

## SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

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### REGISTER ENTRY

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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NAME: Mortlock Weapons Collection OBJECT NO.: 10067-001  
Object intrinsically related to Martindale  
Hall (10067)

ADDRESS: Martindale Hall, Manoora Road, Mintaro  
CR 5372/406 D19214 A1 Hundred of Upper Wakefield

### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### Place

The Statement of Heritage Significance Place was approved by the South Australian Heritage Council 12 December 2019.

Martindale Hall, a property including a mansion and its interiors, coach house, stables, and associated structures, is closely associated with the pastoral and economic development of South Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The main house was constructed for Edmund Bowman Jr., in 1879-1880 to a design prepared by London architect E Gregg, while the coach house was probably designed by Adelaide architect EJ Woods. The construction of the mansion and other structures was supervised by Woods and main builder Robert Huckson.

Martindale Hall is an outstanding example of the grand country mansions constructed by wealthy pastoralists and represents the 'baronial' lifestyle achieved by them. The property including the mansion, its interiors and furnishings, and coach house retain a high degree of integrity and illustrate a way of life that no longer exists in South Australia. The classical styling, proportions and detailing of the external elevations of the mansion and coach house are of a very high quality, and the elaborate detailing of interior features such as timberwork, parquetry floor and plaster work to cornices, ceilings and gallery are finely executed. Martindale Hall remains as a testament to the

successful establishment and ongoing management of the intergenerational pastoral empires created by the Bowman and Mortlock families.

#### Object

The Mortlock Weapons Collection is intrinsically related to the 'baronial' lifestyle achieved at Martindale Hall by the Mortlock family. The weapons were collected in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries by William Tennant Mortlock and then his son John Mortlock (Jack), during their travels around Australia and overseas. The collection was prominently displayed by the Mortlocks in the Smoking Room at Martindale Hall, and illustrates a way of life that no longer exists in South Australia.

## COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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### Physical Description

The Mortlock Weapons Collection is comprised of a diverse assortment of weapons that originate from many different countries and continents including Australian First Nations, Pacific Island Nations, Japan, India, South East Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The collection consists of 123 weapons, although some have multiple components, typically a blade and scabbard and includes arrows, spears, boomerangs, woomeras, clubs, shields, knives, daggers, swords, firearms and a nineteenth century suit of Japanese Samurai armour. While some of the collection is ceremonial in nature, others were intended for and, in some instances, may have been used. A full list and description of each item in the Mortlock Weapons Collection is located in Appendix A – Mortlock Weapons Collection spreadsheet.

### Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Mortlock Weapons Collection as described in Appendix A

### History of the Mortlock Weapons Collection (Provenance)

The Mortlock Weapons Collection is comprised of a diverse range of weaponry that was largely acquired by William Tennant Mortlock during his travels in Australia and overseas, and was then added to by his son John. From at least the earliest years of the twentieth century it has been displayed by the Mortlocks on the walls of the room that came to be known as the Smoking Room. The *Kapunda Herald* noted in 1905 that through his 'worldwide travels', William had been able to 'gratify a taste for ... tribal relics and curios' that included a large collection of 'native weapons'.<sup>i</sup>

A pictorial feature on Martindale Hall that appeared in the March 1932 edition of the popular monthly magazine *South Australian Homes and Gardens* included two images of the Smoking Room and a brief text caption. The images illustrate the extensive nature of the collection at that time and make particular note of the Japanese or Samurai suit of armour and other weapons within the room.<sup>ii</sup> Two images of the Smoking Room taken by HDC Collyer in 1936 and now in the pictorial collection of the State Library of South Australia show the room configured in a very similar manner to the 1932 images.<sup>iii</sup>

The *Advertiser* also ran a feature on Martindale Hall in 1937 noting that the contents of the Smoking Room were 'gathered from all parts of the world'<sup>iv</sup> and included armour and weapons displayed on the walls. In October 1948, the Pioneer's Association of South Australia toured Martindale Hall and shortly after published a small booklet authored by a number of association members recounting their experiences of the Hall and its contents. A number of objects in the Smoking Room are mentioned including the Japanese suit of armour said to date from the early part of the nineteenth century and a trophy of 'firearms'. Included among the firearms are a 10 bore shotgun by Purdy that had once belonged to Sir Edward Stirling, a pinfire combination rifle and shotgun that was one of the first repeating rifles used in the American Civil War, and an early express sporting rifle.<sup>v</sup>

The brief inventory prepared by the University of Adelaide in 1986, when it transferred ownership of Martindale Hall to the Government of South Australia, notes among the contents of the Smoking Room, 16 swords, 39 spears, 2 shields, 2 daggers, 7 guns (noted as a collection), samurai suit, and 28 clubs, woomeras (spear throwers) and boomerangs.

Since being in the ownership of the Department for Environment and Water and predecessors, at least two items from the weapons collection have gone missing, possibly stolen. They include a naval ceremonial sword and an arrow from Papua. Security in the Smoking Room has since been increased and visitors are no longer allowed full access to the room.

## Chronology

Note: The chronology includes key dates and events from both the place's and object's histories.

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1838 | Edmund Bowman visits South Australia and upon his return to Tasmania convinces his parents to relocate the family to South Australia.   |
| 1839 | Edmund Bowman arrives in South Australia with a flock of sheep. His brothers John Jr. and William follow with a second flock of sheep and are joined later by their parents John and Mary and sisters.  |
| 1840 | John Bowman Sr. purchases section 341 at Enfield and establishes 'Barton Vale' including orchard, vines and grain crops.  |
| 1843 | John Sr. and Edmund Sr. Bowman begin to move their stock (sheep) north and look for land to lease around the Wakefield River.<br>William Ranson Mortlock arrives in South Australia and works as an Inspector of Sheep, amongst other activities. |
| 1844 | J Bowman takes out an occupation license over land described as Finniss River.  |

- 1845 J Bowman takes out 2 occupation licenses for land near the River Wakefield.
- 1846 J Bowman takes out an occupation license for land at Lower Wakefield.
- 1847 J Bowman takes out occupation licenses for land in Upper Wakefield and Light Regions. Upper Wakefield land is named Martindale.

William Ranson Mortlock procures an occupation license for land near Tumbly Bay on the Eyre Peninsula.

- 1848 Edmund Bowman Sr. purchases 3 acres of land in the village of Enfield near Barton Vale and builds a 5-room stone cottage.

- 1850 William Ranson Mortlock and Margaret Tennant marry in Port Lincoln and soon after relocate to Adelaide, where William runs flour mills on Halifax Street and at Port Noarlunga. Their pastoral holdings are cared for by a manager.

- 1850-1851 Hundreds of Upper Wakefield and Stanley are proclaimed and the **Bowman's purchase most of the land in the area they lease.**

- 1852 'Barton Vale' house comprising eleven rooms is completed and is surrounded by a 3 acre garden. The property also features a stables, coach house and numerous outbuildings.

- 1854 Edmund Bowman Sr. and Elizabeth Hackney are married at Trinity Church.

- 1855 Edmund Bowman Jr. is born.

- 1857 John Bowman dies leaving his pastoral holdings to his four sons. (Edmund **Sr. inherits 'Barton Vale', Martindale and Werocata.) Edmund transfers the** title of the 3-acre property and cottage at the village of Enfield to his mother, Mary.

William and Margaret Mortlock return to the Eyre Peninsula with their young family after the Halifax Street mill is destroyed by fire.

- 1857-1864 Brothers Edmund Sr., John Jr., Thomas and William Bowman collectively manage the Bowman pastoral holdings.

- 1858 William Tennant Mortlock is born near Port Lincoln.

- 1860s-1870s William Ranson and Margaret Mortlock continue to build their pastoral holdings adding Strawberry Hill and Lake Wangary to the Yalluna Run. They also acquire pastoral holdings in the north of the State including Angorichna, Mount Arden and Yudnapinna.

- 1866 Edmund Sr. drowns in the Wakefield River leaving his estate to his sons Edmund Jr., Charles and Hubert and financial support for his daughters Clarissa, Alice and Jessie. Edmund Sr. bequests his wife Elizabeth the use **of 'Barton Vale' during her** life. The Bowman estate is placed into trust and the land leased until the children reach their majority.
- 1868-1884 William Ranson Mortlock serves three terms in the House of Assembly.
- 1873 William Tennant Mortlock travels to England to study law at Cambridge University. After completing his degree he practices law in London.
- 1875 Edmund Bowman Jr. travels to England to study law at Cambridge University. While in the UK he meet Francis Hasell (Fanny) and wishes to marry her.
- 1878 Edmund Bowman Jr. commissions Ebenezer Gregg to design Martindale Hall. The completed house is meant as an enticement to try and persuade Fanny to marry him and move to South Australia. She ultimately refuses.
- Mid-1878 Edmund Bowman Jr. returns to South Australia (without completing his **degree**) and **launches amicable legal proceedings to have his father's** intentions interpreted in the disposal of the trust as both Edmund Jr. and Charles had turned 21 and wished to manage their inheritance. The trust is valued at £114,410.
- 1878-1880 Martindale Hall and Coach House are constructed under the supervision of EJ Woods and main builder Robert Huckson. A pump house, reservoir and tanks are constructed to supply water to the house.
- Late 1870s-early 1880 Edmund Bowman Jr. and Charles borrow substantial sums of money and continue to build their pastoral empire. By 1883 they own Wandillah (17,787 acres), Mt Bryan (25,136 acres), Martindale/Wirrilla (16,000 acres), Holm Hill (1,600 acres), Werocata (25,616 acres), Forrester's Farm (595 acres) other land (1,000 acres) and lease Euro Bluff, Andamooka, Parakylia and a small station at Mongolatta.
- 1881 William Tennant Mortlock returns to South Australia due to his father's ill health.
- 1881-1885 South Australia experiences a severe drought.
- 1884 Edmund Jr. and Annie Lewers Cowle are married at St Peter's Cathedral.

William Ranson Mortlock dies and leaves his estate to his son William Tennant Mortlock.

- 1886 Edmund Jr and Charles increasingly struggle to service their debt and raise credit against the following year's wool clip to pay their interest bill. They also offer four properties for sale. When Werocata sells for less than anticipated Edmund Jr. transfers Martindale into joint ownership with Charles.
- March 1890 The English, Scottish and Australian Bank declares Edmund Jr. and Charles's account inoperative.
- Sept 1890 Martindale Hall is offered for sale.
- Jan 1891 William Tennant Mortlock and Rosina Forsyth Tennant marry, her father gives the couple £20,000 as a wedding present/dowry.
- March 1891 William Tennant Mortlock and Rosina Forsyth Tennant Mortlock purchase Martindale Hall for £33,000 and redecorate and furnish the house.
- 1891 William and Rosina also acquire Euro Bluff Station, near Port Augusta.
- 1894 John Andrew Tennant Mortlock is born.
- 1896-1902 William Tennant Mortlock serves two terms in the House of Assembly and is noted for his contributions on pastoral matters.
- 1897 William and Rosina acquire Warratta Vale Station (southern Eyre Peninsula).
- 1905 The *Kapunda Herald* notes the extensive weapons and ethnographic collections acquired by William Tennant Mortlock during his travels.
- 1913 William Tennant Mortlock dies after a period of ill health. John who was studying at Cambridge returns home. John decides to live at Martindale Hall with his mother Rosina and together they jointly manage the Mortlock pastoral estate, which encompasses 1,976 square miles of land in South Australia.
- 1926 The South Australian Government considers acquiring Martindale Hall for closer settlement, however, due to costly improvements find it too expensive to do so.
- 1932 *South Australian Homes and Gardens* magazine notes the extensive weapons collection at Martindale Hall and identifies both William and his son John as its collectors.
- 1920s Rosina redecorates Martindale Hall.
- 1936 After the death of his brother in Colombo, John and Rosina establish the Ranson Mortlock Trust to fund research into soil erosion and pasture regeneration.

- 1940 Dorothy Beech begins working as Ernest Scarf's secretary, Scarf manages the Mortlock accounts.
- 1947 Dorothy Beech takes over the management of the Mortlock account after Scarf dies.
- 1948 John is diagnosed with cancer, he and Dorothy are married soon after.
- 1950 John Mortlock dies, leaving the majority of his estate (£1,148,124) in trust jointly to the Waite Institute University of Adelaide and the Libraries Board of South Australia. Dorothy is appointed a trustee and is given a lifetime interest in Martindale Hall.
- 1953 University of Adelaide expresses an interest in taking over control of Martindale Hall.
- 1959 University of Adelaide proposes creating a research station at Martindale Hall.
- 1965 An agreement is reached between the University of Adelaide and the trustees of Martindale Hall to enable the University to establish a research station at the property. As a part of the agreement, the University is to maintain the Hall.
- 1979 Dorothy Mortlock dies and the Mortlock estate is divided between the University of Adelaide and Libraries Board of South Australia. Dorothy also leaves a bequest to the University specifically to assist in the upkeep of Martindale Hall.
- 24 July 1980 Martindale Hall is entered in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.
- 1980s University of Adelaide embarks on a rationalisation of the structures at Martindale Hall and the conservatory and garden elements are removed. The Coach House is re-roofed.
- 1980s-present Martindale Hall is used as a tourism venue and historic house museum.
- 1986 **Martindale Hall and Dorothy Mortlock's bequest is given to the South Australian Government.**
- 5 Dec 1991 Under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* Martindale Hall is proclaimed a conservation park.

## References

LeMessurier Architects (1991), 'Martindale Mintaro Conservation Plan' (Adelaide: South Australian Department of Environment and Planning).

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Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 16 July 2020

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council on 10 December 2020



Elizabeth Warburton (1979), *Martindale Hall*, (Adelaide: University of Adelaide).

The South Australian Government Gazette, 5 December 1991, p.1668.

Pioneers Association of South Australia (1948), *Pioneers Visit to Martindale Hall*, (Adelaide: Pioneers Association of SA).

Newspapers, Magazines, Archival & Websites

'Advertising', *Register* 29 December 1852, p.2.

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'Marriages', *Register* 9 September 1871, p.8.

'Law and Criminal Courts Supreme Court-In Equity', *Register* 6 December 1878, p.1.

'Advertising', *Evening Journal* 3 March 1879, p.2.

'Advertising', *Observer* 18 December 1880, p.18.

'Mr E Bowman's Mansion at Martindale', *Observer* 25 December 1880, p.32.

'Mr E Bowman's Mansion at Martindale', *Evening Journal* 18 December 1880, p.2.

'Fashionable Weddings', *Evening Journal* 29 January 1891, p.3.

'Flocks and Herds Poltalloch Estate', *Observer* 9 January 1904, p.13.

'Martindale', *Kapunda Herald* 3 November 1905, p.1.

'Death of Mr WT Mortlock', *Chronicle* 23 August 1913, p.15.

'Martindale Hall, Mintaro the home of Mr JT Mortlock', *South Australian Homes and Gardens* March 1932.

'First Leesees of Crystal Brook', *Laura Standard and Crystal Brook Courier* 19 August 1932, p.2.

Collyer, HDC (1936), 'Martindale Hall: smoke room view 1' SLSA B 46418.

Collyer, HDC (1936), 'Martindale Hall: smoke room view 2' SLSA B 46419.

March, Marian, 'Historic Country Home', *Advertiser* 5 May 1937, p.8.

'History of Martindale Hall' <https://www.dalemain.com/australia-2014-tour-martindale-hall/> [accessed 31 October 2019].

## OBJECT DETAILS

Mortlock Weapons Collection  
Manoora Road, Mintaro

OBJECT NO.: 1067-001

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|------------------------|--|
| NAME OF SHP:           | Martindale Hall (SHP 10067)  |
| DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: | Collection of Australian First Nations, Pacific Island Nations, South-east Asian, Japanese, Middle Eastern, European and Indian weapons. |
| REGISTER STATUS:       | Provisional Entry 16 July 2020<br>Confirmed 10 December 2020   |
| CURRENT USE:           | Collection and display of historic weapons in the Smoking Room at Martindale Hall.<br>c.1892-present                                     |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: | Clare and Gilbert Valleys  |
| LOCATION:              | Street Name: Manoora Road<br>Town/Suburb: Mintaro<br>Post Code: 5415   |
| LAND DESCRIPTION:      | Title CR 5372/406 D19214 A1<br>Reference:<br>Hundred: Upper Wakefield  |

## PHOTOS

Mortlock Weapons Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10067-001

Manoora Road, Minataro

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Smoking Room view to the north 1932

Source: South Australian Homes and Gardens Magazine, p.31.



Smoking Room view to the north 1936

Source: SLSA B 46419

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PHOTOS



Smoking Room view to southeast 1932

Source: South Australian Homes and Gardens Magazine, p.31.



B 46418

Smoking Room view to the southeast 1936

Source: SLSA B 46418

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## PHOTOS



Smoking Room view to north 2019

Source: DEW Files 30 August 2019



Smoking Room view to west 2019

Source: DEW Files 30 August 2019

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## PHOTOS



Smoking Room view to the east 2019

Source: Dew Files 30 August 2019



Smoking Room view to the south 2019

Source: DEW Files 30 August 2019



## PHOTOS



A sample of the Mortlock Weapons Collection

Source: DEW Files 30 August 2019

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i 'Martindale', *Kapunda Herald* 3 November 1905, p.1.

ii 'Martindale Hall, Mintaro the home of Mr JT Mortlock, *South Australian Homes and Gardens* March 1932, p.31.

iii HDC Collyer (1936), 'Martindale Hall: smoke room view 1' SLSA B 46418. HDC Collyer (1936), 'Martindale Hall: smoke room view 2' SLSA B 46419.

iv Marian March, 'Historic Country Home', *Advertiser* 5 May 1937, p.8.

v Pioneers Association of South Australia (1948), *Pioneers' Visit to Martindale Hall*, (Adelaide, Pioneers Association of South Australia), np.