
MUNTHAM MAINS



23198 Muntham Mains
Homestead Carapook 1829



23198 Muntham Mains
Homestead Carapook 1830



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Homestead Carapook 1831

Location

Cnr Glenelg Hwy and Den Hills Road CARAPOOK, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 8, 2003

What is significant?

The archaeological remains of Muntham Mains is located on the north west corner of the Glenelg Highway and Den Hills Road, approximately five kilometers west of the township of Coleraine. The archaeological potential of the site is unknown, but there are no footings or buildings which survive above ground. Several trees are located around the original homestead site, including several *Cupressus torulosa* (Bhutan Cypress) and a *Shinus molle* (Peppercorn). A concrete domed well also survives on the site. Muntham Mains was an important local farm in the later nineteenth Century, owned by the first selector in the Coleraine area, Thomas Templeton. Templeton was a pioneer of modern farming practice, interested in applying scientific principles to animal husbandry and pastoral practice. Muntham Mains was widely held up as a 'Model Farm' for the adoption of modern practice and experimentation with scientific pasture and stock management. It was also a renowned Lincoln sheep and

draught horse stud. Templeton was considered to be an important and influential member of the Coleraine and district community, a founding member and long term councillor of the Wannon Shire Council, and later served as President. For many years he was also President of the Pastoral and Agricultural Society.

How is it significant?

The archaeological remnants of Muntham Mains are of scientific, historical and archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

The archaeological remains of the Muntham Mains homestead and farm are of scientific significance as what remains of one of the most modern farms run on scientific principles of the later part of the nineteenth century. The farm was considered to be a 'Model Farm', for others to learn from. Historically, it is important as the first farm selected in the district after the Nicholson Act, and for its associations with Thomas Templeton and his family. Templeton was an important member of the community, and seen as a leader by other small farmers in the area. It is of further historical significance as for its association with an important event, the Nicholson Act of 1860 which opened up much of the land 'locked' by large squatting runs, and allowed smaller selectors to purchase this land for small scale farming. It is also of historical significance as it demonstrates a farming practice which has now been lost, the small land holder. Muntham Mains at the height of its success as the 'Model Farm' was only 500 acres. The abandonment of the homestead and farm represents the change in farming practices, where larger amounts of land were required to obtain a sufficient income. It is of archaeological significance for the information it may reveal about the early selectors generally.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1860,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	OLD TEMPLETON HOMESTEAD, THE MODEL FARM,
Hermes Number	23198
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The remnants of the homestead are minimal. The Bhutan Cypress and the Peppercorn are in good-fair condition. The well dome is also in good condition.

Physical Description 1

Muntham Mains is an archaeological site, with few above ground remnants of a previously extensive homestead complex. The site is marked by a pair of mature Cupressus torulosa (Bhutan cypress), a Shinus molle (Peppercorn tree), and an old well. No footings of buildings are intact, although some old bricks are visible in the pasture. The site is presently used as a sheep paddock.

Historical Australian Themes

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

Usage/Former Usage

Grazing land.

Integrity

Very low degree of integrity above ground, possible archaeological potential.

Physical Description 2

Thomas Templeton, grazier.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>