

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 08/07/20



## TITANGA HOMESTEAD



TITANGA HOMESTEAD SOHE 2008



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H0299 locality plan

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### Location

141 LISMORE-SKIPTON ROAD LISMORE, CORANGAMITE SHIRE

### Municipality

CORANGAMITE SHIRE

### Level of significance

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0299

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO129

## **VHR Registration**

October 9, 1974

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - June 11, 2008

### **What is significant?**

Titanga, near Lismore, was originally part of the 1838 Mt Elephant No 2 pastoral lease in the Western District of Victoria. This lease was originally acquired by John Brown, the first Scottish pioneer to settle in the Mt Elephant district after arriving there in 1840. A procession of Scottish squatters followed. In 1859 graziers Alexander Buchanan and James and John Wilson acquired the run and when the property was subdivided into two freeholds, Titanga and Gala, in 1871, Buchanan retained the former.

In 1872 Geelong architects, Davidson and Henderson, designed the Titanga homestead, cottage and woolshed for Buchanan. High wool prices led to the construction of many substantial homesteads in the Western District of Victoria, and these architects designed at least a dozen of these, often using locally quarried basalt in their construction. In 1886 the property was sold to John Lang Currie, who had acquired the nearby Larra Station, Derrinallum in 1844 and the adjoining property, Gala in 1889. By the mid-1890s Currie owned 80,000 acres of freehold land in this area. On his death in 1898, Titanga passed to his daughter and the property remains in family ownership.

Titanga is a single storey homestead built from basalt in a simple Italianate style. The quarry-faced stonework adopted uses alternating large blocks and half size blocks in each course, and similar stonework is used for the cottage and woolshed. The homestead has hipped slate roofs, and a verandah with cast iron posts and brackets. The latter appears to have been added in 1880, to designs by Temperley Edwards and Badger, of Melbourne. More fanciful external alterations in a Scottish baronial style were intended at this time, however these were never undertaken.

Due to the scarcity of timber in the area in the nineteenth century, Alexander Buchanan and J. L. Currie, pioneered planting belts of eucalypts to provide shelter for stock at Titanga and Larra respectively. Buchanan planted 119 acres at Titanga before his death in 1882 and, after his acquisition of the property, Currie planted a further 512 acres by 1889. Forty varieties were planted, and this led to the establishment of the suitability of sugar gums in the area. This was continued in the twentieth century by P. H. Lang, a descendant of Currie, who planted two hundred varieties in Titanga's house paddock, hence forming one of Australia's largest private collections of eucalypts.

The homestead garden retains many features including the formal drive and turning circle, an arboretum along the drive, a formal garden to the sides and rear of the house, an ornamental lake, shelter belts and specimen trees.

### **How is it significant?**

Titanga homestead, Lismore is of historical, architectural, aesthetic and scientific significance to the State of Victoria.

### **Why is it significant?**

Titanga homestead, Lismore is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early pastoral development of this region of Victoria by Scottish settlers. Its long association with the pioneer pastoralist John Currie and his family is of importance.

Titanga homestead, Lismore is of architectural significance as a notable example of the work of prolific Geelong architects, Davidson and Henderson. Together with the cottage and woolshed, the homestead displays excellent craftsmanship in the execution of basalt stonework.

Titanga homestead, Lismore is of aesthetic significance as a fine example of a nineteenth century homestead garden, which was extended and further developed in the twentieth century.

Titanga homestead, Lismore is of scientific significance for its collection of eucalypts, which is one of the largest private collections of this type in Australia.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2008]

### **Permit Exemptions**

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1872,
Architect/Designer	Davidson & Henderson,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	655
Property Number	

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## History

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### **The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2008. Sources were as follows:**

Australian Council of National Trusts. *Historic Homesteads of Australia*. Vol 2, pp 250-256. North Melbourne 1969  
P. McGregor and L. Oaten. *Mt Elephant. A History of the Derrinallum and Darlington District*. 1985  
J. R. Oman and P. S. Lang. *Brown's Water Holes. History of Lismore 1840-1980*. 1980 (1961)  
National Trust of Australia (Victoria). File Numbers B1249 and G13116

## Extent of Registration

*Shire of Hampden*. No.299. Titanga Homestead, Hamilton Highway, Lismore.  
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3649]

*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 data owner.*

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