

# RIVERSIDE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX



23400 Riverside Barn 0175



23400 Riverside Garden 0178



23400 Riverside Garden 0179



23400 Riverside garden entrance 0180



23400 Riverside garden entrance 0183



23400 Riverside garden entrance 0181



23400 Riverside main entrance 0184



23400 Riverside original site 0173



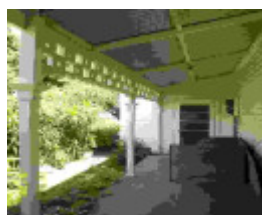
23400 Riverside original site 0174



23400 Riverside side entrance 0186



23400 Riverside side garden 0187



23400 Riverside Side verandah 0182



23400 Riverside stables 0185



23400 Riverside Woolshed  
0176



23400 Riverside woolshed  
0177

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## Location

Falkenbergs Road, WANNON VIC 3301 - Property No 1529

## 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?

Riverside Homestead is located on the east side of Falkenberg's Road about 5.5kms south-west of Wannon overlooking the Wannon River valley. It is a single storey timber house with an irregular plan and demonstrates a late interpretation of the Italianate style with Queen Anne influences. No architect or builder has been associated with its construction. The original occupants were Wilhelm and Ellen Falkenberg. Wilhelm was the son of a Prussian migrant, Johann Falkenberg with South Australian connections and an English migrant, Ann Hallam who selected land successfully at Byaduk. The Falkenbergs were, at first, apiarists but this was superseded by a very successful sheep and cattle-breeding program, which led to prizes, top prices and general recognition for the excellence of their flock and herd. Their sons Stanley and John continued to manage the property. The house is set within a garden unusual for its circular plan but typical of its late nineteenth and early twentieth plantings. The house and garden were substantially improved in the Interwar years and remain substantially intact to that period. The house is in good condition. The house is surrounded by the usual outbuildings, which complete the complex. Substantial outbuildings, including a large woolshed, complement the homestead.

How is it Significant?

The Riverside Homestead complex is of historic and architectural significance to the communities of Wannon and Byaduk and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Riverside Homestead complex is of historic significance because of its associations with the Falkenberg family of mixed Prussian and British descent who succeeded both at Byaduk and at Wannon. Their success in

sheep and cattle breeding is particularly notable and this is reflected in the woolshed. The Riverside Homestead is of architectural significance for reflecting that success over several generations and specifically for its unusual circular garden and for its picturesque form and setting.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates        | 1886,  |
| Heritage Act Categories   | Registered place,  |
| Hermes Number             | 23400  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Conditions

Very good

## Physical Description 1

Riverside homestead is located on the east side of Falkenberg's Road about 5.5kms south-west of Wannon overlooking the Wannon River valley. It is a single storey weatherboard house painted white with a hipped corrugated iron roof, built after 1886. Its form is irregular and its style transitional between Italianate and the Federation period with some features, such as the gable detailing, suggesting the local Queen Anne movement. The verandah has been modified, probably in the 1920s, suggesting that the entrance to the house has been reoriented. Several rooms in the house have been remodelled, probably in the 1920s, thus presenting an eclectic mix of interior decorative styles.

The house addresses the view to the Wannon River valley and is situated within an unusual circular garden, with substantial garden beds and paths, now planted out in a style typical of the Interwar years but with many substantial earlier trees. The major plantings are typical and include: a pair of Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) at the pedestrian gate; a Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) at the entrance; a Peppercorn (*Schinus molle*), a Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), a Loquat tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*); a Golden Elm (*Ulmus procera* 'Aurea'); and an Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). Generally the garden is planted out with low shrubs and perennials, including many camellias and other common 'cottage' garden types. Privet hedges are used as borders to the path and drives and sections of the boundary fence. There are also Tree Ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*). Several mature specimens of conifer form a background to the garden. The whole is enclosed within a circular capped post and wire fence. In the garden there is a summerhouse covered by a very old Wisteria.

Near the entrance to the garden there are timber stables and coach houses with men's quarters at the rear. These are comprised of several gabled forms, suggesting additions over the years. More recently the building has been used as garages. It is painted white.

Beyond the house and garden are several outbuildings, including woolshed, workshop or barn, storehouses and garages. Of these the woolshed is the most important. It appears to date from after the First World War, the time of Riverside's greatest success in sheep breeding. It is large, built of corrugated iron and had up to twelve stands. It is in good condition and, with various modernisations, remains significantly intact. The workshop or barn appears to date from after the Second World War, possibly from the 1950s wool boom. It is also corrugated iron, has a monitor ventilator along the roof ridge, is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity. Nearby there is an old Caltex petrol pump and a newer tall Caltex oil sign. There are two water tanks, one elevated and the other of concrete on the ground.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land.

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Pastoral

## **Integrity**

High

## **Physical Description 2**

Johann and Ann Falkenberg

Wilhelm and Ellen Falkenberg

Stanley Falkenberg

John Falkenberg

*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/>*