



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.3 Coming to Australia as a punishment
- 2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
- 3.5.1 Grazing Stock
- 3.5.2 Breeding Animals
- 3.6 Recruiting Labour
- 3.8.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 7.2.4 Forming political associations
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 106 Workers
- 206 Mail services
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 401 Government and politics
- 501 Work wars and other wars
- 602 Early settlers
- 605 Famous and infamous people

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

The external walls of the Stables and Shearing Shed provide excellent examples of craftsmanship in the production and laying of handmade bricks of the mid-

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

nineteenth century. In particular, the well executed use of bi-chromatic, chequerboard pattern brickwork creates a striking aesthetic quality for these functional farm buildings. (Criterion 1.2)

The Stables and Shearing Shed are excellent examples of Victorian Georgian farm buildings that were functional, but also well crafted and designed to represent prosperity and stability. (Criterion 1.2)

*Glentromie Farm Group* is a good example of a substantial mid-nineteenth century pastoral station, which has a strong agrarian aesthetic relating to both the visual relationships between the historic buildings and their relationships with the wider pastoral setting, and also illustrates the traditional setting of the Homestead within a working farm. (Criterion 1.1 & 1.2)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Glentromie Farm Group* was built by ticket-of-leave workmen hired from the Toodyay Convict Depot, which included a Bricklayer, a Brick maker and two Carpenters. Between 1858 and 1884 a total of thirty ticket-of-leave men were active at *Glentromie*. (Criterion 2.2 & 2.3)

*Glentromie Farm Group* was the location of the first mission site of the Benedictine Spanish Missionaries who were later responsible for the founding of the Monastery at New Norcia. (Criterion 2.2 & 2.3)

*Glentromie Farm Group* utilised of Prisoner of War labour during World War Two. (Criterion 2.2)

Following World War Two, part of *Glentromie Farm Group* was purchased by the Commonwealth government, along with land from other estates, and reallocated for the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. (Criterion 2.2)

*Glentromie Farm Group* was built for Donald Macpherson, who arrived in Western Australia as an indentured servant and went on to achieve success as a pastoralist and in the horse export industry. He also played a significant role in the local community, being elected the first chairman of the Victoria Plains Roads Board in 1871. (Criterion 2.3)

*Glentromie Farm Group* is associated with the successful merchant, pastoralist, and philanthropist, Walter Padbury who, in addition to playing a significant role in the development of the State's north west, was also an important figure in politics, being the first Mayor of Guildford in 1885, the Chairmen of the Guildford Municipal Council, and the Member of the Legislative Council for Swan between 1872 and 1878. (Criterion 2.3)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

*Glentromie Farm Group*, and its suite of archaeological sites and features, has a high degree of potential to provide substantial information, through archaeological investigation, about the lives of those who occupied and worked at the place, as well as details about farming practices in the mid-nineteenth century and how these may have been modified and developed into the modern day. (Criterion 3.1)

The place has the potential, through archaeological investigation, to provide important information about the original owner and primary 'architect' of the

property during the mid-nineteenth century, Donald Macpherson, particularly with regards to material culture and the aspirations of a former servant to enter the ranks of the nascent middle classes. (Criterion 3.1)

The Stables and Shearing Shed have the potential to yield information about the making and laying of high quality, handmade bricks in mid-nineteenth rural Western Australia. (Criterion 3.1)

The Mill Ruin has the potential to reveal, through archaeological investigation, important information about this industry on an isolated rural property during the late nineteenth century. (Criterion 3.2)

#### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Glentromie Farm Group* is valued by the local government of Victoria Plains, as it was the meeting place of its Road Board from its creation in 1871, until 1887. (Criterion 4.1)

### **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Glentromie Farm Group* exhibits rare and excellent examples of skilled craftsmanship executed by ticket-of-leave men, particularly evident in the production and laying of handmade bricks in a bi-chromatic, chequerboard pattern demonstrated in the two-storey Stables, Shearing Shed and single-storey Barn. (Criterion 5.1)

#### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Glentromie Farm Group* is a representative example of a substantial mid-nineteenth century pastoral station. (Criterion 6.1)

The impressive structures at *Glentromie Farm Group* provide evidence for the original owner's achievements, and act as a visual statement of Donald Macpherson's wealth and power. (Criterion 6.2)

#### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Overall the *Glentromie Farm Group* has been well maintained and is in fair condition, but there are areas where the condition is poor and/or there are issues of structural concern.

Homestead

This building has undergone major renovation over the last 20 years and is well maintained as an occupied residence. It appears to be generally in good condition, although there is some cracking to parts of the western additions.

Two-Roomed Men's Cottage

This building is only intermittently used, but is well maintained and in good condition.

Stables

This building currently has only minimal use, but has generally been maintained in a sound weatherproof state. However, there are some areas of significant deterioration, particularly the major cracking between the second storey and integrated skillion section on the northern end, cracking near the eaves at the north-eastern corner, and the localised severe fretting and cracking of the internal brick walls.

There is evidence that a number of attempts have been made to stabilise the building since the 1960s, including concrete buttressing, timber framing across brick walls, corner bracing and tie wires. However, these works have not fully resolved the stability of the northern wall.

Works to repair the fretting brickwork to the internal walls have included cement patching, but there is no evidence of treatment of the underlying issue of rising damp (through the compacted earth floors)

The remaining internal timber framing in the two-storey section also has some evidence of structural deterioration and the loft floor has been removed.

#### Shearing Shed

This building currently has only minimal use, but has generally been maintained in a sound weatherproof state. However, cement rendering to the lower walls (in various places both internally and externally) and other localised repairs suggest that fretting and rising damp has been a problem. To the northern elevation, part of the plinth has also been cement rendered and there are repairs to the pointing in other areas.

There is also some localised cracking to the brickwork, both to internal and external walls (including severe cracking to the internal wall between the two western rooms). As a partial response to controlling movement in the walls, tie rods and wires have been fixed in various locations.

#### Barn

Overall the building has been maintained in a weatherproof state. However, buttressing to all walls and extensive cement rendering illustrate previous structural issues. The works to address these problems have severely compromised the heritage fabric.

#### Mill

The Mill is in a ruinous state with only one internal wall still standing to half height.

#### Stone Well

The stone-lined well is covered with large timber slabs making it difficult to discern its condition but it appears to be intact and in relatively good condition.

## 12.4 INTEGRITY

Overall the integrity of the *Glentromie Farm Group* is high. The use of the place as a pastoral station and homestead, and the use of its component parts, can be readily understood from the extant fabric.

As an archaeological site the place holds a high degree of integrity overall. However, activities associated with the continued occupation and use of the place as a working farm has resulted in ground disturbance at a number of locations and has reduced the integrity and archaeological potential of some areas.

## 12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Overall the integrity of the *Glentromie Farm Group* is moderate, with alterations reflecting changing farming practices and living standards since the 1870s.

### Homestead

The Homestead underwent two major renovation campaigns in the latter part of the twentieth century, including the demolition of the adjacent Kitchen and Cottage/Cellar wings. The authenticity of the remaining wing is low, but the overall intent can be generally interpreted from the surviving fabric.

### Two-Roomed Men's Cottage

The authenticity of this cottage is moderate, but the alterations are readily discernable and capable of interpretation.

### Stables

The authenticity of the Stables is high.

### Shearing Shed

The authenticity of the Shearing Shed is high.

### Barn

Alterations to this building in the latter part of the twentieth century have severely compromised the heritage fabric. Its authenticity is low.

### Mill

Despite its ruinous state the Mill appears to hold a high degree of authenticity having been subjected to little or no intervention since it ceased to function as a mill besides the possible insertion of timber posts to stabilise the walls. Although difficult to determine without further archaeological investigation, an analysis of historical aerial imagery showing the Mill in a semi-ruinous state, and the quantity of stone currently on site, may suggest some removal of stone for reuse elsewhere.

## 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence for this place has been completed by State Heritage Office staff in May 2012. The physical evidence has been compiled by Greenward Consulting in May 2012.

The archaeological evidence, including a brief archaeological survey of *Glentromie Farm Group* on 1 May 2012, was completed by Dr Kelly Fleming, Senior Heritage Officer of the State Heritage Office.

Further amendments and/or additions have been carried out by the State Heritage Office and the Register Committee.

### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

In April 1839, Scottish brothers, John and Donald Macpherson, arrived in Western Australia on the *Hindoo*, under an agreement of indentured labour to Captain John Scully.<sup>1</sup> Shortly after their arrival, Scully, secured an area in the

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<sup>1</sup> Erickson, Rica, *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1888* (1987), Vol. 3 K-Q p.2035-2036 & Vol. 4 R-Z p. 2760.

newly opened district of Toodyay, for which he was to later be Resident Magistrate. The Macphersons worked as shepherds for Scully until c.1845 when they were free of their indenture.<sup>2</sup>

The Swan River Colony was established as a 'free' colony in 1829, with convict transportation initially being confined to the east of the continent. This decision resulted in the Colony's early development following a distinct path. Labour shortages were experienced due to the harsh conditions encountered, for which the settlers were poorly prepared, and because the settlement was largely dependent on the small pool of indentured servants brought to the Colony by members of the gentry for its workforce.<sup>3</sup> Indentures were often under contract for a fixed period of five to seven years, and were employed as servants, labourers, and tradespeople.<sup>4</sup> The harsh conditions resulted in many early settlers experiencing financial difficulties, and subsequently having to release indentures early due to their inability to support them, which further compounded labour shortages.<sup>5</sup> This allowed many of these former servants to prosper, their labour fetching high prices as they were a highly sought after commodity. This in turn resulted in the rigid class structure transported to the Colony by the British being 'turned on its head' with ex-indentures often experiencing greater prosperity than the 'gentry' classes. Many of these ex-indentures went on to purchase property, establish their own small land holdings, and build their own homes, which would have been entirely out of their reach in Britain. The degree to which this group took advantage of the circumstances varied, with many being content to build small homes and purchase small farms.<sup>6</sup> However, some of these ex-servants went on to establish themselves as wealthy and prominent individuals in the Colony, building up large stations with homesteads and farm buildings to reflect their new found wealth, and perhaps their aspirations to rise above their 'working class' roots and enter the middle classes. The labour situation experienced in the Swan River Colony played a large part in the decision to commence convict transportation in 1850.

In December 1845, John and Donald Macpherson were granted a pastoral lease of 12,000 acres (4,856 ha),<sup>7</sup> which included the areas known as Murra Murra (later known as Glentromie), Badji Badji and Noondagoonda.<sup>8</sup> This was the first successful lease application in the district, as until that time the lease of land had

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- <sup>2</sup> Although confirmation has not been located, it is likely that the Macphersons were free of their indenture in c.1845 as later that year, they were granted a pastoral lease, as recorded in 'Revenue Office, Perth', *The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*, 20 December 1845, p. 4. While under indenture, the brothers would not have been permitted to own land, as per Mazzorolo, 'Traditions, Environment and the Indentured Labour in Early Western Australia', *Studies in Western Australian History* 3 (1978), p.30.
- <sup>3</sup> Mazzorolo, T.W., 'Traditions, Environment and the Indentured Labour in Early Western Australia', *Studies in Western Australian History* 3 (1978), p.30.
- <sup>4</sup> Burke, Shane, *The Material Basis of the Settlement Process: The Historical Archaeology of the Swan River District, Western Australia, 1827 to 1860* (UWA Thesis: 2004), p.79., and Mazzorolo, 'Traditions, Environment and the Indentured Labour in Early Western Australia', *Studies in Western Australian History* 3, p. 30.
- <sup>5</sup> Hetherington, Penelope, *Pauper, Poor Relief & Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829-1910* (2009), p. 7.
- <sup>6</sup> Burke, Shane, *The Historical Archaeology of the Swan River District, Western Australia, 1827 to 1860* (2004), p.376.
- <sup>7</sup> 'Revenue Office, Perth', *The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*, 20 December 1845, p. 4.
- <sup>8</sup> Macpherson, R. W., *The Macphersons and the MacKnoes in Western Australia* (1994), Chapter 3: The Scotch Shepherds – The Early Days, p. 6.

not been permitted in Victoria Plains due to it being too difficult to police and administer.<sup>9</sup> In 1846, the brothers began trading as Macpherson & Co., Toodyay.<sup>10</sup>

During 1846, before the establishment of the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia, the two Spanish Missionaries who were responsible for its foundation, Dom Salvado and Dom Serra, erected a rough hut on the Macpherson's lease where their temporary first mission site, known as 'Priests Hut' or 'Priests Place' was established.<sup>11</sup> The exact location of this site is unknown, however was only occupied for a short time.<sup>12</sup>

From the last years of the 1840s, until the mid-1850s, the Macpherson's station grew significantly, with the 1849 Toodyay Census recording the station as comprising ten men (which included the two brothers, and a younger brother – Duncan – who had arrived with his family in 1848), 6,000 sheep, a number of horses, and cattle.<sup>13</sup>

In the early 1850s, in order to encourage the sale, rather than lease of land for cultivation purposes, *Depasturing Regulations* were introduced by the Colonial Secretary's Office which forbade the cultivation of pastoral lands unless an annual 'tillage lease' was paid, or the land was owned.<sup>14</sup> One of the first freehold grants purchased in Victoria Plains after the introduction of this regulation was 30 acres of Badji Badji by Donald Macpherson in May 1853.<sup>15</sup> This suggests that Macpherson's station, and its cultivated land, was located at Badji Badji, as it was only agricultural use that incurred the fee and pastoralists tended to buy as little land as possible.<sup>16</sup>

By the mid-1850s the Macpherson brothers had dissolved their partnership, with John moving south and establishing his own homestead at Coondle,<sup>17</sup> and Donald relocating his station to Murra Murra. Macpherson's Murra Murra station became known as 'Glentromie' from the early 1860s.<sup>18</sup> Between c.1858 and 1884 Glentromie underwent a significant building program, which was achieved through the employment of ticket-of-leave men.

In 1850 convict transportation to the Swan River Colony commenced to provide much a much needed boost to the labour force. Various infrastructure projects

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> The first reference to Macpherson & Co., Toodyay appears in *Inquirer*, 22 July 1846, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> Stormon, E. J. (translated and edited by), *The Salvado Memoirs: Historical Memoirs of Australia and Particularly of the Benedictine Mission of New Norcia and of the Habits and Customs of the Australian Natives*, by Dom Rosendo Salvado, O. S. B., (1978), p.35-38., and Erickson, Rica, *The Victoria Plains* (1971), p14 & 17.

<sup>12</sup> Erickson, Rica, *The Victoria Plains* (1971), p. 17.

<sup>13</sup> 'Toodyay District Census Return, 30<sup>th</sup> November 1849', reprinted in Erickson, Rica, *Old Toodyay and Newcastle* (1974), p. 82-84., and Macpherson, *The Macphersons and the MacKnoes in Western Australia* (1994), Chapter 3: The Scotch Shepherds – The Early Days, p. 6-7.

<sup>14</sup> 'Depasturing Regulations', *The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, 1 November 1850, p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> WAA 660, Pastoral Lease Description Book 3, cited in Erickson, Rica, *The Victoria Plains* (1971), p. 23.

<sup>16</sup> Macpherson, *The Macphersons and the MacKnoes in Western Australia* (1994), Chapter 4: Donald & Jessie Macpherson's Farm, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> Erickson, Rica, *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1888* (1987), Vol. 3 K-Q, p.2036.

<sup>18</sup> The first reference to Glentromie appears in 'Classified Advertising', *The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, 15 August 1962, p. 2.

were commenced with roads being a priority. A ticket-of-leave system was established whereby convicts who had served their term, or who had displayed a period of good behaviour, were released into the community for hire by local farmers and other business people.<sup>19</sup> A Convict Hiring Depot was established at Toodyay in the early 1850s, from which Macpherson hired his ticket-of-leave workforce.<sup>20</sup> Many of these convicts were skilled labourers, but records regarding their specific activities within the wider community are often unavailable.

The main building phase at Glentromie was executed between 1863 and 1878, when Macpherson employed nine ticket-of-leave labourers in addition to a Bricklayer (William Butter - Convict No. 9103), a Brick maker (Henry Bolton - Convict No. 9526), and two Carpenters (Patrick Byrne - Convict No. 9677 and Dan Sturmen - Convict No. 10,052).<sup>21</sup> Macpherson also utilised a number of ticket-of-leave men to help manage the station's livestock, this included the employment of a Blacksmith (James Wilson - Convict No. 4850), a Herdsman (Robert Smith - Convict No 8702), and two Shepherds (John McDonald - Convict No. 8081 and William Smith - Convict No. 9300).<sup>22</sup> Between 1858 and 1884 a total of thirty ticket-of-leave men were employed at Glentromie.<sup>23</sup>

It was during this building program that the original residential and farm buildings were constructed. This included:

- The Homestead, which incorporated a detached kitchen wing and a detached 7-room cottage with cellar wing;
- A Two-Roomed Men's Cottage (later known as Henry's House or Henry Hunt's House);
- Five Married Worker's Cottages;
- Stables;
- Shearing Shed;
- Cart Shed and Harness Room;
- Barn;
- Flour Mill;
- Blacksmith's Shop; and,
- Slaughter House.

The buildings were well executed and used bi-chromatic, chequerboard patterned brickwork to create a striking aesthetic quality. The two-storey Stables, Shearing Shed and single-storey Barn were particularly grand in appearance and scale.

It was during this time that Macpherson established himself as an important figure in the local community. He was elected the first chairman of the Victoria Plains Roads Board in 1871, and hosted its meetings at Glentromie Homestead from

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<sup>19</sup> Gibbs, Martin, 'The Archaeology of the Convict System in Western Australia', in *Australian Historical Archaeology*, vol 19 (2001), p.61.

<sup>20</sup> 'Employers of ticket of leave men, 1850-1890 [microform]', WABI Indexes, microfilm reels 3&4, State Library of Western Australia, Battye Library Microfilm.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.



1871 until his death in 1887.<sup>24</sup> He had a reputation for being a generous host, organising social events, such as grand banquets and balls at Glentromie,<sup>25</sup> and, on occasion, providing passing travellers with overnight accommodation.<sup>26</sup>

Additionally, during the 1860s, and into the 1870 and 1880s, Macpherson bred thoroughbred horses, for which he won much recognition.<sup>27</sup> From the early 1870s, he started exporting his horses to British India and the Far East, and each year suitable horses were driven to the port of Fremantle for shipment.<sup>28</sup> In 1873, Macpherson's exports to Calcutta were described as the 'finest batch of colonial-bred horses that has ever been exported from Western Australia'.<sup>29</sup>

Documentary evidence for Macpherson's interactions with the local Aboriginal population is scarce. However, available sources note that during the first decades of the colony, Aboriginal people in the New Norcia area sometimes interacted with local shepherds.<sup>30</sup> One reference located describes an incident where Macpherson caught two Aboriginal men stealing sheep from his flock.<sup>31</sup> Although this might suggest a less than amicable relationship, incidents such as this were common during this early period of settlement.

The records of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia<sup>32</sup> list two Aboriginal people with the surname 'Macpherson' – Joannis Macpherson and Maria (nee Wirbina) Macpherson.<sup>33</sup> The adoption of an Anglicanised name by Aboriginal people may mark a change in status, such as marriage or baptism,<sup>34</sup> or denote the name of the property owner or employer that the individual worked for.<sup>35</sup> Although it has not been possible to find evidence to support that these individuals were employed at Glentromie, the use of the name could suggest that they were employees of Donald Macpherson,

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- 24 'Country Notes: From Our Special Correspondent', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 1 March 1871, p. 3., and 'Victoria Plains Roads Board', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 22 May 1872, p. 2.
- 25 'Victoria Plains April 26', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 30 April 1879, p. 3.
- 26 Macpherson, *The Macphersons and the MacKnoes in Western Australia* (1994), Chapter 5: Donald and Selina Macpherson's, p. 3.
- 27 During the 1860s Macpherson advertised the imported Clydesdale 'Lochryan', and thoroughbred 'Highland Chief' for breeding. 'Lochryan' stood from 1862-1868, and 'Highland Chief' from 1862-1863, advertised in *The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, *The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times*, and *The Inquirer and Commercial News*.
- 28 Macpherson, *The Macphersons and the MacKnoes in Western Australia* (1994), Chapter 5: Donald and Selina Macpherson's, p. 5.
- 29 *Inquirer*, 19 March 1873, cited in Macpherson, *The Macphersons and the MacKnoes in Western Australia* (1994), Chapter 5: Donald and Selina Macpherson's, p. 5.
- 30 Green, Neville., and Tilbrook, Lois., *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians Volume VII: Aborigines of New Norcia 1845-1914* (1989), p. xxvi.
- 31 'Quarter Sessions', *The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, 5 January 1855, p.3.
- 32 'Dictionary of New Norcia Names 1845-1914', compiled from the 'Book of Baptist' Nos. 1 & 2; 'Nove Nursia' No.3; 'Book of Marriage' No. 1; 'Book of Deaths'; Salvado's notebook 'Various Interesting Matters'; 'Natives' (listing of children surrendered to the mission), 'Expenses of the Benedictine Mission 1857'; 'Aborigines' No 5 1894-1906 (correspondences), in Green, and Tilbrook, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians Volume VII: Aborigines of New Norcia 1845-1914* (1989).
- 33 Green, and Tilbrook, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians Volume VII: Aborigines of New Norcia 1845-1914* (1989), p. 75.
- 34 Ibid., p. xxiv.
- 35 'About personal names', Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies', sourced from <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fhu/names.html>, Accessed on 20.8.2012.

Records have been found which identify two Aboriginal individuals who lived at Glentromie - George Warren (aka Henry Nerbel) with his wife Cecilia Dina Chaleman.<sup>36</sup> Although it is likely that they also worked at Glentromie, this has not been confirmed.

By the late 1880s, *Glentromie Farm Group* was recorded as one of the 'finest pastoral properties in the colony'.<sup>37</sup> It encompassed 150,000 acres of land (6,070 ha), on which, Macpherson kept not only thoroughbred horses, but also 150 cows, 100 pigs, and 5000 to 8000 sheep, the wool from which was carted to Perth for sale.<sup>38</sup>

Macpherson died in August 1887,<sup>39</sup> and *Glentromie Farm Group* was sold through auction to Walter Padbury for £11,000.<sup>40</sup>

Walter Padbury, after arriving in Western Australia from England in 1830, went on to establish himself as a successful merchant, acquiring many properties, several pastoral stations and a number of shipping vessels. As well as being instrumental in the development of the State's north west, Padbury was a philanthropist, donating time and money to the church and other charitable institutions, including the Parkerville Children's Home, and St Georges Cathedral.<sup>41</sup> He was also a significant figure in politics, being the first Mayor of Guildford in 1885, the Chairmen of the Guildford Municipal Council, and the Member of the Legislative Council for Swan between 1872 and 1878.<sup>42</sup>

In 1888, Padbury installed his niece Amelia Jayne and her husband Charles Kruger Davidson to manage the Glentromie estate, which at that time consisted of 95,000 acres leasehold and 7,444 acres freehold land.<sup>43</sup> Padbury disposed of a considerable amount of the Glentromie land in the early 1890s, which remained under the management of Davidson until Padbury died in 1907, when it was bequeathed to Davidson.<sup>44</sup>

Davidson, like Macpherson before him, kept prize-winning livestock, including sheep, cattle and horses, at Glentromie. The Merino wool produced by Glentromie's sheep commanded a high price and was annually shipped to London; the cows were milked daily and produced butter; and pigs were bred and slaughtered at Glentromie, with the slaughter house providing salting and

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- 36 Green, and Tilbrook, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians Volume VII: Aborigines of New Norcia 1845-1914* (1989), p. 154.
- 37 'Glentromie', *The Daily News*, 18 April 1887, p. 3.
- 38 Ibid.
- 39 'Victoria Plains Notes' *Western Mail*, 13 August 1887, p. 21.
- 40 'News of the Day', *The Daily News*, 28 February 1888, p. 3.
- 41 'Padbury, Walter (1820-1907)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, sourced from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/padbury-walter-4355>. Accessed on 18.7.2012.
- 42 Erickson, *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1888* (1987), Vol. 3 K-Q p.2035-2036 & Vol. 4 R-Z p. 2401.
- 43 'Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 1888', *The West Australian*, 20 February 1888, p. 2.
- 44 Battye, J. S., *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (1913), Vol 2, p. 946., and 'Glentromie: Mr C. K. Davidson's Victoria Plains Property. A Fine Estate', *Western Mail*, 14 November 1908, p. 9., and 'Glentromie: Mr C. K. Davidson's Victoria Plains Property. A Fine Estate', *Western Mail*, 14 November 1908, p. 9.

smoking facilities.<sup>45</sup> Little cultivation took place under Davidson, with hay and wheat only being produced to meet the requirements of the estate.<sup>46</sup> Some fruits and vegetables were produced on the estate by a Chinese gardener, and wine was produced from the vineyards.<sup>47</sup>

In addition to his farming responsibilities, Davidson was involved with local politics and the local community, being a member of the Victoria Plains Road Board from 1895-1921, and Chairman in 1907.<sup>48</sup> Davidson and his wife established a number of social traditions at Glentromie, including an annual picnic at the estate,<sup>49</sup> concerts for State School Children, cricket matches and kangaroo hunts.<sup>50</sup>

In 1921, Davidson sold *Glentromie Farm Group* to Alexander Williamson Edgar on a 'walk-in-walk-out basis'.<sup>51</sup>

Edgar arrived in Western Australia from Victoria in 1877, and became a successful pastoralist and breeder of horses, cattle, sheep and sheep-dogs.<sup>52</sup> Edgar had much success in breeding pedigree stock at Glentromie throughout the 1920s until his death in 1927, when the estate was inherited by his sons who continued at Glentromie as the 'Edgar Bros'. In 1929 they were considered 'the most successful [cattle] breeders for the year'.<sup>53</sup> During the 1930s the brothers continued to produce and sell good quality cattle, sheep, pigs, and stud horses.

During the 1940s, following the onset of World War Two, the Edgar's used Prisoner of War labour at Glentromie.<sup>54</sup> Also during the decade, a bush fire broke out in the Victoria Plains district, destroying 4,000 acres (1,618 ha) of land and damaging several buildings at Glentromie,<sup>55</sup> however, it is unknown which were affected by this incident.

Following the end of the War, in an attempt to reabsorb ex-servicemen into society, 162,000 acres of land in the Victoria Plains district was reallocated to the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, and purchased by the Commonwealth government. A portion of *Glentromie Farm Group* was subdivided off for this purpose.<sup>56</sup> The Edgars retained the original homestead and surrounding

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- 45 Battye, *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (1913), Vol 2, p. 947., 'Glentromie: Mr C. K. Davidson's Victoria Plains Property. A Fine Estate', *Western Mail*, 14 November 1908, p. 9., and 'Victoria Plains Agricultural Area: New Norcia Mission. Glentromie Estate', *Western Mail*, 12 October 1907, p. 9
- 46 'Victoria Plains Agricultural Area: New Norcia Mission. Glentromie Estate', *Western Mail*, 12 October 1907, p. 9.
- 47 'Victoria Plains Agricultural Area: New Norcia Mission. Glentromie Estate', *Western Mail*, 12 October 1907, p. 9., and 'Glentromie: Mr C. K. Davidson's Victoria Plains Property. A Fine Estate', *Western Mail*, 14 November 1908, p. 9.
- 48 Erickson, *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1888* (1987), Vol. 2 D-J p.766.
- 49 'Glentromie A Day on a Midland Station. A Picture of Rural Holiday Making', *Western Mail*, 28 December 1901, p. 6.
- 50 'Victoria Plains', *The West Australian*, 12 December 1902, p.5., and Battye, *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (1913), Vol 2, p. 947.
- 51 'Glentromie Station Changes Hands', *Western Mail*, 17 November 1921, p. 17.
- 52 Battye, *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (1913), Vol 2, p. 239 & 241, and Erickson, *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1888* (1987), Vol. 2 D-J p.946.
- 53 'The Pastoralist West Australian Studs: Successful Breeders', *Western Mail*, 10 January 1929, p. 46.
- 54 Conversation between Senior Heritage Officer, Sian Ferraz and Lyle Georgeson, 1 May 2012.
- 55 'Bush Fire Outbreak: Damage in Moora Area, Need for Constant Care', *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 18 December 1941, p. 3.
- 56 'War Service Farms: Part of Glentromie to be Purchased', *The West Australian*, 1 November 1947, p. 11.

buildings, while the appropriated land, including the land where the remains of the Benedictine Priests first mission site was located, was distributed to soldier settlers.<sup>57</sup>

The Edgars sold Glentromie in 1954 to Eric and Nita Fitzgerald. Sometime before the sale, a number of the original worker's cottages were demolished.<sup>58</sup>

In 1957 the Fitzgeralds sold the property to Tom Nixon. Nixon and his sons owned the property until 1974 when the present owner, Ian Wright, took over.<sup>59</sup>

Under Wright's ownership, *Glentromie Farm Group* underwent a number of significant alterations, including the demolition of the remainder of the original workers cottages, the blacksmith's shop, the Cart Shed and Harness Room, the slaughter house, the homestead's detached kitchen wing and detached 7-room cottage and cellar wing.

There have also been a number of additions made to *Glentromie Farm Group*, including a new residence (for workers) to the north east of the Shearing Shed and a number of new farm sheds. Livestock is no longer housed in the two-storey Stables, nor sheared in the Shearing Shed. The Stables, Shearing Shed and Barn are now used for storage purposes. Cattle are still bred at the farm.

Renovations have been carried out to the existing original structures under Wright's ownership, including a number of renovations to the interior and exterior of the homestead. The Barn and Stables have had concrete buttresses added to reinforce the external walls, and the Shearing Shed's lean-to, which was added under the Nixon ownership in the 1960s, was removed.

The stone ruins of the original mill remain, located to the west of the main entrance driveway. A Salmon Gum has established itself in the ruins' centre, and the field in which it is situated is used for grazing cattle.

In 2012, *Glentromie Farm Group* continues to function as a working farm. The homestead also continues to be occupied and efforts to maintain and restore the estate's original structures are ongoing.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Glentromie Farm Group*, a substantial mid-nineteenth century pastoral station, comprising a Homestead constructed of brick and iron, a Stables, Shearing Shed, Barn, and Two-Roomed Men's Cottage constructed of hand-made brick with corrugated iron roofing, a Stone Well and archaeological sites of five Married Worker's Cottages, Blacksmith's, Slaughter House, Cart Shed and Harness Room, and the ruins of a Flour Mill as well as artefact scatters dating to the nineteenth century.

### **Siting**

The *Glentromie Farm Group* is located on a gentle slope overlooking Moore River East Branch. The Homestead is approximately 270m west of the river, 520m east of the Great Northern Highway and is accessed from the south via a 400m long,

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<sup>57</sup> Erickson, *The Victoria Plains* (1971), p158

<sup>58</sup> Conversation between Senior Heritage Officer, Sian Ferraz and Lyle Georgeson, 1 May 2012.

<sup>59</sup> Wright was related to the Nixon's and spent many years working on the farm before becoming its owner. Email from Lyle Georgeson and State Heritage Officer, Sian Ferraz, 13 June 2012.

tree-lined access drive off the Glentromie-Yerecoin Road. The wider rural setting comprises low undulating hills that have been largely cleared for pastoral purposes, with indigenous vegetation remaining along road verges, watercourses, crests and in clusters around rocky outcrops.

The Homestead is the first building reached from the access drive and is approached from the rear (west). The 'front' verandah overlooks a small, tree-framed garden, with views across an open paddock and through to the river. The primary setting for the Homestead is a functional farmyard with a network of tracks linking the historic and modern farm buildings in a grouping immediately NNW of the Homestead (spread across an area of approximately 150m by 300m).

The historic layout follows an L shaped pattern, with the old farm buildings clustered around the longer north-south axis and the Homestead at the eastern end of the shorter axis. Development from the post 1960s period is located immediately west and north of the extant historic buildings.

Within the farmyard area, and around the Homestead, the landscape is dominated by large eucalypts along the access road, tracks, fence lines and in windbreaks (some indigenous, but many introduced as informal landscaping). There are also some scattered, informal plantings of other large shrubs and trees including *Cyprus*, *Schinus* (pepper trees), *Callistemon* (bottle brush) and a single palm.

The Homestead has a small garden of lawn and perimeter beds along the eastern side; informal mixed plantings of mature trees along the north, east and west boundaries; and a gravel drive flanked by a narrow lawn and shrubs to the west. There is no evidence of any historic landscaping within the farmyard other than a row of low, densely branched trees that form a small L-shaped windbreak between the old Barn and the Flour Mill (ruins).

The archaeological features on site comprise the Mill Ruin, the site of what may be the former Slaughterhouse, and a number of artefact scatters at locations such as the site of the former Workers' Cottages and Blacksmith's. In addition, a light scatter of artefactual material was apparent across much of the site with some concentration around the historical structures, e.g. the Shearing Shed and Stables. The nature of this material was mixed with fragmentary dark olive (black) glass, ceramic tableware fragments, and miscellaneous metal artefacts. In addition the various structures that remain on site are likely to contain substantial archaeological deposits associated with the historical use of the site.

## ***Buildings and Structures***

### **Homestead**

The Homestead comprises the central residential wing of the original Homestead complex. It has a rectangular floor plan of approximately 30.4 x 9.2m, plus verandahs. This includes the nineteenth century building, which measures approximately 25.6 x 5.4m. There is physical evidence that this previously had 2.4m wide verandahs to all sides, although in 1887 it was described as having a verandah along the front and ends only.<sup>60</sup> The later verandah along the western

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<sup>60</sup> *The Daily News*, 18 April 1887, p 3.

side verandah has been enclosed and then extended, while small verandah infill rooms have also been added to the north and south.

Overall the building is well maintained and appears to be in good condition.

#### Exterior

The Homestead is constructed of rendered brick. All of the external door and window joinery has been replaced and new openings have been constructed as part of two major renovation campaigns in the late nineteenth century. Additions are variously in brick or timber framed fibrous cement. Overall the building is easily recognisable as a rural homestead, but due to alterations over time it has no defined architectural style.

The main roof is hipped with a broken back alignment over the old verandahs. This alignment has been extended as a secondary hip over the western additions and new western verandah. The roof is clad in corrugated profile metal sheeting and features two rendered brick chimneys to the ridgeline, plus an air-conditioning unit, roof ventilators, skylights, and small satellite dishes. Gutters are half-round profile.

The floor of the elevated verandah that wraps around the north, east and south elevations has been replaced in concrete with a fieldstone facing to the base along the north, east and south. The more recent western verandah is brick paved, at grade with the ground level. Although the laying of a concrete and brick verandah, probably replacing an earlier timber one, is likely to have resulted in some lowering of the ground levels and thus disturbance of archaeological deposits, it is still possible that some deposits remain intact beneath this surface.

The now demolished cottage wing to the northwest of the Homestead (the current location of the modern Garage) is believed to have included a cellar. It is likely this was filled in when the Garage was constructed and thus the cellar, and any archaeological deposits it contains, would remain extant beneath the current structure.

#### Interior

The interior of the house has been extensively altered as part of the renovation campaigns of the late nineteenth century. Within the original area of the house (which includes four large rooms in a linear pattern) these works have included new wall plaster (including moulded vents, picture rails and cornices), new ceilings (suspended under an original ceiling that was raked to the lower rafters), and new moulded timber joinery. Original features include the wide timber floorboards, the layout of the original masonry walls and the central eastern door opening (note: oral history suggests that the internal openings between the rooms are not original).

The verandah enclosures and western extension retain clear evidence of the previous plan and in detailing such as ceiling bulkheads. The detailing of these rooms is consistent with the c.1970 to 2000 period.

Although now largely carpeted throughout, it is probable the original timber floor boards were butt-jointed thus substantial undisturbed archaeological deposits are likely to remain beneath the current floor surface.

## **Two-Roomed Men's Cottage (now known as Henry's House or Henry Hunt's House)**

This two-roomed building has a simple rectangular floor plan of approximately 11.7m x 5.4m. Overall the building is well maintained and appears to be in good condition.

### **Exterior**

The walls are constructed of hand-made face bricks laid on a field stone plinth, which is elevated above ground level to all sides and projects out about 50mm from the brick face. The bricks measure approximately 230 x 110 x 75 and are laid in Flemish bond with an overall bi-chromatic, chequerboard pattern created by darker headers (although there is also considerable variation in the colour of the stretchers which moderates the visual impact).

Along the southern wall there is one window and one former doorway (bricked up) to each of the two rooms. These have shallow segmental brick arches (with voussoirs highlighted by strongly contrasting headers) and simple timber window sills. Along the northern wall there is a later doorway to each room, each of which has a flat arch and a timber board and brace door. The central portion of this wall has been reconstructed where a later bathroom addition has been removed (note: the location of this feature suggests that the former addition was accessed internally from the larger of the two rooms).

The roof has a simple hipped form and is clad with corrugated profile metal sheeting. It features a large face brick chimney at the ridgeline and has no gutters. There is a separate raked roof over the encircling 1.5m wide, gravel-floored, verandah (which is detailed as a relatively modern addition).

Other external features include a series of modern brass plaques recording the name of the cottage (Henry's House) and the names of people associated with Glentromie since colonial settlement.

### **Interior**

The eastern room is approximately 4.9 x 4.9m and the western room 6 x 4.9m. These are simple functional spaces with concrete floors, uneven wall rendering, unlined ceilings (revealing close-spaced roof battens) and a central fireplace (with later timber surrounds). The window openings each have a single, side hinged, board and brace shutter. The only other built features are a series of horizontal timber strips with projecting round timber pegs that have been fixed to the brickwork and embedded in the plaster in various locations around both rooms.

Although now comprising concrete flooring, it is probable the original flooring was butt-jointed timber boards. The laying of the concrete is likely to have resulted in some lowering of the ground levels and thus disturbance of archaeological deposits. However, there is some possibility that undisturbed archaeological deposits may still remain beneath the current floor surface.

### **Stables**

This is a large building with a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 36 x 10.85m. The eastern portion (measuring 36 x 6.1m) is two storeys, with a full loft level.

Overall the building has been maintained in a weatherproof state and, while it currently has minimal usage, a large portion of the place appears to be in fair condition. However there are some areas of significant deterioration, particularly the major cracking between the two storey and skillion section on the northern end, cracking near the eaves at the north-eastern corner, and the localised severe fretting and cracking of the internal brick walls (where there are no visible stone foundations). The external timber joinery has evidence of weathering and some localised termite damage, but is generally sound. Internal timber framing in the two-storey section has evidence of structural deterioration and the loft floor and much of the framing of the open stalls has been removed.

The place generally has an open farmyard setting, but in the modern era a row of *Callistemon* (bottle brush) have been planted in close proximity to the southern elevation and these have now grown to just below the height of the eaves to the main roof.

#### Exterior

The Stables have a striking asymmetrical form with the brickwork for the fully integrated skillion section extending down from the eaves of the two storey section.

The walls are constructed of hand-made face bricks laid on a field stone plinth, which is elevated above ground level to all sides and projects out about 100mm from the brick face. The plinth extends approximately 1750 above ground level at its highest point, and approximately 600mm above internal floor level (lifting the brickwork above the compacted earth floors).

The bricks measure approximately 230 x 110 x 75 and are laid in Flemish bond with a bi-chromatic, chequerboard pattern created by darker headers to the east and west, and darker stretchers to the north and south. This external brickwork is of a high quality for rural handmade bricks of the period and has been laid to a high standard. (Note: there is a slight change in colour above the first floor of the eastern elevation, which suggests different firings or sources of clay).

External openings have segmental arches, filled in over flat timber lintels for the door openings (which are approx. 1.5m wide). The external doors have been replaced, but some significant evidence of the earlier, split stable doors has still been retained. Windows (approx. 750mm wide) have traditional adjustable timber louvers to the ground floor and fixed timber louvers to the loft. There is a single loft door to the centre of the east elevation with a cantilevered platform.

The roof is hipped over the two storey section and raked over the skillion. It has been clad with green corrugated metal roof sheeting (over closely spaced battens) and has half-round gutters. On the western side there is a platform and former door opening to the roof gable, supporting the theory that there was originally a loft within the steeply pitched roof space of the skillion.

There is evidence of previous attempts to reduce the movement and cracking of the building in the concrete buttresses along the western elevation (post 1964), metal bracing at the north-eastern corner and timber bracing to the northern wall (internally and externally).

A light scatter of circa nineteenth century archaeological material was observed on the ground surface immediately surrounding the Stables.



## Interior

The external walls are approximately 350mm thick, with the internal face laid in English bond, and the internal walls are 230mm thick, also in English bond. Cross ventilation between the east and west was supported by a series of narrow slots through the central spine wall.

Generally the internal brickwork was not laid to the same high quality as the external. Further, while a stone plinth was used along the main spine wall (the western wall of the two-storey section), there is no visible foundation to the cross walls and these have significant areas of fretting and cracking.

The two-storey section comprises two rooms to both the ground and first floor levels (measuring 18.4 x 5.5m and 16.6 x 5.5m). At the ground level there are remnants of timber framed stalls along the inner (western) wall of both rooms. These overlook alternate doors and windows along the eastern wall, but (unless ramps were used) all access for the horses would have been through the at-grade entrance from the western side of the building (noting that the eastern doors are up to 1.2m above ground level). This main entrance from the west is framed by a low stone footing with remnants of bush posts, indicating that this was fenced off from the remainder of the north western room.

The loft floor has been removed, as has a significant part of the timber framing for the stalls, but sufficient evidence remains for interpretation of the former fabric and layout. Most of the joinery is very simple and functional but the main posts for the stalls have been carefully chamfered.

The skillion section has one main room measuring 18.4 x 4.4m (possibly a tack room) with three wide external doors, plus the only internal door between the eastern and western portions of the building. Evidence of floor beam slots to the internal spine wall and external access from the roof gable, suggests that the skillion may have originally had a full or partial loft storage area (within the steeply raked roof space).

Along the southern portion of the skillion there are four individual loose boxes (each measuring 4 x 4.4m) with single storey dividing walls, which are generally in a poor condition. The lower portion of the loose box walls have remnants of whitewash.

Comprising original dirt floors, the stables are likely to contain archaeological deposits dating to the use of the place. Some disturbance of these deposits, due to its function as horse stables, is likely to have occurred.

## Shearing Shed

This has a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 19.5 x 9.9m. The eastern portion (measuring 19.5 x 5.6m) is two storeys, with a full loft level. The western portion was built as a fully integrated skillion. The building also formerly had a single storey corrugated iron lean-to along the full length of the eastern elevation covering the doors and sheep runs. Physical evidence of this remains in the line where the roof flashing was cut in immediately below the loft windows.

Overall the building has been maintained in a weatherproof state and, while it currently has minimal usage, a large portion of the place appears to be in a fair condition. However, cement rendering to the lower walls (in various places both internally and externally) and other localised repairs suggest that fretting and

rising damp has been a problem. To the northern elevation, part of the plinth has been cement rendered and there are repairs to the pointing in other areas.

There is also some localised cracking to the brickwork, both to internal and external walls (including severe cracking to the internal wall between the two western rooms). As a partial response to controlling movement in the walls, tie rods and wires have been fixed in various locations.

The timber work is generally sound, although weathered externally, with only small localised evidence of termite damage.

#### Exterior

The Shearing Shed has the same asymmetrical form and bi-chromatic Flemish bond brickwork as the Stables, but the overall proportions are smaller. Similar to the Stables, this external brickwork is of a high quality for rural handmade bricks of the period and has been laid to a high standard. However, the field stone plinth is less prominent, stopping at floor level (reflecting the use of an elevated timber floor, rather than compacted earth floor).

At ground floor level there are three doors, at-grade, along the eastern elevation (approx. 1.2m wide). Along the western elevation there are two double doors (2.1m wide) plus a row of 5 openings off the shearing floor (1.2m wide) - all elevated above ground level. All of the doors have been replaced (using fixed panels to the sheep runs), and some of the timber door cills have been replaced in concrete, but there is still some evidence of earlier door hardware. All of the original door openings have segmental arches, filled in over flat timber lintels.

With the exception of two, later, small shuttered windows to the north and south there are no window openings to the ground floor. Each of the three loft windows has a side hinged, board and brace shutter (similar in design to the shutters to the Two-Roomed Men's Cottage). These windows have flat lintels, capped by a row of headers. There are also two loft doors with arched lintels and timber hoist shafts over, one each to the north and south elevations.

The roof is gabled, with a broken back over the skillion. It is clad with partly rusted, corrugated iron roof sheeting (over closely spaced battens) and has a square faced gutter to the western side only.

A light scatter of circa nineteenth century archaeological material was observed on the ground surface immediately surrounding the Shearing Shed.

#### Interior

The external walls are a 230mm (presenting a Flemish bond finish to both faces) while the internal walls are also 230mm, but in English Bond. All internal brickwork is of a considerably lower quality finish compared to the exterior.

The two-storey section comprises two rooms to both the ground and first floor levels (measuring approx. 12.5 x 5.2m - shearing floor, and 6.3 x 5.2m). The skillion section also has two rooms (approx. 12.5 x 4m – holding pen, and 6.3 x 4m) and there is evidence that this area may have had a partial loft floor. Access to the loft is via a steep set of timber steps at the south-western corner of the shearing floor.

The larger ground floor rooms have slatted timber floors, typical of a shearing shed and pens, while the other rooms (including the loft) have wide butt-jointed

timber boards. On the shearing floor (the north-eastern room) there is clear evidence of well-made timber framed pens and races, but no evidence of any mechanical shearing apparatus. The only feature relating to mechanisation is a horizontal pipe (with a small external vent) in the south-western room, associated with the remnants of a small engine mounting block.

The presence of the original wide spaced slatted timber floors and wide butt-jointed timber boards would have resulted in the accumulation of archaeological deposits through the period of use of the place both as a shearing shed and, at intervals, as an accommodation space. These are likely to remain extant and intact beneath the floor surface.

## **Barn**

This is a simple, single storey rectangular building measuring approximately 16.7 x 6.6m. As a result of late twentieth century alterations the original layout and detailing has been obscured, but a historical photograph (dated 1964) suggests that it was originally taller, with a loft level in the roof space.

Overall the building has been maintained in a weatherproof state and, while it currently has minimal usage, a large portion of the place appears to be in a fair condition (although significantly modified).

The place generally has an open farmyard setting, but in the modern era a row of *Callistemon* (bottle brush) have been planted in close proximity to the northern elevation and have now grown to roof height. Along the western elevation an abutting hen house and cage has been constructed of corrugated iron and square mesh.

## **Exterior**

The walls of the old Barn are constructed of hand-made face bricks laid in English bond on a low field stone plinth, which projects out about 100mm from the brick face. There is some variation in the colour of the bricks but, with the exception of the arch over the southern door, this variation has not been used to create a contrasting pattern.

At some stage after 1964 (and possibly in the 1970s), the old barn has undergone major alterations, including the replacement of the original roof timbers with steel trusses; reduction of the wall height (particularly at the gable ends where there is now a gable infill of corrugated iron); infill of the narrow ventilation slots along the side walls; cement rendering of the east and west walls; and the construction of concrete buttresses to all sides. External openings now comprise double doors to the south (timber doors with a brick arch over) and east (sheet metal doors).

The roof is a simple gable, clad with short sheet corrugated iron with no gutters.

## **Interior**

Internally the old barn has a single room. The internal walls have been fully cement rendered and the floor concreted. There are no window openings, but the trusses have been set on top of the walls and the resultant open eaves permit penetration of some natural light.

The laying of the concrete is likely to have resulted in lowering of the ground levels and thus disturbance of archaeological deposits. However, there is some

possibility that undisturbed archaeological deposits may still remain beneath the current floor surface.

### **Archaeological Sites**

A number of areas of archaeological potential were identified including the site of the former Workers' Cottages, the Blacksmith's Site, and the Mill Ruin. In addition, the area immediately east of the Homestead was investigated to determine whether physical evidence for the use of this for various recreational activities could be located, the area east of the Homestead adjacent to the river was briefly examined for evidence of refuse dumping, the area to the north of the concrete bridge where a well and creek are situated were also investigated, as was the area north of the Mill Ruin for evidence of the Slaughterhouse. Finally, as noted above, the area around the extant nineteenth century structures was briefly examined to determine whether associated artefacts remained in situ.

#### **Site of the Workers' Cottages**

The site of the former Workers' Cottages lies in a lightly wooded area situated to the north of the Shearing Shed and west of the mid-Twentieth Century house. The site is marked by two centrally located Pepper Trees (*Schinus areira*) and its general boundary appears to correspond with the dirt tracks surrounding this area. Surface visibility varies across the site with some areas, particularly those directly adjacent to the pepper trees, exhibiting thick grass ground cover and thus allows for zero ground visibility. Although a visual inspection of the area was undertaken no evidence for foundations or other structural elements of the former workers' cottages was apparent other than a barrel hoop or metal tub half buried in the ground beneath the trees, possibly a garden element. No brick debris or other building materials were identified.

In areas where surface visibility was between 50-70%, the site comprises a light scatter of artefactual material, largely domestic in nature, including bottle glass, ceramic tableware, and miscellaneous metal objects. This material appears to be concentrated in the south west corner though the heavy ground cover made determining if a similar distribution was present across the whole site impossible. The material – which included a clay pipe stem fragment, a dark olive (often referred to as black) glass bottle base, fragmentary ceramic tableware with blue transfer-ware floral print, a large cast iron lid, and a copper tag depicting a swan emblem and inscribed with 'WAR PATRIOTIC FUND/£30.000/1918-19 APPEAL', – can generally be dated to the mid nineteenth- to early twentieth-century. The bottle base and clay pipe most likely date to the mid to late nineteenth-century, whilst it could not be determined which specific period the tableware and cast iron lid dated. The tag dates to c.1918 and the presence of amber bottle glass would indicate continued use of the cottage site into the early to mid twentieth-century. The surface nature of the material, as well as indications that parts of the site have been disturbed by water flow with the artefactual material eroding out of the sediments and the tracks that run around the site in places, would suggest the assemblage is relatively mixed.

Although no foundations of the former Workers' Cottages were located, it is probable that sub-surface evidence for these may remain extant which could be revealed with further archaeological investigation. Historical photographic evidence shows a line of three cottages, similar in size and nature to the extant Two-Roomed Men's Cottage (Henry's House), in a lightly wooded clearing

spaced approximately 50-60 metres apart. Two of the cottages are quite large with hipped roofs and verandahs attached to the front, while the third is simpler in form, has a skillion type roof, and no verandah. All appear to have been constructed from brick in a similar pattern to that seen at the Two-Roomed Men's Cottage.

### **Blacksmith's Site**

The area just north of the Shearing Shed is believed to be the location of the former Blacksmith's. Large quantities of iron artefacts were observed eroding out of the track, some of which had been relocated to beneath a tree by the property owners to remove them from the path of the lawnmower. Again no evidence for structural remains was apparent indicating the nature and form of the Blacksmith's building. However, there is potential for sub-surface foundations, post-holes or other structural elements to be revealed through archaeological excavation.

### **Mill Ruin**

Situated within a cattle paddock to the west of the Homestead, the site comprises the ruin of the former Mill building. The site is largely cleared with a cluster of Salmon Gum trees surrounding the Mill ruin, a line of smaller shrubby trees (possibly Sandalwood) to the west, and a collection of conifers lining the fence to the east. A Salmon Gum is situated in the Mill ruin itself in the eastern portion.

The structure is of local granite and, from the central wall, which is partly standing, was constructed in rough faced uncoursed random rubble with red sand mortar visible between the stones. The remainder of the structure is ruinous and comprises at least two rooms with the central wall, approximately 40 centimetres thick, dividing them. The Mill ruin, oriented east-west, is approximately 16 x 5 metres. However, the exterior walls are difficult to discern due to the amount of rubble covering the foundations. Rough timber posts have been erected within the ruin, possibly in an attempt to stop further deterioration of the ruin walls, as they do not appear to be structural in nature. A light scatter of miscellaneous iron artefacts surrounds the structural remains and may be associated with its period of use as they are generally industrial in nature.

An aerial photograph held by the owners, of part of the Glentromie site taken in 1964, shows the Mill Ruin in the far left of the shot. The place is only in a semi-ruinous state at this time with what appears to be 3-4 walls still standing. The building looks larger than that currently discernible with possibly three distinct rooms though the oblique perspective of the photograph makes it difficult to clearly establish the dimensions of the place. It is possible stone has been removed from the current ruin for use elsewhere on the property but further archaeological investigations of the Mill Ruin would better establish its form as this may just be obscured by rubble.

The presence of the place, in a shaded area within a cattle paddock, has probably contributed to the ruin's deterioration. As the place is already in a ruinous state, with stone rubble entirely covering the foundations, further deterioration of the place will probably be limited. The one remaining wall may fall however if it is not stabilised.

### **Slaughterhouse Remnants**

Approximately 60 metres north of the Mill Ruin is an area of granite rubble with no clearly discernible form that would suggest structural remains. However, this is understood to be the site of the former Slaughterhouse so further archaeological investigation could aid in confirming this and provide detail about the structure.

### **Recreation Area**

The area immediately east of the Homestead was utilised for recreational activities such as cricket and picnics during the early twentieth-century. Currently the area is a sheep paddock and was briefly examined to determine whether any archaeological evidence for its former function was visible.

A brief walk over the site did not find any evidence for the recreational use of the place though exotic plantings (Palm Tree) within the sheep paddock would indicate that this area had previously been within the garden of the Homestead. An avenue of trees to the south of the Homestead may also be associated with a former use of the place and the presence of stone rubble in this area could indicate the presence of a structure. No artefactual material was apparent however, and the only other visible structural remains was what appeared to be a concrete stock water trough or perhaps a drain.

### **River East of Homestead**

The river is situated directly east of the property and the section west of the fence line and directly east of the Homestead was examined briefly to determine whether it had been used for refuse dumping during the site's occupation. Some unidentified concrete and iron rubble was situated adjacent to the fence line and further investigation may reveal additional material to the east.

### **Stone Well**

At the northernmost end of the site in the paddock northwest of the concrete bridge is a large stone-lined well covered with timber slabs. Although difficult to determine the exact nature of the well due to the heavy timber covering, photographs taken of the interior suggest it largely comprises rough random stone rubble construction. From the size of the cover the well appears to be large and its location, some distance from the domestic occupation areas, and its size may suggest it functioned as a stock well.

### **Creek North West of Well**

The creek just north west of the Stone Well has been used for extensive refuse dumping. Material largely dates to the twentieth-century and comprises windmill components, machinery and fencing wire amongst other farming refuse.

### **Other**

A light scatter of artefactual material was apparent across much of the site with concentrations around the historical structures, e.g. the Shearing Shed and Stables. The material was mixed with fragmentary dark olive (black) glass, ceramic tableware fragments, and miscellaneous metal artefacts visible on the ground surface.

## **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

The primary significance of *Glentromie Farm Group* falls into three main categories

1. its establishment and occupation by an individual known to have been a former indentured servant who went on to prosper after becoming a 'free' man;
2. the use of ticket-of-leave labour in its construction, particularly that of skilled labourers with the ability to complete works of a high degree of craftsmanship; and,
3. the place's ability to reveal further information about these groups, and others, who lived and worked at the property throughout its history.

In addition, the place has associations with other prominent individuals and significant events/historical themes that together provide a rich addition to the development of the State of Western Australia.

### **Former Indentured Servants**

As discussed, the labour conditions in the Swan River Colony provided a relatively unique opportunity for those who came to the Colony as indentured servants to take advantage of the situation and prosper. The extent to which this group benefitted from this varied, as did the way in which they expressed their new found wealth and position. Some, such as William Haddrill were content to purchase small land holdings and build modest homes (P2493 *Haddrill's House*, Henley Brook), while others, such as Donald Macpherson, embarked on the establishment of large pastoral stations and constructed buildings to communicate their new found wealth, becoming active in politics and the local community.

It is difficult to search for comparable place in the State Heritage Office database as the connections between places and former indentures are not often acknowledged. However, two other places comparable to *Glentromie Farm Group* are known to exist, neither of which is on the State Register:

- **P1593 Berkshire Valley Farm** in Moora<sup>61</sup> - Built for James Clinch, one of the first settlers to the Victoria Plains district. Clinch came to Western Australia in 1839 and worked as a shepherd before becoming an independent farmer in the mid-1840s, and securing a tillage lease upon which he built the farming complex. By the 1870s, Clinch became a prominent citizen in the local community, and was elected as a foundation member of the Victoria Plains Road Board, a position that he held until 1888.<sup>62</sup>
- **P4631 Yangedine Mill, Homesteads and Outbuildings** in Beverley<sup>63</sup> - John Taylor, an indentured servant who had arrived in the colony in 1841, was associated with the farming group from the 1850s, and was responsible for much of the construction during the 1850s and 1860s. Initially, Taylor cultivated his own land, but later employed workers, which allowed him to pursue more middle-class ventures. He served on the local

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<sup>61</sup> P1593 Berkshire Valley Farm was entered on to the State Register of Heritage Places in 2008 on an interim basis. The Minister for Heritage declined permanent registration in 2009, and the place was removed from the Register.

<sup>62</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation (Removed from Register) for P1593 Berkshire Valley Farm (2008).

<sup>63</sup> P4631 Yangedine Mil, Homestead and Outbuildings was assessed in 2008, and determined to be below threshold for entry on to the State Register of Heritage Places.

Board of Education in the 1860s and was the Chairman of the Beverley Road Board in 1875.<sup>64</sup>

Although there may be other comparable places that have not yet been identified, the clearly established associations of *Glentromie Farm Group* with a former indentured servant who went on to prosper makes it an important site for understanding this group and their contributions to Western Australia's history.

### **Ticket-of-Leave Labourers**

The identification of the individual ticket-of-leave labourers who worked on the construction of *Glentromie Farm Group* is also notable. While employment of ticket-of-leave men was not an uncommon practice during the period when this labour source was available, records regarding their skills and placement at specific sites are scarce. The only record of ticket-of-leave employers and employees in Western Australia is a Register of 'Employers of ticket-of-leave men, 1850-1890', held on microfilm at the State Library of Western Australia. This record lists the names of employers; where the employer was located; the name and convict number of the ticket-of-leave individual; and what task (labourer, brickmaker, shepherd) they were contracted to carry out. Although this information exists, it is difficult to determine how many places remain in Western Australia (either extant or as an archaeological remnant) which were constructed by ticket-of-leave men, as their involvement with specific buildings was not recorded.

The lack of detail regarding ticket-of-leave workers is reflected in the few places associated with ticket-of-leave men in the State Heritage Office database, of which there are just eleven. Aside from *Glentromie* these include:

- P114 *Wallcliffe House & Landscape*, Prevelly (1865) (extensively damaged by fire in 2011).
- P115 *Ellensbrook*, Gracetown (1857).
- P3540 *Moir Homestead Ruins*, Esperance (1873).
- P2558 *Newcastle Gaol, Lock-up and Stables Group*, Toodyay (1864-).
- P1593 *Berkshire Valley Farm* (1840s-).
- P4631 *Yangedine Mill, Homesteads and Outbuildings* (1842-).
- P2867 *Balladong Farm Group* (1831-).
- P1153 *Gray's Store*, Greenough (1861).
- P2867 *Balladong Farm Group*, York (1831-).
- P3322 *Matrinup*, Broomhill (1863).

Although there are likely to be other places associated with ticket-of-leave workers in Western Australia (extant or otherwise), the level of detail known about those employed at *Glentromie Farm Group* is notable. In addition, the remaining built fabric is evidence of the skilled craftsmanship of the ticket-of-leave workforce, particularly the chequerboard pattern brickwork of the two-storey Stables, Shearing Shed and single-storey Barn.

### **The Macpherson Family**

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<sup>64</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Below Threshold Assessment Documentation for P4631 Yangedine Mill, Homestead and Outbuildings (2008).



There are only two other places associated with the Macpherson family in the State Heritage Office database; P12229 Coondle Homestead – Site of, in Coondle (established in c.1865 by John Macpherson) and P447 *Macpherson Homestead* in Carnamah (established by Duncan Macpherson in c.1870).

Neither of these places are comparable to *Glentromie Farm Group*. Little is known about Coondle Homestead, and no physical evidence remains, which suggests that the place was not as successful or significant as *Glentromie Farm Group*. *Macpherson Homestead* is a simple single storey stone building associated with the early settlement of the Carnamah district; it does not share the same impressive architecture seen at *Glentromie Farm Group*, nor the quantity of buildings, or skill of craftsmanship exhibited in some of the buildings.

### **Walter Padbury**

There are sixteen places in the State Heritage Office database which are associated with Walter Padbury. This includes four places on the State Register and three places on the HCWA Assessment Program:

- P15873 *North West Stock Route (fmr)*, Yanchep to Geraldton (c.1855-)
- P5805 Yathroo Homestead and Outbuildings, Dadaragan (1855)
- P4001 De Grey Station Group, Port Hedland (1863-68)
- P4105 *Padbury Stores & Residence*, Guildford (1869)
- P603 *Wearne Hostel*, Cottesloe (1897)
- P705 *Brooklands*, Balingup (1904)
- P132 Padbury's Buildings, Bassendean (1918)

### **Charles Kruger Davidson**

There are no places entered into the State Heritage Office database which are associated with Charles Kruger Davidson.

### **Archaeological Potential**

A search of the State Heritage Office database for places which include the keywords 'archaeology, archaeological, ruin or ruinous', dated to between 1845 and 1920, returns 292 places. If places without a 'farming/pastoral' use are excluded, this returns 122 places. However, this is unlikely to be a true reflection of the number of archaeological sites still extant which date to this period in farming/pastoral areas. It is instead more likely that many more sites have remained unrecognised for their archaeological potential and/or have not had this information entered in the database. Of these 122 places 26 are entered on the State Register.

The following place, entered on the State Register, has a similar history and is likely to have comparable archaeological potential:

- P4604 *Yowangup Homestead Group* (c.1860-) comprises a homestead and associated farm buildings. The site is likely to contain substantial archaeological deposits, including abandoned farm machinery and former structures, and was established by Elijah Quartermaine, a former servant,

in c.1860.<sup>65</sup> The place demonstrates similar qualities to *Glentromie Farm Group* reflecting the prosperity experienced by some of the former servants in the conditions which presented themselves in the early colony.

The following two places, which are not entered on the State Register, have a similar history and are likely to have comparable archaeological potential:

- P1593 Berkshire Valley Farm in Moora (discussed above under 'Former Indentures')
- P4631 Yangedine Mill, Homesteads and Outbuildings, Beverley (discussed above under 'Former Indentures')

Although the above three places have the potential to provide comparable data, those with the potential for providing contrasting data for class based strategies or material conditions during this period are also important comparative sites. The following are such places and have been entered on the State Register:

- P1215 *The Grange*, Yaradino comprises a Federation Bungalow style Homestead (1881, 1920s, 1940s), former Kitchen (1881), Shepherd's Cottage (1850s-1860s), Shearer's Quarters, Granary, former Stables (1870s), Slaughterhouse (ruin) (1870s), and Grange Cottage (c.1875). The place was developed by Samuel Pole Phillips and his son, Samuel James Phillips, after the break up of The Cattle Company's landholdings in 1869. The later section of the Homestead was added in the 1920s by Frances and William Mitchell. The Phillips family and their associates came from relatively wealthy British families.<sup>66</sup>
- P1743 *Tambrey Station Homestead Ruins* (1885) Roebourne, comprises the mud brick homestead, adjacent kitchen, meat house, cook's room, storeroom, saddle room, stables, tool room, garages, and managers' quarters. The place is associated with the wealthy Withnell, Parsons, and Meares families who had large land holdings in the North West of the State.<sup>67</sup>
- P1757 *Creton Ruins*, Pinjarra (1856) comprises a T plan of buildings including what may be a smokehouse or a kitchen, and accommodation wing. Structures primarily comprise hand made bricks in lime mortar with mud plaster and limewash. The roof was originally shingle later covered with galvanised corrugated iron. The place was established by Francis Corbet Singleton who arrived in the Colony in 1839 with a number of settlers and servants and became active in local community and political affairs.<sup>68</sup>
- P3726 *Glengarry Station Complex* is a group of single and two storey limewashed stone and corrugated iron stable and shearing shed buildings in the Victorian Georgian style, with a substantial stone walled stockyard and associated structures (1880s); a wattle and daub and sun dried brick

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<sup>65</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P4604 *Yowangup Homestead Group* (2010).

<sup>66</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P1215 *The Grange* (2002).

<sup>67</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P1743 *Tambrey Station Homestead Ruins* (1998).

<sup>68</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P1757 *Creton Ruins* (1997).

and iron roof ruined house in a Victorian Georgian vernacular style (1850s); and, a large concrete block and terracotta tiled roof Federation bungalow with staff quarters (1912), located in a culturally modified landscape setting. Thomas and Eliza Brown and their sons, Kenneth and Maitland established Glengarry Station. Kenneth achieved prominence as a grazier, explorer and horse breeder, as well as notoriety as a murderer, while Maitland achieved prominence as a grazier, horse breeder, explorer, public servant, and politician. Kenneth's daughter, Edith, was born on the property and later became Edith Cowan, eminent social service worker and the first female member of parliament in Australia.<sup>69</sup>

- P9484 *Perry's Paddock, Cottage & Stables* (1850) comprises Perry's Cottage and Stables (limestone ruins), a Bunkhouse (reconstructed), areas associated with market gardening and a stand of indigenous trees, together with various plantings, all situated in a semi-rural setting consisting mostly of low-lying inter-dunal wetlands. The place was owned by the prominent Shenton family and the Perry and Duffy families, early settlers and long time residents in the district.
- P533 *Manning Estate, Hamilton Hill* comprises three homesteads, two of which are ruinous/foundations, and archaeological sites relating to the occupation of the place from the 1850s by prominent merchant Charles Manning and his family.<sup>70</sup>

Another place with contrasting archaeological potential is below. The place was assessed in 1995 and determined below threshold:

- P2553 House & Archaeological Sites, Millendon (c.1870s/1880s) was the first colonial residence of George Fletcher Moore, first Commissioner of Civil Court of Colony and later Advocate General. In 1995, the residence, originally known as 'The Hermitage', was extant, albeit in a poor condition and vacant. Archaeological features included remnants of a well and mill which once pumped water into a cistern.<sup>71</sup>

Many of the above properties were owned and built by prominent members of the Western Australian community from the 'gentry' class. Their position and status makes them very different to Donald Macpherson but they provide contrasting comparative data for the material conditions of, and different strategies pursued by, these early settlers from distinct class groups.

The places listed below are also potentially comparable to Glentromie. However, determining an associations with a particular 'class' group would require further investigation that is outside the scope of this assessment:

- P1914 *Willow Gully*, Northampton
- P3271 *Oakabella*, Bowes
- P3540 *Moir Homestead Ruins*, Esperance

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<sup>69</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P3726 *Glengarry Station Complex*.

<sup>70</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P533 *Manning Estate, Hamilton Hill* (2012).

<sup>71</sup> State Register of Heritage Places Below Threshold Assessment Documentation for P2553 House & Archaeological Sites, Millendon (1995).

- P4184 Korrawilla Homestead Group, Greenhills
- P4216 *Lynburn Homestead and Shearing Shed (fmr)*, Esperance
- P6353 *Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery*
- P1165 *Maley's Mill*, Greenough
- P3944 *Sandsprings Homestead Group*

The above indicates that Glentromie Farm Group is not rare as an archaeological site dating to the 1850-1920 period. However, it is rare as a site identified as having been constructed using skill ticket-of-leave labour and occupied by a prosperous former indentured servant. For this reason *Glentromie Farm Group* provides an important comparative site for understanding class based strategies and conditions of labour in the Swan River Colony.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

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#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research may determine to what extent Donald Macpherson had contact with the Aboriginal people in the local area.

Further research may provide evidence for other comparable places associated with former indentures and/or ticket-of-leave labour.