
LANGTON LODGE

Location

71 BODYCOATS ROAD WOLLERT, WHITTLESEA CITY

Municipality

WHITTLESEA CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0497

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

The site comprises the potential location of a former homestead, extant farm and dairy sheds, portable one room and two room residences, a modern residence, areas of brick and bluestone paving/cobbling around the farm sheds and potential location of the homestead, the cobbled foundations of a former structure within a small dry stone wall enclosure and a network of dry stone walls. Detailed description of elements of the site are attached separately.

This site was identified during the Historical Heritage Assessment for the residential subdivision of 71 - 75 and 85 Bodycoats Road, Wollert, Victoria, HV report number 4502.

he study area once formed part of the Medland Estate, purchased by John Hunter Patterson in 1840, when the Parish of Kalkallo was offered for sale by the Government (Figure 1, attached separately). Patterson was unable to finance the purchase, and sold to William Furlong the following year (Gould 1991). In 1843, Furlong subdivided and sold 1920 acres to Charles and Richard Wedge, retaining the remainder until 1853, when the Union Bank of Australia foreclosed. Later in 1853, the Medland Estate was offered for sale, and was subdivided into thirty lots, ranging from 70 to 330 acres (Gould 1991). This portion of the Estate contained many rocky rises unsuitable for close subdivision, and best used for grazing. Few houses were built in the region, but the area was fenced for grazing, utilising the plentiful freestone for drystone walls, which usually followed the landform or alignment of the subdivision or roads (Gould 1991).

Among the first settlers to Wollert in 1853 were the Bodycoat family, who still occupy the property today. In 1844, William and Mary Bodycoat and their son Thomas arrived in Australia from Leicestershire, England. After living at Collingwood for several years, William purchased 143 acres at Wollert in 1853, within the Medland Estate, and established a dairy farm which came to be known as Langton Lodge (Gould 1991). Thomas Bodycoat established a large acreage known as Springvale, opposite the current study area (Figure 1, attached separately). In 1905, this was described as 'planned and equipped in the most up-to-date fashion' and 'one of the showplaces of its kind in the State' (Gould 1991). William Bodycoat continued to farm at Langton Lodge until his death in 1890. Thomas Bodycoat died in 1905, at the age of 70 (Gould 1991).

Based on the description of its location and the map presented in Gould 1991 (Figure 1, attached separately), the farm complex identified in the study area is likely to be Langton Lodge. According to Gould (1991: 26), the original farm was demolished in 1964, however, several early buildings still stand opposite the entrance to the farm. It is likely the buildings Gould is referring to are those associated with Springvale, opposite the current study area.

A family history website references the marriage of Mary Elizabeth Bodycoat to William Hayes at Langton Lodge (Hayes Family in Australia 2015). Mary Bodycoat was born in Collingwood in 1852, and married Hayes at the home of her parents, in Wollert. At this time, Mary's father William Bodycoat, had a dairy farm in the Medland Estate named 'Langton Lodge'. Land Title documents for the study area, however, list the initial Bodycoat owners of the study area as Daniel and Walter, rather than William and Mary (Table 1, attached separately). This discrepancy has not yet been investigated.

Hermes Number 201339

Property Number

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/>