

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 115 Orielson Road Orielson 7172		UPI: 2902779	PID: 7822103
Name: ORIELTON PARK			
Feature Type: Structure Type: House	Site Feature Type: Garden Driveway Mature trees Ruins	Dating:	1800 - 1829 c1810
		Access Restrictions:	Restricted
		Inspection Date:	October 96 P Davies
		Style:	Colonial Georgian
		Grid ref:	5426 542200 5267800
Indication of Significance: High probable significance Potential archaeological significance		Theme:	Land selection and closer settlement Primary Production
Material:	Stone Corrugated iron	Listings:	National Trust SMC Schedule 3
Condition:	Good		
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria: A4 B4 C2 D2 E1 F1 G1 H1		Photograph Index:	4:35-36; 5:1-5; 5:1-5
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A very fine early house in a commanding setting overlooking Pittwater and the estate. The house has two partially surviving wings, the main house which is symmetrical and single storey with a part basement, and a wing to the west of two storeys, connected to the main wing. A curved roof corrugated iron verandah extends around four sides of the main block and along one side of the wing. There are ruins of buildings to the west which were burnt out in the 1960's fires and it is likely that the remnants of the eastern two storey wing survive below ground. Visible remnants of the former complex include sections of wall, stone elements, a water tank and evidence of the arrangement of the buildings which were extensive. A small timber out house remains of decorative quality. The house was built as a two storey residence with two flanking wings of symmetrical design with various outbuildings. Early photographs show its configuration and it was the most substantial house in the district.

The house is well detailed and finished with its ashlar main facade of picked finish and dressed stone margins around openings and coursed rubble for other facades, wide French doors to the verandahs, one altered to a window and its fine entry door, sidelights and fanlight. The roof is steeply pitched and provides an impressive look to the house. The verandahs are intact and provide access to the cellar. The interior of the house appears to be in excellent condition retaining early joinery and fitout.

The house is set in a large garden with entrance driveway and some superb mature trees marking the site.

HISTORY:

Initially allocated to Thomas Kent the land passed to Lieut Edward Lord. The 1500 grant on which Orielson Park stands was made to Lord in exchange for allocation on the Domain in Hobart. Lord was one of the most influential men in the colony in the early years and was briefly acting Lieutenant Governor after Collins' death in 1810. He was the John Macarthur of Van Diemens Land and became one of the island's largest landowners. Orielson was the jewel in his crown, becoming one of the wealthiest properties in the colony by supplying wheat to the Commissariat from around 1815. Although he never actually lived there Lord was able to erect a thirty-five room mansion and employ a large workforce on the estate. The house had two 2 storey wings erected at right angles to each other. There were also stables, a coachhouse, men's quarters for convict servants, cells with barred windows, a bakehouse, a large barn and a gardener's cottage. An early race meeting in the colony was held at Orielson on 29 September 1816.

Lord ran into financial trouble and to settle his debts was forced to pass the property to his brother, Sir John Owen, in 1826. By 1842 there were 46 people living on the estate including 23 convicts. Owen retained the property until 1881 when it was sold to Alfred Parker from 1881 to 1906 after which it was subdivided by a group of Hobart businessmen in 1907 to sell under the auspices of the Closer Settlement Act.

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In 1900 the original homestead was largely destroyed by fire. The east wing was demolished, the north wing rebuilt on a smaller scale while the west wing remained intact. The 1967 fires destroyed the extensive outbuildings including the convicts' quarters.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the title boundary of the property.

COMMENTS:

Orielton Park, even though now considerably reduced in size from its c1810 form, is the earliest and most significant country house in the municipality for its association with Lord and subsequent owners, for its role in establishing farming in the district, for its siting and setting and for the quality of the surviving fabric and archaeological potential.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2, E1, F1, G1, and H1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should continue to be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

HENRY, E.R. 1973. 'Edward Lord', in Tasmanian Historical Research Association Papers and Proceedings, 20 (2), pp98-108.

Orielton Estate. 1907 sale notice by Websters.

Tasmanian Motor News March 1969, pp12-14.

The Mercury 25 June 1930

WOOD, Trish. 1990. The Convict and the Carpenter. A History of Mary Springham and William Hambly and their Descendants. R.G. & P.V. Wood, North Hobart.

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