

Lochend House

Lochend dates back to Charles James Fox Campbell who was born in 1807 at Kingsburgh House on the Isle of Skye into a prominent family, the Campbells of Melford, Argyllshire. His descent was from the Campbells of Lochend whose aristocratic lineage can be traced back clearly for 300 years.

The Campbell family was related to Elizabeth Campbell, wife of Governor Macquarie of New South Wales, and this would have been a factor influencing the family's move to Australia. In 1821, the family, including Charles, migrated to Sydney and were given a large grant of land near Parramatta. At the age of 16, Charles Campbell was orphaned and he devoted himself to pastoral pursuits.

In 1838, Campbell arrived in South Australia with the first overland cattle expedition led by Joseph Hawdon. A developing Adelaide, at this time, was just over two years old with a population of 3000. By 1842, Campbell had bought a section of land on the River Torrens and had built Lochend, his 'town house'. He sought advice from his friend George Strickland Kingston, the State's first architect, in the design of the house. Kingston also designed Ayers House, parts of Government House, the Adelaide Gaol, and the first monument to Colonel Light in Light Square.

Lochend was built of river stone and included a stucco porch, hall and living room with a finely moulded ceiling. The roof was of wooden shingles and Campbell later added three bedrooms and a cellar. Lochend had four acres of garden and 156 acres of arable land in the estate.

Campbell married Martha Levi, sister of great pastoralist, Philip Levi, in 1850. Their first child, Philip, was born at Lochend in 1851 and other children Frederick, Edmund and William were born in 1852, 1855 and 1857.

In 1852, Lochend was described in the Register as a residence on the Torrens, 3 1/2 miles from town, having every convenience, a 50 acre paddock and two extensive gardens, one of five acres planted with choice fruit trees in full bearing.

In January 1858, Campbell sold Lochend to James Scott of New South Wales for 2600 pounds and moved to a new homestead on the Nor'West Bend Station, near Morgan on the River Murray. It was here that his untimely death occurred on 5 March, 1859, from blood poisoning. He was 52 years old.

Lochend subsequently passed to the widowed Mrs Jessie (Scott) MacDonald. During her time at Lochend, five handsome rooms were added to the existing house and cellar, with a stone cottage, stables and coachhouse clustered around the homestead. A stucco porch sheltered the new front door, while a hall and living room were ornamented with moulded and painted ceilings.

Following Mrs Macdonald's removal to Glenelg in 1875, Mr David Mundy acquired the property, abandoned the old piecemeal structure and built a more imposing house on the hill, where his Lochiel Park house still stands.

By 1898, David Mundy had had enough of running a near-city estate and sold Lochiel Park to his neighbour Jonah Hobbs. The Hobbs family lived in both buildings from the turn of the century.

The property, including Lochend and Lochiel Park, was sold to the Crown in 1947.