

MOUNT AUSTIN HOMESTEAD



Front Cover: Mount Austin homestead in 2021

©Geoff Burch, May 2021.

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Introduction

The impetus to research the Mount Austin homestead arose when the property was placed on the market in March 2021.

The Mount Austin property and its homestead form part of Wagga Wagga's rich history. The name is retained in the surrounding suburb.

Its connections with the Donnelly and Bolger families add to its geographical and architectural significance.

It is, of course, most famous as the location where the murder of Chris Bolger took place.

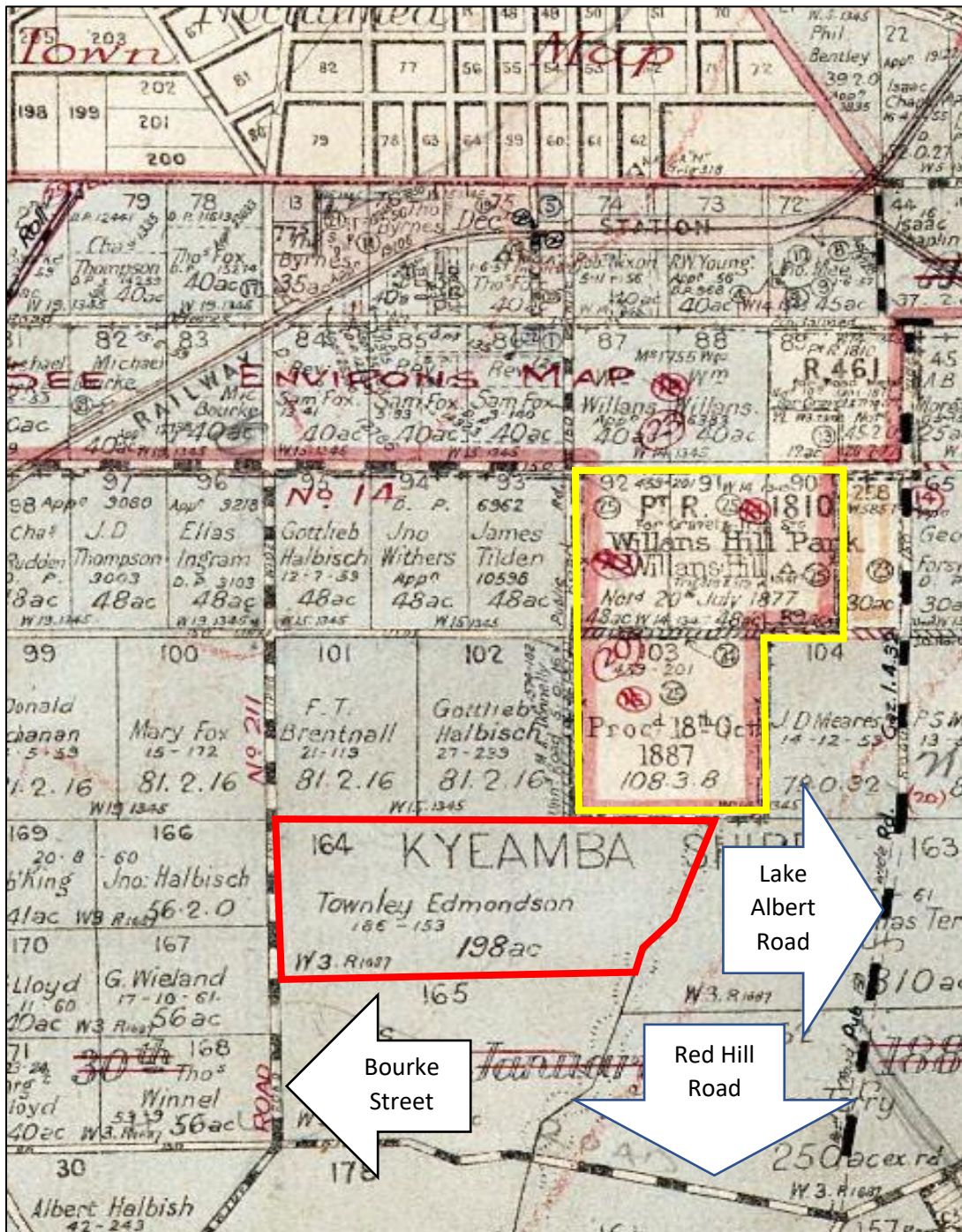
It has cultural significance in terms of its development as a centre for government housing.

The following pages attempt to record the owners and occupiers of the property, up until 1982, and to interweave details of those people, and to record events connected to the property and the homestead.

Mount Austin Homestead

In 2021 the old Mount Austin homestead is located at 22 Waranga Avenue, Mount Austin. This is part of portion 164, in the parish of South Wagga Wagga. Portion 164 is to the immediate south of portion 103. Portions 90, 91 and 92 [to the immediate north of portion 103], along with portion 103, were all part of the Willans Hill Reserve.

The following map shows the location of portion 164 [red boundary] and portions 90, 91, 92 and 103 [yellow boundary].

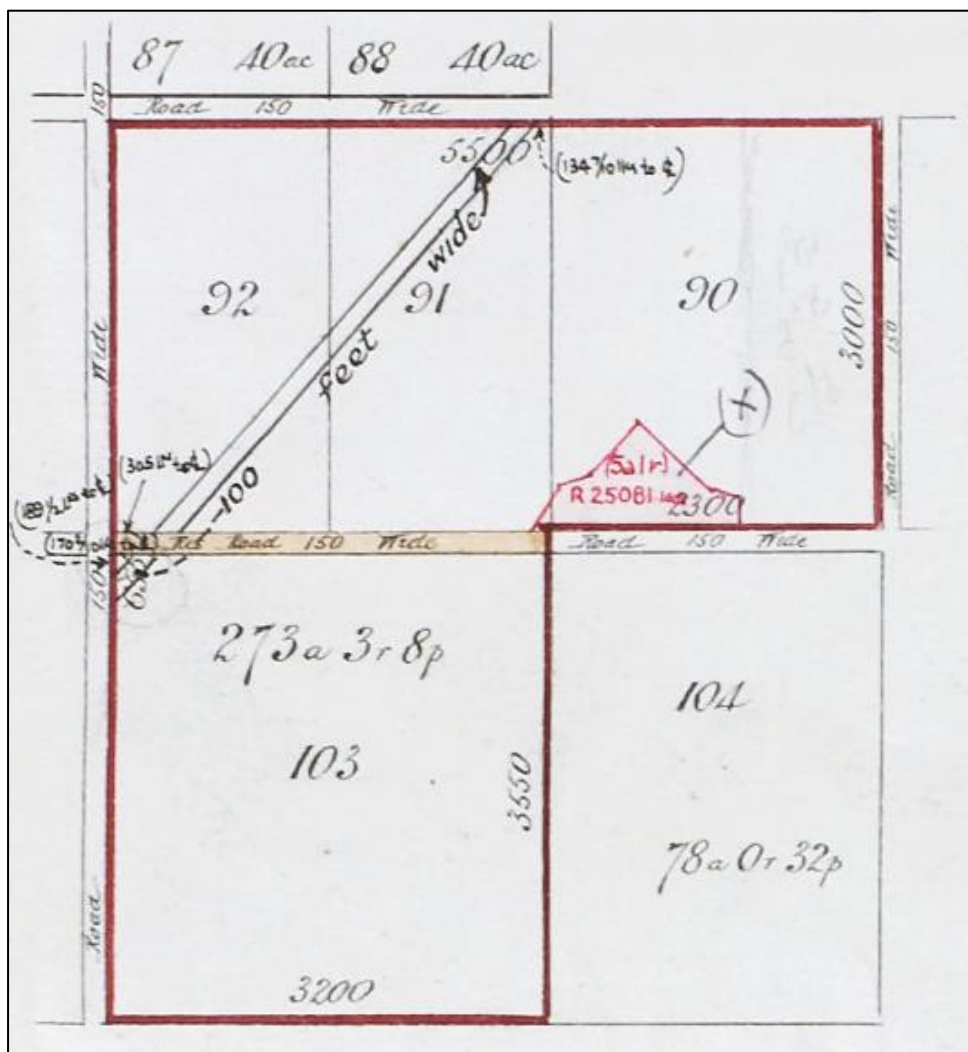


Above: 1928 parish map of South Wagga Wagga. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Maps. HLRV.

Willan Hills Reserve

In October 1875 portions 90, 91, 92 and 103 were reserved from sale, by the government, for the purpose of public recreation.¹ The reserve had a total area of 273 acres, 3 roods and 8 perches. The reserve was dedicated on the 17th March 1876. [Crown plan W.14.1345].²

On the 10th September 1878, portions 90, 91, 92 and 103, in the parish of South Wagga Wagga, trustees were appointed, by the government, for the Willans Hill Reserve. The trustees were Thomas Hodson, Samuel Hawkins and William Willans.³ [See W.14.1345]. Parts of the reserved area were later resumed for a road, and for the transmission of electricity.



Left: Portions 90, 91, 92 and 103, as dedicated in 1878.

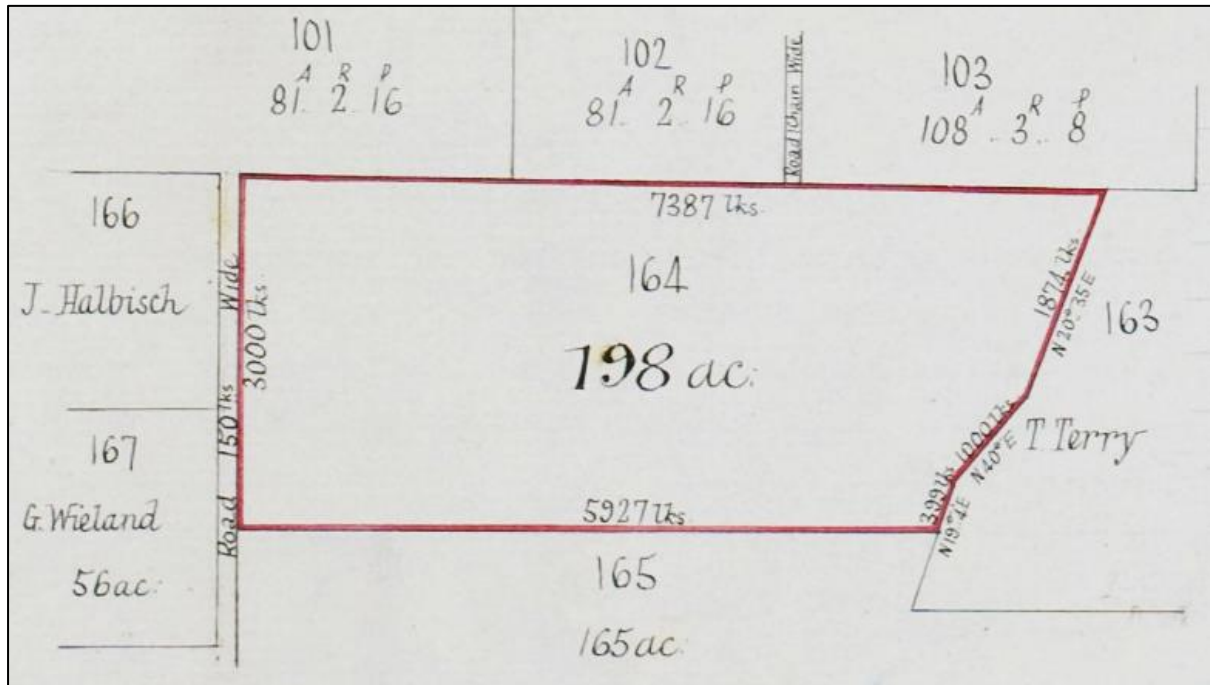
¹ NSW Government Gazette. 1875, p3109.

² NSW Government Gazette. 1876, p1078.

³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 459, folio 201.

Portion 164

Portion 164 was originally purchased from the crown on the 2nd July 1874, by Townley Edmondson, of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of one hundred and ninety eight pounds. Portion 164 had an area of one hundred and ninety eight acres.⁴



Above: Portion 164 as purchased by Townley Edmondson in 1874. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Townley Edmondson

Townley Edmondson was born c.1840, at Ardwick, Lancashire, the son of William and Martha Edmondson.⁵ He came out to Australia in 1862, and spent the next eighteen years or so in Wagga Wagga, conducting the business of Edmondson & Co. He was back in England by 1881, living with his parents and his sister Hannah. He described himself as a retired merchant.⁶ Townley never married and left no one to carry on his legacy. He lived as a retired gentleman for the rest of his life, passing away in 1925, at Trefriw, Caernarvonshire, Wales.⁷

On the 20th February 1878, Townley Edmondson conveyed portion 164 to James Skirrow Edmondson, a storekeeper of Wagga Wagga.⁸

⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 186, folio 153.

⁵ England Census. 1881.

⁶ England Census. 1881.

⁷ Daily Advertiser. 25th March 1925, p2.

⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 186, folio 153.

James Skirrow Edmondson

James Skirrow Edmondson was born in Manchester, Lancashire, England, in 1835, the second eldest son of William Edmondson and Martha Edmondson [nee Skirrow].⁹ His siblings consisted of two sisters, and four brothers. His father was a successful businessman, and his sons all had experience in the business.

James landed at Brisbane, in 1862, accompanied by his brother, Townley Edmondson.

Having established himself, and the business, in Australia, James returned to England, and on the 14th October 1884, he married a spinster, Sarah Ann Broughall, the twenty seven year old daughter of John Broughall [a solicitor], at the parish church [St Mary's], Willesden, in the county of Middlesex.¹⁰ James was fifty years old at the time.

The couple had four children. The first three were all born in Victoria, Australia, in the period 1886 to 1889. Their fourth child, Bessie was born in Wales, in 1891.

It appears that the first three children all returned to England [or Wales], with their parents, and that none of the four children ever had any further connection with Australia.

James died on the 27th December 1894, and his place of abode was described as Bryn Celyn, Llangoed, Anglesea [sic]. His estate, valued at £577, went to his widow, Sarah Ann.¹¹

T Edmondson & Co

In July 1862 a number of emigrants from England landed at Brisbane, on board the vessel, *Chatsworth*. The passengers included, Thomas Lupton, WJ [William Jackson] Edmondson, Townley Edmondson, RB [Robert Burrows] Wrathall, and J [Joseph] Wrathal.¹²

Townley Edmondson arrived in Wagga Wagga on the 4th October 1864. His first business venture was as a commission agent, working with George Forsyth. He was also an agent for TH Mate of Albury, from those earliest days.¹³

Townley Edmondson was well settled at Wagga Wagga, in December 1866, where he was conducting a retail store, and as part of which, he was an agent for TH Mate & Co., of Albury.¹⁴

Townley was still an agent for TH Mate & Co., in October 1868, when the steamer, JHP, arrived from Echuca with a cargo consigned from the latter firm, to their agent, Townley Edmondson.¹⁵

The commercial relationship between TH Mate & Co., and Townley Edmondson is unclear. Some sources, such as the Wagga Wagga rate books, suggest that TH Mate & Co., owned the freehold of the business, but the land title deeds clearly show that Townley owned the freehold.¹⁶ Townley took out several mortgages, with his brothers - James Skirrow Edmondson [of Wagga Wagga] and John Edmondson [of Manchester, England] – and with William Maxwell Newall Edmondson [of Albury]. The latter gentleman was the manager of TH Mate & Co., of Albury [since December 1860]¹⁷, and he was related to Townley,¹⁸ although the specific relationship is unknown. It appears that Townley was never indebted to TH Mate & Co., as mortgagee, per se.

⁹ England Census. 1861. Family of William Edmondson.

¹⁰ London, England. Church of England Marriages and Banns: 1754-1932. [ancestry.com]

¹¹ England & Wales. Index of Wills & Administrations: 1858-1995. [Ancestry.com]

¹² The Courier [Brisbane]. 9th September 1862, p3.

¹³ Daily Advertiser. 12th October 1864, pp7-9.

¹⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 1st December 1866, p4.

¹⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st October 1868, p2.

¹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 30th November 1921, p4.

¹⁷ Border Morning Mail. 13th January 1913, p3.

¹⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 14th January 1913, p5.

By November 1868 Townley Edmondson was promoting his new store in Gurwood Street, with a piano concert to come off on two successive evenings, inside, "*the large room in Mr Edmondson's new store.*"¹⁹ His brother, James Skirrow Edmondson, was also settled in Wagga Wagga by this time.

When Townley purchased the property, in 1868, it was a two storey brick warehouse. A large part of the clientele in those days, were the out of town country people. They would drive their wagons into town, park out the back of the store, and stock up with several months' supplies.²⁰

By 1869, James Skirrow Edmondson was a part of the business, as well.²¹ Throughout the 1870's the latter was an agent for the Mutual Life Association of Australasia.²² It was around this same time that James Edmondson, Edward Edmondson, and Robert Burrows Wrathall joined the firm.²³ This arrangement held till about 1878 when James Skirrow Lupton joined the firm.²⁴ By October 1876, the business was known as T Edmondson & Co.²⁵ The agency arrangement with TH Mate & Co., was an important part of the firm's business model all through the 1870's and the 1880's.²⁶

According to the local rate records, from 1870 to 1876, the business was located on allotment 5, of section 37, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga. The freehold, for this period, was owned by either James or Townley Edmondson, or by both, and these two men were the occupants for this same period. The buildings consisted of a brick store, and two brick cottages.²⁷

From 1876 to 1881, the freehold, according to the Wagga Wagga rate books, was owned by TH Mate & Co., and the occupant was listed as James Edmondson. The buildings consisted of two brick shops, a brick cottage and several outhouses.²⁸ As already stated the freehold was never owned by TH Mate & Co., nor did that firm ever hold a mortgage over the Edmondson property.

James Skirrow Edmondson and Robert Burrows Wrathall left the business in 1881, and between them purchased Mittagong Station.²⁹

In October 1889, with James Skirrow Edmondson committed to returning to England [or Wales], portion 164 was sold to Patrick Joseph Bede Donnelly, Edward Wilfred Donnelly, and George Coleman.³⁰ The latter was a solicitor, of Wagga Wagga, while the two Donnelly brothers were both graziers, and sons of John Donnelly of Borambola. The three men paid the sum of £1,015.³¹ It is assumed that the improvements to the property, along with inflation had seen the value of the property increase five fold in fifteen years. It is further assumed that the property would have been worth more if it had featured a substantial homestead. Although it is possible that the property did feature a home, which had been constructed by the Edmondson family, no references could be found to support such a claim.

¹⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th November 1868, p3.

²⁰ Daily Advertiser. 12th October 1964, pp7-9.

²¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd June 1869, p3.

²² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st December 1878, p5.

²³ Daily Advertiser. 30th November 1921, p4.

²⁴ Daily Advertiser. 30th November 1921, p4.

²⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st October 1876, p4.

²⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th August 1878, p5.

²⁷ Wagga Wagga Rate Books: 1870-1876.

²⁸ Wagga Wagga Rate Books: 1876-1881.

²⁹ Daily Advertiser. 12th October 1964, pp7-9.

³⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 186, folio 153.

³¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Dealing # 161520.

RJE Gormly recorded that the homestead was built by Michael Austin Donnelly but that is almost certainly not correct. Michael died in 1888, a year before the Donnelly brothers purchased the property from Edmondson.³²

On the 23rd January 1891, forty two year old Patrick Cox, the son of John Cox of Mangoplah [deceased], passed away at his residence, *Mount Austin*.³³ Patrick was survived by his wife and a large family.

Patrick Cox was never an owner of the property, but his sister, Mary Maude Cox, was the wife of John Joseph Donnelly, and it is assumed Patrick, who was in poor health, was occupying Mount Austin for a period of time prior to his death.

Patrick Joseph Cox

Patrick Joseph Cox was born at Kyeamba Creek, in April 1850, the second eldest son and the third child of the John Cox of Mangoplah, and of Ann Louise Cox [nee Jones].³⁴

On the 18th January 1875 he married Grace Mary Teresa Lucy Ryan, the fourth daughter of L Ryan of Wollendool Station.³⁵

Patrick Joseph Cox passed away on the 23rd January 1891.³⁶ Prior to residing at Mount Austin, Patrick had spent a number of years at his property, *Merrigreen* [in the 1870's and 1880's].

Mount Austin Homestead

No references to *Mount Austin* could be found, prior to 1891, and it can be assumed the name originated c.1890, when the two Donnelly brothers and George Coleman purchased the property. It is assumed that this trio were responsible for the construction of the *Mount Austin* homestead c.1890. The Donnelly brothers, in all probability, had named the property in honour of their brother Michael Austin Donnelly [senior].

Michael Austin Donnelly

Michael Austin Donnelly [senior] passed away on the 22nd June 1888, at the age of forty three.³⁷ He was born at Gundaroo, on the 20th October 1844,³⁸ the third son, and fifth child, of John Donnelly and Bridget Donnelly [nee Connell].

In 1880 he married Matilda Agnes Jones, at Wagga Wagga,³⁹ and the couple had two children. The second of these, John Patrick Donnelly, died in June 1887, at the age of three. The couples only other child was Michael Austin Donnelly [junior].

At the time of his death Michael Austin Donnelly [senior] was the manager at Borambola. He was survived by his wife and his eldest son.

³² Gormly Indexes. Mount Austin. CSU Regional Archives.

³³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th June 1891, p2.

³⁴ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 804/1850 V1850804 67.

³⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th January 1875, p2. / NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 1667.

³⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 14777.

³⁷ NSW BDM's. Death registration 11421.

³⁸ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 1823/1844 V18441823 62.

³⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 5168

In May 1893, George Coleman advertised to let [from the 18th May 1893], “*the villa residence, Mount Austin, on the Albury road, close to town, with 40 acres of land.*”⁴⁰ Then, in October 1894, Coleman again offered for lease, “*the Mount Austin Paddock, Albury Road, recently occupied by Mr CA Cannon.*”

By mid 1887 Charles Alfred Cannon was conducting a farm on the Albury Road and advertising for sale, “*corned beef,*” and “*roast beef.*” It is assumed that Cannon leased the *Mount Austin* property for a year, in 1893. By December 1889 he was in the process of establishing a butcher shop in Wagga Wagga,⁴¹ and by 1893 he was conducting a butcher shop in Fitzmaurice street.⁴²

In May 1894, George Sheppard sought tenders for, “*repairs and additions to the residence at Mount Austin.*”⁴³

To Contractors.

TENDERS are invited, until Friday, the 25th instant, for **WEATHERBOARD ADDITIONS, REPAIRS, PAINTING, &c.,** to “**Mount Austin,**” for the Executors of the late **M. A. Donnelly.**

Plans and specification of work may be seen at the office of

GEO. SHEPPARD,
Architect,
Wagga Wagga.

bt

Left: George Sheppard’s 1894 advertisement seeking tenders for repairs to the Mount Austin homestead.

The property was under lease to Frederick Norton Oxley, in May 1895, when George Coleman again advertised the villa residence, to let.⁴⁴ In 1894 Oxley was the Engineer for Roads, in the district of Wagga Wagga.⁴⁵ He had previously been the Roads Superintendent at Gosford but moved to Wagga Wagga around March 1893.⁴⁶

Frederick Norton Oxley was the grandson of the famous Australian explorer, John Oxley. He was born at Camden, in July 1858,⁴⁷ the son of John Norton Oxley and Harriet Jane Oxley [nee Hassall]. In September 1891 he married Kathleen Nicholson, at Berrima.⁴⁸

⁴⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th May 1893, p3.

⁴¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th December 1889, p3.

⁴² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th April 1893, p3.

⁴³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th May 1894, p2.

⁴⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th May 1895, p3.

⁴⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th February 1894, p2.

⁴⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 7th March 1893, p2.

⁴⁷ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 6007.

⁴⁸ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 2646.

Frederick passed away on the 28th February 1941 and an obituary provided the following details,⁴⁹

Clearing Furniture Sale.

"MOUNT AUSTIN,"
Off Albury Road, two miles only from
Wagga.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND MAY,
At 2 o'clock.

TOMPSON, MANNING and JEREMY
have received instructions from **F. N. Oxley, Esq.,** Resident Engineer, who is leaving for Yass, to sell by public auction, on the premises, on Wednesday, 22nd May, at 2 o'clock,

FURNITURE, &c.:

DRAWING ROOM —
Suite, Carpet, Hearth Rug, Occasional Chairs, &c.

DINING ROOM —
Sideboard, Austrian Chairs and Couch, Table, Office Table, Small Table, Square Carpet, Fenders, &c.

BEDROOM NO. 1 —
Double Bedstead, Spring Mattress, Cedar Toilet Table, Double Marble Topped Washstand and Ware, Carpet, Fenders, &c.

BEDROOM NO. 2 —
Double Bedsteads, Spring Mattress Bedding complete, Washstand & Ware

BEDROOM NO. 3 —
Spring Stretcher, Oil Cloth Chest Drawers, Large Round Table Washstand and Ware, Carpet, Mirror
The usual Furniture in the HALL.

SERVANTS' ROOM —
Single Bedstead, Spring Mattresses Washstand and Ware, and Mirrors.
Kitchen: Dresser, Tables, and the usual Sundries.

Also,
12 Tons first class oaten Hay
Hand Chaff-cutter in good order
A lot of Garden Tools.

Also,
Splendid Milch Cow and Calf, and a yearling heifer.

"Mr. F. N. Oxley had a State-wide reputation as a skilled draftsman and engineer, and he was the first man in New South Wales to erect a concrete bridge for a local government body. This was Coloboralli bridge, Uranquinty, since renamed Oxley bridge in his honor. Entering the Public Works Department he was stationed at several places including Picton, Gosford and Yass, and then he came to Wagga where he was engineer in charge of the District Roads Office. When the Kyeamba and Mitchell Shires were formed, Mr. Oxley was appointed engineer to them in December 1906, at the same time that Mr. Daley was appointed shire clerk. He served these shires until 1920, when the Government decided that each shire must have its own officers, so Mr. Oxley and Mr. Daley continued to serve the Kyeamba Shire. In May of 1937, Mr. Oxley tendered his resignation as engineer of the Kyeamba Shire, thus breaking an association of 31 years with Mr. Daley. He remained most active, however, and continued driving his car until last year. Mr. Oxley was a skilled draftsman and many of his designs and plans have received high commendation from departmental officers. He was an excellent man in designing and supervising bridges and his work thereat was known throughout the State."

Left: F N Oxley gives notice, in May 1895, of a sale of his household furniture etc., at *Mount Austin* homestead. The advertisement confirms the layout of the home – three bedrooms, a dining room, a drawing room, a servants room [probably separate], and a separate kitchen.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Daily Advertiser. 1st March 1941, p4.

⁵⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser.

By December 1895, the villa was occupied by Herbert Wilfred Skinner, the chief clerk in the Wagga Wagga Roads Office.⁵¹ It seems the leases for the property were generally for twelve months, and in July 1896, George Coleman again listed the villa, lately occupied by Mr Skinner, to let.⁵² His lease must have remained in Skinner's name for a bit longer, because in November 1896, Mrs Amy Evelyn Skinner, offered for sale, by public auction, "*a stack of oaten hay*," [some 30 tons].⁵³ Some four months later Thomas Halloran sought tenders for cutting some thirty tons of chaff, at *Mount Austin* paddock.⁵⁴

Herbert Wilfred Skinner

Herbert Wilfred Skinner passed away on the 7th July 1896, at the *Mount Austin* homestead.⁵⁵ By way of explanation,⁵⁶

"Mr. Skinner has for some two years been a great sufferer from consumption, which had recently secured such a firm hold of his system as to be past combating, and it rapidly assumed a most virulent form, and in a great measure prevented Mr. Skinner from fulfilling his duties. Realising the seriousness of his condition he gave himself over to a patient waiting for the unconquered disease to extinguish his last spark of life, and that came about as stated above. During last week deceased took a turn for the worse, and Dr. Burgess was called in to make a diagnosis of the case. On examination it was found that the right lung had been entirely eaten away, and the left one was also almost completely gone, and he consequently came to the conclusion that Mr. Skinner would last but a week or two at the outside."

Herbert was survived by his wife, Amy Evelyn Skinner [nee Tunks], who he had married in All Saints Church, Petersham, in December 1892.

According to a local press report,⁵⁷

"Deceased had been for about 12 months in the office of the Roads Superintendent at Wagga, having been transferred to that position from the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the Public Works Department, Sydney. He had been in the Public Service for 10 years, his father having also been an engineer in the same branch and had won the confidence and commendation of his superiors by his tact, ability, and the thoroughly practical manner in which he performed his duties. Inside and outside the service he was well liked and respected, but, owing to the ravages of his disease, he has been debarred from taking part in any social movement during his sojourn in Wagga. He was 31 years of age and leaves a wife and two children."

⁵¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st December 1895, p2.

⁵² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th July 1896, p3.

⁵³ Wagga Wagga Express. 14th November 1896, p4.

⁵⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th March 1897, p3.

⁵⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 11824. / Wagga Wagga Express. 9th July 1896, p2.

⁵⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 9th July 1896, p2.

⁵⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 9th July 1896, p2.

In December 1899, the Mount Austin villa was occupied by Mr & Mrs LF Rutter.⁵⁸ The couples young son, Louis Filmore Rutter, passed away at the villa on the 27th December 1899, aged nine.⁵⁹ Presumably the Rutters had occupied Mount Austin since the latter part of 1896.

Matilda Agnes Donnelly [nee Jones], the wife of the late Michael Austin Donnelly [senior] had remarried in 1890, at Wagga Wagga. Her new husband was Louis Filmore Rutter.⁶⁰

The Rutters experienced further alarm on the 16th December when the stable and other items on the property were destroyed by fire. A report of the incident read as follows,⁶¹

“Between 6 and 7 o’clock on Saturday morning a fire occurred at Mount Austin, by means of which a stable, coach house, loose-box and bedroom, belonging to Mr. L. F Rutter, of the Survey Office, were destroyed. On the previous evening a woman named Ellen Stack had asked for lodging accommodation for the night and as nobody was occupying the room adjoining the stable, she was allowed to sleep therein. On Saturday morning, at about 6.30, she went across to the Kitchen and entered into conversation with Miss Ryan, an inmate of the house. After a few minutes Miss Ryan went into the yard, and then noticed that the stable was in fumes. Mr. Rutter and other occupants of the house were at once alarmed, and as it was seen to be a matter of impossibility to save the building with the limited appliances at command, an effort was made to save some of the contents of the stable and coach house. Two sulkies, a set of harness. and two saddles were taken out before the flames became so fierce that the "salvagers" were compelled to desist. Unfortunately, this did not embrace everything in the premises, and a set of new harness, and a number of bridles and other stable tackling had perforce to be abandoned to destruction. The stables and adjacent buildings all this time were blazing away merrily, and in a short space of time were reduced to ashes. Within 10ft of the burning pile was a shed containing a five ton stack of hay. By the use of wet sacks and water this stack was saved, although once or twice it became ignited, and seemed in imminent danger of being demolished. The extent of the damage to the stable, etc., is estimated at about £100. The harness destroyed was worth about £35.”

Louis Filmore Rutter

Louis Filmore Rutter passed away on the 4th July 1915, while Matilda Agnes Rutter [nee Jones] passed away on the 2nd May 1936. An obituary notice provided the following details.\,

“After a long illness, Mrs. Matilda Agnes Rutter passed away at her residence, 50 Junction-road, Summer Hill, on May 2, 1936. Deceased was born at Mittagong 76 years ago, and was one of a large family, and when 10 years of age came under the guidance of her aunt, the wife of John Donnelly, the well known grazier ana station owner. Some years later her marriage to Michael Austin Donnelly took place, but death claimed Michael Austin Donnelly nine years after their marriage. Mrs. Donnelly then left the station of Berambula and resided in the township of Wagga. Deceased then married Louis Rutter, the son of the late Dr. Rutter, of Sydney. After

⁵⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 28th December 1899, p3.

⁵⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 28th December 1899, p2.

⁶⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 7205.

⁶¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 19th December 1899, p2.

their marriage [1890] she again took up station life and built her home on Mt. Austin Station, and about 20 years ago she came to live at 50 Junction-road, Summer Hill. She is survived by one son, Austin, of Roseville, and one daughter, Persia (Mrs. Roberts).”

The above claim, that Matilda built a homestead on Mount Austin, lacks credibility. After Michael Austin Donnelly died in June 1888, it is believed that his two brothers - Patrick Joseph Bede Donnelly and Edward Wilfred Donnelly – along with George Coleman, purchased the *Mount Austin* property from James Skirrow Edmondson, to be held in trust for Michael Austin Donnelly [junior], who would have come of age in 1901. Matilda never owned the Mount Austin property, although she did occupy it from 1899, for a short period.

When Michael Austin Donnelly [senior] passed away he was living at Borambola, which he managed at that time. He left his furniture to his wife, but she declined to accept same, instead requesting that the trustees of his estate purchase new furniture for her, which they declined to do. Six years later Mrs Rutter launched a legal claim for £200 cash and £300 for furniture. She finally accepted an offer of £50, the value placed on the furniture, by the trustees.⁶² It is assumed the furniture referred to would have been located within the Borambola homestead in 1888.

In April 1900, George Sheppard sought tenders for the construction of a stable at Mount Austin.⁶³

In October 1901 Patrick Joseph Bede Donnelly, Edward Wilfred Donnelly, and George Coleman, transferred the property to Michael Austin Donnelly, a freeholder of Mount Austin.⁶⁴ Michael Austin Donnelly was the son of Michael Austin Donnelly [senior], who in turn was the brother of Joseph Bede Donnelly and Edward Wilfred Donnelly. Michael Austin Donnelly [senior], had passed away some years prior, on the 22nd June 1888, at Borambola.⁶⁵

In May 1902, Michael Auston Donnelly [junior], of Mount Austin, advertised to let, on the share system, 90 acres of land.⁶⁶

It would seem the Rutters left Mount Austin in the early months of 1904, or thereabouts, as Mrs Rutter advertised a sale of her household furniture to take place at Mount Austin, on the 2nd February in that year.⁶⁷ By May 1904, Michael Austin Donnelly [junior] was advertising to let, “*a five roomed cottage,*” on the Albury Road.⁶⁸ The cottage was again advertised in October 1906, by Donnelly.⁶⁹

Michael Austin Donnelly [junior] held the property [portion 164] up until October 1907, when he sold to Arthur Osmond Duke, a grazier of Wagga Wagga.⁷⁰

⁶² Wagga Wagga Express. 5th November 1895, p2.

⁶³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th April 1900, p3.

⁶⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 961, folio 14.

⁶⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th June 1888, p2.

⁶⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1st May 1902, p3.

⁶⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 9th January 1904, p3.

⁶⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 19th May 1904, p3.

⁶⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th October 1906, p3.

⁷⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 961, folio 14.

Michael Austin Donnelly [junior]

Michael Austin Donnelly [junior] was born on the 27th September 1880, at Wagga Wagga.⁷¹ In 1901 having turned twenty one, he inherited the *Mount Austin* property, where he did, apparently live, with his mother for a period of time.

In 1908 he married Ida Beatrice Wilkinson, at East Maitland,⁷² and the couple moved to Sydney where Michael was employed in the insurance industry. Michael Austin Donnelly [junior] passed away at North Sydney in 1945.⁷³

In October 1908, Duke advertised the Mount Austin Estate, consisting of some four hundred and forty four acres, to let, either as a whole , or in three portions.⁷⁴ Duke had purchased portions 101 and 102, and possibly another portion, in order to increase the area of the Mount Austin property.

Arthur Osmond Duke

Arthur Osmond Duke was born in Leominster, Sussex, England, in 1858, and came out to Australia in 1883, and practiced as a solicitor in Melbourne, before taking up farming, in the Wimmera district, in Victoria.

In 1887 he married Eleanor Jane Bradley, in Victoria.⁷⁵ The couple had four children. Eleanor passed away in 1917, and Arthur subsequently remarried, to Margaret Short, in Victoria, in 1919.⁷⁶

Arthur moved to Wagga Wagga in 1907, and purchased both the *Mount Austin* property, and a property at Ladysmith called *Cheviot Hills* [later known as *Mona Vale*]. At a later date he purchased *Arundel* at Gregadoo. He continued farming on *Arundel* up until 1933, when he retired and moved to Melbourne, then Sydney, and then finally back to Wagga Wagga, where he lived until the death of his wife, in May 1943.⁷⁷ He then went to live with his son at Gregadoo, which is where he died in October 1943.⁷⁸ He was survived by one daughter, Mrs E Cridge of Sydney, and by one son, John Randall Duke of *Arundel*, Gregadoo.

On the 10th October 1912, Arthur Osmond Duke conveyed the property to Ellen Martha Bolger, the wife of James Bolger, a farmer and grazier of Tootool, and to Thomas Sidney Jones, a landholder of Wagga Wagga, as tenants in common.⁷⁹

Ellen Martha Bolger and Thomas Sidney Jones were the owners of a larger holding that included portions 101, 102 and 164, in the parish of South Wagga Wagga, along with an additional area of five acres and sixteen perches.⁸⁰ The latter area was a roadway that ran along the eastern boundary of portion 102, separating it from portion 103. Total area of the holding was 366 acres, 1 rood and 8 perches.

⁷¹ Australia, Births and Baptisms:1792-1981. [ancestry.com]

⁷² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 5120.

⁷³ Daily Advertiser. 1st February 1945, p2.

⁷⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th October 1908, p8.

⁷⁵ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 4923.

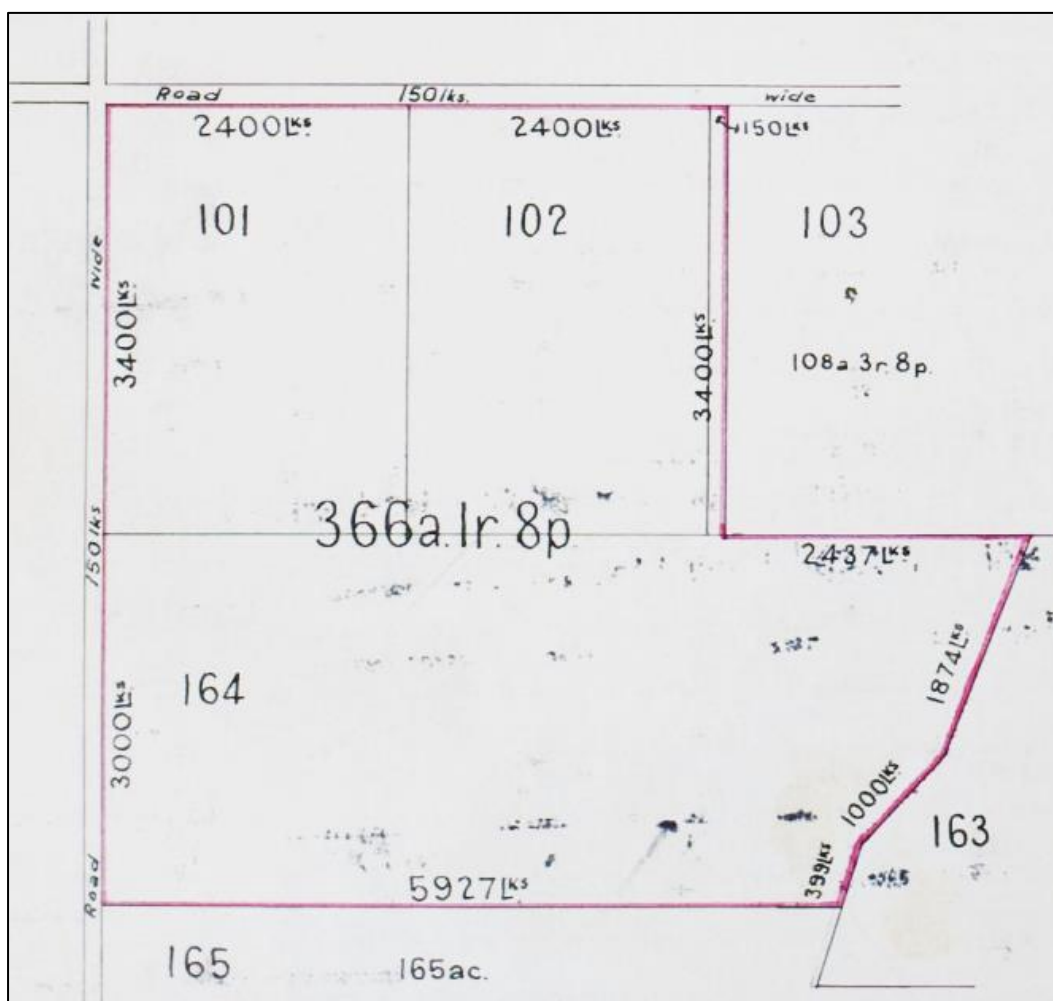
⁷⁶ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 9254.

⁷⁷ Daily Advertiser. 17th May 1943, p2.

⁷⁸ Daily Advertiser. 14th October 1943, p4.

⁷⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 961, folio 14.

⁸⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 2309, folio 49.



Above: The land held by Ellen Martha Bolger and Thomas Sidney Jones in 1912. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

James Bolger

James Bolger was born at Mortlake, Victoria, in 1864, the son of James Bolger [senior] and Margaret Bolger [nee Brennan].⁸¹ His father, of *The Priory*, at Bullenbong, died in 1889,⁸² while his mother died in 1911, at Young.⁸³ Mrs Bolger was a native of Ireland and came to Victoria in 1855, with her husband, James Bolger [senior]. The couple took up *The Priory* in 1881.⁸⁴

On the 28th December 1892, James [junior] married Ellen Martha Williams, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The couple had six children, the youngest of whom was Christopher Bolger, born at Tootool, on the 25th February 1910.⁸⁵

James [junior] called his property at Tootool, *Toronto*, no doubt in honour of the place where he married his wife. His death took place in June 1940, at Mosman, where the family moved to after leaving Tootool.⁸⁶ Ellen Martha Bolger [nee Williams] died on the 10th June 1950,⁸⁷ following an

⁸¹ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 23819.

⁸² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th December 1889, p3.

⁸³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 12957.

⁸⁴ Daily Advertiser. 12th July 1911, p2.

⁸⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 9629.

⁸⁶ Daily Advertiser. 28th June 1940, p4.

⁸⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 12th June 1950, p4.

accident two days earlier when she walked into the side of a moving vehicle, in front of her house, and was knocked to the ground, receiving serious injuries.⁸⁸

Very little is known of Sidney Thomas Jones, but when his wife passed away at Randwick in May 1947, he was described as a well known bookmaker in the southern districts.⁸⁹

In February 1913, Messrs Sidney Jones and James Bolger, of Tootool, submitted plans for a subdivision of their Mount Austin Estate, to the Kyeamba Shire Council.⁹⁰ In the same month they advertised for lease, "*the Mount Austin Estate, 366 acres, good house, every convenience.*"⁹¹ The subdivision split the 366 acre holding into lots ranging from one acre to twelve acres in area.⁹² The Wagga Wagga Municipal Council had recently discussed the option to extend the southern boundaries of the town to encompass lands to the south of the Mt Erin Convent, which would have extended the town border to within a quarter of a mile from the *Mount Austin* property. James Bolger submitted an amended subdivision plan, to the Kyeamba Shire Council, in January 1913, which now allowed for blocks ranging from three to eleven acres.

In 1916 Mount Austin was occupied by a Mr Herbert Daniel Morrow.⁹³ Morrow was a well known horse dealer and possibly did not reside on the property. He may have run some horses on the property, but it is more likely he grew crops to feed his horses.

Herbert Daniel Morrow

Herbert Daniel Morrow was born in Wagga Wagga in 1882,⁹⁴ the son of William Morrow and Ellen M Morrow [nee Rogers]. His parents were well known as the proprietors of the hotel at Collingullie, or the Cross Roads as it was then known.

On the 23rd January 1911, he married Anastasia Edith Leaver, at Sydney.⁹⁵ Edith was the sister of Herbert Leaver, another well known Wagga Wagga publican. Her parents were Henry Edwin Leaver and Annie Elizabeth Leaver [nee McDermott].

Herbert and Edith had four children. Herbert passed away on the 1st February 1937, while Edith survived another thirty six years before she succumbed, in about 1873.

An obituary for Herbert Daniel Morrow provided the following details,⁹⁶

"The death occurred suddenly at midnight on Monday, of Mr. Herbert Daniel Morrow, of 63 Trail-street, Wagga, at the age of 55 years. He was the fourth son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Morrow, of Collingullie. He was born at Collingullie and was educated there and later at Wagga. He was a well-known horse-breaker and was regarded as one of the best horsemen in the Murrumbidgee valley as a young man. He engaged in horse dealing for about 30 years, and was well-known in his calling all over the State. He transacted considerable business with polo ponies and Indian remounts, and for a period of six months resided in India, where he was engaged in the horse-dealing business. He married Miss Edith Leaver, of Wagga, and she survives him, also three sons and one daughter, Horace William, of Wagga, James Henry, of India, Gavin Austin, of Wagga, and Betty, of Wagga. Four brothers

⁸⁸ Goulburn Evening Post. 9th June 1950, p4.

⁸⁹ Daily Advertiser. 8th May 1947, p2.

⁹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 1st February 1913, p2.

⁹¹ Daily Advertiser. 15th February 1913, p5.

⁹² Daily Advertiser. 23rd August 1912, p2.

⁹³ Daily Advertiser. 24th July 1916, p3.

⁹⁴ Sydney, Anglican Parish Registers: 1841-2011 [Marriage in 1911, records his age as 28]

⁹⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 166.

⁹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 3rd February 1937, p6.

also survive, Messrs. James Henry and Leslie David, of Collingullie, Wallace Roger, of Galore, and Ernest Joseph, of Henty. Mr. Morrow was a nephew of Mr. Rogers, of Back Brewarrina Station.”

By December 1917 Mr HJ Tomkins [commonly spelt Tonkins] was occupying Mount Austin.⁹⁷ His residency was reconfirmed in January 1919.⁹⁸ Tomkins was still residing at Mount Austin in January 1922 but as his lease was about to expire, he gave notice of a clearance sale at the property. The notice listed the household furniture, room by room. The following rooms were listed – dining room; breakfast room; bedrooms 1, 2 & 3; hall [9 yards long]; court way; kitchen and pantry; laundry. The last three items were separate from the main building.⁹⁹

It was during Tomkins occupation of *Mount Austin* that a number of planes landed in a paddock at that place. The planes were flown by a group of men who had seen service in the Great war, and who were campaigning to support the Second Peace Loan. The planes had intended to land on the racecourse at Wagga Wagga but found that it was occupied by a flock of sheep, so landed at *Mount Austin* instead. Mr Tomkins welcomed the men as his guests and provided what comforts he could.¹⁰⁰

Henry John Tomkins

Henry John Tomkins was born at Dunkfield, Victoria, in 1863,¹⁰¹ the son of John Tomkins and Margaret Tomkins [nee Dewart].¹⁰²

Henry John Tomkins passed away on the 24th October 1923, at his residence, in Coleraine, Victoria.¹⁰³ He was described as being late of *Lansdowne*, *The Rock*, and *Mount Austin*, Wagga Wagga. According to probate records Henry was a retired carrier.¹⁰⁴ He was survived by his wife, Emma.¹⁰⁵

Not long after Tomkins departure, in May 1922, a man named Doyle was ploughing in one of the paddocks at Mount Austin, when he “*unearthed the body of a dead male baby.*”¹⁰⁶ Police took the body to Wagga Wagga where the Government Medical Officer, Dr Leahy, confirmed the baby was stillborn and that the body had probably been buried for about one month. The police were unable to determine whose baby it was.¹⁰⁷

In March 1925 Mr W Piddington was residing at Mount Austin.¹⁰⁸ Nothing is known of this person.

For the period 1926 to 1929 no references could be found to Mount Austin. It appears that James Christopher Bolger was managing the property from about 1935 onwards.¹⁰⁹

⁹⁷ Daily Advertiser. 18th December 1917, p3.

⁹⁸ Daily Advertiser. 25th January 1919, p4.

⁹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 14th January 1922, p3.

¹⁰⁰ Daily Advertiser. 7th August 1920, p4.

¹⁰¹ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 20142.

¹⁰² VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 150.

¹⁰³ Daily Advertiser. 29th October 1923, p2.

¹⁰⁴ Victoria. Wills and Probate Records: 1841-2009 [ancestry.com]

¹⁰⁵ Daily Advertiser. 29th October 1923, p2.

¹⁰⁶ Daily Advertiser. 27th May 1922, p4.

¹⁰⁷ Daily Advertiser. 27th May 1922, p4.

¹⁰⁸ Daily Advertiser. 19th March 1925, p2.

¹⁰⁹ Daily Advertiser. 31st December 1935, p1.

In November 1932, Thomas Sidney Jones transferred his share of the property to Ellen Martha Bolger, the wife of James Bolger, a farmer of Mount Austin.¹¹⁰

In July 1932 James Bolger, of *Mount Austin*, Turvey Park, advertised for “*fencing posts*.”¹¹¹ It is assumed that this was James Christopher Bolger, and that he now occupied *Mount Austin*.

James Christopher Bolger

James Christopher Bolger was born at Tootool on the 25th February 1910,¹¹² the son of James Bolger and Ellen Martha Bolger [nee Williams]. He was the couples sixth and youngest child.

By 1930 James Bolger and Ellen Martha Bolger [nee Williams] were living at 80 Muston Street, Mosman.

Young James was well known in Wagga Wagga and very popular amongst the younger sets. He was a member of the Wagga Beach Life Saving Club, the Wagga Australian Rules Football Club, the Wagga Lawn Tennis Club, and the Christian Brother’s Old Boys’ Rugby Club. He was a particularly good swimmer having won a number of races in and around Wagga Wagga.¹¹³

In December 1935 a terrible tragedy took place at the *Mount Austin* homestead. It was described as “*one of the most brutal and callous murders in the annals of crime in the State*.” The body of twenty seven year old James Christopher Bolger was found in a well under the floor of the *Mount Austin* homestead verandah, with a bullet wound to his head. A bag had been placed over his head and securely fastened to his torso by means of a rope. His feet had been tied together and secured to a large iron weight, by means of another rope. Bolger was dressed in his pyjamas.¹¹⁴

Bolger was last seen by his friends late on Friday 27th December, he having returned from a trip to Sydney on that day. Bolger was a member of the Wagga Beach Lifesaving Club and should have been at the beach on Saturday but failed to show. His friends became suspicious when an employee of Bolgers, seventeen year old Roy Malcolm Soutar, arrived at the beach, driving Bolger’s motor car. Bolger had nil contact with his friends on the Sunday and come Monday morning the matter was reported to the police who arrested Soutar and charged him with driving without a license.

One of Bolger’s friends, Rowland MacLaren John Parker, rode up to the Mount Austin homestead in an effort to determine what had happened to Bolger. There was a sleepout on the southern side of the homestead, which featured two beds. The bed near the western end of the verandah appeared to have been slept in, but the other bed, the one usually occupied by Bolger, was undisturbed. There were a number of blood stains within a few feet of this bed. More blood stains were found on the floor of the courtyard [a covered verandah] that connected the kitchen and other outbuildings with the main building, on the eastern side of same.

Beneath the courtyard, or verandah, lay a tank, eight yards long by five yards wide, and about ten feet deep. At the time it was almost completely full, of water. Parker telephoned the police who immediately drove to the homestead. Arriving there, they discovered some loose boards on the verandah and lifted to same in order to access the tank. They used an improvised grappling iron to drag the tank and soon raised the body of James Christopher Bolger from its depths.

It appeared that Bolger had been shot with a pea-rifle and that the bullet had entered his face, near the cheekbone [a subsequent inquest recorded that the wound was one inch below the left eye and

¹¹⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4562, folio 119.

¹¹¹ Daily Advertiser. 25th July 1932, p3.

¹¹² NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 9629.

¹¹³ Daily Advertiser. 31st December 1935, p1. / Wagga Wagga Express. 4th January 1936, p5.

¹¹⁴ Daily Advertiser. 31st December 1935, p1.

three quarters of an inch to the left of the same eye. A second bullet wound was also found, about one quarter of an inch above the ear on the right hand side of the head].¹¹⁵

The police found a pea rifle at the site and were able to confirm that Bolger and Soutar were the only two people living at the homestead. Soutar had been hired to work on the property since about the 9th November [3rd November 1935, according to Soutar].

Having murdered Bolger, Soutar then pretended, to a number of people, that he was, in fact, Richard [Dick] Bolger, the brother of Chris, and that he owned a half share in the Mount Austin property, and a half share in the motor car. Soutar took, and wore, some of Chris's clothing, and he drove Chris's car regularly.

Soutar had met up with three young men who were visiting from Sydney, one of whom recognised him as a man who worked in a butcher shop at Ashfield in Sydney. He drove them around in the car and took them to the Mount Austin homestead on several occasions. On the first evening they visited the Mount Austin homestead, Soutar, "*took the lid of an opening in the well in the verandah,*" and then, "*took butter, honey and other things out of the well and put them on the table for dinner.*" Soutar also met a young local girl, Daphne Pearl Nolan, and he told her the same lies. Soutar also took Daphne out to the homestead, where they had stayed for "*15 to 20 minutes.*"¹¹⁶

The inquest heard that Soutar had confessed to police that he shot Bolger, as a consequence of an argument about Daphne Nolan. Soutar had asked Chris if he knew Daphne, and Bolger, in response, made a disparaging remark about her, which infuriated Soutar, who later, at around 5:15am the next morning shot Bolger, twice, in the head, while he [Bolger] lay in bed on the verandah.¹¹⁷

Roy Malcolm Soutar was committed to stand trial, and this took place at Sydney in March 1936, where he was convicted of murder and sentenced to death.¹¹⁸ This sentence was later commuted to penal servitude for the rest of his natural life.¹¹⁹ Soutar was eventually released.

James Christopher Bolger was survived by his parents and four siblings – his brother Walker Bolger, of Gulargambone, and three sisters – Florence Gillespie, Nellie Bryant, and Alice Bolger.¹²⁰

¹¹⁵ Daily Advertiser. 9th January 1936, p2.

¹¹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 9th January 1936, p2.

¹¹⁷ Daily Advertiser. 9th January 1936, p2.

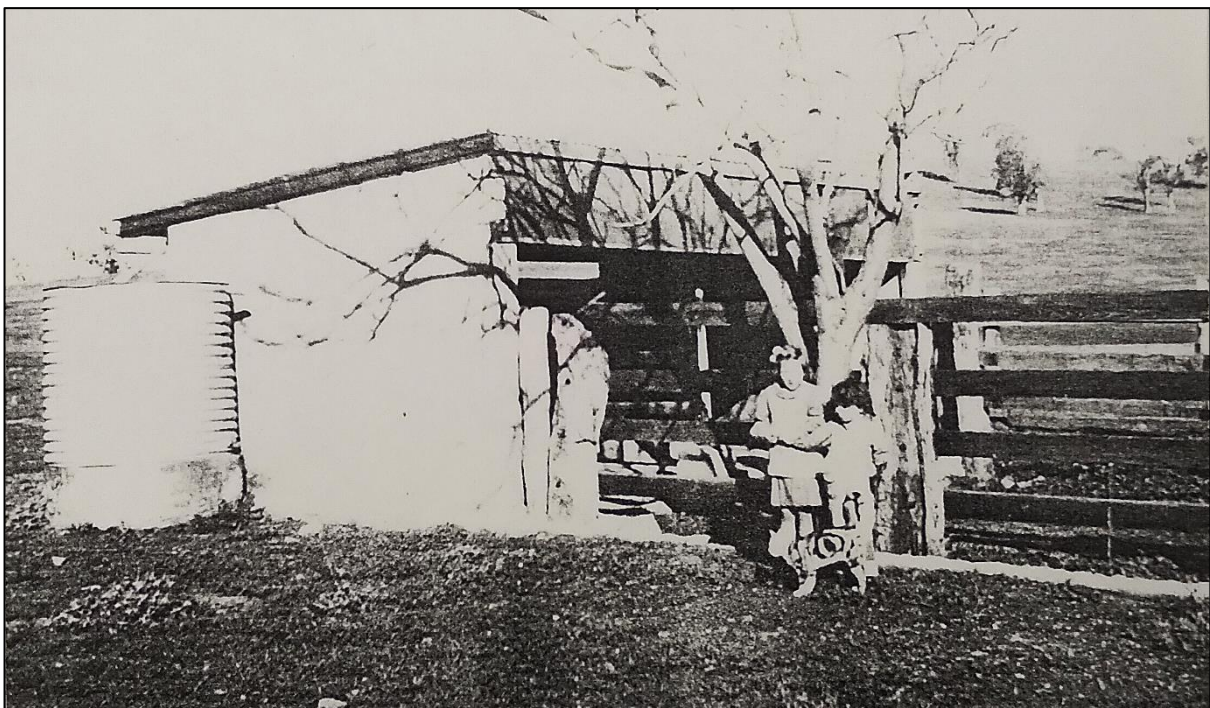
¹¹⁸ Daily Advertiser. 9th January 1936, p2. / 10th March 1936, p4.

¹¹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 2nd June 1936, p2.

¹²⁰ Daily Advertiser. 31st December 1935, p1.



Above: Chris Bolger milking a cow at Mount Austin in 1933. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives [RW1414.1/4]



Above: Mount Austin dairy c.1946-1948.¹²¹

¹²¹ Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. Bolger folder.



Above: Chris Bolger. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives [RW1414.1/4]



Above: The Bolger family [location unknown]. Courtesy Ian Vennell.

Below Left: Jim Bolger [1864-1940]

Below Right: Ellen Bolger [1874-1950]





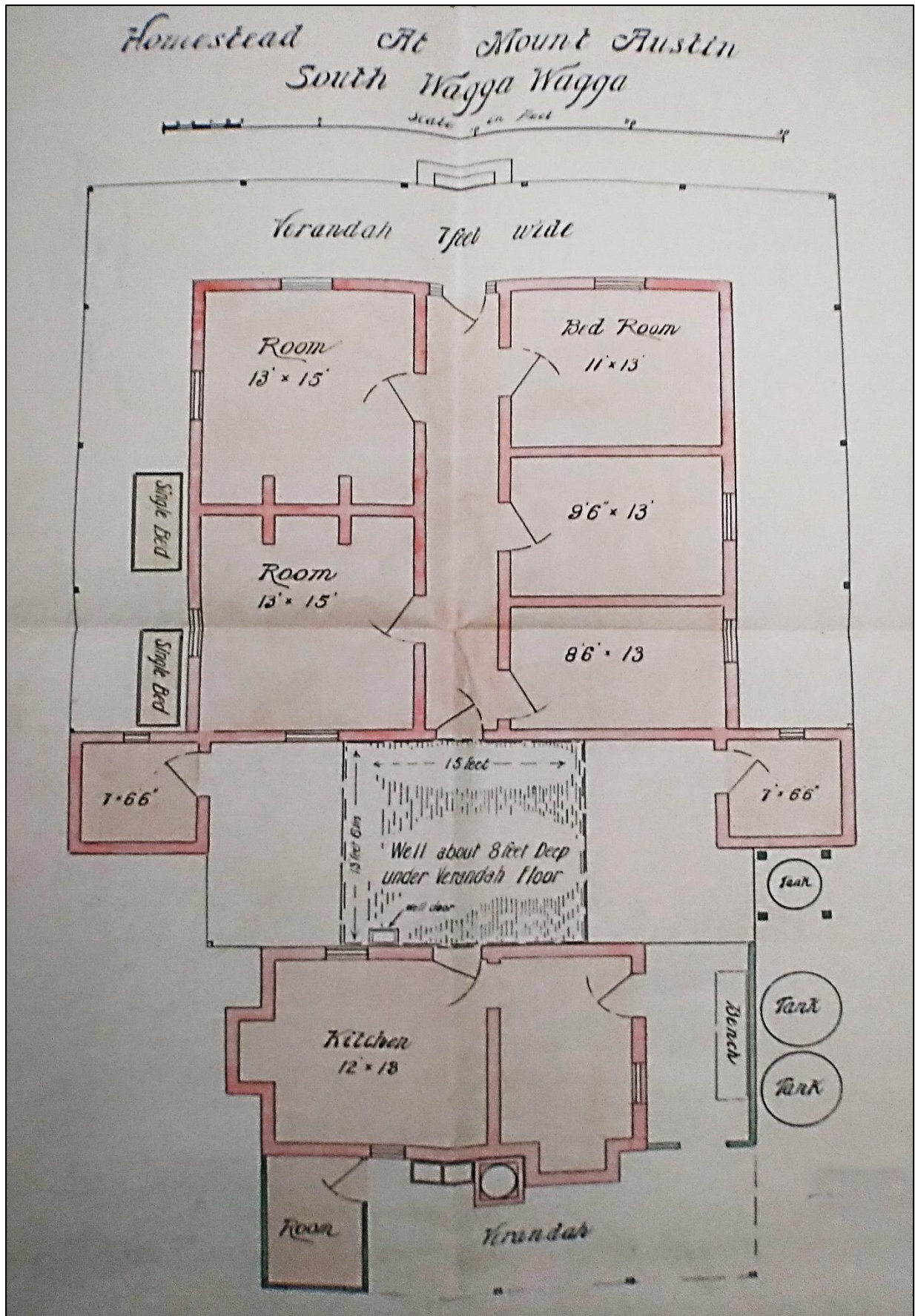
Above: James Christopher Bolger and Alice Christina May Bolger. Courtesy Ian Vennell.



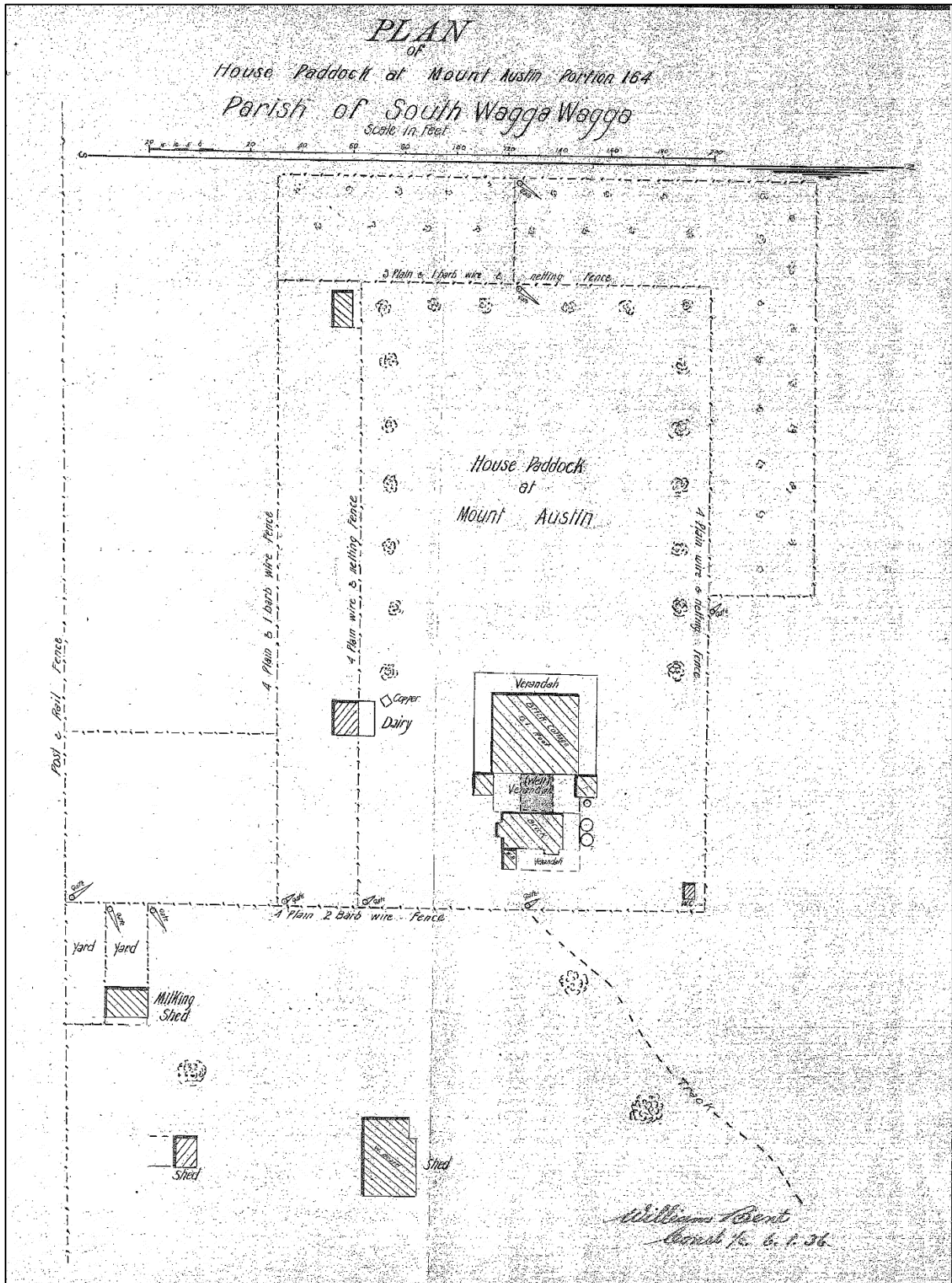
Above: Eastern view of the Mount Austin homestead c.1936. The two beds can be seen on the verandah. The space between the kitchen and the main building is where the tank was located under the floor.



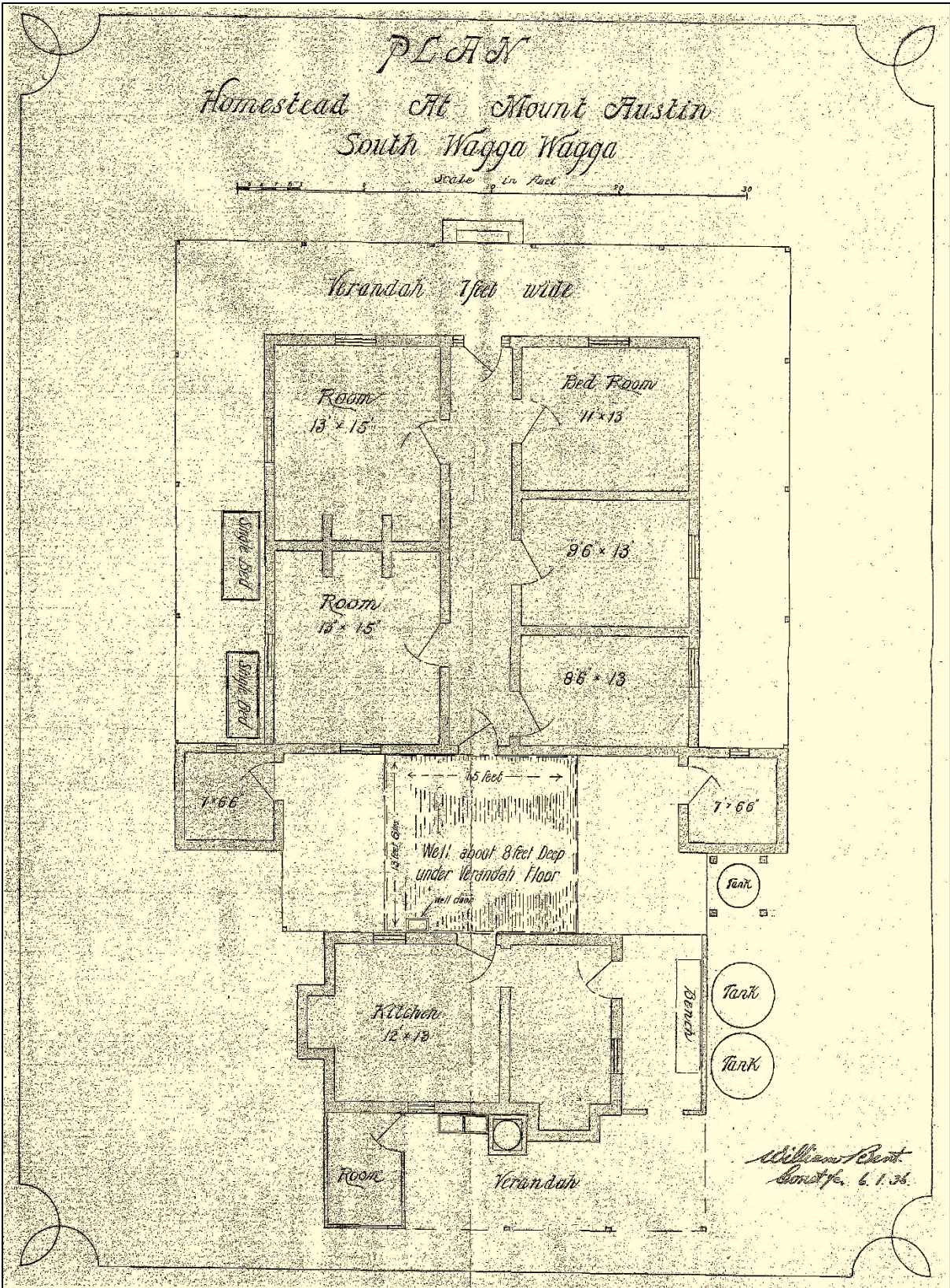
Above: The two beds where the murder took place. Chris Bolger's bed is on the right.



Above: Plan of Mount Austin homestead in 1936.



Above: A plan of the homestead site in 1936, as prepared by Constable William Bent.



Above: A plan of the homestead in 1936, as prepared by Constable William Bent.

By June 1936, *Mount Austin* was occupied by Reuben George Wooden, who bred and sold “turkey cockerels,” and “pullets.”¹²² By October 1936, he was conducted a shearing business on the premises.¹²³ Wooden occupied the property up until sometime in 1941.

Reuben George Wooden

Reuben George Wooden was born on the 21st November 1915, at Junee, the son of Reuben George Wooden [senior] and Florence Emily Wooden [nee Baxter].¹²⁴

In January 1940, Reuben George Wooden, the eldest son of Mr & Mrs Wooden, of *Mount Austin*, married Alma Ida Esmaraida Hughes, of Rowan, in St John’s Church, Wagga Wagga. [Marriage registration records 1939].¹²⁵ The wedding breakfast, for 150 people, was held at *Mount Austin*.¹²⁶ A daughter of Mr & Mrs Wooden, May Annie, married Edmund Charles Ludwig, in St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Wagga Wagga, in September 1940, and again the guests were entertained at *Mount Austin*.¹²⁷

Plans for a number of new homes were approved by council in August 1941, including one for RG Wooden, in Sunshine Avenue,¹²⁸ and by February 1942 the Reuben family were residing in the new home [not clear whether this was Reuben senior or junior].¹²⁹ Electoral rolls record Reuben senior at 26 Sunshine Avenue, and Reuben junior at 30 Sunshine Avenue.

In 1937 and again in 1943, Reuben [junior], described himself as a carrier, but by 1954 he described himself as a contractor - the same as his father.¹³⁰

Reuben George Wooden passed away on the 30th July 1995, at Wagga Wagga. Alma Wooden [nee Hughes], late of *Clearview*, passed away on the 1st September 2012, at Caloola Court.¹³¹

In June 1941, the *Mount Austin* property [280 acres plus a good home] was advertised to let for a period of three years, by tender.¹³² Within ten days the offer to lease was withdrawn.¹³³ Some four months later the homestead was available to let, with about ten acres of land.¹³⁴

In July 1941 Ellen Bolger leased the holdings to Stanley Edward Thomas, a farmer of Tarcutta,¹³⁵ who occupied the property up until 1944.

In January 1944, the homestead [7 rooms] plus a small paddock, were again advertised to let, at the rate of one pound per week.¹³⁶

¹²² Daily Advertiser. 13th June 1936, p6.

¹²³ Daily Advertiser. 3rd October 1936, p9

¹²⁴ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 44028.

¹²⁵ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 21129.

¹²⁶ Daily Advertiser. 12th January 1940, p3.

¹²⁷ Daily Advertiser. 10th September 1940, p4.

¹²⁸ Daily Advertiser. 22nd August 1941, p2.

¹²⁹ Daily Advertiser. 6th February 1942, p2.

¹³⁰ Australia. Electoral Rolls. 1937, 1943, 1954. [ancestry.com]

¹³¹ Daily Advertiser. 3rd September 2012.

¹³² Daily Advertiser. 17th June 1941, p5.

¹³³ Daily Advertiser. 26th June 1941, p5.

¹³⁴ Daily Advertiser. 30th October 1941, p4.

¹³⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4562, folio 119.

¹³⁶ Daily Advertiser. 29th January 1944, p5.



Above: Mount Austin homestead c.1946-1948.¹³⁷ The children are Richard Redgrave and his sister Gai Redgrave.

Stanley Edward Thomas

It is believed that Stanley Edward Thomas was born at Narrandera in 1891, the son of Edward Charles Thomas and Catherine T Thomas [nee Burke].¹³⁸

In 1931 Stanley married Katherine Jessie MacKenzie, at Sydney.¹³⁹

In 1954, Stanley was conducting a dairy at North Wagga Wagga, and was described as "*a well known grazier.*"¹⁴⁰

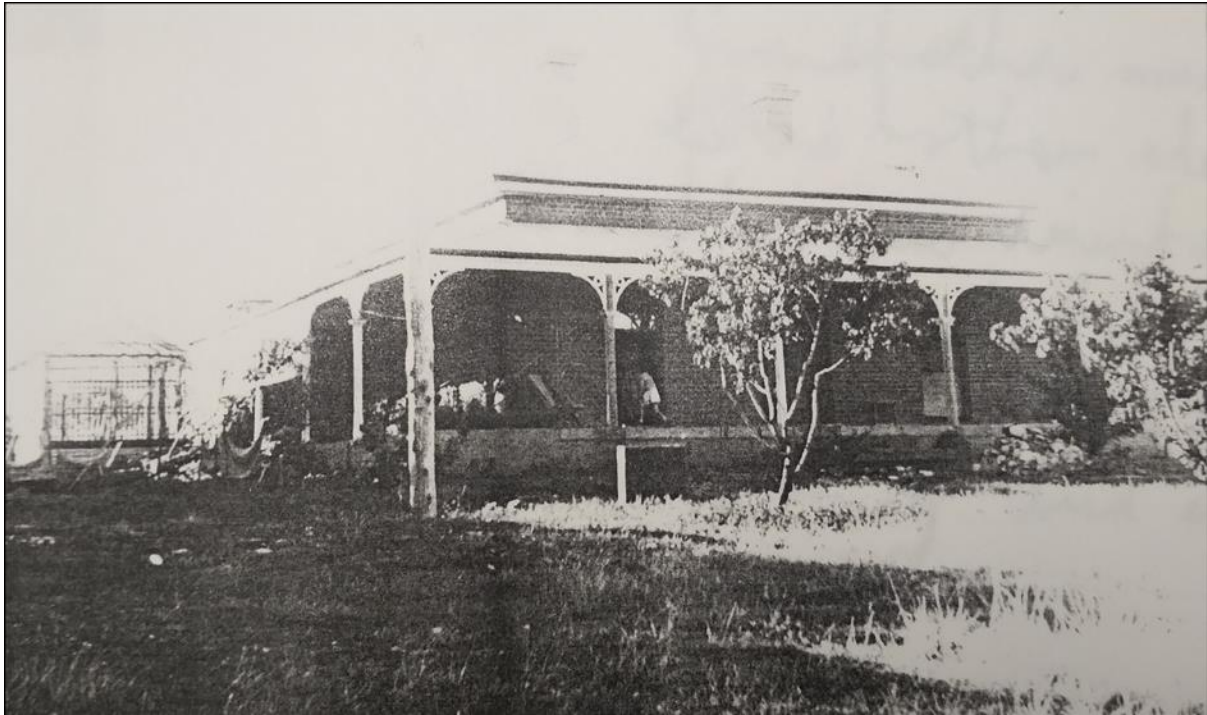
Stanley passed away in May 1966. Katherine passed away some twenty three years later, in August 1989, at Barcaldine in Queensland. It appears there was no issue from their union.

¹³⁷ Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. Bolger folder.

¹³⁸ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 23916.

¹³⁹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 11579.

¹⁴⁰ Daily Advertiser. 25th March 1954, p2.



Above: Mount Austin homestead c.1946-1948.¹⁴¹

In December 1947 the Mount Austin Land Subdivision was advertised, offering 57 building blocks, all with frontage to Fernleigh Road.¹⁴² This area did not include the homestead block.

Mt. Austin Land Subdivision

57 Desirable Building Blocks 57

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

AT A.M.L. AND F. CO. WAGGA SALEROOMS

Wednesday, February 18, 1948, at 3 p.m.

COMPRISING THE WHOLE OF **MT. AUSTIN**, WITH FRONTAGE
TO FERNLEIGH ROAD

Survey now in progress and plans will be available early in the New Year

AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE Land & Finance Co., Ltd.
(Inc. in Eng.)

WAGGA WAGGA

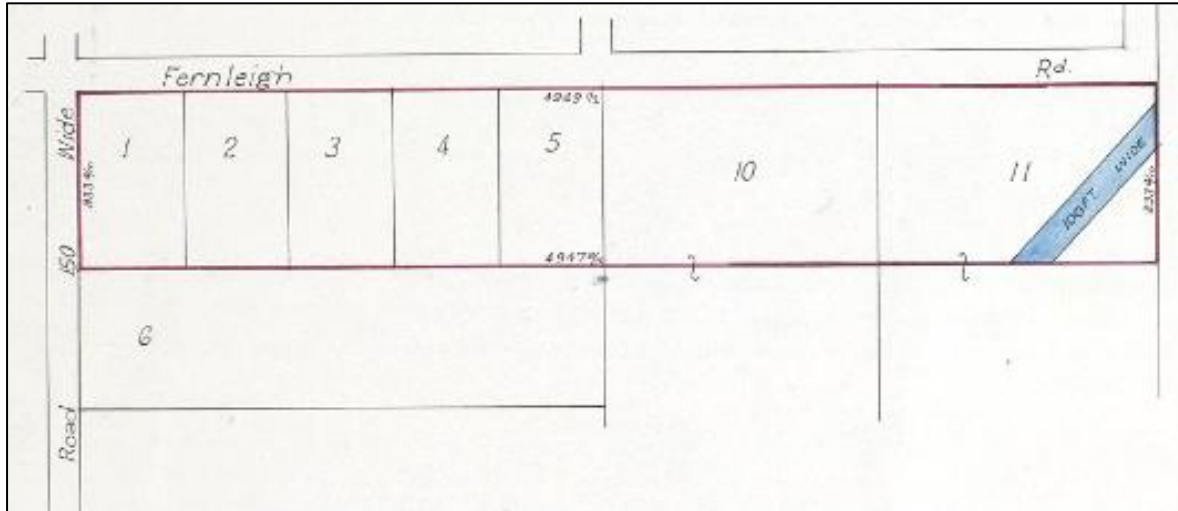
HORE & DOCKER, Wagga Wagga,
LICENSED AUCTIONEERS IN CONJUNCTION

Above: The advertisement for the Mount Austin Subdivision in December 1947.

¹⁴¹ Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. Bolger folder.

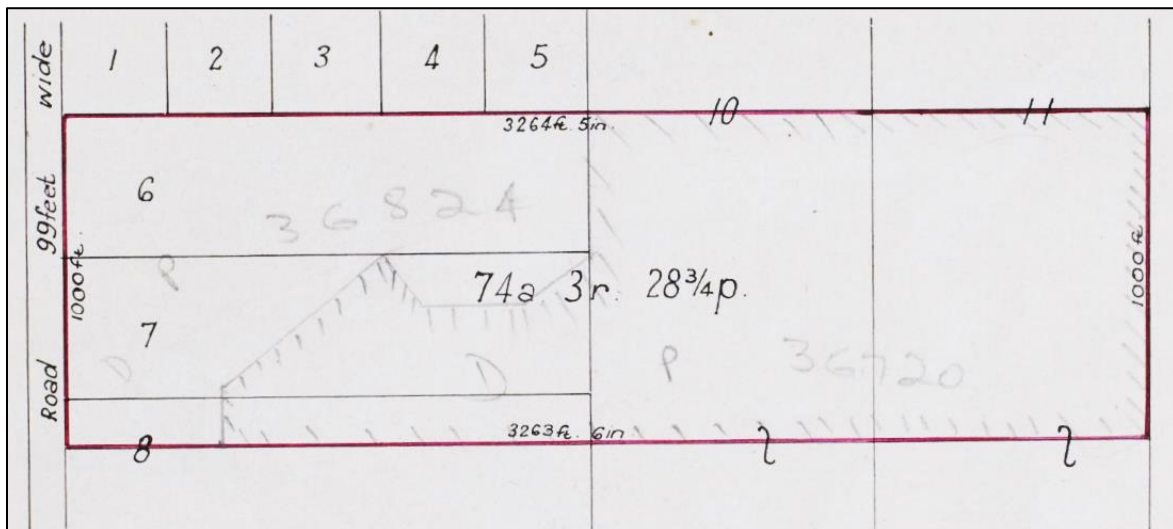
¹⁴² Daily Advertiser. 27th December 1947, p5.

In 1948 the Housing Commission of NSW resumed an area of forty one acres plus thirty eight and a quarter perches, from the holdings. The resumed land encompassed lots 1 to 5, and a part of lots 10 & 11, of deposited plan 17364. These lots lay within what were originally portions 102 & 103, and they fronted onto Fernleigh Road.¹⁴³



Above: The land resumed by the Housing Commission of NSW in 1948. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In 1952 the Housing Commissioner of NSW resumed more land, to the south of the earlier resumption. The total area resumed was seventy four acres, three roods and twenty eight and three quarter perches. The resumed land consisted of lots 6 and 7, and parts of lots 8,10 and 11, of deposited plan 17364.¹⁴⁴

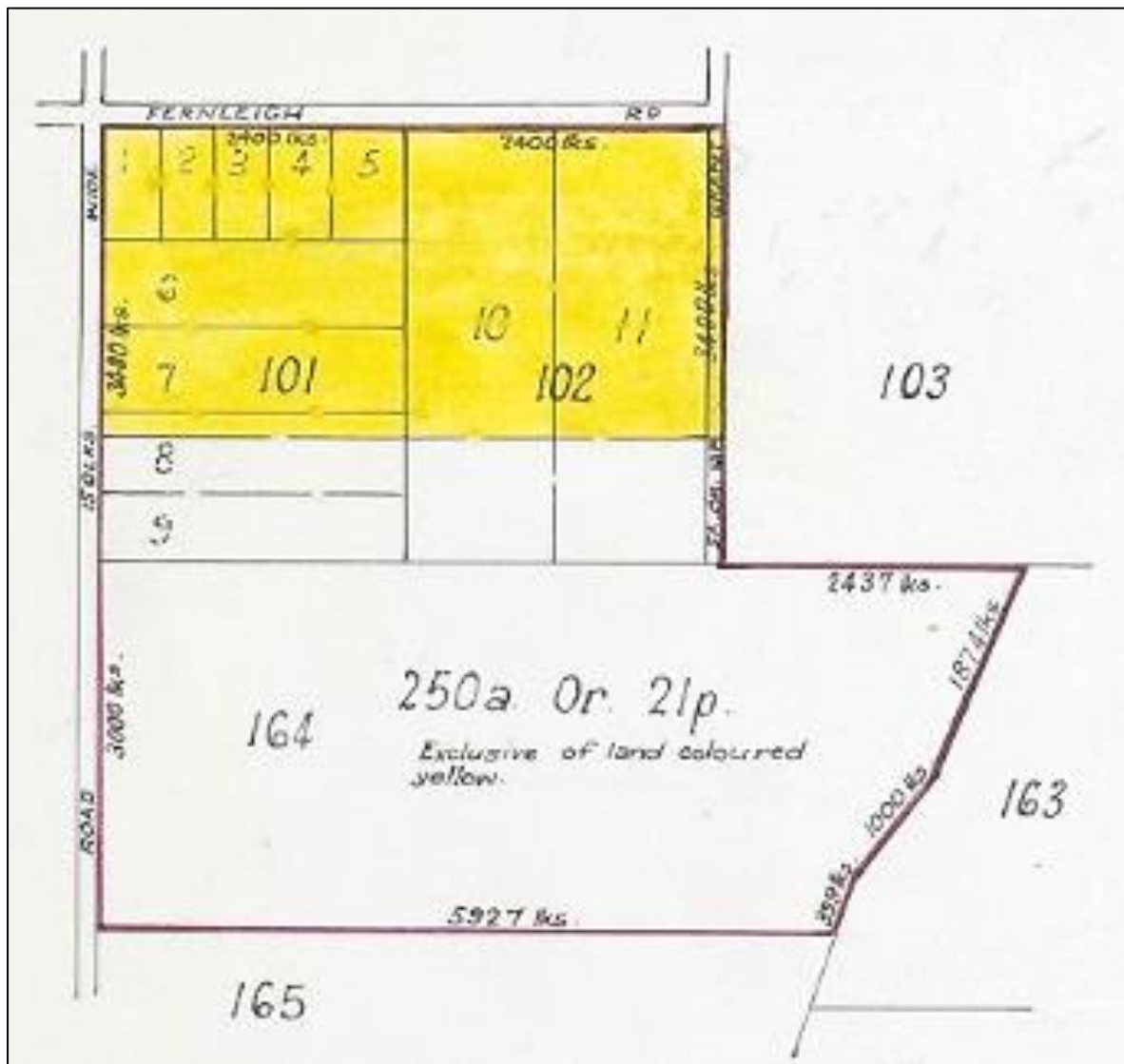


Above: The 2nd resumption of land by the Housing Commission of NSW in 1952. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

¹⁴³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 6502, folio 86.

¹⁴⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 6502, folio 90.

In June 1952 the residual of the land, including the homestead, was transferred to Andrew Walker Bolger, a retailer of Balgowlah [Sydney] and Reginald Thomas Purtell, an auctioneer of Wagga Wagga, as joint tenants.¹⁴⁵



Above: The land held by Andrew Walker Bolger and Reginald Thomas Purtell in 1952. The yellow area is that which was resumed by the Housing Commission of NSW [in 1948 and 1952]. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Andrew Walker Bolger

Andrew Walker Bolger was born on the 7th November 1893, at Boree Creek.¹⁴⁶ He was the eldest child of James and Ellen Bolger, and the elder brother of James Christopher Bolger.

In October 1918, Andrew married Mona Emily Norman, the daughter of Herbert Bently Norman and Isabella Eliza Norman [nee King].¹⁴⁷ Herbert was well known as the proprietor of the King's Own hotel at The Rock, while his wife was a member of the well known King family.

¹⁴⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 6524, folio 169.

¹⁴⁶ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 34163.

¹⁴⁷ Daily Advertiser. 31st October 1918, p4.



Andrew entered into business at The Rock, and in 1923 the partnership between himself and Joseph John Alam, was dissolved. The two men had been conducting the firm of Alam, Bolger & Co.”¹⁴⁸

In 1930 Andrew was living at Gulargambone and he described himself as a storekeeper. That situation was unchanged in 1943, but by 1949 he was living in Sydney and conducting a retail business.¹⁴⁹

Andrew Walker Bolger passed away on the 23rd October 1965, at North Richmond, near Sydney.¹⁵⁰ He was said to be *“late of Balgowlah, and formerly of Coonamble and Gulargambone.”*

Left: Andrew Walker Bolger. Courtesy “anniem969,” [ancestry.com]

Reginald Thomas Purtell

Reginald Thomas Purtell was born on the 10th August 1890, at Albury.¹⁵¹ Listed as Thomas R Purtell on birth certificate]. Reg was the son of William Purtell and Margaret Purtell [nee Prendergast].

On the 16th July 1919, Reg married Irene Constance Lloyd, in St Michael’s Cathedral, at Wagga Wagga.¹⁵² Irene was the daughter of Telacon Lloyd.¹⁵³

Reg was a well known auctioneer at Wagga Wagga from the 1910’s onwards. His father, William, was already an established stock & station agent and, no doubt, Reg learnt the trade from his father. William was a part owner of the Ten Mile Creek Station, which was where Reg was born and raised.¹⁵⁴

Reginald Thomas Purtell passed away at Wagga Wagga, on the 23rd December 1978. Irene Constance Purtell [nee Lloyd] passed away on the 23rd November 1991.

¹⁴⁸ Daily Advertiser. 21st April 1923, p5.

¹⁴⁹ Australia. Electoral Rolls. 1930, 1943, 1949. [ancestry.com]

¹⁵⁰ Sydney Morning Herald. 25th October 1965. / NSW BDM’s. Death registration # 40132.

¹⁵¹ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 16647.

¹⁵² NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 9871.

¹⁵³ Daily Advertiser. 18th July 1919, p4

¹⁵⁴ Daily Advertiser. 3rd March 1919, p2.

'MT AUSTIN' SUBDIVISION

WAGGA WAGGA

**FOUR (4) BLOCKS ON WAGGA CITY BOUNDARY,
ALBURY ROAD, WITH MAIN ROAD FRONTAGE AND
IN AREAS 49 ACRES TO 74 ACRES**

**ADJOINS HOUSING COMMISSION WORKS IN
PROGRESS**

BY AUCTION

3 p.m. Thursday, November 1, 1951

A/C EST. LATE E. M. BOLGER

The Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Co. Ltd., Wagga Wagga, in conjunction with Messrs. Hore & Docker, of Wagga Wagga, will submit at the Australian Hotel, Wagga Wagga, on above date, under instruction from the Executors above Estate in Four Areas including the Homestead block of "MT. AUSTIN" and with Vacant Possession.

The total area of about 250 acres lies on Albury Road adjacent to the Fernleigh Road Housing Board Sub-Division (was part of "Mt. Austin") and is surveyed into and will be offered in areas as follows:—

LOT 1.—Area about 53 acres with about 700 feet frontage to Albury Road.

LOT 2.—Homestead block area, about 74 acres with about 730 feet frontage to Albury Road and with good Brick Homestead etc.

LOT 3.—Area about 74 acres and with about 730 feet frontage to Albury Road.

LOT 4.—Area about 49 acres and with about 500 feet frontage to Albury Road.

The land is elevated and part overlooks the City and

Above: Notice of sale of four lots within the Mount Austin estate on account the estate of the late EM Bolger.

'MT AUSTIN' SUBDIVISION

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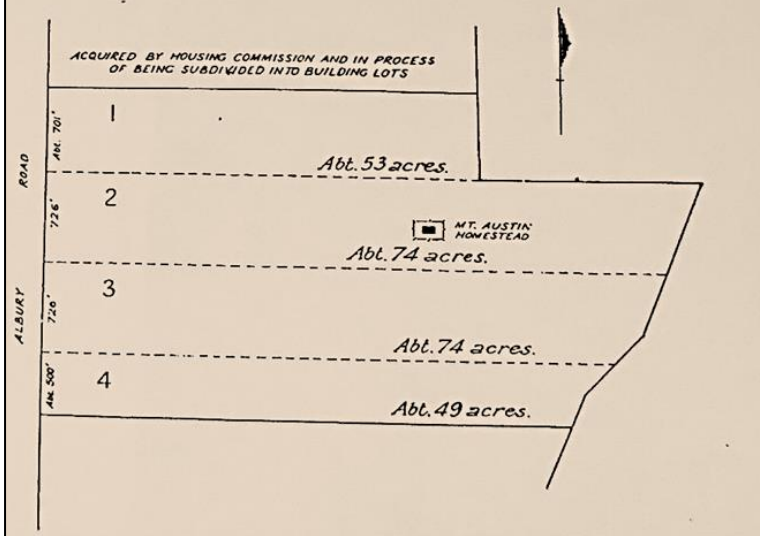
LOT 3.—Area about 74 acres and with about 730 feet frontage to Albury Road.

LOT 4.—Area about 49 acres and with about 500 feet frontage to Albury Road.

The land is elevated and part overlooks the City and with gentle fall to Albury Road frontage where it levels out. Soil is red and suitable for mixed farming and grazing and is mostly cleared for plough.

With Lot 2 is solid Brick Homestead with verandahs and 5 main rooms, vestibule, bathroom, kitchen and pantry and out buildings, telephone connected, ornamental trees and garden, grounds. City power and water is already connected to the Housing Commission Works in progress next door.

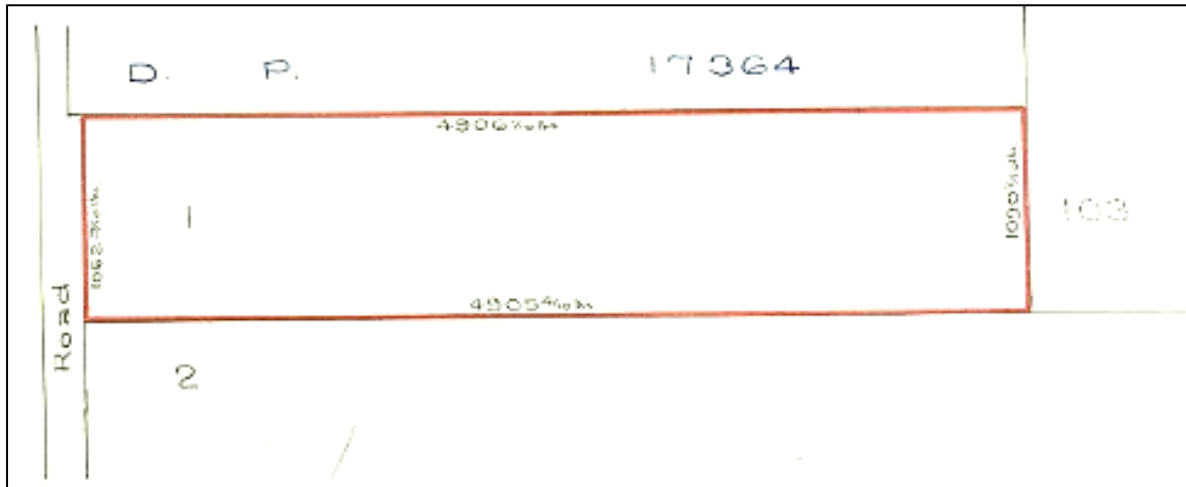
All Four Blocks are within 3 miles of Wagga Post Office and main business centre and on a very important thoroughfare.



Left: An extract from a pamphlet promoting the sale of the Mount Austin subdivision, in 1951.¹⁵⁵

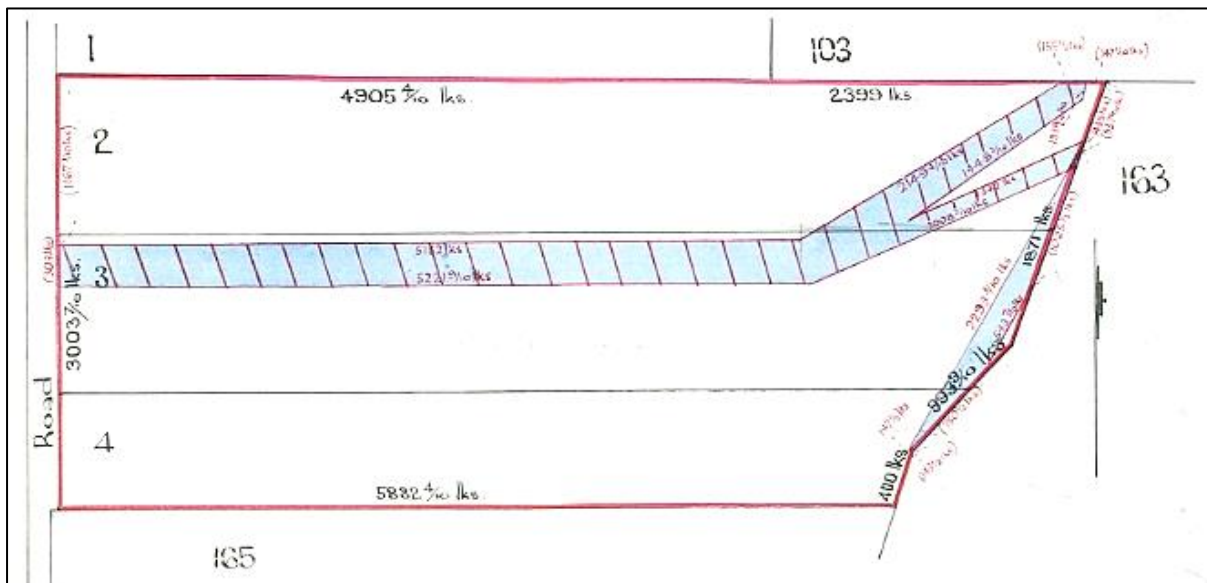
¹⁵⁵ Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. Bolger folder.

In August 1953 Andrew Walker Bolger and Reginald Thomas Purtell sold the remaining part of portions 101 and 102 to Cherrywood Estates Pty Ltd.¹⁵⁶



Above: The land purchased by Cherrywood Estates in 1954. Portion 164 lay to the south of this piece of land and was still retained by Bolger and Purtell. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In August 1955 Andrew Walker Bolger and Reginald Thomas Purtell conveyed the residue of their original holdings to Alice Christina Mary Bolger, a spinster of Seaforth.¹⁵⁷

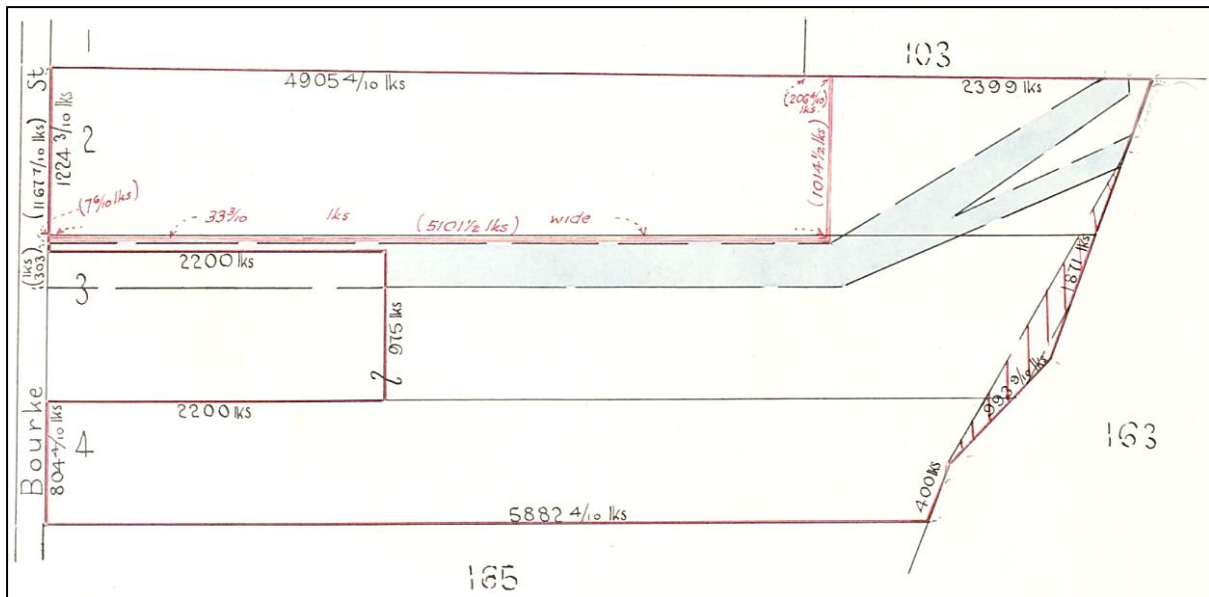


Above: The land conveyed to Alice Christina Mary Bolger in 1955. This is the original portion 164, which included the Mount Austin homestead. The areas marked in blue were areas resumed for easements. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

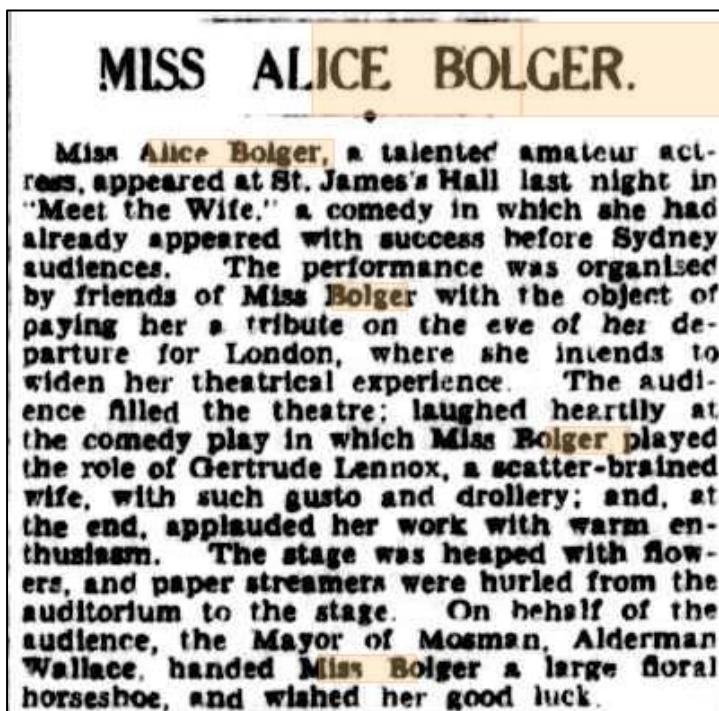
¹⁵⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 6854, folio 108.

¹⁵⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7011, folio 237.

In August 1958, another piece of portion 164 was resumed, in the name of Queen Elizabeth the 2nd.¹⁵⁸ Alice Christina Mary Bolger still retained the majority of portion 164.¹⁵⁹ Alice had retained lots 2 and 4, and the majority of lot 3, from a plan lodged as part of transaction F973374.¹⁶⁰



Above: The land held by Alice Christina Mary Bolger in 1958, minus the piece resumed by the government. Alice still retained the homestead. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.



Alice Christina Mary Bolger

Alice Christina Mary Bolger was born on the 24th December 1908, at Wagga Wagga,¹⁶¹ the daughter of James Bolger and Ellen Martha Bolger [nee Williams]. She was the couple's second youngest child – James Christopher Bolger being her younger brother. Alice never married, but she had a successful career as a singer and actress, both in Australia and overseas.

Alice Christina Mary Bolger passed away on the 17th February 1990.

Left: A report highlighting Alice's success as an entertainer.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7759, folio 173.

¹⁵⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7759, folio 172.

¹⁶⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7759, folio 172.

¹⁶¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 9222.

¹⁶² Sydney Morning Herald. 5th March 1935, p10.



Above: Alice Christina May Bolger - entertainer. Courtesy Ian Vennell.

In November 1958 the property was offered for sale.¹⁶³

SUBURBAN PROPERTY

175 ACRES – “MT. AUSTIN”

We are instructed—as conjunction agents—to dispose of the

MT. AUSTIN HOMESTEAD AREA AS ABOVE

The owner is definitely selling and has reduced the price to enable us assure buyers it is a really attractive investment with great potential.

The improvements include roomy old brick homestead and the land frontage from Mangoplah Road gently rises to low hill at rear.

Adjacent to Burke’s subdivision, and directly opposite Old People’s Homes, and less than 1 mile from city.

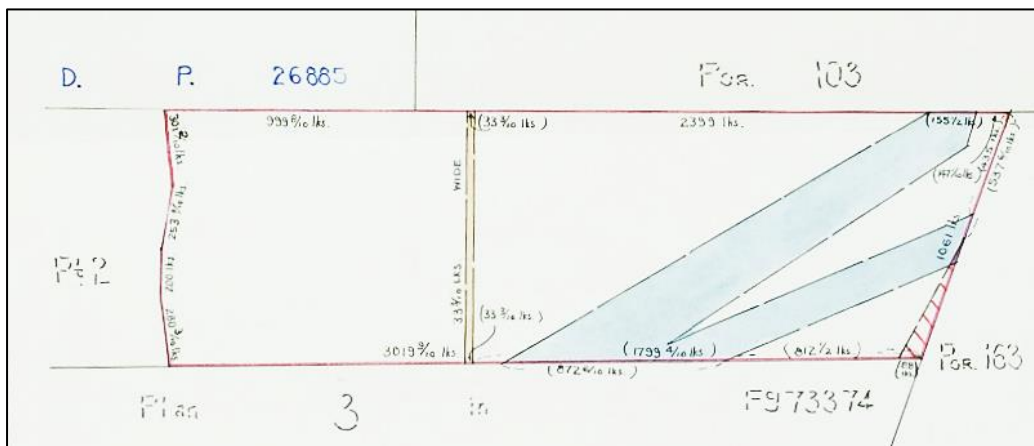
A real opportunity for investor. Contact either— →

**HORE & DAVIES, Wagga Wagga, or
AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE LAND &
FINANCE CO. LTD., Wagga Wagga**

Above: The 1958 advertisement for the Mount Austin property.

In mid 1959, the Southern Riverina County Council resumed more land to accommodate an easement for power lines.¹⁶⁴

In September 1960, Alice Christina Mary Bolger conveyed the eastern part of lot 2 to Eric Irvin, a journalist of Wagga Wagga, and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth Irvin [joint tenants].¹⁶⁵ This included the homestead.



Above: The land conveyed to Eric and Margaret Elizabeth Irvin in 1960. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

¹⁶³ Daily Advertiser. 29th November 1958.

¹⁶⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7992, folio 243.

¹⁶⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7992, folio 243.

Eric Robert Irvin [commonly spelt Irvine as well]

Eric Robert Irvine was born at Petersham on the 30th November 1908, the son of Robert Fenton Irvine and Annie Irvine [nee Lester].¹⁶⁶ Eric's father was killed in action, in France, during WW1 [May 1918].¹⁶⁷

By the late 1930's Eric regularly contributed poems to the Sydney Morning Herald, along with the odd letter to the editor or a feature article. He was though, best known, at that time, as a poet, as he continued to publish into the 1940's.¹⁶⁸

Young Eric married Margaret Elizabeth Connolly,¹⁶⁹ before he enlisted to serve in WW2,¹⁷⁰ and the couple were settled at Wagga Wagga by 1947. The couple's daughter, Christina Mary Irvin, was born on the 15th April 1945 at the King George 5th Memorial Hospital [Sydney], while Lieutenant Irvin was serving.¹⁷¹ A son, Mark Eric Irvin, was born at Wagga Wagga, on the 9th August 1948 [Robinson House].¹⁷²

Having moved to Wagga Wagga, Eric quickly involved himself in community affairs. In February 1947 he was the secretary of the Wagga School of Arts,¹⁷³ and became very influential in the staging of artistic productions.

When the School of Arts celebrated its 90th anniversary, in 1949, Eric published a history of the school, in the local press,¹⁷⁴ and subsequently developed a reputation as an amateur historian, publishing a series of historical articles in the local press. Eric also published a number of small booklets that were very well received, including, "*Place of Many Crows*."¹⁷⁵

A summary of his life is available on Wikipedia. It reads as follows,¹⁷⁶

“Eric Irvin (30 November 1908 – 1 July 1993) was an Australian writer and historian of Australian theatre. His Dictionary of the Australian Theatre 1788–1914 is an essential reference work. He was also an anthologised poet who published two books of poetry.

Early life and war service.

Eric Robert Irvin was born 30 November 1908 in Newtown, New South Wales. After attending Bondi Public School, he was apprenticed to a Bondi chemist in 1922 while studying at night at Waverley Grammar school. He enrolled in East Sydney Technical College classes in art and window display and worked in various department stores. He battled for much of the depression years before gaining a post teaching art in Catholic girls' schools in the mid 1930s. On 31 May 1940 he enlisted with the 7th Australian Divisional Signals and saw service in the Middle East and Papua New Guinea where he took part in the Kokoda

¹⁶⁶ NSW BDM's. Birth registration #

¹⁶⁷ National Archives. WW1 Records. SERN # 3331.

¹⁶⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 3rd February 1945, p7.

¹⁶⁹ Daily Advertiser. 4th September 1947, p2.

¹⁷⁰ National Archives. WW2 Records. SERN # NX19329.

¹⁷¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 2nd May 1945, p16.

¹⁷² Sydney Morning Herald. 14th August 1948, p28.

¹⁷³ Daily Advertiser. 28th February 1947, p5.

¹⁷⁴ Daily Advertiser. 20th July 1949, p6.

¹⁷⁵ Daily Advertiser. 9th March 1954, p3.

¹⁷⁶ Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Irvin. Accessed 16th May 2021.

Trail, Buna and Ramu Valley campaigns. He was discharged with rank of Lieutenant on 29 November 1945.

In this period he had poems accepted for publication, much of the early poems in the Sydney Morning Herald and his war-time poetry in the Bulletin. From New Guinea he had a survey of war-time poetry, "Australian Poets of This War" published in The Australian Quarterly. His own first volume, A Soldier's Miscellany, was accepted for publication but delayed until 1945 by the war-time paper shortage.

Wagga Wagga

Irvin secured a position as Secretary, Wagga Wagga School of Arts for whom he produced and set-designed various plays. He then joined local Daily Advertiser as a journalist and, in 1961, the sub-editor. During this time he continued to write poetry and also wrote three local histories, Place of Many Crows (1953), The Murrumbidgee Turf Club (1960), and Early inland agriculture (1962), and edited a collection of articles written by anonymous contributors to the Wagga Wagga Advertiser and Riverine Reporter (1868–1875), Letters from the river (1959).

Return to Sydney

Securing a position as sub-editor with the Sydney Morning Herald, Irvin returned to Sydney with his family in 1962. He retired from the Herald in 1973.

In 1968 came his second volume of poetry, A suit for everyman. However, his main output was as a historian of the Australian theatre focussing on the lives of actors, the production mechanics and architecture of the theatres published in numerous articles in scholarly Australian, English and American journals and his books: in 1971, a history of Georgian theatre in Australia, Theatre comes to Australia; a biography of actor George Darrell (1841–1921), Gentleman George, king of melodrama in 1980; Australian melodrama in 1981; and in 1985 the Dictionary of the Australian Theatre 1788–1914 (1984). In 1979 he edited with an historical introduction, Walter Cooper's play Colonial experience which was first performed at the Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney, in 1868.

He also produced Sydney as it might have been: dreams that died on the drawing-board in 1974. Drawing largely from the back issues of The Sydney Morning Herald and its sister publications, he described the architecture of Sydney which had been imagined but not built, as he wrote, because the dreams were "defeated again and again by lack of money, political in-fighting, some power struggle or other, or the fluxion of time."

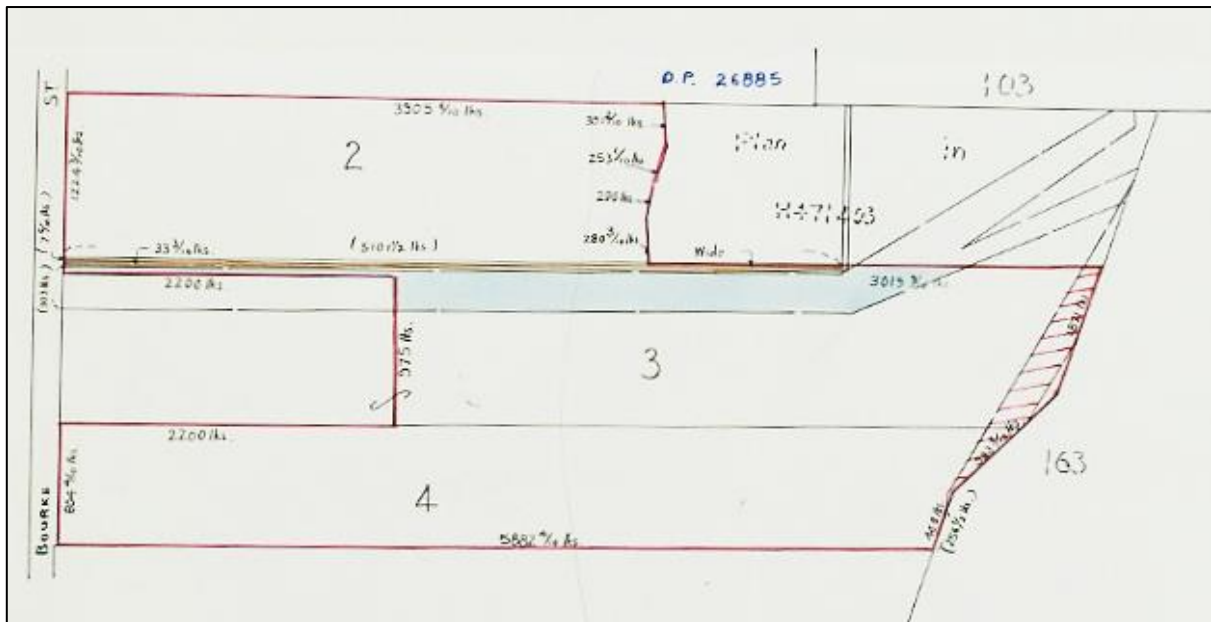
Last years

In 1989, Irvin moved to Brisbane. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Queensland for services to Australian theatre in 1989. He died in Brisbane on 1 July 1993."

Eric Irvin's contribution to the arts was substantial. The National Library of Australia holds a collection of his papers, consisting of some sixteen regular boxes and sixteen folio boxes of materials.¹⁷⁷

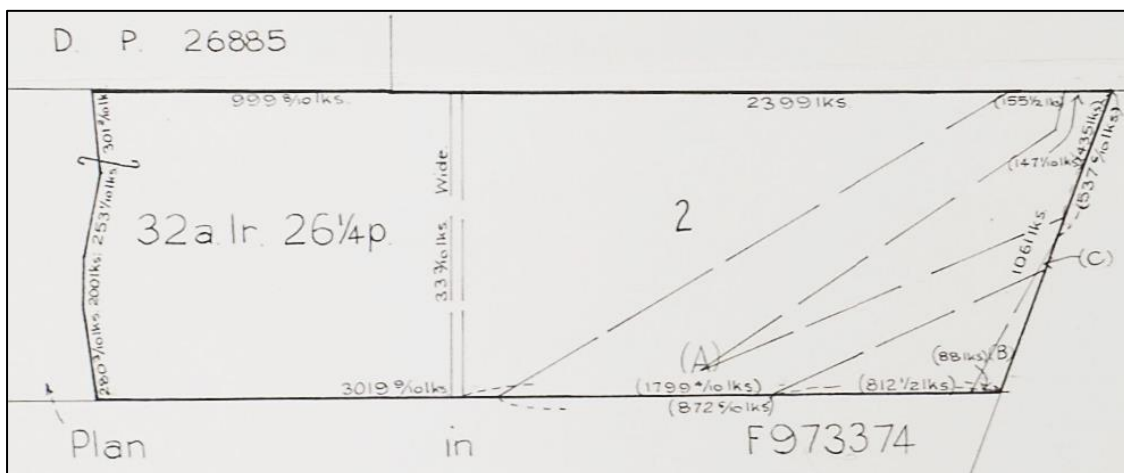
¹⁷⁷ National Library of Australia. Papers of Eric Irvin [1942-1992]. [MS8786]

At the same time [September 1960] Alice Christina Mary Bolger transferred the residue of her holding to Allan Malcolm McCullough, a builder of Wagga Wagga.¹⁷⁸ The property was mortgaged with Alice Christina Mary Bolger.



Above: The land purchased by Allan Malcolm McCullough in 1960. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Eric and Margaret Elizabeth Irvin transferred their part of lot 2 to Allan Malcolm McCullough and his wife, June Patricia McCullough [nee Pulver], in April 1962.¹⁷⁹ The latter couple, in turn, conveyed this parcel of land to William Daniel Coogan, a solicitor of Wagga Wagga, and the latter's wife, Rosaleen Patricia Coogan, and Henry James Kennedy, also a solicitor of Wagga Wagga, on the 2nd April 1963.¹⁸⁰



Above: The parcel of land conveyed to William Daniel Coogan, Rosaleen Patricia Coogan, and Henry James Kennedy, in April 1963.

¹⁷⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7992, folio 244.

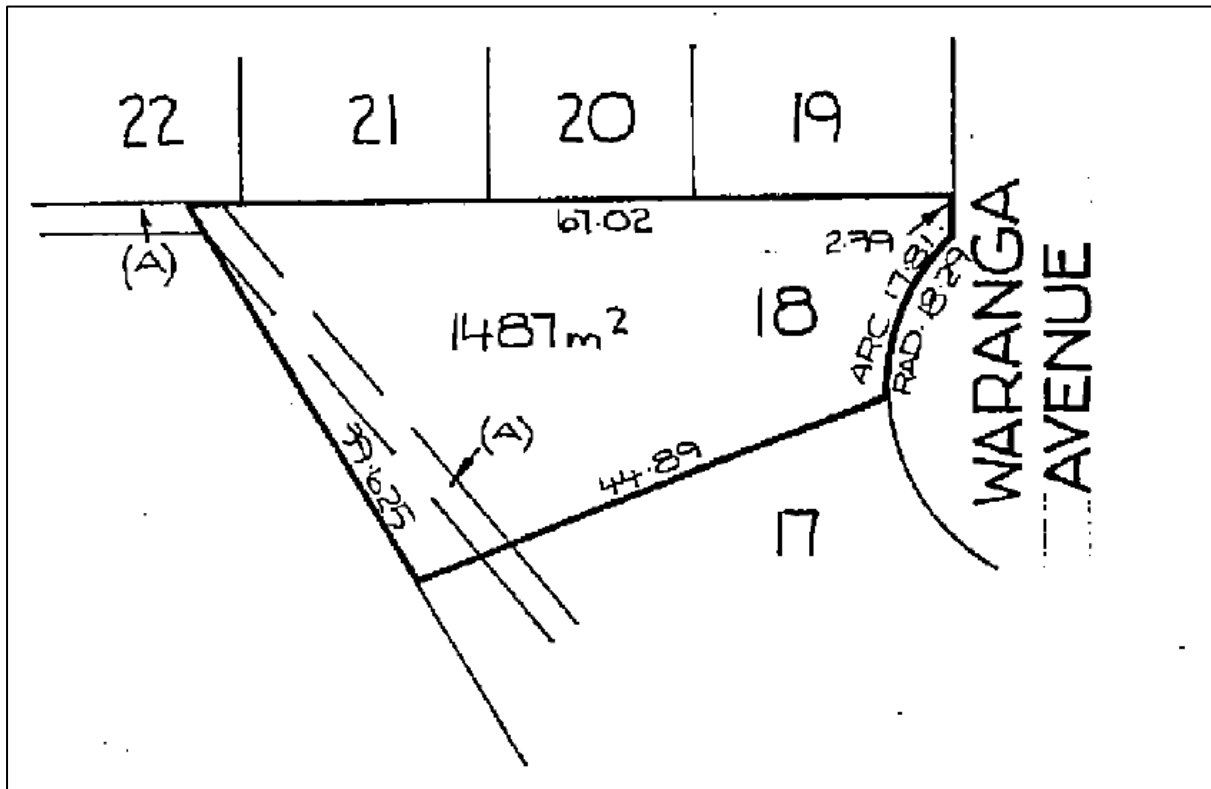
¹⁷⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 7992, folio 2438.

¹⁸⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8367, folios 4 & 5.

This holding was now made up of four lots within DP.231975 [title deeds: volume 10502, folios 219-223].

The subdivision is difficult to track around this time, but it seems that new title deeds were issued on the 30th July 1968 for lots 5 and 6 of DP.235665 [volume 10853, folios 166 & 167].¹⁸¹ The Mount Austin homestead was located on lot 5, and was now owned by Allan Malcolm McCoullough and June Patricia McCoullough.¹⁸²

In December 1982, DP.18.239030 [featuring the Mount Austin homestead] was owned by Peter John Latham and Philip Smith, as tenants in common.¹⁸³



Above: Plan of lot 18, DP239030 [22 Waranga Avenue, Mount Austin]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.

Ownership of the freehold was not traced past this point in time, but the following transactions are noted:

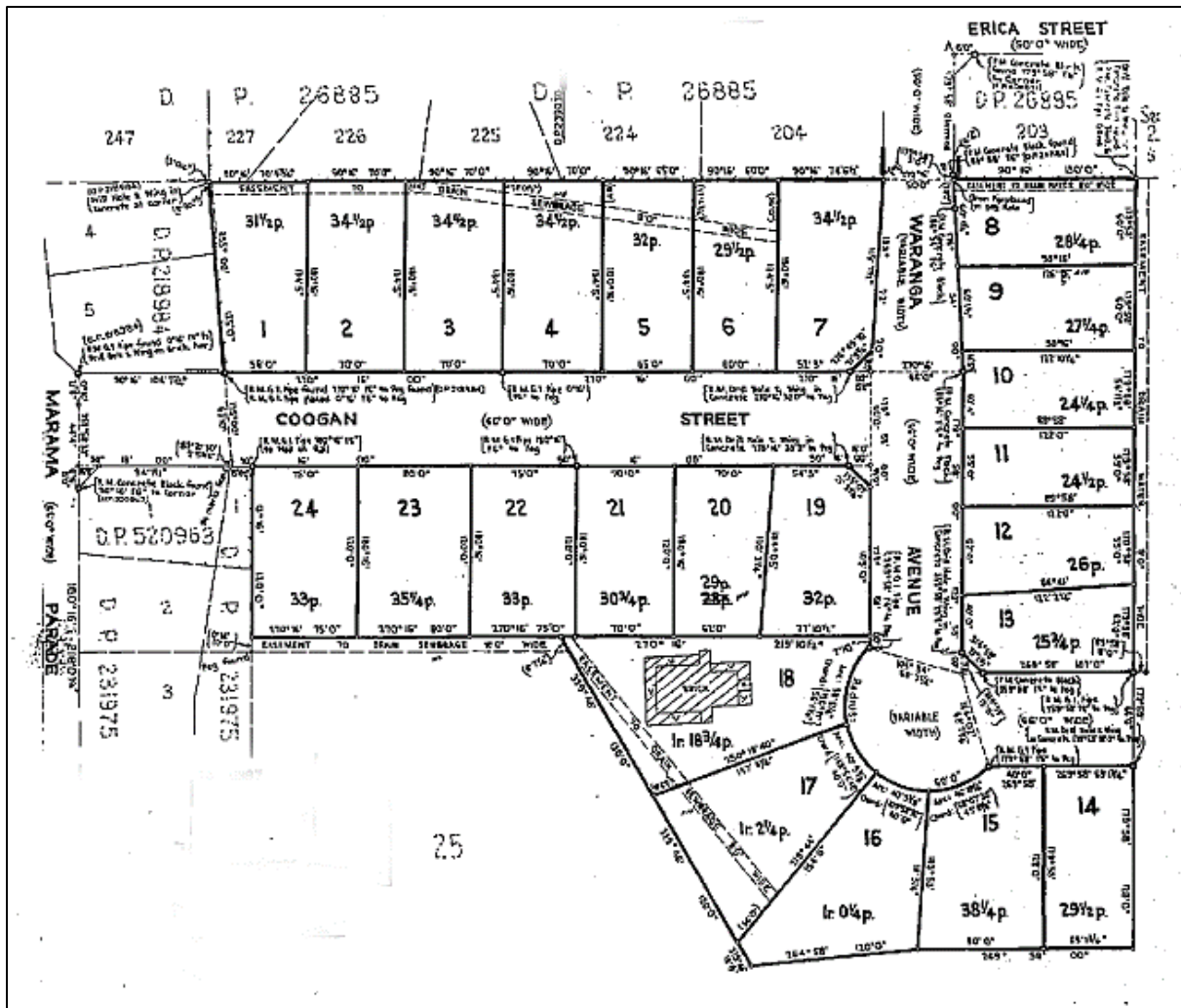
23rd February 1996 – Conveyance of property [O935597] [letter O at beginning of ref]

April 2021 – Property up for sale.

¹⁸¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 10502, folio 223.

¹⁸² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 10853, folio 166.

¹⁸³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 11339, folio 214.



Above: Plan showing footprint of the old Mount Austin homestead, at 22 Waranga Avenue. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.¹⁸⁴

Deposited Plans

Current title = DP.18.239030 [prior title = 11339-214]

Prior titles = DP.23566 [prior title = DP.231975] and DP.520963 [prior title = DP.215834]

DP.23566 -lots 4,5,7,8,9 [lot 8 = volume 7587, folio 174]

DP.231975 – lots 1, 2, 3 [volume 10502, folios 219-223]

DP.520963 – lots 1 & 2 [volume 10410, folio 22]

DP.215834 – lots 13-21 volume 9243, folios 145 plus]

¹⁸⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 11339, folio 214.



Above: A contemporary plan of the area with the old portion boundaries superimposed. The Mount Austin homestead is highlighted with a red boundary.



Above: 1971 aerial view of the site, with the Mount Austin homestead circled in red. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.



Above: 2014 aerial view of the site. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.

The *Wagga Wagga Urban Heritage Study 2002*, provides the following description of the homestead,

Description: The former Mount Austin Homestead is now located at 22 Warranga Avenue, Mount Austin. The homestead has been incorporated into a modern unit development which covers most of the rest of the block and is itself Units 3 and 4. The homestead itself is a face brick structure with floor to ceiling windows and an encircling, timber post supported verandah with simple timber brackets. The former detached kitchen building has been painted white and is now connected to the main house. There is no evidence of any original garden layout.

The same source also provided the following statement,

Statement of Significance: The former Mount Austin homestead is of historical significance as a remnant of the pastoral era in an area which has now been incorporated into Wagga's urban development. The homestead was built around the turn of the century and the exterior appears to remain largely intact, however the significance of the building has been compromised by the unsympathetic subdivision which has taken place around it.



Right: Floor plan for 22 Waranga Avenue in 2021. Courtesy LJ Hooker Wagga Wagga



Above: The Mount Austin homestead building in 2021. This is the western façade, which would have looked out over the slopes below. Courtesy LJ Hooker Wagga Wagga.



Above: The Mount Austin homestead, viewed from the southern side, at the rear, in 2021. From left to right can be seen the main homestead building, the old kitchen and thirdly the rear of the two flats to the north. The addition of a connecting piece can be seen between the main building and the old kitchen. An alcove with roof has been added to the old kitchen.



Above: Southern view showing how close the two newer units at front are to the original historic buildings.



Above and Below: Southern views of the complex.in 2021.





Above: Mount Austin homestead in 2021 – viewed from south west corner.



Above: Mount Austin homestead in 2021 – viewed from north west corner.



Above and Below: Mount Austin homestead in 2021 – viewed from northern side, at back, showing the “fill in” between the kitchen and the main building. An addition to the old kitchen can also be seen.



Building Modifications

In November 1959 Eric Irvin submitted a building application for alterations and additions to the old homestead. Estimated costs were £2,000, which in those days was a considerable sum. Details of the works are not known. His application though, did provide a description of the existing building.

Building Application

Local Government Act, 1919 (Ordinance No. 71)

Date 12th Nov 1959

THE TOWN CLERK,
CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA.

Sir,

I, the undersigned, hereby make application for the approval of the Council to plans and specifications (two copies supplied herewith) of a building which I propose to erect and complete WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS from date of approval.

Particulars are as follows:—

Class of Building Dwelling alterations, additions
(Here state Dwelling, Flats, Shop and Dwelling, Garage, Stables, Additions, or as the case may be.)

LOCATION OF BUILDING

Lot 2 Section Pl Por 167 Street or Road Off End of Wasanga St.
Area Approx 3.2 Acres Frontage approx 10 chain Depth approx 3.2 chain
NAME OF OWNER E. Irvin Address _____
NAME OF BUILDER Osmond McCann Address _____

SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATIONS

NOTE—Sizes must be given.

Number and particulars of all rooms and outhouses 5 Bedrooms, Hall, Lounge, Lobby, 2 1/2 Kitchens, Bathroom, Laundry, Toilet, Verandah

Foundation and Size under Main Walls Existing Damp Proof Course Materials Existing as far as possible
Main Walls Brick Partition Walls Brick Roofs—Main Iron
Roofs—Subsidiary Iron Floor Joists Existing
Ceiling Joists Existing Wall Plates Existing Rafters Existing
Bearers Existing Corner Studs 3x3 Other Studs 3x2 Cypress Pine
Height of Rooms, floor to ceiling Level of Main Building to top of Kitchen Block
Proposed Method of Ventilation Existing
Proposed Method of Roofwater Drainage Open Drain
Proposed Method of Sullage Water Disposal Septic Tank
Particulars of Closet Accommodation Septic Tank
(Which must be strictly in accordance with Local Government Ordinance 44 or 46)

NOTE: Block Plan, showing Buildings and all Outhouses, must be shown on the back of this application.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDING: £2000

State whether Applicant is Owner, Builder or Architect Builder

Above: Eric Irvin's building application of November 1959 [BA 309/59]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

In March 1962 the Allan Malcolm McCullough, and June Patricia McCullough, were given permission to convert the homestead into two flats.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Building Application</h2>	
<small>Local Government Act, 1919 (Ordinance No. 71)</small>	
Date <u>29-3-62</u>	
THE TOWN CLERK, CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA.	
Sir,	
I, the undersigned, hereby make application for the approval of the Council to plans and specifications (two copies supplied herewith) of a building which I propose to erect and complete WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS from date of approval.	
Particulars are as follows:—	
Class of Building	<u>Flats Conversion</u>
<small>(Here state Dwelling, Flats, Shop and Dwelling, Garage, Stables, Additions, or as the case may be)</small>	
LOCATION OF BUILDING	
Lot	<u>Part of Par. 164</u>
Section	<u>Off. Wagga St</u>
Street or Road	
Area	Frontage
	Depth
NAME OF OWNER	<u>A Mr J P McCullough</u>
	Address <u>86 A Murray St</u>
NAME OF BUILDER	<u>"</u>
	Address <u>"</u>
SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATIONS	
<small>NOTE—Sizes must be given</small>	
Number and particulars of all rooms and outhouses	<u>4 bedrooms 2 living rms</u> <u>2 dir 2 Bathrooms 2 Landings</u>
Foundation and Size under Main Walls	<u>12 X 12</u>
Damp Proof Course Materials	<u>above</u>
Main Walls	<u>Brick</u>
Partition Walls	<u>Brick</u>
Roofs — Main	<u>iron</u>
Roofs — Subsidiary	<u>iron</u>
Floor Joists	
Ceiling Joists	Wall Plates <u>4 X 2</u>
Rafters	
Bearers	Corner Studs
	Other Studs <u>4 X 2</u>
Height of Rooms, floor to ceiling	
Proposed Method of Ventilation	<u>2 vent to each room</u>
Proposed Method of Roofwater Drainage	<u>existing</u>
Proposed Method of Sullage Water Disposal	<u>sullage pit</u>
Particulars of Closet Accommodation	<u>2 WC to septic tank</u>
<small>(Which must be strictly in accordance with Local Government Ordinance 44 or 46)</small>	
NOTE: Block Plan, showing Buildings and all Outhouses, must be shown on back of this application.	
ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDING: £	<u>500</u>
State whether Applicant is Owner, Builder or Architect	<u>Owner - Builder</u>

Above: The McCulloughs' building application of March 1962 [BA 92/62]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

Notice of permission for development involving the opening of roads, the subdivision of land, the use of land, the erection of buildings, the use of existing buildings or the carrying out of works.

B/A. 93/62

FORM 1, ORDINANCE 105

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1919. (PART XIII.A.)

The Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Ordinance
Wagga Wagga City Council Town Planning Scheme.

TO *A.M. & J.P. McCULLOUGH.*
36A. Urana St. Wagga Wagga

In pursuance of its powers under the abovementioned Act and Ordinance, the Council, as interim development authority, hereby permits:—

- ~~(a) the opening of road(s).~~
- ~~(b) the subdivision of land.~~
- ~~(c) the use of land.~~
- ~~(d) the erection of building(s).~~
- (e) the use of existing building(s).
- (f) the carrying out of work(s).

for the purpose *conversion of existing building into two (2) flats.*

on land situated *off WARANGA AVE. Mt AUSTIN*
being Lot *2* Section *164* D.P. *---* Parish of *Mt. Wagga Wagga*

- (i) in accordance with the accompanying plan(s).
- (ii) in accordance with plan(s) approved by the Council for the purpose of the Act (except Part XIII.A) on the *---* day of *---* 19*---*

Subject to due compliance with the provisions, of any Act, rule, regulation, by-law, ordinance, proclamation, agreement, covenant or instrument in force with respect to the land, and subject to the special condition(s) specified hereunder:—

The reasons for the Council's decision to grant permission for the development subject to compliance with the condition(s) hereinbefore specified are:—
Approved by Council 5th April, 1962 vide Resolution 913/62.

Dated *16TH* day of *APRIL* 1962.

N.R. ELLIS.
Town Clerk
per *(Barlow)*
Town Planner

SERIAL NUMBER TP/A *137/62.*

Above: Another document from the McCulloughs' building application of March 1962 [BA 92/62]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

In June 1970 the McCulloughs submitted another building application, to construct two units in front of the old homestead. Their application was approved.

BUILDING APPLICATION

Local Government Act, 1919 (Ordinance No. 71)

THE TOWN CLERK
CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

Date 7-6-70

Sir,

I, the undersigned, hereby make application for the approval of the Council to plans and specifications (two copies supplied herewith) of a building which I propose to erect and complete WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS from date of approval.

Particulars are as follows:—

Class of Building flats & car ports
(HERE STATE DWELLING, FLATS, SHOP AND DWELLING, GARAGE, STABLES, ADDITION, OR AS THE CASE MAY BE)

LOCATION OF BUILDING

Lot 18 Section _____ Street or Road Waranga Ave

Area _____ Frontage _____ Depth _____

NAME OF OWNER Mrs J P McCullough Address 77 Mitchelmore St

NAME OF BUILDER " Address "

SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATIONS

NOTE—Sizes must be given

Number and particulars of all rooms and outhouses: 2 Lounge Rooms
4 Bed Rooms 2 Kitchens 2 Bathrooms
2 Landings

Foundation and Size under Main Walls 18x10 Damp Proof Course Materials None

Main Walls BV Partition Walls Plaster Roofs — Main tile

Roofs — Subsidiary iron Floor Joists 4x2

Ceiling Joists Trusses Wall Plates 4x2 Rafters Trusses

Bearers 4x3 Corner Studs 4x1 1/2 Other Studs 4x1 1/2 4x2

Height of Room, floor to ceiling 8'-0 4x3

Proposed Method of Ventilation 2 vents to each room

Proposed Method of Roofwater Drainage street gutter

Proposed Method of Sullage Water Disposal sewer

Particulars of Closet Accommodation 2 W.C.s
(WHICH MUST BE STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE 44 OR 46)

NOTE: Block Plan, showing Buildings and all Outhouses, must be shown on back of this application.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDINGS: \$ 12,000

State whether Applicant is Owner, Builder or Architect Owner Builder

Above: The McCulloughs' building application of June 1970 [BA 221/70]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

COU. CIL OF THE CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

Notice of permission for development involving the opening of roads, the subdivision of land, the use of land, the erection of buildings, the use of existing buildings or the carrying out of works.

FORM 1, ORDINANCE 105

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1919 (PART XIII.)

BA 221/70

The Town and Country Planning Ordinance
Wagga Wagga City Council Town Planning Scheme.

TO A.M. & J.P. MCCULLOUGH
77 MITCHELMORE ST TURKEY PARK

In pursuance of its powers under the abovementioned Act and Ordinance, the Council, as development authority, hereby permits:-

- (a) the opening of road(s),
(b) the subdivision of land,
(c) the use of land,
(d) the erection of building(s),
(e) the use of existing building(s),
(f) the carrying out of work(s).

for the purpose of erection of 2 flats
4 conversions as additions to existing flats
on land situated WARANCA AVE MT AUSTIN

being Lot 18 Section DP City of Parish of WAGGA WAGGA

- (i) in accordance with the accompanying plan(s).
(ii) in accordance with plan(s) approved by the Council for the purpose of the Act (except Part XIII.A) on the day of 19

Subject to due compliance with the provisions of any Act, rule, regulation, by-law, ordinance, proclamation, agreement, covenant or instrument in force with respect to the land, and subject to the special condition(s) specified hereunder:-

- Subject to: (a) compliance with provisions to flats Act.
(b) Provision of paved & covered off street parking for 4 vehicles
(c) Engineering requirements as detailed by City Engineer
(d) Suitable landscaping of area within 3m of boundary

The reasons for the Council's decision to grant permission for the development subject to compliance with the condition(s) hereinbefore specified are:-

3 area Residential (2) - approved by Council on 7/5/70 for land use

DATED 24th day of June 1970

W. R. ELLIS, Town Clerk

SERIAL NUMBER TPIA 2165/70

per [Signature] Town Planner

Above: Another document from the McCulloughs' building application of June 1970 [BA 221/70]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

OF THE CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

permission for development involving the opening of roads, the subdivision of land, the erection of buildings, the use of existing buildings or the carrying out of works.

FORM 1, ORDINANCE 105

L/11747

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1919 (PART XIII.A.)

The Town and Country Planning Ordinance
Wagga Wagga City Council Town Planning Scheme.

TO A.M. & J.P. McCULLOUGH
77 Mitchell St. Wagga Wagga

In pursuance of its powers under the abovementioned Act and Ordinance, the Council, as development authority hereby permits:-

- (a) the opening of road(s),
(b) the subdivision of land,
(c) the use of land,
(d) the erection of building(s),
(e) the use of existing building(s),
(f) the carrying out of work(s).

for the purpose Addition of two (2) residential flats to existing existing flat.

on land situated INARANGA AVE MT AUSTIN
being Lot 19 Section 5, D.P. 235665 City of Wagga Wagga

- (i) in accordance with the accompanying plan(s).
(ii) in accordance with plan(s) approved by the Council for the purpose of the Act (except Part XIII.A) on the ... day of ... 19

Subject to due compliance with the provisions of any Act, rule, regulation, by-law, ordinance, proclamation, agreement, covenant or instrument in force with respect to the land, and subject to the special condition(s) specified hereunder:-

Subject to conditions (a) to (e), vide attached letter dated 9/5/70.

The reasons for the Council's decision to grant permission for the development subject to compliance with the condition(s) hereinbefore specified are:-

Zoned Residential - approved by Council on 7/5/70

DATED 11th day of May 1970

W. R. ELLIS, Town Clerk

per [Signature] Town Planner

SERIAL NUMBER TP/A 215/70

Above: Another document from the McCulloughs' building application of June 1970 [BA 221/70]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council

DEATH OF MR M. A. DONNELLY [Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th June 1888].

The announcement of the death of Mr. Michael Donnelly, of Borambola, will have been received with feelings of deep regret, by all who were personally acquainted with the deceased. Though in the prime of life, he was one of the oldest residents of the district, and the qualities of mind and heart in him were such as to make him generally popular, and to kindle the fire of true friendship in those who knew him best. Among his immediate circle it was well known that Mr. Donnelly had been, at long intervals, affected by attacks of illness, but these were overcome, and no apprehension was felt that his end was near. But a fortnight ago he was obliged to take to his bed, from an attack which proved eventually to be inflammation of the lungs. At first it was not considered that the illness was of a serious nature, but on Saturday morning, the 16th instant, the symptoms attendant on inflammation of the lungs manifested themselves with alarming certainty, and on that day Dr. Long, who was attending the deceased, telegraphed to his brother, Mr. P. J. Donnelly, who was then at Sydney, informing him that unless an improvement took place soon the worst might eventually be feared. Strange to say, Mr. P. J. Donnelly and Mr. George Coleman, an intimate friend of the deceased, were then at Sydney to attend the burial of a friend, and both gentlemen returned to Wagga at once. The patient, however, though very low and weak, had then showed signs of improvement, but the favourable symptoms were, unfortunately, short lived. He relapsed into his former serious condition and was at times delirious. Dr. Long was as unremitting in his attention as the distance between his residence and Borambola would permit, and spared no measures to rally his patient, but to no purpose. Fits of delirium were alternately succeeded by lucid intervals, and the worst being apprehended, Father Gallagher was summoned to Mr. Donnelly's bedside, and prepared him for death, according to the rites of the Catholic Church. The deceased gentleman was aware of the dangerous character of his malady and prepared with perfect resignation to meet his Maker. It was observed on Friday that his case showed no improvement, and at 12 o'clock he lapsed into an unconsciousness from which he never awoke, and at 10 on that night, in the presence of his wife, brother, and several other members of his family, he quietly passed away. His death was calm and peaceful. Mr. Donnelly was born on the 20th of October 1845, being at the time of his death in his 43rd year. He was born at Bywong, near Gundaroo, on the station at present in the charge of his brother, Mr. P. J. Donnelly. He was educated at Lyndhurst College, Sydney, being one of the oldest of the students of that well known Catholic Seminary. The deceased gentleman leaves a wife and one son to mourn their loss.

THE LATE MR. M. A. DONNELLY, WAGGA WAGGA. [Freeman's Journal. 7th July 1888}

In the death of Mr. Michael Austin Donnelly, of which particulars were published in our last issue, the Catholic Church has lost one of its pillars in the southern district. Few towns are more familiar to the Catholics of the colony than Wagga Wagga, and its reputation has been won for it principally by the late John Cox and John Donnelly, whose munificence to the Church has been perpetuated by their children. Mr. M. A. Donnelly was the third son of the late John Donnelly, whose charity is, perhaps, best known in connection with the Presentation Convent at Wagga Wagga, which he endowed in the first instance by a grant of forty acres of very valuable land, in the centre of which the splendid building stands. His sons have been worthy successors to him and have never failed, when necessity called for it, to come to the assistance of religious movements. The last act of pronounced liberality and munificence on the part of the gentleman to whose decease we refer was on the occasion of the first public meeting of Catholics to consider the question of erecting the new church which was opened at Wagga Wagga with such an imposing ceremony last October. On this occasion, Mr. Donnelly, on behalf of the firm of Donnelly Brothers, headed the list with a donation of £1000. The general respect in which the deceased gentleman was held was amply testified by the immense concourse of people who patiently followed his funeral from his residence, Borambola, to the Wagga Wagga cemetery, a distance of twenty miles. We learn that the funeral cortege comprised a hundred vehicles and upwards of two hundred horsemen, representing between five and six hundred mourners; and that it reached nearly a mile in length. On reaching the cemetery the coffin was carried to the grave on the shoulders of four old servants of the Donnelly family, Messrs. James Davin, Michael O'Donnell, John D. Nicholls, and Matthew Flanagan, who had been in the service of the family for periods ranging from twenty to thirty-five years. The pall-bearers were the four Cox brothers, Messrs. Richard, Oliver, Thomas, and John Cox. Long before the arrival of the funeral, a large number of persons had congregated in the cemetery, and the interment of the deceased was witnessed by a large concourse of people. The Rev. Father Gallagher conducted the funeral service in a very impressive manner, and addressed a few words to those around the grave, exhorting them to adhere firmly to the principles of the faith of which the deceased was such a firm champion. The rev. gentleman concluded by offering a prayer, in which all present fervently joined. The surviving members of the family are Mrs. Donnelly, senior, of Gumley Gumley, Mrs. John O'Mara, Mr. P. J. Donnelly, of Bywong, and Mr. E. W. Donnelly, of Gnalta.