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# WOODLANDS WOOLSCOUR (FORMER)



23259 Woodlands Woolscour  
Balmoral 2094

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## Location

Rocklands Road BALMORAL, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 2003

What is significant?

The site of the former Woodlands Woolscour is located on the north side Rocklands Road, on the bank of the Glenelg River. The site has a piece of equipment, apparently a steam engine located on it, and there is a shallow depression in the ground some distance from the south bank and the paddock where fleeces were laid out to dry. The woolscour was one of the earliest industries in Balmoral, and was associated with Balmoral's first I merchant, Thomas Heap who began the business in the 1840s. . Heap is said to have had an association with the English textile industry and exported wool to Britain. He sold out to Clapham and Wood who continued to export cleaned fleece. Mr. Charles Wood also operated a fellmongery in association with the woolscouring business, and provided employment for upto ten men for six months o the year. Wood represented Balmoral on the Wannon Shire Council and was at one time president of that shire, and was an important local figure, sitting on a number of boards and committees. Charles Wood carried on this business for many years and then his son Herbert L Wood took it over on his father's death in 1887. The woolscour and fellmongery ceased operation while in the

ownership of a Mr. Steele, in 1893. The site retains a fair degree of integrity as it has been largely undisturbed, and is in fair condition.

How is it significant?

The former Woodlands Woollscour is of historic significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire as a Heritage Inventory Site.

Why is it significant?

Woodlands woollscour is of historical significance as it represents the earliest form of industry in Balmoral. It is of further historical significance as a demonstration of a previous way of life which has been lost, and as an example of the ingenuity of early settlers to turn the natural environment to their needs. The site is of further historical significance as an surviving link with the earliest phases of settlement in towns, and how industry could be incorporated into the township.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates        | 1840,  |
| Heritage Act Categories   | Registered archaeological place,   |
| Hermes Number             | 23259  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Conditions

The site is in fair condition but, being undisturbed by later development and other uses, a high degree of archaeological potential.

## Physical Description 1

Little remains of the woollscour and fellmongery works. There is a piece of equipment, apparently a steam engine. There is a shallow depression in the ground some distance from the south bank where the scour trough was, and a flat piece of river bank where fleeces were laid out to dry. Some equipment, namely the centrifugal spin dryer remains on the site.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

Theme 5: Working

5.1 Working in harsh conditions

5.8 Working on the land

## Usage/Former Usage

abandoned

## Integrity

Fair degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

Thomas Heape, first owner of establishment  
Samuel Clapham, second owner and official purchaser of land  
Clapham Brothers  
Mr. Charles Wood, second and continuing owner  
Clapham and Wood, partnership of second owners  
Goldsborough, Row and Company,  
William Blakey,  
Herbert L Wood, the son of Charles Wood

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*