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# SYMONS' HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

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## Location

off Billywing Track, GLENISLA VIC 3408 - Property No 0510

## 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 - March 10, 2004

### What is significant?

The Symon's Homestead complex is located off the Billywing Track about 4.5kms to the west of Glenisla homestead. It was developed by the large Symons and Pooley families, who appear to have acted as tenant farmers to the Carters of Glenisla before becoming selectors and land owners in their own right. The complex is situated beside a small creek which has been dammed for domestic and irrigation purposes. The house is a rude timber-framed building of mixed materials including board and batten, weatherboard and corrugated iron. There is a range of linings including hessian and paper, lining boards and, where the structure was extended, weather boards. All of its parts are roofed with simple skillions. There is a simple timber verandah along the high side of the bedroom wing. The house is in a ruinous condition but retains an excellent archaeological potential. The outbuildings include an early stables and machinery shed and a structure now collapsed of later date. The stables and shed are both built with rude timber frames, using the forks in tree trunks to support timber-in-the-round beams. A light sawn frame sits above these to form the roofs. Both structures are partially demolished and are now roofless. There is one Cupressus sempervirens planted adjacent to the house, several fruit trees downstream from the dam and senescent Radiata Pines. The house is surrounded by Elm suckers.

### How is it significant?

The Symon's Homestead complex is of historical and archeological significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

### Why is it significant?

The Symons Homestead complex is of historical significance for its primitive rude construction technique and materials reflecting both the living conditions and resourcefulness of early settlers. It is of further historical significance for its association with the Symons and Polley families, who were early small scale farmers operating in the Glenisla area from about the 1850s. The homestead complex has the potential to assist us to understand

how people lived in the second phase of European land occupation in this remote area through archaeology.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1850,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23739
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The house, outbuildings, dam, bridge and garden are in ruinous condition.

## Physical Description 1

The homestead complex is situated beside a small creek which has been dammed for domestic and irrigation purposes. The complex is approached by a log bridge below the dam. The house is a rude timber-framed building of mixed materials including board and batten, weatherboard and corrugated iron. There is a range of linings including hessian and paper, lining boards and, where the structure was extended, weather boards. It appears to have been built in three main parts: the kitchen, the living room and two bedrooms, and the third bedroom. All of its parts are roofed with simple skillions. There is a simple timber verandah along the high side of the bedroom wing. The joinery is simple throughout with various small-paned windows and ledge and brace doors. One door has particularly wide boards which suggest a very early date, possibly the 1850s. The chimneys are corrugated iron lined with bricks and stones. An basic enamelled cast iron stove, dating from the early twentieth century, survives in what appears to have been the kitchen. There is an interesting corner cupboard in the first bedroom. The house is in ruinous condition.

The outbuildings include an early stables and machinery shed and a structure now collapsed of later date. The stables and shed are both built with rude timber frames, using the forks in tree trunks to support timber-in-the-round beams. A light sawn frame sits above these to form the roofs. Both structures are partially demolished and are now roofless. A substantial amount of rusted machinery stands within the shed, however.

There is one *Cupressus sempervirens* planted adjacent to the house, several fruit trees downstream from the dam and senescent *Radiata* Pines. The house is surrounded by Elm suckers.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 2 Peopling Australia

2.4 Migrating

2.4.3 Migrating to seek opportunity

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

3.16 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

## **Usage/Former Usage**

abandoned

## **Integrity**

High degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

John and Eleanor (Ellen and Helen) Symons, first owners and occupiers  
John Pooley Symons, second owner and occupier.

*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/>*