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# JOHNSTONE FAMILY HOMESTEAD RUIN

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## Location

KENNEDYS ROAD, CAPE BRIDGEWATER VIC 3305

## Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7121-0054

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 7, 2020

The Former Johnstone Family Homestead Ruin is of local significance because of its potential to yield information regarding the early settlement of the area and a prominent local family.

Interpretation of Site	The site is associated with one of Portland's earliest pioneering families, and shows late 19th century occupation of the area. The site is currently located within the Discovery Bay National Park, adjacent to Swan Lake and its associated camping grounds.
Hermes Number	206930
Property Number	

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## History

The Johnstone Family Homestead is thought to have been constructed by James Johnstone after his arrival in

Portland in 1841. Title deeds indicate occupation from at least 1849. James was a blacksmith and wheelwright, he eventually purchased land at Kentbruck and built the Emu Flat Hotel (Portland Guardian (Vic.?: 1876-1953) 1930). James was married to Dorothy Johnstone, together they had three children, Thomas Charles Johnstone, John Johnstone and Mary Ann Johnstone (Riddiford 2016). Obituaries indicate that the Johnstone family moved to a 500 acre property at Swan Lake following the deaths of three of their children from diphtheria. The land was supposedly excellent grazing land (Portland Guardian (Vic.?: 1876-1953) 1952). The Johnstone family moved to Emu Creek (also known as Spring Flat) in the early 1870s. Mary Anne moved to the Swan Lake property with her new husband Mark Kerr after 1876, and had their youngest children there (Portland Guardian (Vic.?: 1876-1953) 1952).

*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/>*