
MOUNT REMARKABLE WOOLSHED**MEL:009**

Place Name and Address: *Mount Remarkable Woolshed, near Melrose,
Melrose

LOCATION:

near Melrose South Australia 5483

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:

District Council of Mount Remarkable

LAND DESCRIPTION:Sec 332 Hd Gregory, CT 5287/453

OWNER:Mr KL and Mrs PF Mount
PO Box 54, Melrose South Australia 5483

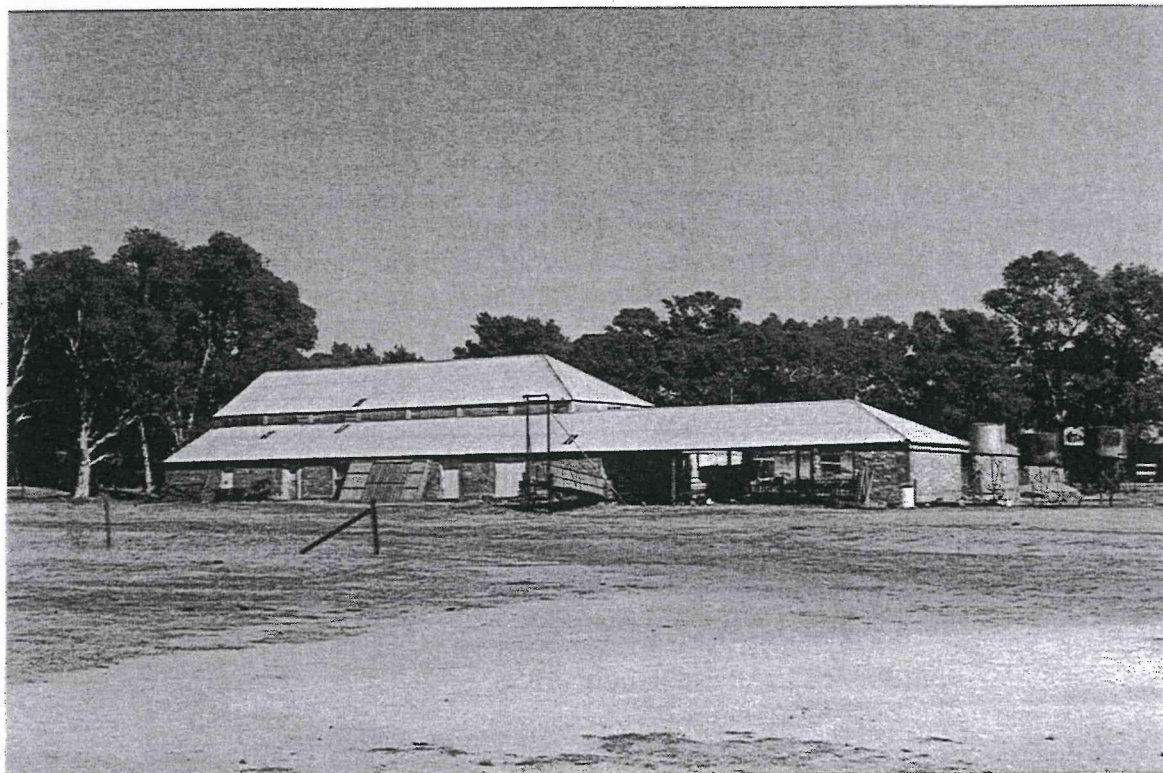
REGISTER STATUS:

Registered 24 July 1980

Heritage South Australia File No.:10158

PHOTOGRAPH:

HR 11/21-23



Mount Remarkable Woolshed, Melrose

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DESCRIPTION

Large stone rectangular building with hipped corrugated iron roof, forming a prominent landmark beside the Melrose to Morchard Road. An interesting feature of the building is the system of underground channels and pits for collecting dung from the holding pens.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

Mount Remarkable (or Willowie) Woolshed is significant as a fine example of an innovative pastoral woolshed of the nineteenth century, and for its associations with John Howard Angas and the Mount Remarkable Training Farm.

HISTORY

Willowie, on Willochra Creek at the foot of Mount Remarkable, was one of the early runs of the Upper North, taken up on annual licence in 1846 under the *Waste Lands Act 1842*, by a partnership of Alexander Campbell and Malcolm Gillies, who grazed cattle. John Howard Angas commenced buying land in the vicinity in 1851. He purchased Willowie head station in 1858, renamed it Mount Remarkable Run and converted it to sheep grazing. Angas' holdings eventually covered an area of over 65,500 acres and had a reputation as a large, productive and well-managed property. The woolshed was built in 1874, and most of the other buildings on the property also date from Angas' ownership. Cockburn mentions that about 45,000 sheep were shorn on the Mount Remarkable Run.

In 1882 Angas sold the property to the Willowie Land and Pastoral Company, but he retained an interest through a large shareholding. In 1915 the State compulsorily acquired Mount Remarkable for £142,000 under the *Closer Settlement Act*. It was subdivided and sold as 86 small farms over the next few years, but the homestead was retained for some years as the Mount Remarkable Training Farm, which provided instruction for returned soldier settlers. In about 1925 the homestead complex was subdivided into two and sold as separate farms. The remainder of the complex is recommended for entry in the State Heritage Register in this report - see Gumville Station (MR:59).

REFERENCES:

- Burgess, H.T., *John Howard Angas*, 1905
Cockburn, R., *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia*, 1927, vol. 1, pp. 10-11
Faull, J., (ed), *Melrose, Child of the Mountain*, 1979 pp. 38-53
Heritage South Australia File 10158
LeLacheur, H., *War Service Land Settlement*, 1968, pp. 3-12



Register of the National Estate Database

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Mount Remarkable Woolshed, Melrose SA

Class: Historic

Legal Status: Registered (21/03/1978)

Database Number: 006931

File Number: 3/07/227/0002

Statement of Significance : One of the finest examples of an early woolshed. Its size gives some indication of the size of the original run. It is also connected with J H Angas a notable and prominent figure in the early grazing scene of South Australia.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

Description : This woolshed was built at an early date for J Howard Angas. Local reports say that wool from this property was sent to Philadelphia in 1845. The shed is generally in very good repair. It is an excellent example of an early woolshed and could well be one of the finest still standing. It would make an excellent museum for implements and tools of the period.

Condition and Integrity : Small section of rebuilding necessary.

Location : About 4.5km north-east of Melrose on Willowie Road via Gumville.

Bibliography:

"OUR PLACE IN THE SUN" BY ALAN MCLELLAN.

"PIONEER REGIONAL BUILDING TECHNIQUES" PROJECT 9 FOR N.T. OF S.A. BY D.W. BERRY AND S.H. GILBERT.

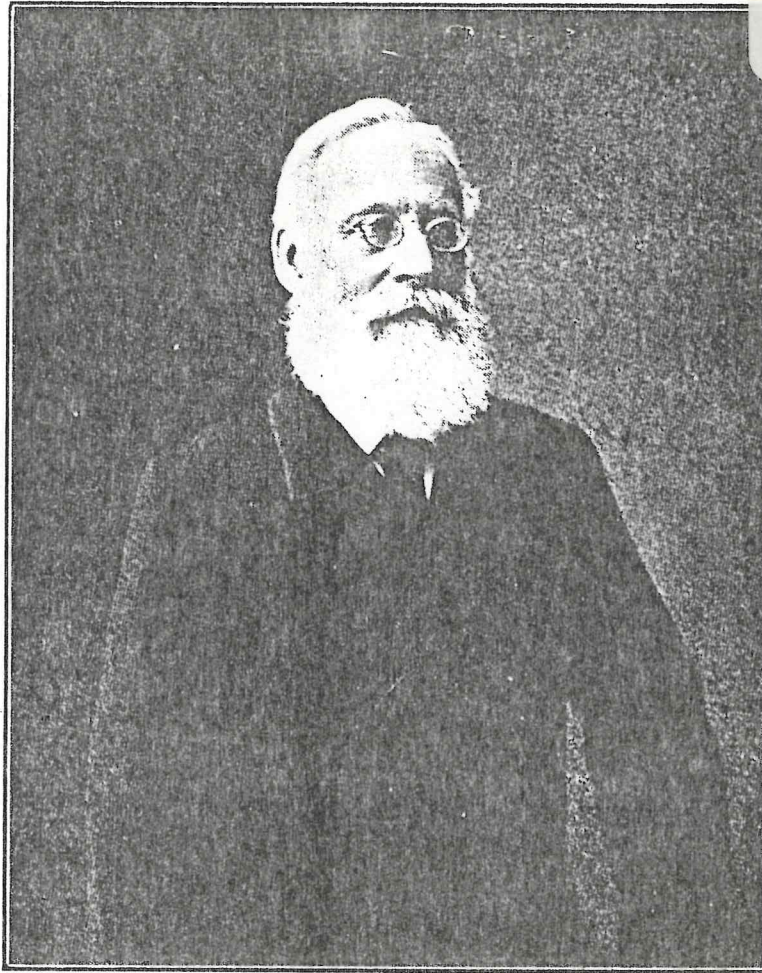
The Register of the National Estate has been compiled since 1976. The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements of significance for places listed prior to 1991.

Report produced : 30/10/2002

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88/27/02



JOHN HOWARD ANGAS.

THE life story of John Howard Angas must be fairly familiar to anyone engaged in pastoral pursuits, and it has been published and elaborated upon so frequently that it would be difficult to discover any really new material. Sufficient time has passed since his death to permit of his great achievements being viewed in their true perspective, and it may be said that for boldness in enterprise, versatility of interests, and competitive successes he stood in a class by himself. Other pastoralists could be named who won equal fame in the particular department of stock breeding upon which they concentrated their efforts, but John Howard Angas' activities scarcely knew any bounds, and he held his own in every direction. No man before or since his demise has done more to improve the quality of South Australia's flocks and herds, and the beneficent influence of his work will be felt for many years to

come. Mr. Angas was still in his teens when he came to South Australia from England in 1843 at the express wish of his father, George Fife Angas, whose business interests in the new province he did much to straighten out and consolidate. Upon landing he proceeded at once to his father's Barossa estate, making Tarrawatta his headquarters, where he first camped with a shepherd in a portable box, measuring 6 ft. by 3 ft., and afterwards lived in a stone hut, which, with improvements, is still standing. The hardships of pioneering and the day of sad things had no terrors for him. According to the biography written by Dr. H. T. Burgess, who had free access to the family papers, Mr. Angas' earliest venture as a pastoralist on his own account or outside his father's interests, was a partnership with Mr. A. B. Murray in a sheep run at Reedy Creek. That was in the early fifties, and in 1855 the partners were awarded first

prize for imported rams at the Adelaide Agricultural Show—the very first of the phenomenal run of Mr. Angas' show successes that would need a volume in themselves to record. In 1854 he visited England, and formulated plans for the vast operations that were to follow in after years. His first 10 years of residence in South Australia had created within him a thorough love of the pastoral business. He had strongly fastened on to the science of stock breeding, and had mastered the capabilities of the country, its natural herbage, and climatic conditions in relation to the rearing of cattle, sheep and horses.

Almost immediately upon Mr. Angas' return to South Australia from England, he purchased the Mt. Remarkable run, which, as the result of subsequent additions, eventually covered an area of 50,101 acres of freehold and 15,550 acres of leasehold. A rapid expansion of operations followed, until

Mr. Angas' estate "in mere measurement exceeded that of some European kingdoms, and comprised interests almost as complicated and diverse." South Australia did not then possess the network of railways which represents its present-day development, and in order to facilitate the process of marketing his stock Mr. Angas acquired properties at intervals along the line of march, so that at the end of each day's travel his cattle and sheep could rest and feed in paddocks of his own. The vast extent of his pastoral activities may be gauged from the following list of the principal properties in which he was interested:—Collingrove, 14,130 acres, shearing about 15,000 sheep; Hill River, 55,207 acres, 60,000 sheep; Hill River out-stations for fattening, Baldina, 8,384 acres, Belalie, 2,978 acres, and Broadview, 4,628 acres; Mt. Remarkable, 50,101 acres of freehold and 15,550 acres of leasehold, shearing about 45,000 sheep; Point Sturt, 3,704 acres (stud Shorthorn cattle); Kingsford, 3,082 acres (stud Hereford cattle); pastoral leases devoted to sheep, Wirrealpa, 1,729 square miles, Whittata, 234 miles, Netley, 145 miles; pastoral leases devoted to cattle, Stuart's Creek, 5,614 square miles, Finnis Springs, 578 miles, Frome Downs, 970 miles, Macumba 200 miles, Barrow Creek, Frew River, and Elkedra, 13,100 miles. In 1882 Mr. Angas found that his physical strength was beginning to decline, and he decided to shorten sail by disposing of his Northern interests. Negotiations were conducted with probable purchasers, and ended in Mr. Angas putting the following in writing:—"In reply to your request that I would place my Mt. Remarkable estate, with travelling stock stations, as enumerated in the schedules submitted to you, and the whole of my leasehold runs with the following stock, viz., 70,000 sheep, 9,000 cattle, 1,000 horses, under offer to you for the sum of £310,000, I beg to state that I have considered the matter, and, being anxious to reduce my responsibilities, will accede to your request." Thus came into being the Willowie Land and Pastoral Company, but misunderstandings arose and led to a vexatious lawsuit in the Supreme Court. The result was a complete vindication of the vendor's side to the question, the Chief Justice awarding him the verdict on the claim and counter claim, with costs. However, as the result of the obligations to him which the Willowie Company incurred, Mr. Angas became its largest shareholder, and continued in that capacity for many years prior to his decease. The Shorthorn and

Hereford cattle studs were probably his greatest pride, and he spent a fortune in importing bulls and cows to build them up and maintain them. Having frequently swept the boards in the Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney Royal Show rings—even his own office staff lost tally of the number of awards—his great ambition was to exhibit his magnificent animals in competition with the best to be found in the big shows of Great Britain, but the necessary permission could never be obtained from the English authorities. He, however, had the satisfaction of being elected a life member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Great Britain, and a similar honor was bestowed upon him by the kindred bodies in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The Hill River estate was secured from Mr. C. B. Fisher in 1871, and its lack of afforestation was quickly relieved by the planting of tens of thousands of gum and pine trees which to-day are one of the glories of the locality. The Angas Merinoes established a reputation far beyond the borders of the State, and nearly 200 prizes for sheep and wool were obtained in the principal shows of Australia. The Collingrove Lincoln stud was also held in very high repute, and in further proof of Mr. Angas' many-sided nature it may be mentioned that his operations included the importation and breeding of horses, pigs, donkeys, and ostriches, to all of which the same meticulous care was devoted as marked the conduct of his more important interests. In connection with the cattle breeding large dairies were established on the co-operative principle, and at one time there were as many as 500 milking cows attached to them. On the Hutton Vale farm 20 acres of currants were cultivated, and in one season 5,000 acres of wheat was cropped at Hill River. Truly a versatile producer!

Of course, Mr. Angas accumulated great wealth, but he worked hard for it and used it with infinite credit to the family name for munificence. When those famous Shorthorn cows, "Rugia Niblett" and "Rose Niblett" were imported together with 22 other choice specimens of the breed, the owner invited a party of 70 gentlemen to inspect them at Torrens Island, and in the course of his reply to the toast of his health, Mr. Angas remarked:—"He had been referred to as a successful man, but he pointed out that what had been done in the past could be done now, and if young men would only stick to one occupation, and throw all their energy into it instead of

grumbling about lost chances in bygone days, their prospects would be as good as they could wish. He had always stuck to his business. He had commenced with stock and he had kept to it. In England stock breeding was one of the most popular amusements, from the Queen down to the smallest farmer, and he would like to see it improved here, where there was plenty of room for pure strains of blood." Mr. Angas was a fine employer, and it is not often that one comes across a paragraph of the following kind, published in the press on May 21, 1872:—"Mr. J. H. Angas has given to his officers and men who have been in his employ for two years or more, a bonus of 10 per cent. calculated on the past 12 months' wages. This is to allow them to participate in the increased profits arising from the high prices of wool. It is to be hoped that other flockmasters who can will follow this good example." Despite his extensive business interests, Mr. Angas found time to devote eleven and a half years to politics, divided between membership of both the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. At a political dinner tendered to his committee and friends at Gawler he is reported to have said:—"It had been charged against him that he rented too many acres of Crown lands. Unfortunately, those who had some of it heretofore had been ruined by it. If that should be his case he would have to admit with sorrow that he had too many acres. But if he were enabled to turn a hitherto unprofitable country to better account, and to improve land that had been abandoned to the State so as to make it in some degree profitable, then he trusted he might be considered as discharging an important duty to the State by paying rent for what otherwise might have lain waste and profitless alike to individuals and to the community."

A record of the philanthropic deeds that lie to the credit of Mr. Angas would easily fill a chapter in itself, but that is not the purpose of this sketch. Suffice it to say that his liberality towards good causes was on a princely and almost unexampled scale. He passed away at Collingrove on May 17, 1904, in his 81st year. Among the provisions of his will was one expressing the hope that his estates would be carried on for at least 10 years after his death, but the inevitable demands of taxation and other considerations have gradually worked in the direction of dispersal. But the memory of Mr. Angas and his wonderful accomplishments is imperishable.

