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# WOOLPRESS TREE

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## Location

Sierra Park Victoria Valley Road VICTORIA VALLEY, 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 - December 6, 2003

What is significant?

The Woolpress Tree is located on the modern property, Sierra Park Sheep Stud which was originally part of the very early squatting lease, Victoria Valley. The age of the tree, which is dead, is not known nor the exact date of the work done to convert it into a woolpress. However, the later sophistication and wealth of the run would suggest that the Woolpress Tree dates from the earliest times, probably the mid-1840s after it was taken over by Henry Dwyer in 1841. While holes in trees were used for other purposes, such as to deposit mail for collection or distribution, none has been discovered with such extensive modifications nor for use as a woolpress. Commercial woolpresses were easily available and used after the depression of the early 1840s. The equipment associated with the modification of the tree has been lost.

How is it significant?

The Woolpress Tree is of historical significance to the southern Grampians shire and the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Woolpress Tree is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and the State of Victoria as a remarkable surviving link with the earliest phase of pastoralism in the Western District and as an extraordinary example of bush ingenuity.

Construction dates	1840,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	SIERRA PARK SHEEPSTUD,
Hermes Number	23267
Property Number	

## Physical Conditions

Limited

## Physical Description 1

A deceased mature Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) with a large square excision through the centre of the trunk starting at a height of approximately 1.5m and rising to 3.5m above ground level. The width is approximately .8m. The tree is located in a paddock with other living trees of the same species around it.

No equipment or plant appears to survive at the place.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.17 Inventing devices

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

## Usage/Former Usage

abandoned

## Integrity

Only the tree survives. The location of the pulley system is not known.

## Physical Description 2

Crawford family, owners of Sierra Park

*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/>*