

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

REGISTER ENTRY

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

NAME: Martindale Hall Billiards and Sporting OBJECT NO.: 10067-002
Collection

Object intrinsically related to Martindale
Hall (SHP 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 for the Place was approved by the South Australian Heritage Council on 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 Martindale Hall Billiards and Sporting Collection is intrinsically related to the 'baronial' lifestyle achieved at Martindale Hall by the Bowman and Mortlock families. Edmund Bowman developed a range of facilities at Martindale Hall to support his sporting interests, including incorporating a fully furnished Billiard Room into the design of the mansion. Many of those sporting interests were continued by the Mortlock family, and the Billiard and Sporting Collection demonstrates 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*

Physical Description

The Billiard and Sporting Collection is comprised of five items that are associated with playing the game of billiards. The collection comprises:

- a traditional full size table (6ft x 12ft) made by Stevens & Sons, Villiers St Charing Cross London,
- a 6-pendant brass and bronze ceiling-mounted table light, featuring gryphons, feathered scrolls and light colours shades,
- a mahogany billiard scorer made by Stevens & Sons, Villiers St Charing Cross London
- a poster 'Rules of Billiards' from Stevens & Sons, Villiers St Charing Cross London
- a timber and bone billiard spider made by Stevens & Sons, Villiers St Charing Cross London

A full description of each item and images is included in Appendix A – Martindale Hall Billiards & Sporting Collection spreadsheet.

Elements of Significance:

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

- Martindale Hall Billiards and Sporting Collection as identified in Appendix A

History of the Object

Sport was an integral part of life at Martindale Hall and many sporting activities including hunting, horse racing, cricket and polo took place at Martindale Hall. In addition to these outdoor activities, for which Edmund Bowman Jr. and/or the Mortlock family built and maintained the necessary facilities, the design of Martindale Hall included a Billiard Room that interconnected with the adjacent Library that was also used as a games room. The Mortlocks later repurposed the library into a smoking and trophy room, which is how it appears today. In addition to two desks and a bookshelf, the original Library contained an octagonal games table, hexagonal table and a number of easy chairs.

The full-sized 12x6 foot billiard table dominated the space in the adjoining Billiard Room and was accompanied by a range of accessories necessary to play the game in style.¹ The table and some of the accessories such as the scorer and spider were

made by London-based billiard table and accessory maker Stevens & Son of Villiers Street, Charing Cross.

Like the original owner Edmund Bowman, William Mortlock was also noted as a keen sportsman, particularly for horse racing and hunting, and in 1911 entered one of his horses in the Grand National. When Martindale Hall was purchased by William and Rosina Mortlock in 1891, some of the furniture was also acquired by them. Most notably, the billiard table and six pendant table light above, which has since been identified by Warburton as the only original light fitting at Martindale Hall. However, not all items associated with the Billiard Room remained, and it is unknown where items such as the rosewood cue cabinet installed by Edmund Bowman are now located.²

Jack (John) Mortlock was not a sportsman like his father, however, he had a keen interest in his yacht, which was named *Martindale*. At some point during the Mortlock ownership of Martindale Hall, the Billiard Room was transformed into a combined library and billiard room, and the room is now home to both the billiard table and its accessories and a large collection of books.

Chronology

- 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.
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 Tumby 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/Wirilla (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 and 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

Martindale Hall Summary of State Heritage Place (Retrospective)

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

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

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

OBJECT DETAILS

Martindale Hall Billiards and Sporting Collection
Manoora Road Mintaro

OBJECT NO.: 10067-002

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Billiard table and accoutrements of the game including a six-pendant brass and bronze light fitting featuring gryphons, scrollwork and pale coloured shades, poster 'Rules of Billiards', scorer, and spider.

REGISTER STATUS: Provisional Entry 10 December 2020

CURRENT USE: On Display at Martindale Hall in the Billiard Room.
1986-present

PREVIOUS USE(S): Used to play billiards
c.1880-1986

MANUFACTURER: Stevens & Sons Villiers St, Charing Cross London (billiard table, scorer, rule of game, spider)
c.1880

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Clare and Gilbert Valleys

LOCATION: Street Name: Manoora Road
Town/Suburb: Mintaro
Post Code: 5415

LAND DESCRIPTION: Title CR 5372/406 D19214 A1
Reference:
Hundred: Upper Wakefield

PHOTOS

Martindale Hall Billiard and Sporting Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10067-002

Martindale Hall, Manoora Road, Mintaro



Billiard table and 6-pendant light fitting in the Billiard Room, Martindale Hall
Source: DEW Files 19 August 2019



Billiards scorer

Source: DEW Files 19 August 2019

¹ Warburton, p.90.
² Warburton, p.90.