

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: GLENISLA WEIR

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: off Red Rock Creek Road GLENISLA

STUDY NUMBER: 453

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 5 **SECTION:** none **PARISH:** PARISH OF BILLIMINAH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 390 A; VicRoads 55 E5; located west of Red Rock Road on Red Rock Creek and about 1.0km south of Anderson's Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Glenisla Weir, Red Rock Road, Glenisla

Image Date: 3/04/2003

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the dam walls, the earthworks above and below the dam and an area of 1,000sqm around the dam.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The dam is across Red Rock Creek and is in two parts: the original spillway which is boxed in with timber planks and a newer mass concrete wall. The wall is about 2.2m high above the upstream level in the dam. The dam is linked to channels and creeks which stretch off into the distance.

HISTORY:

Samuel Carter, the principal owner of the Glen Isla squatting run, was particularly interested in irrigation and water works. The creek system through the vast property, which drained from the western face of the Victoria Range generally north-west, was dammed and channelled to maximise and maintain the water supply. It eventually supplied the great hot water sheepwash near the original woolshed. A weir built in the 1860s 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, pers. comm.; HHC, research notes). These and other works reflect Samuel Carter's interest and role in the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.

According to the Billiminah Parish Plan, "E. Symons" purchased allotment 5. The Symons were selectors in the 1860s (Barber, pers. comm.). They were related to the Pooley family who lived nearby. A ship's carpenter, John Symons is said to have jumped ship at Portland and gone to the remote squatting run, Glenisla where he was taken in by the Carter family. His skills as a carpenter were used around the property (Barber, pers. comm.). Records show that the Symons had a daughter, Elizabeth Jane in 1855 whose birth was registered at "Dundas" (VPI, Reg. No. 2138). She was the first of twelve children, seven girls and five boys, of whom three died in infancy. It was John Pooley, the third child and first boy who took over the homestead after his parents (Barber, pers. comm.). The land on which the homestead complex stands, allotment 5 (no section) of the Parish of Billiminah was purchased in 1898 in the name of "E. Symons" who could have been Eleanor or her second daughter, Eleanor. Her first daughter, Elizabeth Jane Symons had married Phillip Francis Howser in 1876 (VPI, Reg. No. 4738). Her third and fourth daughters, whose names also started with "E", had died in infancy.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.11 Altering the environment

3.11.1 Regulating waterways

3.11.5 Establishing water supplies

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Glenisla Weir, located west of Red Rock Road on Red Rock Creek and about 1.0km south of Anderson's Road was built in the 1860s by Samuel Carter. The principal owner of the Glen Isla squatting run, he was particularly interested in irrigation and water works. The creek system draining from the Victoria Range was dammed and channelled to maximise and maintain the water supply. Through extensive channels, it eventually supplied the great hot water sheepwash near the original Glenisla woolshed. The Pooley-Symons family who also worked for the Carter family selected some of the land, including the allotment with the dam. Their vernacular homestead survives in a ruinous condition nearby. The dam was rebuilt in the twentieth century and much of the channelling is still evident. It 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. These and other works reflect

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Samuel Carter's subsequent role in the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.

How is it significant?

The Glenisla Weir, on Red Rock Creek, is of historical and scientific significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Glenisla Weir is of historical significance for demonstrating Samuel Carter's determination to control the elements to his benefit and for the benefit of others. It is of scientific significance as one of the largest and most sophisticated private water supplies in Victoria in the nineteenth century. Both these points of significance must be seen in the broader context and in connection with the whole of the Glenisla landscape, including the occupation and cooperation of the squatter and selector classes.

COMPARISON:

199 Bluestone Weir, off Hamilton- Port Fairy Road, North Byaduk
203 Swimming Pool, Byaduk-Penshurst Road, Byaduk
220 Recreation Reserve & Swimming Pool, Henty Highway, Branxholme
449 Symons' Homestead Complex, off Billywing Track, Glenisla

ASSESSED BY: tfh, mgt & aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

04-Apr-03

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
Robert Barber	Personal Communication	2003	
