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## PARK HILL (ORIGINAL SITE)



23117 Park Hill Yulecart  
original site 1369



23117 Park Hill Yulecart  
original site 1370



23117 Park Hill Yulecart  
original site 1371



23117 Park Hill Yulecart  
original site 1372



23117 Park Hill Yulecart  
original site well 1374



23117 Park Hill Yulecart  
original site footings 1373

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### Location

Schuller's Road YULECART, Southern Grampians Shire

### 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 -

What is significant?

The original homestead site of the Park Hill squatting run is located on the south side of the River Wannon approximately 14 kilometres west of Yulecart and 10 kilometres south-south-west of Wannon. It is adjacent to but not contiguous with the Murndal or Spring Valley pre-emptive which is downstream and to the west. The Park Hill run was taken up as early as 1841 by the Thomson brothers, confirmed in 1848 and consolidated under Alexander Thomson who owned the lease outright by 1858. In 1863 it passed to Thomas Must of Portland. The lease was cancelled in 1872. From very early times there was a crossing for stock over the River Wannon at the homestead. The ruined house and surviving trees may date from this time or earlier. (Nothing is currently known about the history and architecture of the house.) In 1912 a new house was built high on the opposite bank of the River Wannon. The old house was last occupied in the early 1930s and was abandoned and in ruins by 1940.

How is it significant?

The original site of Park Hill homestead is of historical and archaeological significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The original site of Park Hill homestead is historically significant as one of the earliest runs in the area, for its associations with key individuals and as an example of an abandoned homestead site. It is of archaeological significance for the information it may reveal about the early squatting period generally, the establishment at Park Hill in particular and the stock crossing over the River Wannon.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1841,
Hermes Number	23117
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The original homestead site has significant archaeological potential.

## Physical Description 1

The original Park Hill site is located about about 500m from the south bank on slightly rising ground. It is approached by tracks from the Murndal Road. The site includes the stone and brick ruins of the original house (probably post 1872 but possibly earlier) and some surviving trees including an unusual Paranza Pine, *Araucaria angustifolia*, several Bhutan Cypress, *Cupressus torouloosa*, a Norfolk Island Hibiscus, *Lagunaria pattersonia*, the remnants of an avenue of Elms, *Ulmus procera*, leading to the river crossing and a few fruit trees of unknown species. Only the footings of the house now survive. A photograph held by the Bailey family taken in 1940 shows a substantial bluestone house with high, single storey walls and several chimneys still standing but with no roof. The house seems to have been typical for the period. There is a crossing for stock over the Wannon River associated with the homestead site. It is said that there is a lone grave in front of the house but this has not been confirmed and may be apocryphal. Some distance to the west of the site there is a billabong which was used as a sheep wash.

## Historical Australian Themes

The original Park Hill site is located about about 500m from the south bank on slightly rising ground. It is approached by tracks from the Murndal Road. The site includes the stone and brick ruins of the original house (probably post 1872 but possibly earlier) and some surviving trees including an unusual Paranza Pine, Araucaria angustifolia, several Bhutan Cypress, Cupressus torouloosa, a Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Lagunaria pattersonia, the remnants of an avenue of Elms, Ulmus procera, leading to the river crossing and a few fruit trees of unknown species. Only the footings of the house now survive. A photograph held by the Bailey family taken in 1940 shows a substantial bluestone house with high, single storey walls and several chimneys still standing but with no roof. The house seems to have been typical for the period. There is a crossing for stock over the Wannan River associated with the homestead site. It is said that there is a lone grave in front of the house but this has not been confirmed and may be apocryphal. Some distance to the west of the site there is a billabong which was used as a sheep wash.

h Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Abandoned homestead site. Land now used for grazing.

## **Integrity**

only ruins of house and some trees remaining

## **Physical Description 2**

William Thomson and executors

Alexander and Robert Thompson

Alexander Thomson

Thomas Must

Charles Alexander Nicholson McDonald

Archibald (Dingo) Lindsay

Johannes Reinhold and Harold Phillip Linke

Charles William Bailey

## **Physical Description 3**

Park Hill Pre-emptive Right (Former)

*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/>*