

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** LOVATDALE HOMESTEAD

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Lovatdale Lane GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 331

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** Part G

**PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 434 C38

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Lovatdale Homestead, Lovatdale Lane, Glenthompson

**Image Date:** 5/8/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the house, bluestone and wrought iron front gateway, front garden and driveway, and all the land within 10 metres of the homestead and garden.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Lovatdale Homestead is a large bluestone and timber house of 10 main rooms, located about 6 kilometres southwest of Glenthompson. It is picturesquely sited on a rise overlooking an artificial lake, which was created in the 1870s by the damming of a local creek. The house has been sited to take advantage of the views across the lake to the distant Grampians. The house has been constructed in at least three stages. The first phase of construction, commencing in 1870, consists of three rooms with a central passage, built of well crafted bluestone, and with a slate roof. A timber section was constructed at the rear of the bluestone rooms, which contains bedrooms. The original detached kitchen has been demolished.

Large timber extensions were added at either end of the 1870 house in the early 20th century. On the east side, a new master bedroom, dressing room and en suite bathroom were constructed. A substantial dining room with finely detailed plasterwork and french doors was added on the west side, with views across the garden to the lake. The french doors feature exquisitely crafted Art Nouveau leadlighting in an unusual waterlily design. The front door surrounds and passage doors in the bluestone section were replaced at this time with leadlight inserts in a typical rose design. A wide verandah with corrugated iron roof and fretted timber detailing was added across the two timber wings and the central bluestone part of the house at about the same time.

A large service wing in timber runs along the west side of the house, featuring a substantial kitchen, pantry, scullery, and maid's quarters. Section of this wing may have been added as late as the 1930s.

The front garden of Lovatdale is a typical late Victorian design, with beds of exotic plantings arranged around a circular driveway. The front entrance of the homestead, no longer used, consists of a pair of wrought iron gates mounted on stone gateposts.

## **HISTORY:**

The land where Lovatdale stands was originally part of Brie Brie run, originally known as Green Hills Creek. Robert Fraser, sheep farmer, is listed in the 1864 Shire rate book as the owner of 1352 acres at Lovatt Dale (sic) (MRSC). Robert Fraser of Lovat Dale, Strathmore, is listed as the holder of 2351 acres in 1879 (de Serville, 497).

According to the Fraser family (pers. comm. 2002) Robert Fraser disembarked in Sydney, then made his way to Port Fairy in about 1850. (He was in the region at the time of the infamous Black Thursday bushfire of 1851.) He subsequently took up land at Glenthompson, and married a daughter of the Urquhart family of Hexham.

Lovatdale takes its name from Lord Lovat, the ancestral head of the Fraser clan in the Inverness region of Scotland. The Frasers are mentioned as allies of another clan in Watson, 1997, but there is no direct reference in the index.

The first homestead, built some distance from the present house, was demolished at an early date. The second homestead was carted across country to the present site, but is now demolished. The bluestone house, itself later extended, is the third homestead built by the Frasers at Lovatdale. Lovatdale was one of only 2 or 3 buildings in the area to survive the catastrophic bushfires of 1944, because the lake protected the homestead.

Robert A. Fraser Senior was a Shire of Mount Rouse Councillor from 1923 to 1933. Robert A. Fraser Junior first entered the Council in 1933 and has been Shire President five times, in 1938-39, in 1950-51 and 1953-54, 1959-60 and 1962-63. He resigned from Council in 1941 for war service and re-entered Council in 1947 (Mount Rouse Shire, 1964).

Lovatdale has always remained in the ownership of the Fraser family. The present owner, John Fraser is the grandson of Robert Fraser.

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## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

The condition of the homestead is excellent.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The homestead at Lovatdale, some 6 km southwest of Glenthompson, was constructed in two or three stages from 1870 to about the 1930s. The original central section is constructed of bluestone, while the wings and rear sections of the house were completed in timber, all with corrugated iron roofing. The east and west wings, built in the Federation period, have been finished to a high level of craftsmanship, with finely executed plasterwork and leadlighting. The french doors leading from the dining room to the verandah overlooking the lake are a particularly fine example of Art Nouveau leadlighting, with an unusual waterlily design. A wide verandah, with Federation style fretted decorative details extends across the front and both wings of the house. The garden, front entrance and circular driveway, typical of the late Victorian period, enhances the picturesque setting of the homestead on a rise above a lake, with the peaks of the Grampians visible in the distance.

How is it significant?

Lovatdale Homestead is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Glenthompson and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Lovatdale Homestead is of historical significance for its uninterrupted association of some 140 years with the Fraser family, pioneers of the Glenthompson district. It is of architectural significance for the craftsmanship of its original bluestone section, and for the finely detailed extensions in the Federation style. The architectural significance of the house is enhanced by its picturesque setting.

## **COMPARISON:**

139 Tulooa, Coleraine-Edenhope Road, Harrow

037 Tulse Hill, Carapook Road, Carapook

034 Wilderness Homestead Complex, Wilderness Road, Gritjurk

060 Gazette Homestead, MacArthur - Peshurst Road, Peshurst

**ASSESSED BY:** mgt

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

05-Aug-02

## **EXISTING LISTINGS:**

## **HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

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**No Recommendations for Inclusions**

## REFERENCES:

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Page</b>
Don Watson	Caledonia Australis	1997	70-1, 105-8
John Fraser, 5/8/2002	Personal Communication	2002	
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	497
Shire of Mount Rouse	Mount Rouse Shire Centenary	1964	