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Hobart Tasmania 7001
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Name: Barton

Status: Provisionally Registered

Tier: State

THR ID Number: 12125

Municipality: Northern Midlands
Council

Boundary: CPR11649

Location Addresses

2464 Macquarie RD, Campbell Town 7210 TAS

Lot 1 Macquarie RD, Campbell Town 7210 TAS

Macquarie RD, Campbell Town 7210 TAS

Macquarie RD, Campbell Town 7210 TAS

Title References

169053/4

169252/1

114530/1

134506/1

Property Id

3364744

3364766

6208582

6208590



Barton house
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Barn and blacksmith's shop, Barton
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Barton Cemetery and church site
©2025 NRET



Tail race for Penny Royal Mill, Barton
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Cottage site, Penny Royal Mill site, Barton
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Penny Royal Mill site, Barton
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Barton Police Station
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Barton house
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Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

Barton demonstrates aspects of early pastoralism and agriculture in colonial Tasmania , including the granting of savannah woodlands created by Aboriginal burning practices to wool-growers as bastions of the convict assignment system; and the economic significance of the wool industry and of convict labour in the first half of the nineteenth century. Barton features a rare example of a family cemetery, an important attribute of frontier colonialism, reflecting an element of British gentrification (Williams 2022, p. 19). The provision of land for public facilities (police station site, school, church and hall) by the owners of the Barton Estate has few parallels across Tasmania. Barton is likely to have surface and subsurface remains and deposits associated with nineteenth-century pastoralism and agriculture. The burials in the Barton Cemetery are an important historical and archaeological resource, with the potential to yield information about the physical health, diet, physical stature and nutrition of a free immigrant family over more than 180 years. The property is also a very good example of a nineteenth-century pastoral estate, with many remaining features. Barton has a special association with Andrew Gatenby (1771–1848), who established the property.

Why is it significant?:

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) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania’s history.

Barton demonstrates aspects of early pastoralism and agriculture in colonial Tasmania , including the granting of savannah woodlands created by Aboriginal burning practices to wool-growers as bastions of the convict assignment system; and the economic significance of the wool industry and of convict labour in the first half of the nineteenth century. The open character of the estate was shaped by indigenous people and maintained by European agricultural and grazing practices including the regular burning of pastures. Barton demonstrates how wool-growing estates were

developed as small communities, with successive owners of Barton donating/letting land for public facilities, in this case a police station, church and school.

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

Family cemeteries are a rare but important attribute of frontier colonialism, reflecting an element of British gentrification (Williams 2022, p. 19). Wool-growers established on the land as part of the convict assignment system were effectively given land, with the size of their holding determined by the amount of wealth they brought to the colony, thus replicating a semblance of the British class system in Van Diemen's Land/Tasmania. The family cemeteries of these wool-growers are a microcosm of this development. In some cases, private family cemeteries were probably established due to the absence of formal local cemeteries, but a private family cemetery is also an expression of social status. The provision of land for public facilities (police station site, school, church and hall) by the owners of the Barton Estate has a few parallels across Tasmania.

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

Barton is likely to have surface and subsurface remains and deposits associated with various features and activities that have the potential to yield information about the form, functions and spatial layout of the place, along with aspects of nineteenth-century Tasmanian rural culture, including class and gender differences, economic fluctuations and changing rural practices and technologies. Features likely to be present include the sites of buildings, outbuildings, workers' huts, shepherds' huts, stockyards, sawpits, sheep washing facilities, lime kilns and other farm infrastructure. The surviving farm diaries and other papers, which detail farming operations, timber getting, the burning regime and labour practices, may provide additional opportunities for the interpretation of structures and deposits. Among nineteenth-century Tasmanian farm diaries, perhaps only the Woolnorth diaries exceed in coverage the diaries of George Gatenby in the years 1832–69. The latter enable comparisons in methods of land management and labour practices with other rural properties. The burials in the Barton Cemetery are an important historical and archaeological resource, with the potential to yield information about the physical health, diet, physical stature and nutrition of a free immigrant family over more than 180 years. Unlike public cemeteries, family cemeteries do not demonstrate the wide diversity of Van Diemen's Land/Tasmanian society. They contain no Aboriginal remains, for example, and the only ex-convicts lain to rest here were servants who died on the property—some in unmarked graves. Nevertheless, they are potentially an important historical, genealogical and archaeological resource. The stonemasonry and funerary art in the cemetery would enable a study of the evolution of these crafts as well as burial practices during European occupation of Van Diemen's Land/Tasmania. The headstones can be viewed on-line at the Find a Grave website, and include decorative memorials like that of Andrew Gatenby (1831–76) and Christopher Gatenby (1806–89), the table-style gravestone of George Gatenby (1801–71), the plain headstones of Mary Nicolson Corney (1788–1850), Thomas (1863–1946) and Jessie Roberta Nicolson Dowling (1865–1945), the Celtic cross (often used to represent Presbyterianism) for Marion Dowling Melrose (1902–32), the unusual crossed sticks motif on the headstone of Edith Fletcher (1839–1907) and a floral emblem for Ellen Lavinia Corney Fletcher (1827–54). While Barton contains the site of an early-nineteenth-century flour mill, machinery was removed from it in the creation of the Penny Royal Motel (formerly Barton Mill) tourist attraction in Launceston. The entire building which housed the mill was removed, but the site retains some archaeological potential. While the head and tail and other features have the potential to inform a knowledge of nineteenth-century water gathering technology, these are not unique in Tasmania and perhaps just as well demonstrated elsewhere.

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

Although the present main house is not the original, Barton is a fine example of an early farming estate, consisting of the main house, outbuildings (former blacksmith's shop, coach house), family cemetery, flour mill site, mill races and other archaeological sites. The entrance avenue lined by hedges, designed to hide the homestead from the visitor's gaze until the last minute, was a design element expressed by Loudon (Sheridan 2020, p. 115) and is evident in the layout of other estates of the period such as Cambria (THR#12021) and Parkholm (THR#619). The entrance to the property through what was a courtyard or compound formed by buildings is also common among large rural homesteads. The police station and the public church and hall sites contribute to the picture of Barton as the centre of a small community.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

No Data Recorded

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

No Data Recorded

- g) **The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.**

Barton has a special association with Andrew Gatenby (1771–1848), who established the property. The Gatenby family were a model of pioneer enterprise, the perfect settlers for Lieutenant-Governor Arthur's purposes in regulating the convict assignment system and demonstrating enterprise in the face of the threat from displaced Tasmanian Aborigines, convict absconders and bushrangers. Andrew Gatenby's significance as an historical figure was recognised by an entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

- h) **The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

No Data Recorded

Heritage approval is required for work that will result in changes to the nature or appearance of the fabric of a Heritage place, both internal and external.

Please refer to the Heritage Council's Works Guidelines (www.heritage.tas.gov.au) for information about the level of approval required and appropriate outcomes.

Heritage Advisors are also available to answer questions and provide guidance on enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au or Tel 1300850332

This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.

Setting:

Barton is located on the dry, flat plains along the Macquarie and Isis Rivers in the northern Midlands. To the west the land rises to Millers Bluff and the high country of the Central Plateau. Hawthorn hedges border kilometres of road and divide many hectares of pasture as a windbreak in this area.

Description:

Features of high significance

1. Main house

The house (approx. 520150E, 5366310N), built in 1906, has a rambling appearance consistent with being enlarged two decades after it was built. The sandstone building features late Federation Queen Anne decorative timber detail and Art Nouveau influences internally and externally, with some modifications. Remaining features include timber and stucco gables and suspended decorative timber fretwork (a hall screen) in the largely intact main room. Cedar doors and architraves from the two previous houses have also been incorporated into this building. The doors have two distinct heights, the taller doors and their architraves being from the house built by the Gatenby family, while the lower doors are believed to be from the 1827 house Skelton Castle built by the Dixon family. The front entrance has a fanlight with side lights.

There is a substantial but sympathetic 1920s brick extension with rendered eaves, sandstone foundations and lintels, double-hung sash windows and corbelled brick chimneys. Added by the Dowling family, this part of the house incorporates three columns of the earlier 1880s Barton House in its porch entrance.

2. Former blacksmith's shop

The random-rubble, gabled building (approx. 520090E, 5366310N) now used as a storage shed was originally the blacksmith's shop and was constructed in the same dolerite as the now relocated Penny Royal Mill. It formed part of the courtyard on the western side of the house.

3. Former stables and carriage house

The long wing (approx. 520100E, 5366330N) forming part of the courtyard to the house was formerly the stables and carriage house, these are largely intact though a new square opening has been formed for garaging cars.

4. Garden

The house has had a formal garden (approx. 520175E, 5366300N) of which many mature trees remain including elms and a Napoleon Pear. The traces remain of a once formal rose garden in diamond patterns which is set down at a lower level below the lawn, and also a tennis court.

5. Former worker's cottage

South of the main house (at approx. 520150E, 5366160N) and separated from it by the Home Paddock is a symmetrical, L-shaped brick cottage. It features a hipped roof of corrugated iron and twelve-paned double-hung sash

windows, with a brick chimney at each end of the front elevation.

6. The entrance avenue

The entrance avenue (beginning at approx. 520000E, 5365900N) lined by hedges, designed to hide the homestead from the visitor's gaze until the last minute, was a design element expressed by Loudon (Sheridan 2020, p. 115) and is evident in the layout of other estates of the period such as Cambria (THR#12021) and Parkholm (THR#619). The entrance to the property though what was a courtyard or compound formed by buildings is also common among large rural homesteads.

7. Barton Cemetery

Owned by the Presbyterian Church, the cemetery (approx. 520290E, 5365740N) is still used by the Gatenby family. Many years ago the Gatenbys collected the headstones and fixed them upright on a concrete base with a hurricane wire enclosure to protect them from animals. These are on Title 134506/1. The graves extend about 20 m south of the modern enclosure into Title 169252/1. Three cypress trees stand in the cemetery as a traditional symbol of mourning.

8. The former Barton Police Station on Title 169252/1 at the corner of Macquarie Road and Barton Road (approx. 520490E, 5365725N) is a rendered brick cottage with a hipped roof facing Macquarie Road. There is one 12-paned double hung sash window in the front elevation, and another in the rear. The fenestration is otherwise irregular, and the original symmetrical appearance of the building has been lost. It has a painted timber skillion fronting on Barton Road. There is a low paling fence around both frontages extending as far as the timber skillion.

Associated archaeological sites

There are likely to be sites of workers' huts, ruins of stockyards, sheep dips, sheep wash sites, sawpits and other industrial infrastructure on the property.

9. The 1840 second mill site, that of the so-called **Pennyroyal Mill**, was east of the main homestead near Barton Road on Title 169252/1 at approx. 520580E, 5366220N. Footings remain of the mill and the miller's cottage on the bank above it. Only a representative section of the mill's water system is registered. The tail race north of the mill site is relatively intact but the head race south of the mill and the mill pond have been filled in. Water was taken by race from the Isis River, held in a mill pond, released as required to turn the waterwheel and then returned to the river. This mill was famously deconstructed and rebuilt in Launceston as part of the Penny Royal Motel (formerly Barton Mill) tourist complex (THR 4492) by Roger Smith in the 1970s. Cassidy and Preston don't give a significance rating to the archaeological site of the mill, only dealing with the altered and reassembled building in Launceston (Cassidy and Preston 2000, Table 3).

10. The sites of the **former Presbyterian Church** and **former Isis Public Hall** are on Title 114530/1 next to the Barton Cemetery and south of Macquarie Road.

11. The **site of the 1820s stone Barton house** appears to be south-east of the present one at approx. 520170E, 5366280N.

12. Sites of early huts, possibly convict workers' huts, west of the existing manager's house at approx. 520110E, 5366170N.

Sites associated with Barton which are not included in the registration

The site of the original 1824 flour mill on the Isis River has not been located during this assessment process. It may be rediscovered in the future.

The site of Skelton Castle and St Hilda Cottage.

The adjoining Gatenby properties of Bicton (THR#4993) and View Point (nominated but not registered) are not included in this assessment.

History:

The Isis and Macquarie River area was the territory of the Tyerrernotepanner people, (Ryan 2012, p. 16), being part of a landscape managed and kept open using fire by Aboriginal people for thousands of years before European occupation. Yorkshire farmers Andrew Gatenby (1771–1848) and Hanna Gatenby née Maw (1778–1878) were beneficiaries of this land-care, after arriving in Van Diemen's Land on the *Berwick* in 1823 with their four sons and three daughters. Lieutenant-Governor William Sorell located Andrew Gatenby 1500 acres which he took along the Isis River. In 1823–24 Gatenby built a basic house with a thatched roof on the land selected (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 27). He built the first mill and water race next, using millstones brought out on the ship from England (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 28). The exact location of this is now unknown. In 1826 Andrew Gatenby increased his income by serving as chief district constable and pound keeper. The name Barton, meaning 'farm', was applied to the property by December 1827 (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 37).

Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur wanted 'respectable' wool-growers to be bastions of the convict assignment

system. The Gatenbys benefited from convict labour but had to endure the rigours of the so-called Black War (1824–31), the frontier battle between the Aboriginal people and the European colonists, as well as the incursions of convict absconders and bushrangers. Arthur needed examples of enterprise to show that these frontier perils could be overcome. He was delighted by Andrew Gatenby's 'exertions' at Barton, judging that his 'whole character and demeanour [were] peculiarly those of the good Old English Yeoman'. In March 1828 Arthur rewarded Gatenby's enterprise by granting him another 1000 acres ('Government order, no.17' 1828).

The 1828 stone house was built 'with the assistance of the Government mason'. Gatenby's sons and the mason quarried all the stone, all the timber was cut on his own property and the nails used were produced by his own blacksmith (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 38–39). In a spirit similar to that of other wool-growers such as Robert Quaile Kermodé (Mona Vale, THR 5266); Edward Dumaresq (Mount Ireh, THR 5066); and Sir Richard Dry (Quamby, THR 4832), Andrew Gatenby offered to build an Anglican church at his own expense, even going so far as to offer to pay the minister's stipend for the first year—only to be rebuffed by the church (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 46–47). In January 1834 Andrew Gatenby was assigned a bricklayer for three months ('From the Hobart Town Gazette' 1834, p. 2), although exactly what he was building is unclear. In 1843 there were 22 people on the property, including seven convicts. Seven stockmen and shepherds were employed, demonstrating that this was a substantial wool-growing property (Census of VDL 1843, p. 103).

George Gatenby takes over

Like Henry Clayton of Wickford (THR 5060) and Richard Willis of Wanstead Park (THR 4984), George Gatenby (1801–71), the eldest child of Andrew and Hannah, benefited from eliminating a bushranger. He received 500 acres for killing outlaw Alexander McGillivray in 1826. Later George applied for and was granted an adjoining 500 acres formerly reserved for the township of Lincoln (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 39–40). This property contained a dolerite quarry which supplied the building materials for the former blacksmith's shop and the Pennyroyal Mill. The effect of these grants was to extend the Gatenby property north to the Macquarie River, which proved useful when in 1848 George inherited Barton from his father. In 1860 he paid £10,000 to add the Skelton Castle property to the southern end of Barton (Gatenby 1860). His brothers John, Christopher and William Gatenby operated Pisa, the adjoining Bicton (THR 4993) and the Woodbourne property respectively, while his sisters Nancy, Sarah and Elizabeth married into other pastoral families at Winton, Cawood (THR 12003) and Auburn. George's son Robert Gatenby established View Point, adjoining Barton, and Bicton in 1860–61 (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 39–40).

George Gatenby's diaries outline the operation of Barton and the adjoining Gatenby properties in the period 1832–69, detailing the seasonal pattern of cropping, wool-growing and property maintenance, the regular working of the flour mill (despite competition from nearby mills at Tallentyre from 1834 and Connorville [THR 5056] from 1862 [Cassidy and Preston 2000, pp. 230–31]), relations between convict and master/free labourer and employer, domestic and social arrangements and familial and financial interaction with neighbouring property owners. The diaries capture the constant movement of graziers and their families across the network of large Midlands pastoral estates and help dispel the myth of the thylacine as a menace to the wool-grower. George Gatenby wrote nothing in his diaries to suggest that this animal was either common in the area around Barton or a predator of sheep. Apart from the period 1837–44, in which perhaps 53 adults and 8 young thylacines were snared or otherwise slain by various shepherds and graziers in the Macquarie River district (Gatenby 1837–44), the thylacine was conspicuous by its near absence from Gatenby's diaries. Although on one occasion Gatenby claimed that tigers had killed sheep, the evidence for this is unclear. None of his diary entries suggests that a thylacine was ever seen slaying sheep, in fact they offer no correlation between sheep deaths and tiger deaths. By contrast, Gatenby reported at least 16 fatal dog attacks on sheep in the period 1835–47 which usually resulted in an offending farm dog being identified and shot (Gatenby 1835–47). Similar problems with dog attack can be found in surviving mid-nineteenth-century diaries from Tasmanian wool-growing properties such as Cheshunt (THR 4761, Archer 1847–62), Kelvedon (THR 1562, Cotton 1853–59) and Mount Ireh (THR 5066, Dumaresq 1821–68).

In the years 1858–72 Tasmania suffered severe economic depression. Victoria was now self-sufficient in timber and flour, making importation from Tasmania redundant. The agricultural sector was depleted by overcropping, blight, rust and mainland tariffs (Townsend 1955; Stokes 1969, pp. 68–70). Wool-growers seem to have been sheltered from this to some extent because their wool was sold in England. Gatenby's diaries of the 1850s and 1860s describe a time when wool-growing was king in Tasmania, without the problems of fluke and rabbits which later hindered the industry. The rare instances of fly-blown sheep (Gatenby 1859b, 1867), scab (Gatenby 1866), loss of sheep to dog attack (Gatenby 1858a, 1869) and a single instance of sheep rustling in which 'Jack the Hunter' killed 15 ewes (Gatenby 1858b) give a picture of a largely untroubled and profitable existence during this period. The keeping of 23 sheepdogs and hunting dogs at Barton (Gatenby 1859a), along with those on surrounding estates, made the occasional sheep savaging inevitable (Gatenby 1869). Gatenby seems to have been a relatively tolerant employer of labourers whose frequent response to being paid was to go on a 'spree' (bender), sometimes returning seedy or unfit for work (Gatenby 1869a).

The Gatenbys lose Barton

The Gatenbys blamed Melmoth Fletcher junior's lazy management for their losing Barton, but clearly other factors contributed to this, including the decision to auction all stock and farming equipment in November 1876, making the property difficult to let. The deaths of George Gatenby and his sons and heirs Robert (1832–75) and Andrew Gatenby (1831–76) in quick succession not only stifled business momentum but made the property thrice liable to estate duties in five years (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 127–29). Milling activities declined after the deaths of George and Andrew Gatenby (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 113–14). This is not surprising, since the advent of the Launceston and Western Railway in 1871 and the Main Line Railway in 1876 made it difficult for rural flour mills to compete with those at the railway hubs of Hobart and Launceston (Cassidy & Preston 2000, p. 17). By the time former Barton shepherd Robert Towns leased the estate in 1897 the mill and most of the buildings were empty (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 163). The mill had no future. After Federation in 1901, with the old colonial tariffs removed, Tasmanian flour millers discovered that mainland wheat, particularly that from South Australia and Victoria, was harder and therefore better suited to flour making for bread than Tasmanian wheat ('Bread industry in Launceston' 1935). Tasmanian flour millers who kept going had no choice but to import mainland wheat to try to compete with mainland millers in the main game of producing flour for bread making.

Wool-growing also became less profitable across the colony during the late nineteenth century. The 1885 wool export was worth only half that of 1877, with drought, scab (Breen 2001, pp. 133–37), liver fluke and intestinal worms among the handicaps. Chief Inspector of Sheep Tabart primarily blamed the incursion of the rabbit for the steady decline in Tasmanian sheep numbers 1877–88 (Tabart 1888, p. 4). In the Campbell Town district the sheep population more than halved between 1860 and 1880 (Statistics for Tasmania 1860 and 1880, pp. 53 and 170 respectively). Despite this, there does not seem to have been the panic about tigers among Midlands graziers like there was among some of their East Coast counterparts, who demanded and received a government thylacine bounty from 1888. In 1901, along with four nearby graziers, Sonny (Arthur) Gatenby of View Point formed the Midland Sheep Protection Association 'for the destruction of native tigers'. Members agreed to pay 10 shillings for each tiger killed—a far cry from the £4 offered by the Buckland and Spring Bay Tiger and Eagle Extermination Society in the period 1884–90 (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 165; Mitchell 1890). This would have been a very short-lived association, as government bounty figures suggest that thylacine numbers declined steeply after 1901 (LSD247/1/2 and LSD247/1/3).

Faced with a mortgage spiralling out of control, the trustees of Robert Gatenby's estate sacrificed Barton so that they could keep View Point (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 163).

Barton Police Station

Although the first two generations of Gatenbys had a limited role in territorial administration and no Gatenby appeared in the fourteen nominations for the original Campbell Town Municipal Council in 1866, Robert Gatenby, grandson of Andrew Gatenby, was serving by the following year. The chief purpose of local government was securing good order, important instruments of which were the magistracy and the police force it oversaw. The trustees of the Barton Estate let the **Barton Police Station site** to the municipality in 1878 ('Campbell Town' 1878b, p. 3). It was a three-room brick cottage with a cell attached, enabling it to serve as a watchhouse at the crossroads between Cressy and Ross ('Campbell Town' 1878, p. 3). In the 1880s consideration was apparently given to turning this facility into a public school, but then two incidents suggested it might be needed to fight crime after all. In 1883 Constable William Thompson of the Barton Police Station was murdered by Barton groom James Connolly (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 140). Constable Oakley was absent from the police station in 1888 when an unidentified man held up his wife at gunpoint, firing a shot through her dress without injuring her ('Sensational shooting affray' 1888, p. 23). The Campbell Town Council finally abolished the police station in 1897, believing that the area could be adequately policed from Cleveland ('Campbelltown [sic]: Municipal Council meeting', *Daily Telegraph* 1897, p. 2). The *Police Centralisation Act* (1898) brought municipal policing to an end. The building seems to have had more use as a polling booth in subsequent years than it ever did as a frontier of the law ('Campbell Town Council' 1933, p. 5.). Like the Pennyroyal Mill, it became housing for a Barton employee (*Cyclopedia of Tasmania* 1931, p. 268).

Barton School

Andrew Gatenby's rebuffed offer to build a church at his own expense has already been discussed. In 1867 the *Launceston Examiner's* Campbell Town correspondent lamented the 'truly deplorable' absence of church and school at the Isis River, which, he believed, would be attended by 'the most fearful and alarming results' ('Campbell Town' 1867, p. 3). There was a Presbyterian Church nearby at Kirklands (THR 4909) but no Anglican facility. The Gatenby children boarded at private schools but at that time the children on their estates received no formal education.

Although the Board of Education discussed the need for a school in 1883 ('Board of Education' 1883, p. 1), the Barton Assisted School had to wait until 1896 ('Board of Advice' 1896, p. 3).

Hugh Russell Gibson (1869–1929) and Annie Gibson (1867–1949)

New Barton owners the Gibsons, two cousins who married, were part of the one of the most prominent Tasmanian pastoral families, beginning with David Gibson's arrival in Van Diemen's Land as a convict in 1804. In 1905 and 1906 Hugh Russell Gibson borrowed £12,000 to buy Barton, Skelton and Lincoln, comprising 6617 acres (11/1685, 11/1686 and 11/3713). He demolished the stone Barton house and commissioned the present house which was built by J and T Gunn in 1906 for £1294 (QVMAG CH39, 7.68, Gunns Register 1902–06; Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 163). Later owners of Barton appear to have accepted the same community responsibilities as the Gatenbys did as a large land-owner, serving the Campbell Town Council and establishing public facilities. In 1910 Gibson conveyed two roods of land on Macquarie Road to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church (12/1989), who had already erected a building on it to serve as a church and school ('Board of Advice' 1906, p. 7; 'Local government' 1907, p. 7). In 1911 the Presbyterian Church contemplated building a separate school building ('Municipal news' 1911, p. 7) although Bacon and Gatenby state that the school was established in the vestry accompanying the church (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, p. 198). Securing teachers and finding local accommodation for them proved difficult ('Municipal councils' 1909, p. 3).

Thomas (1863–1946) and Jessie Dowling née Nicolson (1865–1945)

In 1911 Gibson and his mortgagees sold Barton to Thomas Dowling for £7750 (12/4481). Tasmanian Archives holds 1926 plans for additions and alterations to Barton designed by Hobart architects Hutchison and Walker (NS1963/2/26, TA). The work was taking place in May 1927 when the Dowlings were unable to entertain the Midland Hunt Club, who had to picnic at the roadside ('Midland Hunt Club' 1927, p. 6). Like Russell Gibson before him, Thomas Dowling fulfilled community expectations, for years offering the Barton shearing shed for Anglican church services and fund-raisers for a public hall ('New hall for Barton: successful fair' 1930). In 1931 the Dowlings donated land for the site of a hall and school next to the Barton Cemetery and Presbyterian Church (18/6664). At the official opening of the Isis Public Hall in June 1931, Thomas Dowling was presented with a framed address thanking him for these favours ('Isis public hall: official opening and sports' 1931). The hall became the home of a Barton Country Women's Association (CWA) branch ('CWA Branch formed at Barton' 1946), hosted World War Two Red Cross fund-raisers and served as a polling booth. The Barton School operated until 1946 (Jones 2017, p. 149). It would have been made redundant by the opening of the Campbell Town Area School in 1949, necessitating the bus transport of children from various parts of the district.

Comparative analysis:

Family cemeteries

Other Tasmanian family cemeteries include the **Amos Family Cemetery** at Cranbrook (THR 1521), the cemeteries at **Kelvedon** (THR 11994), **Glencoe** (THR 12019), **Somercotes** (THR 5276), Mona Vale Road (the **Parramore and Gillet Family Cemetery**, THR 10573) and Elderslie (**Allwright Family Vault**, THR 5431).

The **McCulloch Family Cemetery** at Gawler was also a frontier cemetery of a kind, in that, similarly to Barton, it was established by 1865 for the extended family of 1859 *Preemptive Right* settler James McCulloch, who took up 500 acres in the area. Formerly on McCulloch family land, the cemetery is now owned by the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church—as is the one at Barton. Thirty-two of the 147 memorials are to McCullochs, the cemetery having at some stage been repurposed as a general Presbyterian cemetery with a church (since removed) brought to the site. The **Barton Family Cemetery** did not begin as a Presbyterian cemetery but may have been conveyed to the Presbyterian trustees by James Gibson when he invited them to build a church at Barton (the site is now owned by the Uniting Church). The **Barton Cemetery** contains not only members of the related Gatenby, Nicolson, Corney, Fletcher, Bayles, Kemp and Towart families but members of the Dowling and Melrose families who succeeded the Gatenbys at Barton, as well as farm employees and their families. Most of the worker graves have no headstones (Bacon and Gatenby 2021, pp. 337–48).

Provision of land for public facilities

The provision of land for public facilities (police station site, school, church and hall) by the owners of the **Barton Estate** has few parallels across Tasmania. Just as Sir Richard Dry of **Quamby** commissioned a church (St Mary's Anglican Church and Rectory, THR 4829) and school (Hagley Farm School, THR 4826) for his tenants and for the local community, Thomas Reibey commissioned a church and mechanics' institute in Carrick and opened the cricket ground on the **Entally Estate** to the public. Edward Dumaresq of **Mount Ireh** commissioned **Christ Church Illawarra** (THR 5059) as a schoolhouse and chapel for his tenant farmers and the local community. Both Dry and Dumaresq gave additional land in support of these churches, the intention being that rent raised from the land would pay for building maintenance and a minister's salary. Similarly, William Archer of **Brickendon** and his son Robert Joseph Archer of **Saundridge** (THR 5073 and 8784) built chapels as part of their estates, the latter doubling as the local schoolroom. Robert Quaile Kermodé (**Mona Vale**, THR 5266) bought an existing house in Ross to serve as a parsonage for the 1868 **St Johns Anglican Church** (THR 12013), which was then constructed on the same piece of

land by his own building team. Kermode is said to have provided two-thirds of the funds for building the church, and he appears to have paid the minister's wage until his death in May 1870 ('Law intelligence' 1871).

Tasmanian farming estates

The Barton estate is a relatively intact example of a Colonial farming estate, retaining the (1906) main house; outbuildings (former blacksmith's shop, coach house); family cemetery; a flour mill site, mill races and other archaeological sites; and entrance avenue. The police station and the public church and hall sites also contribute to the picture of Barton as the centre of a small community.

Some Tasmanian colonial farming estates retain an earlier main homestead or at least some elements of it, while having a similar suite of features to **Barton**. The farming complex of **Red Banks** (THR 12020) at Swansea consists of successive nineteenth-century main houses, a barn, an animal shelter, a shearing shed, blacksmith's shop, the ruins of workers' quarters, the site of a shepherd's hut, remnants of an early orchard and mature plantings. **Kelvedon** (THR 11994) and **Cambria** (THR 12021) exhibit a similar range of early Colonial farming estate features. Both retain their entrance avenues. **Cambria** has an 1835 stone main house, brick stables, timber barn, timber shearing shed, relatively intact orchard, nut trees and other mature plantings in a Gardenesque-style garden. **Kelvedon** has a house dating from 1829, early stone stable, Oyster Bay pine shearing shed, Dutch barn, stone workers' cottage and a family cemetery. **Woodstock** at Triabunna (THR 1579) features an 1830s homestead, stone stables, Oyster-Bay-pine-framed barn, the substantial remains of a eucalyptus distillery and the archaeological sites of a men's shed and two shepherds' huts.

These farming complexes, like **Barton**, demonstrate traditional early nineteenth-century concerns with finding a settlement site that commanded fresh water, shelter and a fine prospect of the surrounding area both for defence purposes and for a sense of status. **Barton's** entrance avenue lined by hawthorn hedges, designed to hide the homestead from the visitor's gaze and bring him/her to the side or rear of the house, is typical of gentlemen's estates such as **Brickendon** Estate, **Mount Ireh** (THR 5066), **Quamby** (THR 4832), **Cambria** and **Esleigh** (THR 5242).

The entrance to the property through what was a courtyard or compound formed by buildings mirrors the siting of rural homesteads such as **Woolmers**, **Mount Ireh**, **Killymoon** (THR 604) and **Red Banks**.

There are a few more complete examples of early Colonial farming estates remaining in Tasmania, including **Woolmers**, **Brickendon**, **Quamby** (THR 4832), **Mona Vale** and **Entally** (THR 4822). These are mostly built on a grander scale than the properties discussed above, some with elements of gentrified living. **Woolmers** has an outstanding suite of nineteenth-century farming estate features, including the c.1819 homestead, Woolmers Cottage, a pump house, woolshed, cider house, store, coach house, chapel, gardener's cottage and shed, stables, workers' cottages, a blacksmith's shop and timber and metal windmills. The 1829–30 **Brickendon** house is accompanied by a weatherboard cottage, coachman's cottage, stables, timber-framed reservoir, pillar granary, two Dutch barns, smoke house, poultry shed, granary, woolshed, outhouse, cookhouse, blacksmith's shop and chapel. Like **Cambria**, it features a Gardenesque-style garden with a nutwalk. As well as the mid-nineteenth-century main house, Quamby has numerous brick outbuildings, including a manager's house, a kitchen, servants' quarters, a stable designed to hold 26 horses, a granary, quarters for grooms and ploughmen and a late nineteenth-century brick slaughterhouse. It also retains a paved, tree-lined entrance avenue. It also retains a paved, tree-lined entrance avenue. **Mona Vale** has what is regarded as one of Australia's grandest homes, built 1864–67. The property includes a series of detached, heated conservatories, several outbuildings and walls from an earlier house, a village of estate cottages and outbuildings and a chapel. **Entally** features the nineteenth-century house, stables, coach house, laundry, cottages, conservatory, greenhouse, walled garden, pleasure garden, gate lodge and chapel.

Farm diaries

Although not forming part of the registration, the George Gatenby diaries 1832–69 are an important associated resource, complementing the archaeological record of Barton, Bicton and View Point. The Gatenbys were granted savannah woodlands which were managed by Aboriginal people for thousands of years, being kept open by regular burning in part to increase numbers of prey species and success at hunting. George Gatenby's diaries demonstrate how the Gatenby family managed their land to maintain this open, grassed character by burning the pastures when the weather conditions were suitable, utilising the Aboriginal hunting grounds for the grazing of stock and the cultivation of crops. The pattern of this land use is still evident on the landscape. The diaries provide a picture of how the three Gatenby estates were worked, including the labour practices employed, with tenant farmers and workers side by side; the incidence of dog attacks on stock; the killing of perceived native predators (the thylacine, Tasmanian devil and eagle); the operation of a 'vermin' fund or stock protection association; the incidence of scab and fluke in sheep; the growing of tobacco and application of tobacco water as a sheep wash; cultivation of crops; fertilisation and harvesting practices; the harnessing of water; the operation and maintenance of a flour mill; the sale of produce; and relations with neighbouring pastoralists. The description of assigned male convict labourers, their behaviour, living conditions, payment and punishment on a pastoral property provides rare insight into the workings of the assignment and probation systems (unfortunately, as a farm manager George Gatenby doesn't seem to have concerned himself with female convicts mostly employed as housemaids).

Comparison can be made with the accounts of farming operations in surviving contemporaneous or nearly contemporaneous farms such as the diaries of Mount Ireh (THR 5066), Woolnorth, William Moore Ferrar's property Plassy near Ross, Cambria (THR 12021), Cheshunt (THR 4761), Kelvedon (THR 11994) and George Hull's Tolosa property at Glenorchy, while the Lisdillon (THR 1526) journals of Sarah Mitchell also provide insight into nineteenth-century farming operations.

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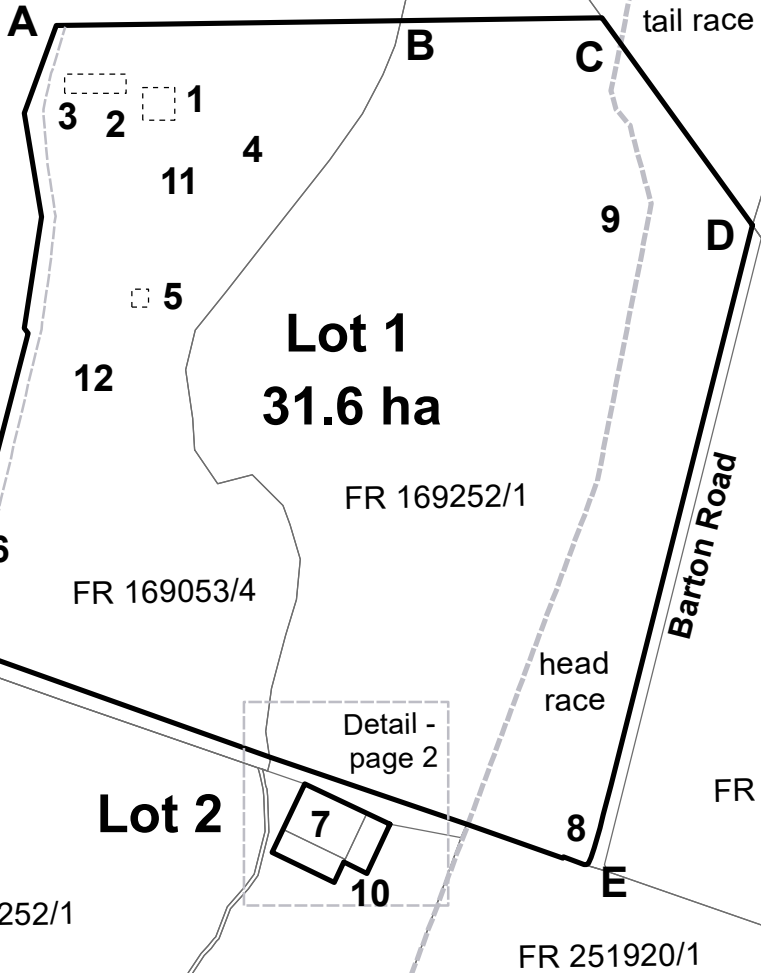
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Note

1. Lots 1 & 2 represent the registered boundary for 'Barton', #12125 on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
2. Lot 1 is the partial parcel of FR 169053/4 & 169252/1, the boundary of which is marked by a heavy black line and described below.
3. Lot 2 is the whole of parcels FR 114530/1 & 134506/1 & the partial parcel of FR 169252/1, the boundary of which is marked by a heavy black line and described below.
4. All boundaries are parcel boundaries unless otherwise described, details of individual land parcel boundaries may be accessed through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST).
5. For the purpose of S15(4)(b) of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995, this plan replaces the boundary for the previous registered entry THR4992, 'Barton'.

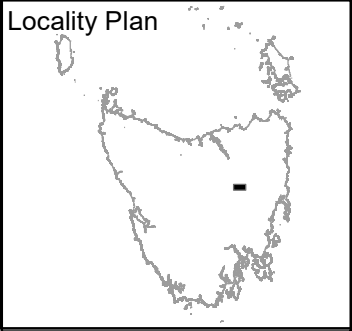
Key

1. Barton main house
2. Former blacksmith's
3. Former Stables/ carriage house
4. Garden
5. Former worker's cottage
6. Entrance avenue
7. Barton Cemetery
8. Former Barton Police Station
9. Second mill site (Pennyroyal)
10. Hall/ Church site
11. Site of former house
12. Site of former workers huts



SCALE 1:6,000

0 50 100 200 m



Point & Boundary Description

- A. North west corner of 169053/4.
- B. North east corner of 169053/4.
- B-C. Projection of A-B.
- C. Intersect of line B-C with cadastral boundary.
- D. Intersect of cadastral boundary with western edge of Barton Rd.
- E. Intersect of western edge of Barton Rd with 251920/1
- F. Intersect of northern edge of Macquarie Rd with 169249/1.
- E-F. Northern edge of Macquarie Rd.


TASMAP: CONARA - 5236 GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55 DATUM: AHD CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A

No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE
1	Production	THC	12125	AW	S.PARRY	18.2.26



Barton
2464 & Lot 1 Macquarie Rd
Campbell Town

CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER

p.p. Surveyor General: 
Date Registered: 23.2.26

CPR
11649

**Point & Boundary
Description - Lot 2**

- A. North west corner of title 134506/1
- B. South west corner of title 134506/1
- B-C. Prolongation of A-B
- C. Point 20m from B
- D. North east corner of title 134506/1
- E. South east corner of title 134506/1
- E-F. Prolongation of D-E
- F. Point 20m from E
- C-F. Straight line parallel to B-E

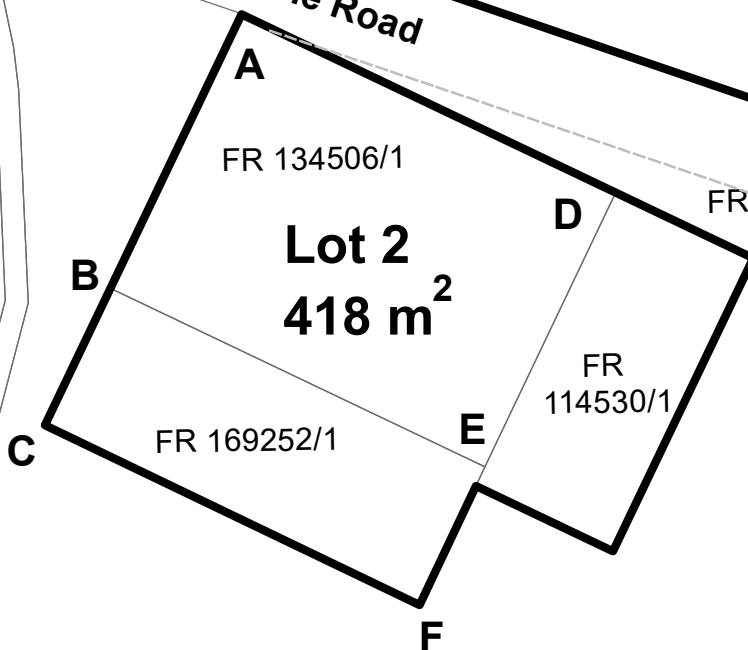
FR 169053/4

FR 169252/1

FR 169252/1

Macquarie Road

Isis River

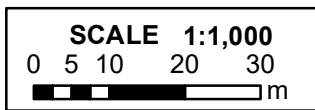
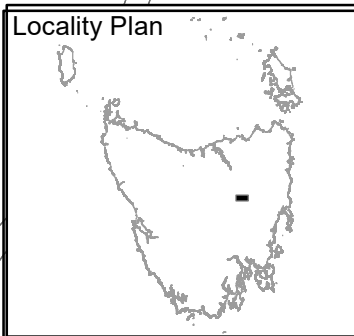


FR 169252/1

FR 114530/1

FR 169252/1

FR 169252/1



TASMAP: CONARA - 5236 **GRID:** MGA94 / ZONE 55 **DATUM:** AHD **CONTOUR INTERVAL:** N/A

No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE
1	Production	THC	12125	AW	S.PARRY	18.2.26



Barton
2464 & Lot 1 Macquarie Rd
Campbell Town

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE TASMANIA

CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER

p.p. Surveyor General:

Date Registered: 23.2.26

CPR
11649

Page 2/2