

# Myendetta Homestead

Address Myendetta Station via Charleville, Q 4470

Practice Hall & Dods

Designed 1908 Completed 1910

History & Description Myendetta is owned by descendants of grazier CDE Francis who commissioned architect RS (Robin) Dods (1868-1920) to design the homestead, associated outbuildings and garden layout. The homestead's design responded to the extreme climatic conditions of its western Queensland location with an unusual plan form (a cruciform corridor divides the rooms ensuring cross ventilation) and a detached kitchen. The house sits close to the ground with a massive hipped roof of 40° pitch. Nearly all openings were generous French lights and the building was fully equipped with its own electric power generation driven by an artesian bore. Unlike many homesteads in the area, the water supply enabled it to be constructed on higher ground away from the Warrego River and its flood plain. This building is a superb example of Dods's timber detailing and an important landmark in the region.

Dods was British trained and his work on returning to Queensland was greatly influenced by the principles of the Arts & Crafts movement, most notably in his churches and houses, for which he has gained a national reputation. Dods is credited with considerably refining the traditional Queensland timber house; very few however survive intact.



Images: Drawings and photos c1910 held private collection (copy held Dods Archive, Brisbane): contemporary photo R Riddel.

Statement of Significance Myendetta is significant as a very intact example of Robin Dods's design using restrained Arts & Crafts influences together with state of the art technical attributes of electric power, artesian water and natural ventilation. It is one of a handful of homesteads designed by Dods which both share similar characteristics with, and yet are quite distinctive from, houses he designed for urban locations.

Criteria Applicable N1. Significant heritage value in demonstrating principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.  
N2. Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.  
N5. Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.

