

# Friends Of Glenthorne

CARING TO IMPROVE OUR NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## Glenthorne, O'Halloran Hill



Friends of Glenthorne Farm

The history of ownership and management of the Glenthorne Estate provides a critical window for understanding the key historic phases of Adelaide from 1839 onward. Glenthorne once grandly displayed a house of fine proportion and elegance amidst a genteel setting in the southern region of Adelaide. Its farming enterprises were made prosperous by an emphasis on diversity and excellence within diversity from its very commencement. Prior to the grand three-storied house with its interior cedar paneling, Glenthorne was known as Lizard Lodge. Lizard Lodge was established in 1839 by one of Adelaide's most notorious and controversial public

figures—Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran. O'Halloran commenced as Major Commandant and Commissioner of Peace appointed under Governor Gawler, and was also a member of the Legislative Council and energetic worker for Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill. He brought to South Australia a certain panache after long military career, mostly served out in India during the peak of its colonial era.

Lizard Lodge was built in 1839 and although it was a relatively modest cottage for a man of Major O'Halloran's status, he and his wife Jane and their three sons lived there until his death in 1870. The far grander three-story residence known as

Glenthorne was built in 1879 by the new owner of the estate, Mr Thomas Porter, and the earlier dwellings and other structures began a new phase.

It's gently undulating hills continue to be either under crop or grazed by sheep, reflective of its long-term pastoral use. The property is currently owned and managed as a working farm by University of Adelaide. The creek transecting the property has been interrupted by two artificial dams constructed in the southern area of the estate, up to 4 km from the original homestead area. This creek connects to the Field River which in turn flows into Gulf Saint Vincent at Hallett Cove.

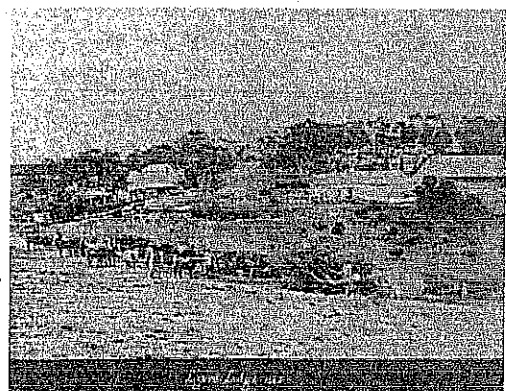
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## Landscape

The landscape and built structures remaining on Glenthorne attest to the property's occupation phases and are reflective of significant broader social and cultural changes in South Australia. Glenthorne was nominated to the Register of the National Estate in 1997, having been:

associated with both a notable personality and with a significant organisation, related to two distinctive periods of South Australia's history.



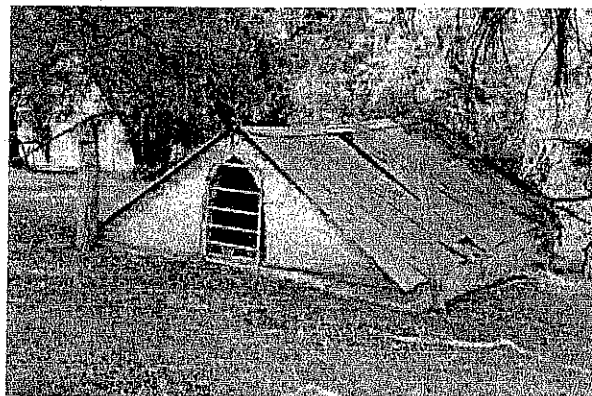
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There have been four distinct phases of occupation on the Glenthorne property since colonization of South Australia in 1836. Each phase is representative of key trends in the changing social and economic circumstances of South Australia over the last 150 years. Standing structures associated with the earliest period of European occupation are but a small proportion for the original number and all of these are severely lacking conservation works. Apart from the coach house, the remaining nineteenth century structures are dilapidated and fast vanishing from the landscape. These remaining buildings, despite their condition, attest to the significant role Glen-

thorne has played in the social and cultural changes in South Australia. The property was the backdrop where the earliest pioneers played a fundamental role in the social, economic and cultural life of the young colony. Their contribution sustained and financed many public industries as well as providing much needed laboring work. Glenthorne also had a significant part to play in providing remounts during the world wars and later donkeys to New Guinea. CSIRO Glenthorne Field Station generated valuable research outcomes for a range of developmental industries.

Glenthorne is listed on the Australian Places Heritage Inventory in recognition of its place as a colonial archaeological landscape of significance. This site is unique. Its uniqueness has become more evident over the last five years with the loss of a number of heritage precincts representing nineteenth century pioneering occupation in the southern parts of Adelaide. This site is not

repeated endlessly across a heritage laden landscape. It is the single one of its kind and it must be provided with adequate conservation and management funds.



ABOVE

A cellar on Glenthorne Farm

It is understood that the University of Adelaide is currently considering the future of the property. It is strongly recommended that the existing nineteenth century buildings be restored and interpretive signs erected. The coach house would be an ideal location for a local museum, a recommendation that is supported by the Friends of Glenthorne. The property provides a magnificent opportunity across a cultural landscape to showcase a broad and complex part of our history and by doing so, to inform and stimulate the public mind.

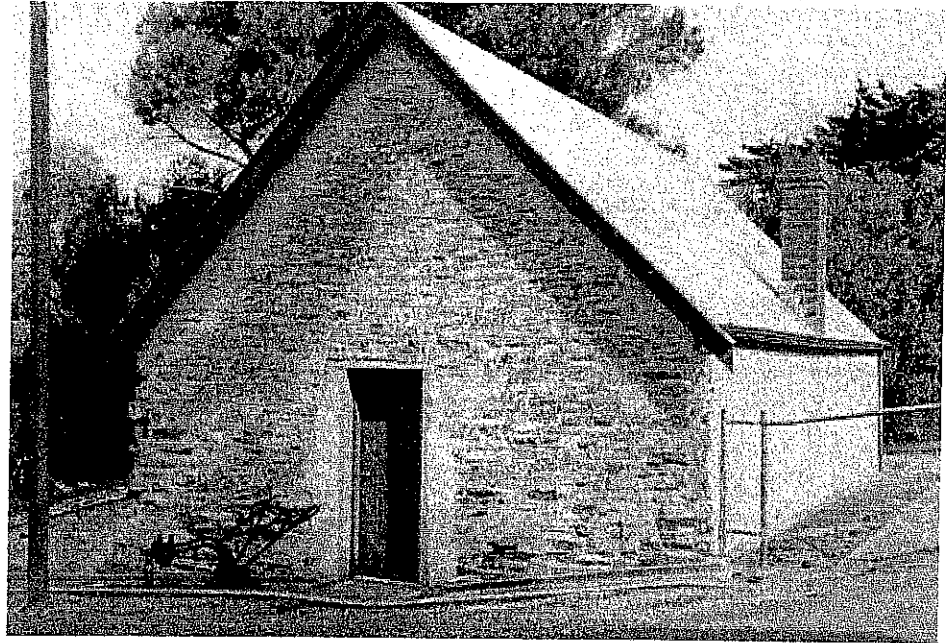


Above:  
Glenthorne  
Farm, 1838

# Historical Background

A condensed chronology of the Glenthorne property, which falls under the parent title of CT 4129/765 (Volume 5377, Folio 7) is given below.

- 1838: Major O'Halloran arrives with his wife and two sons on the Rajasthan to take up his land grant.
- 1839: O'Halloran family moves into Lizard Lodge, ten miles from Adelaide.
- 1840: O'Halloran appointed Major Commandant of the South Australian Militia and Commissioner of Peace.
- 1842: O'Halloran resigns his positions and enters the Legislative Council.
- 1870: O'Halloran dies at the age of 83
- 1878: O'Halloran estate purchased by Thomas Porter, who renamed the estate Glenthorne.
- 1879: Construction of



## Glenthorne House

- 1903: Estate purchased by George Brookman, MLC.
- 1910: Estate purchased by Harold Charles Drew.
- 1913: Glenthorne compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth and established as No. 9 Re-mount Station.
- 1932: Glenthorne

House gutted by fire and remains are razed by military engineers who leave little evidence of the original house.

- 1947: CSIRO (then CSIR) acquires the property to establish the Glenthorne Field Station.
- 1997: Glenthorne purchased by University of Adelaide.

*State Govt*

**Above:**  
The original coachhouse, located on Glenthorne Farm.

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# FRIENDS OF GLENTHORNE

## OBJECTS & PURPOSES

- To preserve and enhance the Natural and Cultural heritage assets of the property for perpetuity
- To maintain integrity of current legislation at State & Local Government levels that ensures long term certainty for maintaining the area as Open Space.
- To assist with formulating a long-term VISION for the establishment of an Integrated Management Plan for the property.
- To promote Community Awareness and a Public education programme about the development of Glenthorne Farm

## MEETINGS & WORKING BEES

### MEETINGS:

When: 3rd Wednesday of each month  
 Where: Trott Park Community Centre  
 Time 7:30pm—9:00pm

### WORKING BEES:

When 3rd Sunday of each month.  
 Where Meet at entrance of Majors Road  
 Time 10:00am to 1:00pm.

## ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Seed collecting & planting, weeding
- Water Monitoring
- Site visits for special interest groups
- Workshops and working bees
- Guest speakers
- Development of Interpretation trail
- Working with community groups
- Community awareness of the value of open space
- Newsletters
- Opportunities to volunteer, share your skills and interests on specific projects
  - Prevention, Re-vegetation, conservation
  - Recording, organising displays and collections
  - Photographic work
  - Production of newsletters
  - Clerical assistance
  - Development of pamphlets and educational materials

Volunteers work with staff from the Biodiversity Program, Marion Council, Adelaide University, Flinders University & O'Halloran Hill Campus of TAFE.

## POSTAL ADDRESS

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 BEDFORD PARK  
 S.A. 5042

OR

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## CONTACTS

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