

Heritage Item #

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| MI Reference: 44 HCWA No: 10913 | Place Name: Dempster Homestead | Other Name/s: Monties Restaurant, Emily's Restaurant |
| | | Date of Review: October 2021 |



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| Address: Muresk Institute, 1 Muresk Road, Muresk | Lot No: 28376 and 28377 Property Key: Plan Diagram: Vol Folio: Assess No: A771 |
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| Locality: Muresk | GPS: |
| Current Use: Institute Building | Original Use(s): Residence |

HERITAGE LISTINGS

Listings:

CONSTRUCTION

Date of Construction: 1891

Architect / Builder:

Architectural Style: Federation Bungalow

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Description:

Dempster Homestead is located within the Muresk Institute complex. The homestead is a single storey face brick building with a corrugated steel hip roof displaying characteristics of the Federation Bungalow style of architecture.

The building is situated on a sloping site facing south atop a stone retaining wall, approximately 1500mm high. The roof has two separate pitches with a central valley. The building has a symmetrical form with a return verandah to three sides, with a separate roof below the main roof line.

The verandah is supported by square timber posts and has a crossed timber balustrade. The walls are Flemish bond brickwork. The main entry door is positioned centrally in the front façade with highlights and sidelights. Additional French doors and timber double hung windows extend along the front facade with brick voussoirs above. A two-way stone staircase makes up a grand entrance to the front façade.

Ramp access is provided via the north west corner of the verandah. Timber and brick additions are attached to the rear of the building. The building faces a large lawned

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| courtyard to the south with paved pathways throughout the complex. Planting surrounds the plinth to the south façade. |
| Condition: Good |
| HISTORICAL |
| Notes: <p>This imposing building was the home of Andrew Dempster, built in 1891 once he had settled in Northam after an adventurous period in Esperance. His wife had died after his epic trip in a buggy from Esperance to Northam for her had been to no avail. The property had been called Down Farm by the original owners, but Dempster changed the name to Muresk, after Esk, his father's birth place in Scotland. Muresk was the original seat of the Dempster Family. Andrew Dempster lived there with his second wife until his death in 1909. The estate was then divided into five farms, two of which were occupied by his daughters.</p> <p>In 1924, the Collier Government in Western Australia bought up much of the land and an agricultural college for the State was set up on Muresk. The homestead was converted into a domestic block, with a dining hall, kitchen and office facilities. New dormitory halls, science laboratories, lecture rooms and staff residences were also built, and the college was officially opened in October 1926. In 1969, the college was taken over by the West Australian Institute of Technology, which is now Curtin University, and Muresk is now a campus of the University. The homestead includes conference facilities, Monties Restaurant, and Emily's, a room for intimate dining.</p> <p>The interior has been renovated in keeping with the times. In 2012, the responsibility for Muresk's operation was transferred from Curtin University to the State Government. The Department of Training and Workforce Development established Muresk Institute as a multi-tenanted, multi-functional facility for training, higher education, research, professional development and learning extension.</p> |
| Theme: Settlements |
| Associations: Andrew Dempster |
| Heritage Assessment or Conservation Plan: |
| Public Access: Yes (limited) |
| SIGNIFICANCE |
| Level of Integrity: Medium |
| Level of Authenticity: High |
| Statement of Significance: |
| Dempster Homestead is of cultural heritage significance for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The place has aesthetic significance as a fine example of a country residence displaying characteristics of the Federation Bungalow architectural style. • The place has historical significance, owing to its association with the pioneering Dempster family and the establishment of an agricultural college for Western Australia in 1926. • The place has social significance as the venue for many social gatherings and sporting events both during the Dempsters' period of residence, and in more recent times during the life of the Muresk College or Institute of Agriculture. |
| Level of Significance: Considerable |
| Heritage Category: 2 |

Additional Photographs



South Façade
Source: Municipal Heritage Inventory,
2012



South West Corner
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021



North West Corner
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021



East façade
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021



North East Corner
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021



Hughes Hall to the east of Dempster
Homestead
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021