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## NIGRETTA HOMESTEAD COMPLEX



Nigretta Falls Homestead and terraced garden elements



Outbuildings - including meat house at Nigretta Homestead



Poplars at gate of Nigretta Homestead



23747 Nigretta Falls Homestead Wannon Pin Oak 691



23747 Nigretta Falls Homestead Wannon terrace 677

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### Location

Nigretta Road, WANNON VIC 3301 - Property No 0050

### Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

### Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 3, 2008

What is significant?

The new Nigretta Homestead complex is located on the north side of the Wannon-Nigretta Falls Road off the Glenelg Highway, about 12.5kms north-west of Hamilton overlooking the Wannon River. It is 3.5kms east of the former Nigretta Homestead. It is two-storeys, timber and loosely American bungalow in style with picturesque siting, massing and details. The house was built in 1929 for the new owners, O M and G K Halford. Reg. Williams, the leading Hamilton builder, built the house and the architect was probably J Carlisle Robinson of Hamilton. It is said to have been influenced by Canadian houses. It can be compared with Dunroe at North Byaduk which was designed and built by them in 1935. The new house was necessary after the subdivision of Nigretta by the previous owners and because the original homestead had fallen into ruin. The new homestead is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity. The house is surrounded by the remains of a formally laid out garden, with a definite sense of style. The garden elements of particular interest include the old orchard, the two Pin Oaks located south of the house, the Poplars framing the entrance gate and the various terraced areas, defined by stone, especially the area immediately in front of the house, and the terraced area leading to a circular pond.

How is it significant?

The Nigretta Falls Reserve is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The new Nigretta Homestead complex is of historical significance as the continuation of the early and important former Nigretta squatting run, demonstrating the changed circumstances of the twentieth century. It is of architectural significance as one of the few designs of local architect, J Carlisle Robinson and as the work of important local builder, Reg. Williams. It is of interest for a direct link with West Coast American domestic architecture while continuing the Picturesque tradition of the original homestead.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1929,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	NIGRETTI, NIGRETTO, NAGERTU, THE UPPER FALLS,
Hermes Number	23747
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The building is in excellent condition. The interiors were not inspected.

## Physical Description 1

The new Nigretta homestead complex is located on the north side of the Wannon-Nigretta Falls Road off the Glenelg Highway, about 12.5kms north-west of Hamilton and overlooking the Wannon river. It is 3.5kms to the east of the site of the former Nigretta Homestead, now the Nigretta Falls Reserve.

The New Nigretta homestead is a large two-storey timber residence with picturesque massing and detailing in a loosely American bungalow style. The house is sited on rising ground, faces north and overlooks a picturesque stretch of the Wannon River. The walls are weatherboard with half-timbering in the gables. A porch of unpainted roughcast, partly enclosed as a sunroom, occupies the north-east corner and has a flight of steps leading to the front door. A polygonal turret dominates the north-east corner and another large dormer is located over the entrance. The front gable projects over an angled bay window below. A chimney divides the side gable. Windows have either six paned upper sashes or are divided into several panes where they are irregular. The principle

rooms are on either side of the central hall and stairwell. A service wing extends to the rear. Bedrooms occupy the upper floor. The roof, which has wide eaves supported on timber brackets, is corrugated iron. The house is painted white and the roof is painted grey. There are outbuildings at the rear, the most important being a timber meathouse.

## **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**

Residential

## **Integrity**

High degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

The homestead is surrounded by the remnants of an interesting garden. Various plantings and garden elements survive, including a terraced area, which leads to a circular pond, an orchard, shrubbery, and plantings of Pin Oaks (south of the house) and Poplars, located on either side of the entrance gates.

*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/>*