

Woolmers Estate

THR Identification Number: **5077**

658 Woolmers Lane, Longford

Status: **Permanently Registered (Amended 16-04-2008)**

Municipality: Northern Midlands



Woolmers Main House showing the original building (1820s) and the 1842 Italianate extension. Photo: Woolmers Foundation.



The opulent dining room with original furniture and settings. Photo: Woolmers Foundation



Woolshed. © DEPHA



Historic view of Woolmers over the Macquarie

Location:

PID	2037800	CPR No.	8762
Title	135619/1	AGD East	E512636
UPIN		AGD North	N5391690

Setting:

Woolmers Estate is situated approximately seven kilometres from the rural township of Longford, bounded to the west by the Macquarie River, to the south by Woolmers Lane, and to the east by the driveway to Woolmers Cottage. At the time of European settlement the area was called Norfolk Plains. Views across the alluvial plains take in Brickendon Estate, Elkstone, Harwick Hill with the Great Western Tiers in the distance.

Description:

The property covers an area just over 82 ha, including the homestead, formal garden, a second manor house known as Woolmers Cottage, and an extensive collection of outbuildings and farm infrastructure, avenues of trees and hedges, specimen trees, kitchen garden and National Rose Garden, the historical agricultural fields and archaeological remains. A large collection of items of moveable heritage, dating from the 1820s and subsequent times are contained in the buildings.

Main Homestead

The original Woolmers home was constructed by convicts c.1819-1821 and beneath weatherboard is a large brick-nog lined Old Colonial Georgian residence. It has a medium pitched hipped roof clad in corrugated iron, flagged verandahs with slender timber posts, and corbelled chimneys. Windows are double hung and of small panes. Beneath the house are four cellar rooms, three with brick-lined wells, and one with a large trapdoor in the ceiling providing access into the drawing room. The fittings and most of the furniture are original. Six attic bedrooms are accessed by narrow staircases at the northern and southern ends. These bedrooms contain the original timber ceilings and lining boards papered with c1850s wall papers and iron

River. Photo: The Woolmers Foundation, n.d.



Horse-driven apple-crusher in the Cider House.

© DEPHA



Blacksmith's Shop in 2008. © DEPHA



Servants
Bells at
Woolmers
Cottage
(before
restoration).
© DEPHA



Looking towards the Western Tiers with the Pump House in the foreground, behind it the Macquarie River and the hedges and fields of Brickendon Estate, 2008. © DEPHA

bars are present on some of the attic windows.

The interior of the building retains a high level of integrity, including original lath and plaster ceilings and lining boards, and original timber floors.

An extension, designed by William Archer and built 1842-1843, is Italianate in style with drawing and dining rooms either side of a large front hall and a small tower with a bedroom above. This section has a second storey tower, blind window and portico. Windows are double hung sashes. Prominent quoins feature to the side of this section. The front hall features original oak furniture bearing the Archer crest. The drawing room has a Grecian chimney piece with carytids and the room survives very much as originally furnished. The dining room features a black marble Italianate chimney piece with arched recesses on either side housing fitted bookcases. Two matching mahogany sideboards are fitted in blind arches on the wall facing the windows. Much of the dining room furniture and china bear the Archer crest. It is believed that the furniture in these original rooms was chosen by William Archer. The plaster work in the extension has fashionable papier mâché enrichments imported from CF Bielefeld in London.

The kitchen wing building of the main house was built as a small timber building, and was extended in the 1840s to house servants separately rather than in the main house. In the 1940s the kitchen was altered as a garage and workshop. In the 1990s this was reverted to accommodate a commercial kitchen and café.

Woolmers Cottage

Woolmers Cottage, built by convict labour in 1839, is a large brick Regency villa building with cedar joinery, and marble fire pieces. The façade features a verandah with timber posts, and a curved iron roof. There are four underground cellars, with three containing brick lined wells. Attic bedrooms are located in the main section of this building, while smaller attic rooms for the domestic servants are located in the kitchen wing, and accessed via a steep staircase.

There is evidence of an early garden around the cottage, including the oval carriage way and brick borders of the garden beds. Mature pines form a windbreak from the north.

Other buildings

Woolmers Estate also includes the following buildings and structures:

- Pump House (1840s) - an early intact horse-driven water pump remains in an unusual octagonal building

near the Macquarie River.

- Woolshed (c 1819) - believed to be Australia's oldest woolshed still in use. It is a vernacular two-storey building, constructed from split weatherboards of local hardwood on a rubble foundation. The woolshed is one of the oldest buildings on the Estate. It was built by convicts who also worked in the shed. It contains an early timber-framed manual wool press which may have been constructed on the estate as the iron work is hand-forged. The main beam is inscribed with the words 'England Expects Every Man Will Do His Duty Admiral Nelson Duke of Bronte Trafalgar 1805'
- Cider House (1840s) – weatherboard building abutting the woolshed housing a timber and stone apple crusher.
- Store (1820s) - located in close proximity to the main homestead. This two-storey pebble dash masonry building has a gabled roof form and a decorative Italianate water tower. The original lead-lined water tank and reticulation system is a rare surviving example of an early system of water supply and storage.
- Coach House (1847) - located adjacent to the walled garden. This is a symmetrical building with loft, constructed of rough cast walls in the Georgian vernacular tradition. Opposite the stables is the coachman's cottage intended by Thomas Archer to provide accommodation for free settlers.
- Chapel (c.1840s) - the former chapel was designed to ensure the religious wellbeing of the workers, which was a common practice on an estate of this size. It is a gabled structure with a porch over the southern entrance.
- Gardener's Cottage (late 1840s) - a Picturesque Gothic cottage.
- Gardener's Cottage Shed (c1900) - a small weatherboard shed.
- Farm Stables (1840s) - open farm stables in a long gabled building of rendered masonry with central pilasters. The original horse staff partitions remain.
- Workers' Cottages (1840s) - five semi-detached workers cottages have one ground floor room with a fireplace and one room upstairs.
- Jacob Mountgarrett's Cottage (c.1820s) - a simple weatherboard cottage located adjacent to the chapel. The cottage was constructed for Colonial Surgeon Jacob Mountgarret sometime before 1826, and relocated to Woolmers in 1830. The building is vernacular in style, with a chimney to one end. An open weatherboard skillion extension has been added.
- Blacksmith's Shop (c1822) - a rendered masonry single room with a slate roof (for fire protection), central chimney breast, hearth and timber work bench. Some early blacksmithing equipment remains.
- Bakehouse Cottages (1840s) – two cottages with a central bakehouse constructed of brick and pebble-dash.

The central building was the primary bakehouse and at the rear of the smaller building is the large oven used for baking breads.

- ▶ Timber Windmill (c1890-1921) - thought to be the last remaining one of its type in Australia. This was constructed in the American style with sails made from narrow boards radially arranged. The windmill has recently been restored
- ▶ Metal Windmill (c1930) - the direct acting pumping machinery survives but has lost some of its sails.
- ▶ Modern Pump House - Water is now pumped by an electric pump in the shed.

Gardens/ Plantings

Woolmers garden was modelled in the Gardenesque style in the 1840s, and is enclosed by a wall and a pair of elaborate dowelled gates. Original features which survive include a garden pavilion, a garden smoking room, and two garden toilets.

Archaeological Remains

Archaeological remains which may be evident sub-surface include occupation deposits and structural features associated with the standing buildings, and remains of the glass house (in the National Rose Garden), the site of the punt man’s cottage, the early Woolmers Cottage garden, male convict quarters, the carpenter’s shop, a Dutch barn and granary, and the third bakehouse cottage.

Collections

A large number of original fittings, furniture, paintings, dinner services, glassware, cutlery, toys, motor vehicles, farm equipment and related moveable cultural objects remain at the site. There is also considerable documentary material covering the property, family and estate workers, much of which is held by the Archives Office of Tasmania.

<i>Feature Type:</i>	Residence, cottages, gardens, roads and paths, chapel, woolshed, stables, store, water pump, windmill, archaeological deposits, collections.
<i>Architectural Style:</i>	Various (including Old Colonial Georgian/Victorian Italianate)
<i>Integrity:</i>	Early 19 th century pioneering farming estate
<i>Condition:</i>	Predominantly intact
Use:	
<i>Original or Significant Use(s):</i>	Habitation, Agriculture
<i>Current Use(s):</i>	Agriculture, Accommodation,

Tourism

History:

Woolmers was established by Thomas Archer (1790-1850), son of William and Martha Archer of Hertford England, who came to Van Diemen's Land as a commissariat officer at Port Dalrymple. While working at Port Dalrymple in 1817 he was granted 800 acres on the banks of the Macquarie River. This was the first of the land grants that was later to form Woolmers. The property passed through six generations before Thomas Archer V1 bequeathed the Estate and its contents to the Archer Historical Foundation in May 1994.

Thomas Archer's successes inspired his brother Joseph (1795-1853) to emigrate and they were subsequently joined by two other brothers, William (1788-1879) and Edward (1793-1862), and their father, William Snr (1754-1833). Joseph arrived in the colony in 1821 and sought land at Panshanger, William arrived in February 1823 and sought land at Brickendon, and Edward purchased land and established Leverington in the 1830s.

Associated with the core estates were also a number of outstations:
Woolmers – Fairfield and Cheshunt
Brickendon – Munden, Palmerston and Saundridge
Panshanger – Burlington
Leverington – Woodside and Northbury.

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).

Woolmers Estate is located on four of the ten grants originally made to Thomas Archer. In 1821 Archer resigned from the colonial administration to concentrate on his farming interests. Between 1825 and 1845 he used his property primarily for sheep grazing, and this became the foundation for his wealth. In 1825 he had more than 6000 sheep, including Pure Merinos which had been expensively imported. Archer also had many English cattle and a valuable stud of horses and brood mares. The alluvial soils of the Macquarie and South Esk Rivers flood plains were cultivated for wheat, barley, oats, hay, turnips and rape seed. Up until at least 1865 Woolmers continued to grow wheat and oats.

A survey and valuation of the land in 1826 noted that, by then, the estate included a large weatherboard house and a brick store. At this time, Archer also had carpenters, sawyers, bricklayers, blacksmiths, convict labourers, a hundred working oxen and about 10 000 sheep. Also at this time, Woolmers was considered the largest establishment by any individual in the Australian colonies. The estate was typical of others in the area in the manner it had developed a viable financial income from pastoralism and agriculture, which ensured the economic fortunes of the European

settlers up until c.1850. Government records of 1820 show that Thomas Archer had five assigned servants and 10 merino rams. In 1824 he employed 40 convicts and had 6,000 sheep. (Lucas: 2008) There are few historical records of the convicts at Woolmers. Generally, it can be said that the work was seasonal reflecting events such as the planting of crops and shearing of sheep. Orcharding also would have required a fair degree of labour.

The 73,000 convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land in the first half of the 19th 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 (Alexander 2007:85).

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.

Following the assignment system came the probation system - an experiment in penal discipline 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. 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 (Sprod in Alexander 2005:290). Many of the convicts who passed through the probation system became labourers on farming estates.

At Woolmers, domestic servants lived within the Main House Precinct. The accommodation and working conditions of the free emigrant were generally superior to that of convicts. In 1849 Thomas Archer, a strong advocate of the abolition of transportation, constructed the small duplex workers cottages to 'render (the emigrant) more comfortable than they could have been in England'.

Between 1826 and 1845 Thomas Archer was a member of Van Diemen's Land's first Legislative Council. His honesty, integrity and fair-mindedness impressed everyone. Lady Jane Franklin, wife of Lt-Gov John Franklin, partly in allusion to his physical size, once called him 'the bulk of the Legislative Council' (Stilwell in Australian Dictionary of Biography: 1966, pp25-26).

During the 1840s Thomas Archer's third son, William, home after completing his architectural studies in England, exerted his influence at Woolmers. The main house was aggrandized to a standard more befitting Thomas Archer's social standing. The three large rooms were built at the back of the house and the

residence re-oriented to face a private garden.

Architecturally, the extension to the main house was very advanced and avant-garde. The three large rooms were the drawing room and dining room, perpendicular to each other on opposite sides of a new entry hall. Two of these rooms continued the Italianate theme of the exterior, while the drawing room was more Grecian. Above the entry hall a new bedroom overlooking the new garden was constructed.

It is probably at this time, or perhaps a little earlier, that a number of alterations were also made to the original part of the house, including an easterly extension to the north side of the bungalow. The Coach House was extended and provided a picturesque element at the end of the garden.

At the end of this decade Thomas Archer, a large man, was in poor health. Aware that it would be impossible to remove his coffin from the house through the narrow hall, he had the windows enlarged in the principal bedroom prior to his death.

When Thomas Archer died, in 1850, the Woolmers estate passed to his grandson, Thomas Chalmers Archer, then aged ten, to be managed by trustees until he became of age. The young boy's father Thomas William Archer had passed away six years earlier.

The estate at this time totalled some 12,271 acres and, following her husband's death, Susannah Archer was permitted to 'hold and enjoy' the house along with the garden, coach house and coachman's house for the rest of her life. However, from 1850, the Archers began to be separated from Woolmers with Susannah spending much of her time at Mona Vale, the home of her daughter, Martha, and son-in-law, Robert Kermodie. Chick (1991: 294) suggests that it is with the absence of Susannah from Woolmers that a pattern of Archer family absence from Woolmers was established, resulting in two generations of Archers leasing the property to a succession of managers and tenants who operated the pastoral activity of the estate.

In February 1855, the estate, then covering 11 000 acres including Woolmers Main House, was advertised for lease. The property was advertised as having 'innumerable offices for domestic and farm servants, a large wool house, Dutch barn, capable of containing 2000 bushels of grain in the straw, besides granaries, coach houses, stabling for 24 horses, cart sheds, stock yards, blacksmiths' and carpenters' shops'. The estate also had 10 acres given to garden and orchard. No arrangements were made to lease the farm and in March 1856 a manager took over the running of the property.

Thomas Chalmers Archer, came of age in 1861, but showed little interest in farming and the pastoral side of the property continued to be either managed by others or leased. During the 1870s, T.C. Archer was recorded as the proprietor of Woolmers although he

chose to live at Longford Hall. Until 1875 Robert Kermode, Thomas Chalmers' uncle, occupied the house. It is possible that Kermode was in the house as early as 1863, when he paid for the installation of the Colebrookdale fountain.

In 1875 Thomas Chalmers Archer had moved into the main house at Woolmers. Both Woolmers main house and Woolmers Cottage were again occupied by members of the Archer family. At this time Woolmers was still described in assessment rolls as a sheep run, the property rented by Thomas' nephews, Edward Archer of Leverington and Basil Archer of Northbury. Thomas Chalmers died in 1890, leaving Woolmers to Thomas Cathcart Archer. At this stage the house was unoccupied.

Until 1912, pastoral land at Woolmers was occupied by tenants. In that year the government acquired 6,147 acres of the southern part of Estate for the Closer Settlement Scheme.

Of the remaining homestead area of 34 acres, Thomas Cathcart's son, Thomas Edward Cathcart Archer, was given some land to develop in 1921, but he did not become involved in managing the pastoral activities at this stage.

Woolmers passed to TEC Archer following his father's death in 1934. He subsequently bought back the lot adjoining the homestead comprising 698 acres and 8 perches. This land included the majority of the outbuildings east of the present drive. By this time, the largest of the three orchards had been grubbed out. Sheep were bought and within a few years were providing more income than the fruit. In 1947, a further 5,856 acres were resumed for the Soldier Settlement Scheme. There has been little change in the agricultural use of the property since this time.

Thomas Edward Cathcart Archer married Marjorie Patten in 1915 and records indicate that Marjorie bought many items of furniture for the house between 1927 and 1932. Much of the existing décor, including wallpaper, decorations and dominant colour schemes, dates from Marjorie's days. Thomas and Marjorie remained in the house until their deaths, with Thomas dying in 1974.

Thomas and Marjorie's only son, Thomas William Archer, inherited the property upon his father's death. In the 1970s he redecorated the tower bedroom and back hall. He adapted the bakehouse cottages in the 1980s to provide accommodation for paying guests. This led to the insertion of the kitchen and bathroom fittings in the larger building and minor modification of the original fabric. Windows in the small building appear to be enlarged and fitted with frames and sashes salvaged from other buildings on the site.

This process of evolution and development of Woolmers Estate continues to the present when it is managed as a tourism site. The National Rose Garden, established in 2001, is a contemporary

example of the continuing evolution. Established as not-for-profit by volunteers, the two-hectare National Rose Garden displays all recognised rose families within a formal and symmetrical garden plan sympathetic to the nineteenth century context in which it sits.

Thomas William Archer died without heir in 1994 and, after passing through six generations of the Archer family, Woolmers was bequeathed to the Archer Historical Foundation. The Estate was opened to the public in 1995 and achieved public museum status in 1997. In October 2001, the foundation restructured the organisation and changed its name to become the Woolmers Foundation Incorporated. The mission of the Woolmers Foundation Incorporated is 'to research, collect and preserve the heritage, culture and history of this unique place and the Thomas Archer family legacy and to conserve, interpret and promote Woolmers Estate for the benefit of future and current generations' (Woolmers Brochure: 2006).

References:

- Australian Dictionary of Biography* on line edition.
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.
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, *Woolmers Estate, Longford, Tasmania, Conservation Management Plan*.
Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners, 1996, 'Woolmers Estate Conservation Plan', prepared for the Archer Historical Foundation.
Hartwell, R.M., 1954, *Economic Development of Van Diemen's Land 1820-1850*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Victoria.
Morgan, S., 1992, *Land Settlement in Early Tasmania: Creating an Antipodean England*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
Stilwell, G.T., 1966, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol 1, MUP.
Sprod, M. 2005. 'The Probation System' in *The Companion to Tasmanian History* ed. Alison Alexander, Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart 2005.
Woolmers Estate *Self-Guided Tour* brochure, 2006.

ASSESSED HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

Woolmers Estate, a colonial farm established by Thomas Archer in the early nineteenth century, demonstrates many aspects of early pastoralism and agriculture in colonial Australia. It also illustrates the economic significance of convict labour in the first half of the 19th century. Convict and 'ticket of leave' labour was critical to development, early operation and prosperity of Woolmers Estate.

The 1820s Woolmers' Woolshed is believed to be Australia's oldest woolshed still in use. The history of the woolshed illustrates the important economic contribution that Woolmers - and the other Archer family properties in northern Tasmania - made to the development of the State's wool industry.

The buildings and collections of Woolmers, including farm machinery, internal furniture and fittings, documents, and utilitarian and decorative objects provide an important historical record, documenting the management of the farm and the lives of the Archer family and others associated with the estate over two centuries. They comprise a rare record of a substantial colonial pastoral estate.

As well as members of the Archer family, Woolmers has associations with a number of notable people, including some distinguished identities who visited the Estate.

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"*

Woolmers Estate is one of the earliest, largest and most important rural properties in Tasmania. Established by Thomas Archer, Woolmers remained in successive generations of one family from 1817 until the death of the last heir Thomas William Archer, in 1994.

As a result, the home has retained many of its original interior fittings, furniture and other artefacts. The continuous association with the Archer family persists to the present, through the involvement of the extended Archer family with the Woolmers Foundation and as staff at the place.

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, assigned and 'ticket-of-leave' convicts and free settlers.

The house is unusual in that it provides outstanding evidence of the architectural evolution of a gentleman's residence over time. It was grand in scale at the time of its construction in the 1820s, and is one of the oldest timber buildings surviving in Tasmania. Its redevelopment in the mid-1840s placed it once again in the first rank of colonial estates, with the Italianate extension being one of the earliest constructions in Tasmania, and indeed Australia, of its style. The Wool Shed is also thought to be the oldest surviving one in the country.

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 historic character of Woolmers Estate is also evident through the presence of places demonstrating architectural values with buildings constructed in the Old Colonial Georgian style and examples of architectural styles from the Victorian period including the early Victorian Italianate extension and Regency style of Woolmers Cottage. These places are significant for both their architectural values and demonstrating the historical period of development of Woolmers.

The contents of Woolmers, including its homestead and machinery, comprise an outstanding collection, dating from the colonial period.

The property also provides evidence of past water management practices in the way of successive forms of water pumping and distribution systems.

The existing boundaries of Woolmers Estate are a result of a number of government land settlement schemes of the first half of the twentieth century, including the Soldier Settlement and Closer Settlement Schemes, and also of the financial circumstances of the Archer family.

The theme of orcharding, and Tasmania's apple industry, is clearly evident at Woolmers.

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

The property illustrates the story of changes of lifestyle and land-use of the Archer family, and other workers and staff, from the time the land was first settled as a pastoral Estate in 1817, to its present status as a heritage tourism site, actively managed and maintained by the Woolmers Foundation.

The contemporary significance of Woolmers Estate as an iconic heritage tourism site offers an educational role in the management and conservation of heritage places.

The National Rose Garden, established in 2001, provides additional contemporary significance to the place as a tourism destination.

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

Woolmers Estate demonstrates former water systems. The pump house, water tank and windmills are a rare collection of such structures, which demonstrate the evolution of water management over a period of time. In particular, the pump house is of historic cultural heritage significance as a rare survivor of this type of building. The original lead-lined water tank and reticulation system is also a rare surviving example of an early system of water supply and storage.

The condition and level of integrity of Woolmers as a farm complex, retaining a large number of outbuildings, is outstanding. Further, Woolmers Estate, including the main homestead, outbuildings, and associated areas, along with the moveable heritage items and documents which form part of the Estate, is a rare collection dating from the early nineteenth century.

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

Woolmers 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 vast collections and documents relating to Woolmers 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"*

Woolmers Estate demonstrates the principle characteristics of an early to mid-nineteenth century farming and pastoral complex on a large and grand scale. These characteristics are found in a

number of the buildings and structures at Woolmers, namely, the main homestead, Woolmers Cottage, woolshed, chapel, store, blacksmith's shop, stables and coach house, worker's cottages, coachman's cottage and bakehouse cottages.

The main homestead has architectural significance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a single-storey weatherboard and brick nogged Old Colonial Georgian residence. These characteristics are found in the use of a symmetrical façade, medium pitched hipped roof, verandah under the main roof with slender posts, panelled door and simple chimney. The c.1842 addition to the main homestead has architectural significance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of the Victorian Italianate style of architecture. These characteristics are found externally in the use of asymmetrical massing, a prominent tower employing classical motifs, colonnaded loggia, and stucco wall finish.

Woolmers Cottage has architectural significance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a Victorian Regency villa, through smooth textured walling and sash windows.

The Gardener's Cottage has architectural significance in demonstrating an Old Colonial Gothick Picturesque residence, through the use of stucco walling, an asymmetrical façade, and a medium-steep pitch roof.

e) "It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement"

The c.1842 addition to the main homestead is of historic cultural heritage significance for its creative achievement. Designed by William Archer, the State's first Tasmanian-born architect, the addition is one of Tasmania's (and Australia's) earliest demonstration of Victorian Italianate architecture. The extension demonstrates the transfer of contemporary international architectural styles to colonial Van Diemen's Land, and the level of sophistication of Woolmers as an example of the grand estate.

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

Woolmers is a well known and prominent historical place. On a grand scale, 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. Under the management of the Woolmers Foundation, the place is now a popular heritage tourism attraction.

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"

Woolmers Estate, Longford, is of historic cultural heritage significance for its association with colonial administrator, landowner and politician Thomas Archer, who received the original land grant and developed the estate. This place is also of significance for association with his third son, prominent Tasmanian-born architect William Archer, who grew up there and designed the extension to the main house.

Its links to the other Archer family properties in northern Tasmania emphasise the contribution the Archers made to the development of the State's wool industry.

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

