

Brickendon Estate

THR Identification Number: 5180

236 Wellington Street, Longford

Status: Permanently Registered (amended 16-04-2008)

Municipality: Northern Midlands



Brickendon House 2008. Photo: Archer Family



Mr

William Archer outside Brickendon, n.d.
 Photo: Archer Family



William Archer's original cottage, c. 1824, with the Smokehouse on the left and the Chapel behind. © DEPHA



Brick nogging inside the 1824 cottage.
 © DEPHA

Location:

<i>PID</i>	7272957	<i>CPR No.</i>	8755
<i>Title</i>	27652/1	<i>AGD East</i>	E510821
<i>UPIN</i>	5600767	<i>AGD North</i>	N5391654

Setting

Brickendon is situated on the alluvial soils of Norfolk Plains, adjacent to the Macquarie River. The estate is bounded by the Macquarie River to the east and partially to the south and by hawthorn hedges. Similarly, the field divisions of the farm and the access roads are defined by approximately 30 kilometres of trimmed hawthorn hedges.

To the west are the distant views of the Great Western Tiers. The neighbouring property of Woolmers, to the east of Brickendon, adds to the historic character and significance of the area, as both properties were originally granted to brothers in the Archer family in the early nineteenth century.

The main house is surrounded by parkland garden containing many exotic trees sourced from around the world and planted during the 1830s. An extensive tree lined carriageway forms a formal avenue of pines and hawthorn.

Description:

The property covers an area of 453 hectares, containing the original 420 ha property which has been farmed by William Archer and his direct descendents since the 1820s.

Mixed farming has been continued to the present day and Brickendon is an intact example of a pioneering farming property, complete with its convict built farm complex. In 2008 Brickendon runs fine merino sheep and grows poppies for the pharmaceutical market, grass seeds, various grain crops, and vegetables including broccoli, peas and beans.

Brickendon House

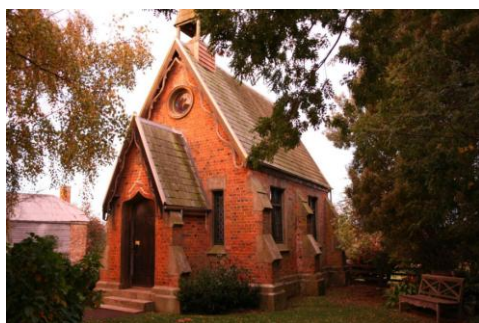
Brickendon House, constructed in 1829-30 is a two-storey brick Old Colonial Georgian residence with stepped two-storey wings on both sides which partially form a stone paved courtyard. The house contains a front staircase, two back stairs and a service wing including servants' quarters and a cellar. An original bell over the courtyard gate, with the date 1836, was



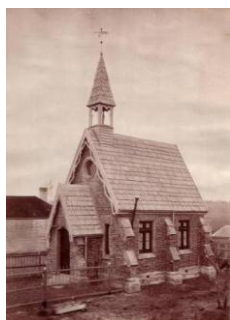
The Pillar Granary c. 1827 with its curious sandstone “saddle stones”, designed to keep rodents out of the grain. © DEPHA



Section of the 30kms of hawthorn hedges on the Brickendon Estate. © DEPHA



The Chapel (above) in 2008 (below) before its gardens, n.d.. Photos: Archer Family



Brick Granary c 1830 and Shearing Shed and Draught Horse Stables. © DEPHA

used to mark the hours of work and probably to sound the alarm in the case of attack. Windows are 12 or six-panes with shutters, and the doors six-panelled. The front entrance features an iron trellis portico, custom designed by Thomas Archer's architect son, William, and brought out from England in 1857. The building has a medium pitched hipped roof, clad in slate and patent iron tiles. A section of the western wing of the servants' quarters was rebuilt after a fire in 1845. The original conservatory has been removed.

Garden and grounds

The garden was established by William Archer as a setting for his impressive residence and it demonstrates the principal characteristics of an early nineteenth century Australian landscape garden style.

All the early vegetables, fruit, nuts and flowers were grown from seeds initially brought from England. Several trees still stand including the Hazelnut avenue, quinces, chestnuts, pears, plums, mulberries and a medlar. Overlays of plantings of later periods contribute to the variety of species. The garden, approximately seven hectares, now features many varieties of old roses and specialty perennials.

Other buildings

Brickendon Estate includes the following buildings and structures:

- Weatherboard cottage (c.1824) – the original two-roomed weatherboard and brick-nogged cottage with a central hallway and verandah. Original shingles exist under the corrugated iron roofing.
- Coachman's Cottage (c.1830s) – with a high-pitched gabled corrugated iron roof;
- Gardener's Cottage (c.1830s) – four-roomed brick cottage with rear service wing. Reconstruction work in 1991 included an extension to the rear;
- Stables – of the Old Colonial Georgian style in brick with a hipped roof and intersecting centre gable. Palladian influences are evident. The building features 12-pane windows to the ground floor, and louvered windows with fanlight above the upper floor door. The roof is clad with iron patent tiles. A small metal Archer insignia is attached to one of the stable doors;
- Timber framed water reservoir;
- Pillar granary (c.1827) – a weatherboard and brick nogged Dutch gabled two storey building with loft, on curved sandstone piers known as “saddle stones” and designed to keep out rodents.
- Two Dutch barns (c.1827) – with high pitched roofs and timber frames;
- Implement shed (c.1830 – a weatherboard and vertical split board building;

- Smoke house (1831) – a square brick building, with a bread oven alongside;
- Poultry Shed (c.1830s – with richly-moulded fascias, decorative brickwork for the pigeon loft, gable ends, and brick pilasters at all four corners. One of the oldest and most decorative poultry sheds in Australia. (Brickendon Information Brochure)
- Granary (c.1830) – a two-storey brick and stucco building;
- Woolshed and stables – weatherboard and corrugated iron building;
- Farm cottage (c.1830s – a split gable rendered brick cottage with galvanised iron roof (originally cottage and dairy);
- Outhouse c.1830s – Single-roomed brick cottage with a galvanised iron roof, once shingled. The original two-hole pine seat is still in place;
- Cookhouse (c.1830s) – part brick/weatherboard with a Dutch gable roof lined with metal patent iron tiles;
- Blacksmith's shop (c.1830s) – brick rectangular building with high pitched hipped roof clad in corrugated iron;
- Chapel (c. 1856) – brick single-roomed Victorian Picturesque Rustic Gothic building, with a high pitched shingled gabled roof, belltower and gabled foyer. The chapel is highly decorative with many neo-gothic features including brick buttresses and decorative fascias and stained glass windows;
- Bull pen – wooden slab and corrugated iron shed, and
- Carpentry shop (dairy) – a 1950s rectangular building with a corrugated cement sheet gable roof.

Other features include:

- Drainage system – consisting of an extensive system of clay pipe drains of differing sizes and open channels throughout the property, and a collection of open pools;
- Brick and concrete lined in-ground tanks;
- Archaeological remains and deposits associated with the buildings and structures listed above, including the site of former convict barracks, a sawyers pit and carpenter's shop, and
- Landscaping – several plantings of mature pine trees and remnant eucalypts shelter the farm building precinct and hawthorn hedgerows border both sides of the farm lanes and access roads. Assorted fruit trees grow in the vicinity of the cookhouse and in the back gardens of the cottages. Later plantings have been introduced into the cottage and chapel gardens.

Collections

Correspondence and furniture, dating from the nineteenth century, and remaining on the property, contribute to its physical nature.

Feature Type:

Residence, gardens, cottages, stables, woolshed, reservoir,

<i>Architectural Style:</i>	barns, chapel, water tanks, drainage system, archaeological deposits, written documents, furniture Various (including Old Colonial Georgian, Victorian Picturesque Rustic)
<i>Integrity:</i>	Working farm with high degree of authenticity
<i>Condition:</i>	Predominantly intact
<i>Use:</i>	
<i>Original or Significant Use(s):</i>	Agriculture, Habitation
<i>Current Use(s):</i>	Agriculture, Habitation, Tourism

History:

Brickendon Estate has been owned and farmed by the same family since 1824.

William Archer (1788-1879) arrived from Hertford, England in 1824, one of four brothers who established impressive farming properties in northern Tasmania. The other brothers were:

Thomas Archer (1790-1850) at Woolmers, on the opposite side of the Macquarie River.

Joseph Archer (1795-1853) at Panshanger, and

Edward Archer (1793-1862) at Leverington.

The Archer brothers were good farmers, earning praise from even the land commissioners and their properties became a memorial to their taste and sagacity (Stilwell in ABD: 1966, pp25-26).

William Archer took up land originally granted to William Whyte and known as Wattle Park. He renamed it 'Brickendon' after a village near his birthplace of Hertford in England. With ticket-of-leave tradesmen and assigned convict labour, he set about developing a mixed farm with merino sheep, stock breeding and crop production. During the first half of the 19th century he maintained a regular convict labour force, boosted by seasonal workers.

These farming practices have been continued by successive members of the Archer family, now into its seventh generation at Brickendon.

The first timber buildings at Brickendon were constructed in the mid-1820s. They included the original two-roomed homestead, which is thought to have functioned later as an overseer's quarters, three wooden barns for storing grain and hay, a wooden shearing shed and working horse's stable and a large brick granary, drains and water harvesting features, fences and hawthorn hedges. It is thought that the farm buildings were built from pit-sawn timber and locally fired bricks using convict labour. Specific buildings were constructed in order to accommodate, feed and provide religious instruction for the convicts, including the original barracks, cookhouse and chapel. The original barracks no longer stand.

The farm village was the first area of Brickendon to be developed. The buildings that make up the village were all purpose-built and have been used continuously for farming activities (Brickendon Information Brochure). Their design and style reflect Archer's English background. In particular,

sandstone staddle stones were used as footings to the granary, a practice to keep rodents out. Staddle stone granaries were used in England in a sweep of land between Wiltshire to Essex and in South East England, with occasional examples found as far west as Cornwall.

In 1829 William married Caroline Harrison and soon after had a grand Georgian house built, set in an elaborate garden with accompanying domestic servants' wing, stables, and brick houses for a coachman and gardener. The homestead complex was situated at some distance from the farm buildings, illustrating a clear separation from the working area, for reasons including the family's status and authority, as well as security. Specimen trees were sourced by William Archer from around the world. Later changes to the garden reflect plantings by subsequent generations of the Archer family.

The manner in which the Archer brothers developed their various properties demonstrates colonial settlers' practical transference of European farming technologies to the Australian environment with attempts to adapt the unfamiliar environment to reflect the aesthetic values of antipodean England. In particular, the introduction of small hedge-lined paddocks, European oaks and elms, cereal crops and grazing animals created a parklike landscape.

The 73,000 convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land in the first half of the nineteenth century provided cheap labour for the development of the colony. The convicts were funded by the British government, and also were the progenitors of later generations. Most of the original convicts were assigned labour, employed both by the colonial government and the free settlers, and provided the bulk of the labour force for developmental works in the new colony.

The probation system, an experiment in penal discipline, was introduced to Van Diemen's Land in 1839. Its key principles were that both punishment and reform could be achieved by separate confinement and a regime of hard labour, religious instruction and education. Once prisoners passed through the different levels of probation they became available for hire to the settlers. Sustained good conduct eventually led to a ticket-of-leave or a pardon. More than 80 probation stations operated throughout the settled districts until the probation system was abandoned with the abolition of transportation to the colony in 1853 (in Alexander 2005:290). Many of the convicts who passed through the probation system became labourers on farming estates.

Brickendon's layout, its design and development was only possible due to the significant use of convict labour. The convict experience at Brickendon is illustrated by the diary kept by William Archer 1829-1830, documenting the daily tasks assigned to the convict workforce and the use of specialised convict labour. The average age of convicts working at Brickendon was 23, with the youngest 13 and the oldest 59. Of the men identified in William Archer's diary, one third was skilled in agriculture, including six ploughmen. Other convicts employed at Brickendon included John Alcock, a painter, and James John, a shoemaker. The diary provides detailed information relating to master-servant relationships, including the use of incentives to ensure the success of harvesting crops and methods of convict protest. Other journal entries include details of accounts, and a social record of visitors to and from Brickendon and neighbouring farms.

An 1841 map of Brickendon names the paddocks, which are still in use by the current generation of Archer descendants, linking names to the uses of the paddocks. For instance, the 'Brickfields' paddock was most probably used for making the bricks for the estate buildings.

In 1895, the Estate was breeding stud stock, cattle, horses and sheep and producing fruit and vegetables. It was described as comprising two overseers cottages; dairy; slaughter house; smoke house; chapel; range of stables and loose boxes; shearing shed; wool loft; sheds for sheep; brick granary; cookhouse and double cottage; range of labourer's cottages; carpenter's and wheelwright's shops; blacksmith's shop; three large cement tanks; range of stables; store; chaff house; long ranges

of milking, root, cattle and implement sheds; two large barns; store for iron goods; oat crusher; engine shed; calf house; large granary shed; and a convenience shed.

The successful pattern of mixed farming established by William Archer has continued involving cropping on the alluvial plain and raising sheep on the higher clay soil ground, with minor adaptations to address market conditions. In 1917 the family changed from fine wool production with merinos to breeding Corriedales.

Changes over time have included the declaration of the private road which connected Brickendon and Woolmers as a public road in 1877 and the changed use of some buildings.

Today (2008) Brickendon runs approximately 1,000 medium/fine micron merino sheep and grows numerous crops including poppies for the pharmaceutical market, grass seeds, barley, wheat, oats, triticale and vegetables.

The property is worked by Richard Archer and one full time workman, while contractors are used for most operations including shearing, cultivation, sowing and harvesting.

As well as being a working farm, Brickendon is a popular tourism destination offering farm activities, heritage accommodation, garden tours and a venue for functions such as weddings.

References:

Alexander, A., 2007, 'Convict Legacy' in *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, Alexander, A.(ed) Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania, Hobart.

Breen, S., 2001, *Contested Places: Tasmania's Northern Districts from Ancient Times to 1900*, Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania, Hobart.

Brickendon Information Brochure

Chick, N., 1991, *The Archers of Van Diemen's Land: A History of Pioneer Pastoral Families*, Pedigree Press, Lenah Valley.

Lucas, C., Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd, 2008, 'Brickendon, Longford, Tasmania Conservation Management Plan' prepared for the Department of Environment and Water Resources, Canberra.

Sprod, M., 2005, 'The Probation System' in *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, Alexander, A.(ed) Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania, Hobart.

ASSESSED HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

Brickendon Estate demonstrates many aspects of early pastoralism and agriculture in Australia, and, in particular, the development of the wool industry in Tasmania. It also illustrates the economic significance of convict labour in the first half of the nineteenth century. Convict and 'ticket-of-leave' labour was critical to the development, early operation and prosperity of Brickendon Estate.

Taken up by William Archer in 1824, the property has remained in the family with a seventh generation

of William Archer's descendents now living there. It is a remarkably intact example of a farming property dating from the 1820s. Brickendon's collections and documents provide an important historical record, illustrating the management and lives of those associated with the Estate.

A number of aspects of Brickendon are considered significant for their ability to demonstrate aspects of their type of place, including many of the buildings, built in Old Colonial and Victorian styles. In particular, the Estate as a whole is representative of an Old Colonial Georgian farm complex, remaining highly intact.

Brickendon Estate has the potential to yield further information pertaining to the history of Tasmania for research into colonial architectural forms and farming practices. Together with nearby Woolmers Estate, Brickendon provides an exceptional record of nineteenth century farming technology and of the economic significance of convict labour.

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) "It is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Tasmania's history"

Brickendon Estate has operated continuously from its establishment in the 1820s to the present day, demonstrating aspects of the early settlement and development of Australia.

It illustrates the contribution of William Archer in the development of the Tasmanian wool industry. William Archer's commitment, prosperity and industry can be evidenced also in the quality of the principal house and the numerous surviving outbuildings which were needed to run the estate.

Brickendon Estate has remained in the ownership of the one family since 1824, with the seventh generation now living in the house (2008). As a result, it has retained many of its original interior fittings, furniture and other artefacts. The architecture of the buildings, including the main house and other residences, and the extant outbuildings, workshops, cottages, plant and artefacts are a unique record of the scale and range of operations of a substantial colonial estate and self-sufficient village owned by a colonial gentry family and worked by free settlers and assigned convicts. The extent and construction of these buildings are also important in demonstrating the contribution of convict labour on a large agricultural estate.

The variety and arrangement of buildings also provides an understanding of the various levels of society and social structure within the estate. The separation of the gentry and the workers is clearly evident, with the family houses being set apart from the outbuildings. The strict village arrangement is rare in Australia.

The collections and contents of Brickendon Estate, including farming machinery, constitute an outstanding collection, dating from the colonial period, and documenting the operation and running of a farm from this time.

Brickendon Estate demonstrates the penal and assignment system of convictism within Van Diemen's Land, having association with female servants and male farm labourers, including aspects of the punishment and reform of convicts.

The hawthorn hedges of Brickendon demonstrate early farming practices of delineating boundaries with plantings. In addition, early garden plantings also contribute to the historic character of the place.

The historic character of Brickendon Estate is also evident through the presence of structures

demonstrating architectural values with buildings constructed in the Old Colonial Georgian style. These buildings indicate the evolution and pattern of Tasmania's development in the early-mid nineteenth century.

b) *"It demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Tasmania's heritage"*

The level of integrity and intactness of Brickendon Estate – including the main homestead, outbuildings and associated areas, collections and documents – is rare and dates from the early nineteenth century.

It is highly unusual for records of the quality exhibited at Brickendon to exist in connection with a largely intact colonial estate.

The barns and granary are a rare collection of this type of architecture within the State, demonstrating English farming and architectural practices, with the incorporation of staddle stones.

c) *"It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history"*

Brickendon Estate, as an outstanding example of a homestead complex dating from the early nineteenth century, has the potential to yield information that will contribute to a greater understanding of Tasmania's history.

Potential for further investigation exists in occupation deposits and structural features associated with standing buildings, the farming landscape and the number of buildings which have fallen into ruin or been demolished. Topics could include issues relating to colonisation, exploration of resources, cultural change, consumer behaviour, technological adaptation and innovation and environmental impacts.

In addition, the collections and documents relating to Brickendon Estate provides the potential to uncover aspects of the farm's operations and nineteenth century colonial life.

d) *"It is important as a representative in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places"*

Brickendon Estate is an outstanding example of an assignment era property, of a large country estate, with main homestead and surrounding outbuildings of the Old Colonial Georgian period. These characteristics are found in a number of the buildings and structures at Brickendon, namely, Brickendon House, the original weatherboard cottage, stables and coachman's cottage. Further, the range of associated outbuildings is indicative of an early Old Colonial Georgian farm complex.

Brickendon House demonstrates the principle characteristics of a two-storey Old Colonial Georgian homestead. These characteristics are found externally, in the use of a symmetrical façade, medium-pitched hipped roof clad in corrugated iron, sash windows with small panes, a panelled door and simple chimneys.

Brickendon Chapel demonstrates the principle characteristics of a Victorian Rustic Gothic ecclesiastical building. These characteristics are found externally, in the use of a steep-pitch roof, prominent gable, and decorative bargeboard.

e) ***“It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement”***

f) ***“It has strong or special meaning for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations”***

Brickendon has special meaning to the community for its social and cultural associations. Brickendon is a well known and prominent historical place. The combination of historic built elements and collections, within the setting of established gardens, plantings and a working farm contribute to the community’s appreciation of the place.

g) ***“It has a special association with the life or work of a person, a group or an organisation that was important in Tasmania’s history”***

Brickendon Estate was established by notable early settler William Archer, who had the original house constructed. William Archer and his brothers – Thomas, Joseph and Edward – established much of the farming land in the Longford area and are notable in the history of Tasmania for their contribution to pastoral activity in the nineteenth century.

A seventh generation of William Archer’s descendents is now living at Brickendon. This long family connection to a property is unusual in Australia.

PLEASE NOTE *This datasheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. It is not intended to be a comprehensive historical record or inventory of the heritage values of the place.*

Assessed by: DR

