

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** CANUNDA (FORMER GLENISLA) SHEEPWASH, SHEEPDIP, LONE GRAVE AND WOOLSHED SITE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Henty Highway GLENISLA

**STUDY NUMBER:** 362

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** GLENISLA

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 3 & 5A **SECTION:** no **PARISH:** PARISH OF LAMBRUK  
section

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 389B-5&6; VicRoads 55 E5; located on the eastern side of the Henty Highway, 42kms north of Cavendish on a property now called Canunda.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** State



Glenisla Sheepwash, Henty Highway, Glenisla

**Image Date:** 06/07/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. An area extending 10 000 square metres from the sheepwash, and including all the all the structures associated with the sheepwash, including the depressions, race, drying yard, channels, deep pools, masonry and timber which survives; the nearby lone grave; and all archaeological remains within the area.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The sheepwash is located some distance from the Woolhpooer Swamp, now drained, to its north which was the principal supply of water. A feeder channel led 80.0m south from the swamp to a circular dam created by an earth bank and a stone section on the southern side which fed the water into a sluice. The sheepwash was on the far of south side of the dam. It consisted of two areas, a shallow depression which was used as a holding area and to soap the sheep, and a deep washing area for spraying the sheep. The two halves were divided by an earth bank with the sluice above it. The shallow half sloped down towards the bank and the men soaking the sheep. The deep half sloped up and away from the men spaying the sheep. Other men yarded the sheep into and out of the sheepwash. Much of the masonry which lined the dam and the sheepwash survives. About 10.0m from the dam there was a boiler mounted in a stone and brick pit.

It comprises post and rail holding yards, a brick-lined trough, and a draining area as well as a dam.

The lone grave is located beside the swamp about .5km from the second sheepwash and 1.0km from the former woolshed. The 'headstone' is a simple timber plank with a cross painted in black. There is no name or date. The grave is fenced. From the orientation of the headstone, the grave faces west.

## HISTORY:

Glenisla squatting run was established in June 1843 by a Scotsman named Hector Norman Simpson (c.1820-80) who named the run after an area, known as a kirkdom, near Balmoral in Scotland. The run was No. 269 in the Portland Bay District and consisted of 96,000 acres, with 500 head of cattle and 25,000 sheep (B&K, 213). It was located on the Glenelg River, 16 miles east of the settlement of Balmoral. In 1847 the lease was transferred to Donald Campbell Simson, as trustee for Jane Charlotte Simson and John Coghill Simson when it was subdivided into Glenisla North and South (B&K, 213).

Hector Norman Simson was the son of Hector Simson and his wife Margaret Campbell and the brother of Donald Campbell Simson (De Serville, PPG, 437). According to de Serville, he married Marian Bryant and they had three daughters: Marion, Ella, and Anne. Hector Norman Simson (1820-1880) actually married Jane Bryant in the Church of England, Kilmore in 1850 (PIV, Reg. No. 25519 & 25652). They had four children: twins Edmund and Marion (1852), Isabella (1854) and Edith (1857)(PIV, Reg. No. 9468 & 9469, 7252, 7744). Simson was in partnership with his brother and with Henry Darlot, Henry Dutton, George Coghill, John Duerdin, John Purcell and others. He was troubled by Aborigines and was himself wounded. By 1845 he had left Glenisla in the hands of an overseer. Simson died at Wangaratta in 1880.

While Charles Carter and Sons may have acquired an interest in the run as early as 1860, they are more likely to have come to Glenisla in 1864. Billis and Kenyon note their interest in North and South Glenisla only from September 1874. Bailliere's 1865 Victoria Gazetteer states: GLENISLA, NORTH, STATION (Co. Dundas), on the Glenelg river, 20 miles E. of Balmoral; occupiers, Simpson, J. and S.; area, 47,000 acres; grazing capability, 17,625 sheep; and GLENISLA, SOUTH, STATION (Co Dundas), on the Glenelg river, 16 miles E. of Balmoral; occupier, Simpson, D.C.; area, 117,000 acres; area not available; 20,000 acres; grazing capability, 36,375 sheep. Hiscock's map of the County of Dundas notes the run on the map as East Glenisla but includes it in list in the top margin as Glenisla S.: 117,000 acres, C. D. Simpson, 36,375 sheep and Glenisla N.: 47,000 acres, J. S. Simpson, 17, 025 sheep.

Charles Carter and his wife Thomasina, nee Matthews, were pioneers in Van Diemen's Land and Port Phillip (De Serville, 437). Their eldest son, Samuel Carter (1834-1910) was in partnership with his brothers William Carter (1836-1904) and John Carter. From the 1870s the Carter family owned or leased vast tracts of Grampian and Wimmera pastoral lands, including the sheep and cattle stations at Rosebrook, Moora Moora, North Brighton, Walmer, Kelwell, Wartook, Pine Plains and North Walmer. The brothers took over their father's stations after his death in 1875 but the partnership was dissolved. Billis and Kenyon note that the

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Glenisla run was transferred to Samuel Carter in June 1884 (B&K, 213).

The Carter family played an important role in the improvement of sheep. In 1885, a newspaper report stated that "Samuel and the Carter Brothers are credited with having the first stud sheep in the Wimmera and on the Carter properties of Glenisla, North Brighton and Rosebrook. The stud was started with Curries ewes (Currie being an early successful breeder). The ewes were mated to French Rambouillet Rams and later purchasing a Wanganella Ram" (Barber, HHC, research notes). But, it seems, Samuel Carter had good sheep before the 1880s and, at a local [Horsham?] agricultural show, won first prize for a fine wool Merino ram (ibid.).

Samuel married Jane Muirhead and they had six children: Samuel Alexander (1869), Frederick (1871), Alexander (1872), Thomasina (1874), Jessie (1877) and Samuel Glenisla (1882) (PIV, Reg. Nos. 748, 7207, 21415, 20933, 532, 21760). According to de Serville they also had a son William who married Mary Weatherly. Samuel Carter became a very important figure in the Wimmera and Western districts (de Serville, 437). His entry in *Victoria and Its Metropolis*, Vol. 2, (Sutherland, 95) provides full biographical details: "Carter, Samuel, JP, Horsham, was born in Tasmania in 1834, and came to Victoria in 1839 with his father, who went to the Wimmera, and took up North Brighton station, near Horsham, for Mr. Darlot. Leaving that, they took up the Brim Springs station, containing 35,000 acres, for themselves, and carried it on under the name of Carter and Sons. They bought Rosebrook station of 100,000 acres, Glenisla station of 95,000 acres, Moora Moora station of 100,000 acres, and then the North Brighton station from Mr. Jervis, the Walmer station of 30,000 acres purchased, and 15,000 acres of Crown lands; also the Kewell station of 5000 of purchased and 15,000 of Crown lands, and sold this block in a fortnight making £3000 by the transaction. They continued as Carter and Sons until 1875, when Mr. Carter senior died, and afterwards went on as Carter Brothers until 1885, when they divided the property, Mr. Samuel Carter taking, as his share, the Walmer and Glenisla stations. He has since bought the Pine Plains and North Walmer stations from his brother. He now holds a total of 23,000 acres of purchased and 44,650 acres of Crown lands, and about 2000 square miles of mallee country. He runs 40,000 sheep and 400 head of cattle, and 100 horses. In 1881 Mr. Carter was appointed a justice of the peace for the western bailiwick. He has been Black Protector for the Glenisla district, and eight years a member of the Wimmera shire council (having once occupied the presidential chair), chairman of the Wimmera Shire Water Trust, president of the Pastoral and Agricultural show held at Horsham, president of the Horsham Race Club, vice-president of the hospital, member of the Dimboola Vermin Board, and for two years one of the commissioners for the Wimmera United Waterworks Trust."

William James Carter (1836-1904) married Caroline Hunt and they had five children: Thomasina (1869), Caroline (1871), John (1874), Ethel (1876) and Victoria (1887) (PIV, Reg. Nos. 9149, 11,303, 2933, 23, 673, 29077). He later held the Tarrington Estate established by Stephen Henty. "When Tarrington came up for sale in 1886, a local syndicate was formed to purchase and subdivide the land but was outbid by William J Carter who moved to the property and lived there until his death in 1904" (Garden, 143). John Charles Carter married Elizabeth Carter, possibly outside Victoria, and had four sons: Thomas, Samuel (1861), John (1864) and George (1866) (PIV, Reg. Nos. 9031, 7549, 8753). No record has been found of their marriage or the birth of Thomas.

The Carter family was interested in the natural history of the surrounding area and Glenisla played host to Baron von Mueller when he explored the Grampians. Von Mueller's guide was a local schoolteacher, a Mr. McIntyre. The last Aborigines in the area camped at a swamp on the Glenisla run near the present homestead. Eventually some were resettled at Lake Tyers while others moved into the Grampians. There is still a collection of significant Aboriginal artefacts held at Glenisla.

The original Glenisla run was vast and complex. The main shearing shed which was located about 2.5km east of the present homestead on the south bank of a lake fed by Cultivation and Red Rock Creeks was lost in a fire in the 1960s. The first sheepwash was located on Cultivation (formerly known as Billiminah) Creek, a tributary of Cattle Station Creek, about 10km south of the present homestead and the second sheepwash. It was

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a simple arrangement comprising an unlined trench, holding ponds at either end, and dams in the creek beside the sheepwash. There were probably holding yards and grass drying areas associated with the sheepwash but not other structures. This primitive arrangement appears to date from as early as the 1840s and to have been used for at least two decades. It survives as an archaeological site. The new name of Cultivation Creek came from the nearby vegetable gardens cultivated by Billy Wing, the Chinese cook on the Glenisla Station. Another small sheepwash and sheep dip with yards was established some distance to the north-east of the homestead and the shearing shed. It survives in better condition. The second sheepwash was probably constructed by the later 1860s when the security of tenure of squatters was largely resolved and the new house had been built. The great depression in the early 1840s had brought record low prices for wool and the highest price was paid for clean wool. Clean wool was also thought to be lighter to transport. "Clean, bright wool" brought a shilling a pound in Portland (Field, 1977, 78). So squatters and some wool merchants, soon began to wash wool. Greasy wool was shipped to England in the early 1850s when labour was particularly short due to the gold rushes but it was not common again, however, until the 1880s.

This was superseded in turn, possibly about 1874, by a very large and elaborate hot water sheepwash located immediately to the west of the shearing shed. It was fed by water from the lake channelled into a stone lined pit. Sheep were assembled on a paved area and then driven into the pit where men stood in special clothing and barrels ready to wash them. The washed sheep moved out of the water and onto another standing area where they drained. Once drained, they moved on a specially constructed board-walk towards holding yards near the shearing shed. The whole was perhaps the most largest and sophisticated arrangement developed for washing and shearing sheep in Victoria. It can be compared with the Bessiebelle sheepwash. There is the lone grave of a shepherd beside the dam near the sheepwash.

The creek system, which drained from the western face of the Victoria Range, was dammed and channelled to maximise and maintain the water supply. A weir survives near Red Rock and the channelling is still evident. This was one of the largest and most sophisticated private water supplies in Victoria in the nineteenth century. Samuel and John Carter were also responsible for the first dam of what became the Wartook Reservoir in the upper reaches of the Victoria Valley (Barber, HHC, research notes). These and other works reflect Samuel Carter's interest and role in the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.

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Squatters were familiar with the British practice of washing the wool on sheep and a similar simple process was adopted in the Western District of Victoria. Sheep were forced into running water and held to soak and be washed. They then dried in a yard before shearing, saving the trouble of drying wool washed after shearing on 'drying greens'. One early improvement was the introduction of a spout to direct water. Then hot water and even steam was used. From the 1860s, the fashion for washing sheep before shearing passed and the scouring of shorn wool became usual, using various methods. This was, at first, done on the station either by the station's own hands or by itinerant workers with their own equipment. Centrifugal dryers replaced drying greens. Then, from the 1880s, commercial scours were established at major centres with reliable sources of appropriate water.

Early plans show that most squatting runs had some sort of sheepwash and sheepdip near the woolshed and adjacent to a creek or dam. The second sheepwash at Glenisla must have been one of the most sophisticated in the Western District. It was described and illustrated in "The Australian Sketcher" in 1884. The process included soaking the sheep in hot soapy water, which was recycled, and then spraying them with jets of clean water until all the dirt had been removed. The men spraying the sheep are shown standing in barrels and with leather tunics covering their bodies. Some 29 men were employed by Samuel Carter, the long time owner of Glenisla, to wash his sheep and another 76 to shear them.

The second Glenisla sheepwash can be compared with that at Gazette for its sophistication and contrasted with many other simpler examples such as at Woodhouse, Skene, Kolor (original site) and Parkhill. It can also be contrasted with the small scale commercial process at Woodlands, in the township of Balmoral undertaken by

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Thomas (or Benjamin) Heape of Heape and Grice, wool merchants and Wood of Clapham and Wood, fellmongers and woolscourers.

The former Glenisla sheepdip is of uncertain date but, while it may be as early as the 1840s, it probably dates from the time of the second sheepwash and the construction of the second homestead. It comprises post and rail holding yards, a brick-lined trough, and a draining area as well as a dam.

The name of the stockman buried in the lone grave is not known nor is the date of the internment.

The woolshed was destroyed by a bushfire in 1962.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

## **CONDITION:**

The sheepwash is poor condition but has an excellent degree of archaeological potential.

The sheepdip is in fair condition and has an excellent degree of archaeological potential.

The lone grave is in good condition.

The woolshed does not survive and has little archaeological potential.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Now abandoned, in ruins and used as a tip.

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## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Canunda (former Glenisla) sheepwash and yards complex is located on a property named Canunda, on part of the former Glenisla Run. The sheepwash is located some distance from the Woolhpooer Swamp, now drained, to its north which was the principal supply of water. A feeder channel led 80.0m south from the swamp to a circular dam created by an earth bank and a stone section on the southern side which fed the water into a sluice. The sheepwash was on the far of south side of the dam. It consisted of two areas, a shallow depression which was used as a holding area and to soap the sheep, and a deep washing area for spraying the sheep. The two halves were divided by an earth bank with the sluice above it. The shallow half sloped down towards the bank and the men soaking the sheep. The deep half sloped up and away from the men spaying the sheep. Other men yarded the sheep into and out of the sheepwash. Much of the masonry which lined the dam and the sheepwash survives. About 10.0m from the dam there was a boiler mounted in a stone and brick pit.

Glenisla was established in 1843 by Scottish pastoralist Hector Norman Simpson (c.1820-80) who named the run after an area near Balmoral in Scotland. At the time it was licenced, Glenisla consisted of 96,000 acres, with 500 head of cattle and 25,000 sheep. In 1847 the lease was transferred to Donald Campbell Simson, as trustee for Jane Charlotte Simson and John Coghill Simson when it was subdivided into Glenisla North and South. The next owners, Charles Carter and Sons played an important role in the improvement of sheep, and ran many thousands on the vast tracts of land which they owned or leased throughout the Grampians and Wimmera, including Glenisla. The Sheepwash is the second Glenisla sheepwash, the first being a simple arrangement,

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dating from the 1840s located on Cultivation Creek. This was superseded, possibly about 1874, by a very large and elaborate hot water sheepwash, of which much of the masonry which lined the dam and the sheepwash survive. It was fed by water from the lake channelled into a stone lined pit. Sheep were assembled on a paved area and then driven into the pit where men stood in special clothing and barrels ready to wash them. The washed sheep moved out of the water and onto another standing area where they drained. Once drained, they moved on a specially constructed board-walk towards holding yards near the shearing shed. The whole was perhaps the most largest and sophisticated arrangement developed for washing and shearing sheep in Victoria. It can be compared with the Bessiebelle sheepwash. There has been no architect, engineer or builder associated with the structures. The sheepwash is in ruinous condition, but retains an excellent degree of integrity.

**How is it significant?**

The Canunda (former Glenisla) sheepwash is of historical and archeological significance to the State of Victoria.

**Why is it significant?**

The Canunda (Glenisla) sheepwash is perhaps one of the most sophisticated, intact surviving examples of a traditional sheepwash associated with a large pastoral property in Victoria. It clearly demonstrates the logistics, engineering skill and thought behind developing a system which was able to wash the grease from the wool of thousands of sheep over a short period of time. The location, adjacent to the woolshed is also important, as when all associated structures are viewed as a whole, it provides an understanding of a previous way of life. The sheepwash is of archaeological significance for its archaeological potential, as its complexity suggests the potential to reveal more about the sheepwashing processes and associated pastoral occupation and activity in the area.

## COMPARISON:

345 Skene Homestead Complex, Skene Homestead Road, Strathkellar  
060 Gazette Homestead Complex, Macarthur-Penshurst Road,  
Penshurst

052 Kolor Homestead (former site), Penshurst-Warrnambool Road, Penshurst

045 Park Hill (original site), off Murndal Road, Yulecart

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

06-Jul-02

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	Pastoral Technology and the National Estate	1995	26
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol 2	1888	95
Jean Field	Waggon Wheels Thro' the Wild Flowers	1997	78
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees, the Upper Class in Victoria 1850-1880	1991	437
Peter Forrest	A Rush for Grass	1988	163ff
R. V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	43, 140, 213