georgian style homestead is constructed in Grampians sandstone and consists of a single storey, eight-roomed cottage with an axial plan and broken hipped roof. The building is oriented to the south on a sloping site with commanding views of the Grampians range. The front and side verandahs are roofed with concave rolled corrugated iron supported on simple timber posts. The rear (north) awning is a skillion with shingles now covered in iron. Additions to the homestead occurred in August 1875 to the design of the architect, G.C Inskip. These include two single room gabled pavilions in bluestone, one an office and the other a bathroom, to either side of a rear courtyard. The courtyard is paved with large slate flags and enclosed by a low iron palisade fence. Another pavilion to the west of similar scale to the other pavilions but in a Picturesque Gothic style, contains surprisingly elaborate toilet facilities. The approach to the front verandah of the homestead was graced with a new formal staircase of Stawell stone with stucco balustrades. The interior of the cottage was refurbished in a more elaborate and up to date style. These additions may relate to the visit of the Governor, Sir George Bowen in May 1876.

How is it significant?

Ledcourt Homestead is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Ledcourt Homestead is historically significant as the oldest established pastoral residence in the Stawell region. Ledcourt Homestead remains largely unaltered in a near original context in a pastoral landscape at the foothills of the dramatic Grampians range. Nearby, archaeological evidence of the early phase of the homestead occupation includes remnants of the stables, blacksmith shop, quarrying and a dam. Ledcourt Homestead is historically significant as a place associated with significant people in the history of Victoria. Those who visited or stayed on the property included Governor Lt. Charles LaTrobe, Marcus Clarke, and Lt. Governor Sir George Bowen. Eugene Von Guerard painted Mt William from a vantage point in the near vicinity of the homestead. Ledcourt Homestead is architecturally significant as a rare pre-separation Colonial Georgian style homestead. The Homestead retains characteristic features of the style such as symmetrical plan and front facade, encircling verandah, broken roof pitch, wide front door with simple radiating fanlight, and french doors to the front rooms. The 1870s alterations by Inskip did little to obscure the original design and added some distinction of their own. Ledcourt Homestead is architecturally significant for the unusual elaborately appointed toilet pavilion. The substantial freestanding stone building in picturesque Gothic style features separate male and female facilities with timber adult and children's closets on either side.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	108176
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The original Colonial Georgian style homestead is set on a sloping site with commanding views of the Grampians ranges. It is constructed in Grampians sandstone and consists of a single storey, eight-roomed cottage with an axial plan and broken hipped roof. The front and side verandahs are roofed with concave rolled corrugated iron supported on simple timber posts. The rear (north) awning is a skillion with shingles now covered in iron. The additions by Inskip include two single room gabled pavilions in bluestone, one an office and the other a bathroom, to either side of a rear courtyard. The courtyard is paved with large slate flagstones and enclosed by a low iron palisade fence. The approach to the front verandah of the homestead was graced with a new formal staircase of Stawell stone with stucco balustrades.

Another pavilion to the west of the homestead is of similar scale to the other pavilions but in a Picturesque Gothic style, and contains surprisingly elaborate toilet facilities.

### COMPARATIVE

Comparable structures are the toilet facilities of Ledcourt Homestead and Glenara. Both are elaborate, freestanding stone buildings featuring separate compartments and timber closets (one closet at Glenara has had a modern fixture added). They are also of similar age, Ledcourt constructed around 1875 and Glenara in the 1880s.

Whilst the Ledcourt facility features a decorative bargeboard over a single gabled roof, Glenara features a hipped roof with central raised ventilator. The timber panelling behind the closet seats are very similar. Both buildings feature rough coursed rubble stonework with dressed ashlar quoins.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*