

## Victorian Heritage Database Report LOVATDALE HOMESTEAD

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**Location:**

Lovatdale Lane GLENTHOMPSON, Southern Grampians Shire

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Stage 2 Heritage Study Complete

**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.

## **Description**

The condition of the homestead is excellent.

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.

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

Homestead

High.

Fraser family

Heritage Study / Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002
Construction Date Range	1870 - 1930
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	23419
Property number	

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*