

## Item Details

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**Name**

Longfield

**SHR/LEP/S170**

Longfield

**Address**

175 Wilsons Creek Road WILSONS CREEK NSW 2482

**Local Govt Area**

Byron

**Local Aboriginal Land Council****Item Type**

Built

**Group/Collection**

Residential buildings (private)

**Category**

Homestead building

## All Addresses

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**Addresses**

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
175	Wilsons Creek Road	WILSONS CREEK/NSW/2482	Byron					Primary Address

## Significance

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**Statement Of Significance**

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Longfield is a historically significant agricultural homestead developed at the turn of the 20th century. Its historic form and fabric are important evidence of the early development in the Wilsons Creek locality. Longfield holds historical associative significance for its connection to William Grant Law; who selected the original 300 acre property, Charles Belson; who operated it as a dairy farm, and who became a foundation committeeman of the Mullumbimby Farmers' and Dairymen's Union in July 1901, and William Bower who was an initiator of banana growing in this area and an Alderman on Byron Shire Council 1911-1917. This rural homestead demonstrates aesthetic significance for its form, scale, original historic fabric and its rural setting with a framework of landscape and mature trees. Original historic properties are held in high regard by the local community and valued for their contribution to the heritage of the locality.

#### **Criteria a)**

##### **Historical Significance**

Longfield demonstrates historical significance as an agricultural homestead developed at the turn of the 20th century. Its historic form and fabric are important evidence of the early development in the Wilsons Creek locality. Evidence of a former separate kitchen area which is now joined to the house and remnant slab construction outbuilding to the rear are tell of a former way of life and past practices.

#### **Criteria b)**

##### **Historical Association Significance**

Longfield holds historical associative significance for its connection to William Grant Law; who selected the original 300 acre property, Charles Belson; who operated it as a dairy farm, and who became a foundation committeeman of the Mullumbimby Farmers' and Dairymen's Union in July 1901, and William Bower who was an initiator of banana growing in this area and an Alderman on Byron Shire Council 1911-1917.

#### **Criteria c)**

##### **Aesthetic/Technical Significance**

This rural homestead demonstrates aesthetic significance for its form, scale, original historic fabric and its rural setting with a framework of landscape and mature trees. Whilst in poor condition at the time of the report, it retained a high degree of original fabric including local timber of Yellow Teak external weatherboards and exotic timber linings to the interior. The traditional scale and form and historic layout of the house with central entry and its symmetrical facade contribute to its aesthetic significance.

#### **Criteria d)**

##### **Social/Cultural Significance**

Original historic properties are held in high regard by the local community and valued for its contribution to the heritage of the locality.

#### **Criteria e)**

##### **Research Potential**

The item is not likely to demonstrate this criterion.

#### **Criteria f)**

##### **Rarity**

The item is locally rare as a historic homestead of significance in this locality.

#### **Criteria g)**

##### **Representative**

Longfield is representative of vernacular rural homesteads of timber and iron construction in its form and fabric.

##### **Integrity/Intactness**

Fairly high but in poor condition.

## Owners

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Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

## Description

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Designer

Builder/Maker

Physical Description

Updated 11/29/2022

Longfield is an traditional rural homestead circa 1902 with a symmetrical front facade. It has a complex hipped roof, and encircling bullnose verandah on three sides of the dwelling. It sits on a rural holding of 40 ha on an elevated site setback from the road reached by a tree lined driveway. It has a distinct landscape setting below an east- west ridgeline and backdrop of hills.

The main roof is built in three sections, two sections running north-south which are joined by an internal box gutter and are concealed by the main front roof. This suggests that the building may have been constructed in stages. There is another smaller hipped roof over what is likely to have been a former separate kitchen building on the eastern side of the house. Guttering is low front ogee profile and historic photographs show acroterions on the corners. This was later joined to the main dwelling as observed by changes to the wall cladding. On the western side verandah, a section of verandah has been enclosed and modifications have been made to the rear windows on the kitchen which appears to be another addition or modification.

Reportedly the exterior is clad in yellow teak. The paint finishes show a crackled white beneath which is evidence of a red oxide colour.

Internally the dwelling has a traditional central entry hall with the original 4 panel entry door, transom light above. The walls and ceilings are timber lined with horizontal linings to walls, apart from the front two rooms on the western side were combined and lined in a fibre cement sheeting. Timber floors throughout. Fenestration is typical of the era with 4 pane double hung timber sash windows set at regular intervals.

To the rear of the dwelling is a separate skillion roofed outbuilding which retains evidence of a former slab hut building with wide vertical slabs. It contains a former laundry which retains the brick base and fireplace of the copper.

The property was vacant for many years and was suffering from water ingress and a high level of dilapidation. It was sold in 2021 and a Development Application for restoration and reconstruction works and a detached new living kitchen dining pavilion to the rear was approved in 2022 under DA 2021/0839.

### **Physical Condition**

**Updated 11/29/2022**

Fair- Poor when inspected but scope of works approved for restoration, reconstruction, alterations and detached addition.

### **Modifications And Dates**

Alterations have occurred to the property as evidence by connection of former kitchen to the house, extension of the kitchen and enclosure of parts of the verandah. New works are approved which will remove many unsympathetic elements, provide for restoration and reconstruction of the original elements including the verandah detailing, and fencing, and enable a layout which meets current needs in combination with the new detached living kitchen dining pavilion.

### **Further Comments**

### **Current Use**

Farm and Homestead.

### Former Use

Farm and Homestead.

## Listings

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### Listings

					Records Retrieved: 1	
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page	
Potential Heritage Item		I202				

## Procedures/Exemptions

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						Records Retrieved: 0	
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome		
No Results Found							

## History

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Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

Byron Shire Council recognises the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal people, the Minjungbal people and the Widjabul people as Traditional Owners and custodians for parts of the Byron Shire. The first European settlement in the Byron Shire was established in 1849 in the area now known as Ocean Shores. The first industry was cedar cutting, which exploited the areas reserves of timber. The loggers often followed the trails of Aboriginal people into the hinterland.

The Wilson's Creek Valley, lies to the south west of Mullumbimby, on the flank of Mt Jerusalem, and includes Laverty's Gap, Upper Wilson's Creek, Huonbrook and Wonganui. The section of Wilson's Creek Road closest to Mullumbimby was home to some of the original settlers, and close to the original township of Mullumbimby which lay to the south of its present day location. It was first explored by timber cutters, followed by bananas and dairying. There are no remaining dairy farms in the Wilson's Creek area and bananas are limited to one small farm at Laverty's Gap. Banana platforms used to be located at the bottom of steep north facing slopes, and the bananas were sent downhill on flying foxes on a continuous loop of wire.

The 'Red Road' in Huonbrook, links the Wilson's Creek valley with the old mail route from Lismore to Uki. Agriculture in the area today consists of small scale orchards, nurseries, and beef grazing. The valley is now home to cottage industries, retirees, and commuters. Much of the land cleared for dairying has now been allowed to regenerate into sub-tropical temperate rainforest. Wilson's Creek is identified by locals and tourists as part of the Byron Hinterland or just 'the hills'.

#### This Item

The original 300 acre property was selected by renowned teamster and timber-getter William Grant Law of the Clarence in 1881. He pit-sawed his own timber for the original thatched roofed house. But whether he or his successor subsequently erected the current building is uncertain. In 1899 he sold the property, by then known as 'Longfield', to Charles Belson of Maitland for £1000. W. G. Law remained as a sharefarmer for 3 years before moving to Main Arm. In the meantime the dairy industry had boomed, Belson became a foundation committeeman of the Mullumbimby Farmers and Dairymen Union in July 1901, of which his brother Albert of nearby 'Bella Vista' was foundation president.

In 1907 Belson sold the place to William Bower of Bega for £6000. Meanwhile, in late 1903, Albert sold 500 acre 'Bella Vista' for £3750 (having paid £1250 4yrs earlier).

The rise of King Banana to challenge Her Majesty the Cow as the district's totem started in 1912 when William Bower planted out 8 acres on the slopes of Montecollum / Laverty's Gap, harvesting assisted by a tramline down the hillside to the flats of 'Longfield' His first production arrived at the Mullum fruit shops in Mar13.

William Bower, born Norfolk, England 1856, represented 'A' Riding on the Byron Shire Council 1911-1917. His son James T. Bower carried on the tradition as an 'A' Riding councillor Nov 1913 and served as Shire President 1939-40. In Oct 1955 the Council adopted the name 'Bower Street' in the new Crown land subdivision at Brunswick Heads. Like his father, James was prominent in community affairs.

An early photo of the Bower homestead, 'Longfield'; ~1910 shows (L to R on verandah: Catherine (nee McPaul) Bower, William Jnr wife Beattie (nee Pethers) with son Stan, William Snr, James with son Les, and Percy.

William added to 'Longfield' over the years, such that by 1922 upon his retirement into Mullumbimby, he was able to hand on to his sons 550 acres, Percy Ambrose inheriting 'Longfield', James getting 'Pulpit

Hill', and Henry Robert on 'Hillside', both carved off 'Longfield', William Ernest with 'Elmhurst', Frederick George Thomas with 'Mountain View' and Herbert John at 'Oceanview'.

Source BVHS

#### Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 0

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
No Results Found		

## Recommended Management

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### Management Summary

Carefully conserve the item in accordance with the 'Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance'.  
Seek advice from a heritage specialist during all phases of a proposed project.  
Undertake annual inspections and proactive routine maintenance works to conserve the heritage fabric of the place.  
Maintain a rural setting around the homestead and maintain the tree plantings.

### Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

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### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 0

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
No Results Found					

## Reference & Internet Links

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### References

Records Retrieved: 1

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	BVHS	2021	Historical Information Brunswick Valley Historical Society.	

## Data Source

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The information for this entry comes from the following source:

<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Record Owner</b>	<b>Heritage Item ID</b>
Local Government	Byron Shire Council	6000417

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