

CHAPTER II

Glenthorne Estate by the Field River:

From Lizard Lodge to CSIRO Field Station

Keryn Walshe and Pam Smith

IN 1838 A PORTION OF LAND some 15 kms south of Adelaide with characteristic stands of trees provided varied economic resources to the Kurna. This undulating land adjacent to an intermittent river, destined to be named the 'Field River,' provided a useful corridor to track south-southwest and out to the gulf waters. Alternatively, by heading northwards the Kurna would find themselves in the centre of the recently established town of Adelaide. Other Indigenous groups also wove their way across this same portion of land according to season, trade opportunities and custom. But in 1838 this land and its local environs also came to exist on a

physical map showing Sections, boundaries and British names.

The same portion of land was described seven years later in 1845 by Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran, South Australia's first Police Commissioner and a Magistrate, as generally rough and hilly. By then, with the assistance of farm hands, bullocks and horses O'Halloran had cleared away a sufficient number of the tall gums and grey box and thickets of understorey to be harvesting 190 acres of wheat. The land was also producing grapes for wine, orchard fruits, vegetables and sufficient feed for a proud number of sheep, horses and bullocks. Since 1839 O'Halloran had been working hard to create Lizard Lodge, a farming enterprise approximately 10 miles (15 kms) south of Adelaide town and just off the great South Road linking Adelaide with the key pastoral centres of Willunga and Victor Harbour.

Lizard Lodge

The establishment of the farm known as Lizard Lodge on O'Halloran Hill reflects accurately the early days of the colony of South Australia. Many emigrants purchased land prior to their arrival in the new colony and once here, lost little time in clearing the land and building a home. Whilst many succeeded, many also failed, the latter due mostly to unexpectedly long dry seasons. O'Halloran was not one of the latter, although it could have been anticipated that he held a higher potential for failure than success. Prior to arriving at Holdfast Bay the Major, as he was known, had spent over thirty years in India and only ten years in Britain. He was descended from a line of military officers and had gained all his childhood, early adolescent and early adult experiences in British-ruled India. The Major had limited, if any, opportunities to acquire first hand farming experience through his family. His time in India however, had allowed him long exposure to agrarian farming, particularly useful for such a place as South Australia. The degree and direction of influence drawn from his British-India experiences presents an interesting field for exploration elsewhere. Considering his positions as both Police Commissioner and Magistrate from 1839 to 1843, followed by various positions on the Legislative Council, it is possible that it also offered an interesting potential influence on the political and social development of the colony and State.

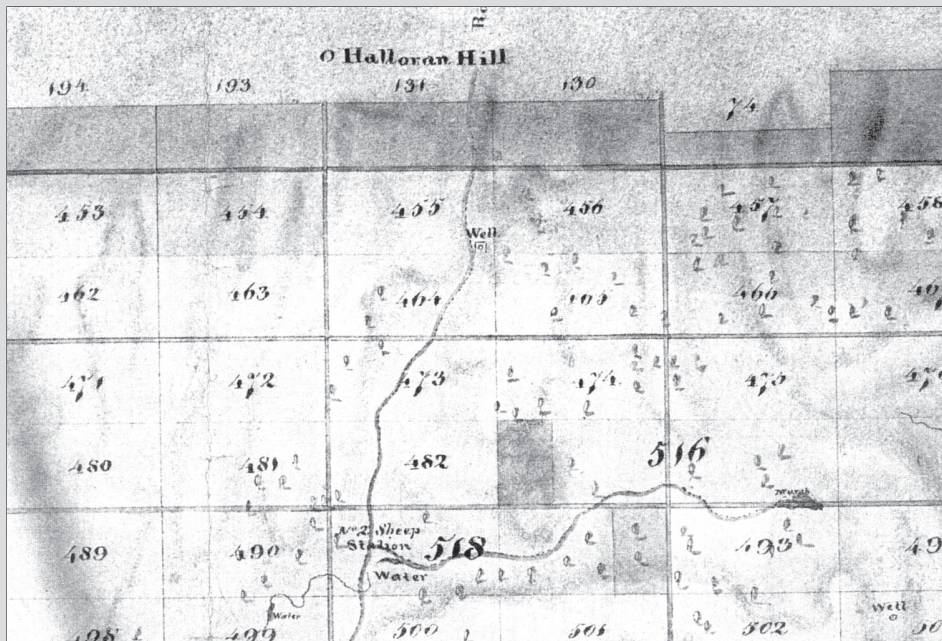
Lizard Lodge and Major O'Halloran provide a special exploration of the development of power and pastoralism in the Adelaide environs. Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran was born in the Indian province of Bengal in 1797, his parents having married in Calcutta in 1790. His father was very much a part of British colonial rule in India and young Thomas spent his entire childhood in India. At the age of eleven he was sent to the Royal Military College Marlow and Sandhurst in Britain. O'Halloran was only fifteen when he graduated from military school and appears to have returned to India very soon after as an ensign. His first notable experience of battle came when he was eighteen years old in 1815, against 'Nepaul' (as spelt in his personal journal) troops, where the British suffered severely.

In 1820, he was granted sick leave to return to England where he stayed for two years and during this time he met and married Anne Goss at Dawlish, on the southwest coast of Britain, near Lizard Peninsula. In May 1822, their daughter Anne was born and in July of that same year, the family embarked for Calcutta. A few months after settling into the barracks at Fort William their son Thomas Joseph Edward was born. He was soon baptised but his mother, Anne O'Halloran, sadly passed away when he was barely seven weeks old and his sister fourteen months old. O'Halloran poignantly records his wife's age at death as '24 years, 5 months and 14 days'. Fort William in the early 1800s was renowned for its unsanitary conditions, with contaminated water posing a constant problem for the officer's wives and children. Baby Thomas O'Halloran died at ten months of age, whilst traveling with his father and sister through the swamp lands south of Calcutta. His father's journal entry for 23 April 1824 hints at the painful scene whereby he 'buried my boy in the wilds of the Sunderbands'. One month later he decided to send his small daughter back to England to live with her mother's parents in Dawlish.

His life as detailed in his somewhat terse journal becomes unclear for the next few years. In 1826 he returned to England in command of a number of invalids and spent the next three years there, but where and in what position he does not record. A single journal entry covers these years, noting only the birth of his second daughter to Rebecca Spiers. Two weeks after the birth, in 1829 he again sailed for Calcutta with, amongst others, his sister Fanny (Frances O'Halloran). During the next four years his second daughter died at two years of age and he joined the expeditions into the northwest of India with his father, who was still holding military office. In 1833 he sold his commission, enjoyed a farewell dinner at the Masonic Lodge of Calcutta and set sail back to England to join the Coldstream Guards.

In 1834 he married Jane Waring in Newry, Ireland and they 'removed' to Underwood in Britain. A few months later he and Jane moved to Dawlish, the home town of his first wife Anne and where his daughter Anne, now aged twelve, was residing. He lived at Dawlish for the next five years, during which time his sons Thomas and George were born. At this time he was on half pay with the Coldstream Guards and it is possible that he was able to acquire some familiarity with Devon's farming methods. In 1837 he took full pay and in 1838 sold out of the Coldstream Guards for a handsome price which he proudly records in his journal as being £900 above the previous highest purchase. By July of that same year he has bid farewell to his father, now Sir Joseph O'Halloran, and parted with 'my dear Annie and the Goss's' to depart on the *Rajasthan* with his wife and two young sons for South Australia. On 16 November 1838 the *Rajasthan* anchored in Holdfast Bay and on 21 November the O'Halloran family disembarked at Glenelg (Pike 1977).

The O'Hallorans settled into tents at Glenelg for some seven weeks before shifting to O'Halloran Hill, as it was already named. O'Halloran made his land purchase prior to departure from England and appears to have arrived not only with his name on the 1838 Arrowsmith map and pastoral plans but also with a prefabricated Manning house to move into. Confusingly though, Manning



Routes of the Main South Road

Today the Main South Road winds its way up the steep contours of Tapley's Hill as it has for many years and, although the South Road we know today has been in use for almost 150 years, it was not the first route. Colonel Light's love for the grid design saw his plan for the suburbs resemble our city design, so all major roads running from the city were straight (State Library of South Australia, map C236). The original map was planned in England and failed to take into account the steep ranges and, in particular, Sturt Gorge. This route was, however, an expensive commercial track but was necessary as the primary link to the shipping ports and farmlands of the south (Dolling 1981). A second road up Tapley's Hill ran approximately 4450 m west of the current South Road and parallel to it. The road passed through Sections 130 and 131 on the south side of Major's Road and, going north, passed on the eastern side of the wall enclosing a bluestone house facing Major's Road and west of O'Halloran Hill TAFE. The route is labelled the 'The road to Adelaide'

on the 1839 map of Colonel Light's survey (State Library of South Australia, map C236).

A later map, withdrawn from the land office in 1881, shows a closed road which stopped at the corner of Sections 127, 128, 133 and 134 and did not continue to Major's Road. (Section 127 contains the Pea Farm and Tapley's Hill slate quarry).

Based on this evidence, it is plausible that 'The Road to Adelaide' on the 1839 map was intended to be the main road to the south of Adelaide and that it passed through what is now the O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park and continued along the western fence line of Lizard Lodge, as suggested by Dolling: "The route between Encounter Bay and the capital lay just west of the O'Halloran Property".

A well is marked on the 1839 map just to the south of Major's Road and on the eastern boundary of Section 455. It is known that Major O'Halloran had such a well and Dolling recorded that:

O'Halloran paid 239 pounds for the sinking and building of a well, which, he said, alarmed all others from settling near me.

Dolling 1981

Extract from Kennedy et al. 2004:36

(2001) suggests that the family stayed briefly in a prefabricated house on North Terrace in Adelaide adjacent to where the Botanic Gardens now sit. O'Halloran makes no entry of this in his journal. Considering the meager and retrospective nature of his journal, however, he may have simply overlooked such an event. Catherine Helen Spence's diary entries for January 1839 recalled that her father had

rented a Manning house on North Terrace that had been brought out from England by Major O'Halloran. O'Halloran does record a title transaction for No. 30 town acre North Terrace, between himself and Mr. Paxton in December 1839. Colonel Light's plan of 1837 shows town acre 30 along North Terrace as indeed being near the present site of the Botanic Gardens.

O'Halloran left the Coldstream Guards with the rank of Captain, but was raised to Major following his arrival in the colony. On 2 February 1839, he was gazetted as a Justice of the Peace and on 6 February he was sworn in as a Magistrate. In June the following year, he was appointed as Commissioner of Police under Governor Gawler. Impressively, by this time in 1840 he had taken up proper residence in Lizard Lodge, established wells and a lime kiln, mown and stacked the 'kangaroo hay', ploughed the first acre and fenced in two acres (O'Halloran Family Papers PRG 2060 PRG 206).

O'Halloran notes dining in the 'large house' for the first time on 18 April 1839 with guests Governor Gawler and the explorer Charles Sturt. On 4 May the family formally removed from the 'cottage' into the 'large house'. There is little historical doubt that the large house is Lizard Lodge, the known abode of O'Halloran at O'Halloran Hill, but the provenance and nature of the 'cottage' is less certain. In September 1839 his daughter Frances was born at Lizard Lodge followed by a third son, Henry, in December 1840.

The earliest known image of Lizard Lodge is an illustration by Charles Frome dated 1840s. This illustration very faintly shows two other buildings set on slightly higher ground to the north east.

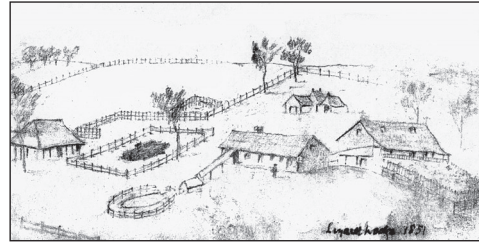


Figure 11.2

Lizard Lodge, 1851

SOURCE Mortlock Library O'Halloran Collection

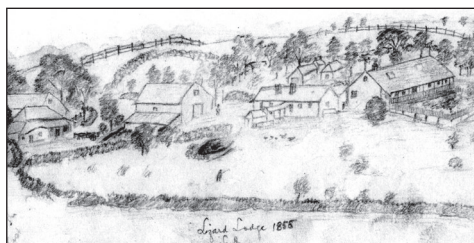


Figure 11.3

Lizard Lodge 1855 or 1858

SOURCE Mortlock Library O'Halloran Collection

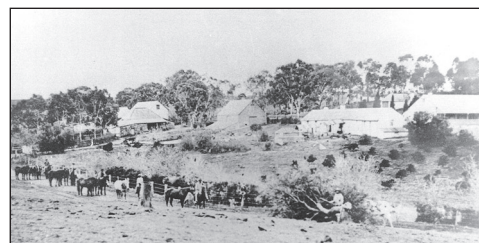


Figure 11.4

Lizard Lodge, 1865

SOURCE Mortlock Library O'Halloran Collection

Another illustration dated 1851 (unauthored) displays the same building named as Lizard Lodge along with four other buildings.

One of these buildings connects to Lizard Lodge at its southwest corner and as it does not appear in the ca. 1840s sketch (illustrated above the chapter title) must have been added some time before 1851. Two buildings again stand to the north east of Lizard Lodge thus presumably matching the two faintly sketched in by Frome ca. 1840s. One of these appears to be a carriage house, given its wide entrance, whilst the adjacent structure appears more likely as a tack room.

The fourth building appears to be a neat single entrance cottage, with two front windows and a steeply pitched roof. Possibly it is this cottage that housed the family between 11 January and 4 May 1839 whilst they awaited the completion of the larger Lizard Lodge. This cottage appears again in a later illustration dated to 1855 or 1858 and in a photograph dated 1865.

Interestingly this cottage with its steeply pitched roof conveys the styles reminiscent of Devon and Cornwall. The 1865 photograph suggests coarse rubble exterior walls which are also reminiscent of southern England's Cornish and Devon themes. This is not unlikely given the previous five years spent in Dawlish, East Devon, by the family. Cornish immigrants figured significantly in the establishment of South Australia as evidenced in the working of Cornish mines at Burra in the mid-north of the State, the Willunga slate quarries and the nearby Worthing Mine. Although yet to reach its peak, the potential industry was already attracting Cornish immigrants from 1839 onward. These workers were available for construction and general farm work.

The southern English influence can also be suggested by the very naming of Lizard Lodge. The name has been attributed equally to the O'Halloran coat of arms, said to portray a lizard (although as discussed previously in Walshe *et al.* (2005), the animal in the O'Halloran coat of arms more closely resembles a mongoose than a lizard) and to the name of a hotel located at a significant departure point for O'Halloran at some time in his military career. However, Dawlish is about 100kms north of Lizard Peninsula, famous for Lizard Point which is the most southerly part of England. Lizard Point is also renowned for the green granite exposed here along the coast, known as



Figure 11.5

Silver fork engraved with what appears to be a mongoose. This was found at the site of Lizard Lodge/Glenthorne House during the 1950s.

Photograph by Matt Schlitz.

SOURCE Mr and Mrs Ralph Jones

serpentine rock due to its reptilian patterning (Dawlish City Council 2005). Since the 1600s, the Lizard has been the recreation centre and sanatorium for city dwellers escaping the fetid airs of their more northern inland towns and villages. Troops stationed at Barracks in Devon continued the practice, well known for taking their recreation in Cornwall. Considering O'Halloran's connection to the area through his deceased first wife and living eldest daughter it is not unlikely that he took the name from this part of England for very personal reasons.

Lizard Lodge is reputed to have been constructed from two prefabricated Manning houses transported on the *Rajasthan*. These useful prefabricated homes were soon to be seen colourfully scattered around early Adelaide having been purchased by many families at their point of departure (Manning 2001). The sketches above certainly indicate two adjoining structures clearly resembling classic Manning houses. Lizard Lodge has a distinctive verandah railing around it and faces away from the other buildings and the creek. A similar railing fences off an orchard in front of the Lodge in the above drawings. These two features, the lodge and its attached garden are built on an embankment shown as being walled in fashion similar to the retaining wall in the early sketches. This terracing presumably served a dual purpose in providing a flat surface for the Manning house to be easily erected and limiting water run-off from the garden. The natural slope in this part of the property falls quite steeply into the narrow creek below and after clearing away the natural vegetation, water flow would have increased considerably thereby potentially carrying with it seeds and seedlings.

Interestingly in 1803, a Dawlish local resident named John Manning (not of the Manning house) carried out a series of trials involving constructing terraces on low-lying drained marshlands, to create gardens protected from flood waters (Dawlish 19th Century History, 2005). These proved unsuccessful against high water but eventually with a combination of weirs on the stream and terracing on its banks, success was found and former swamp land was used for gardening. It is possible that O'Halloran had noted the landscaping work around Dawlish and by constructing a level, terraced surface above the creek at O'Halloran Hill, the Manning house was easily erected with an enclosed, well drained garden. The raised and fenced garden at Lizard Lodge would also have prevented animals nibbling at the young trees, vegetables and other edible plants.

Lizard Lodge appears to have a single chimney and two weather vanes set at each end of the A-framed, corrugated iron roof. The 1855 sketch clearly shows the south-west vane in the 'EWSN' style. The Lodge has a central door along the front verandah and two windows either side of the door, although this sketch shows three one side and two the other!

The structure set slightly below the Lodge is presumably the servants' quarters with a covered walkway to the small feature in the centre of each of the three images above. This feature is most likely to be the water tank, which still exists. The 1855 sketch shows chickens roaming in front of the covered walkway suggesting a chicken coop somewhere nearby, but not visible. The circular, fenced area in the 1851 sketch could be the well, still found today in the creekline, or a small arena

190 Valleys of Stone

used to lunge horses.

The 'home acre' area was fenced in 1851 and by 1855/58 (the 1855 sketch) has obvious thick vegetation growing along the fence giving a hedgerow effect, with the front of the house facing the carriageway which left the South Road close to Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill. This sketch also indicates the extent of building works carried out over the previous four or seven years (this illustration shows a date of 1858 in the lower left hand corner, whilst the date in the centre of the lower margin is 1855, overwriting 1858).

A barn of classic bank vault style has been constructed, later to be known as 'Bob Inn'. According to the Verco family memoir, James and John Verco were paid £33 for building a barn at Lizard Lodge. Unfortunately the memoir does not record the year of construction. A building is visible behind the cottage in the 1855 and 1864 illustrations. Using photographs taken in the 1970s by former caretaker Ralph Jones, this building is seen to be the stables. Again it is uncertain if the Vercos constructed this building or 'Bob Inn'.

Fencing and established paths are clearly evident as well as orchards, chicken yards and coops. A dray visible in the 1865 illustration is possibly the same one visible with a horse attached to it in the 1855 illustration, both positioned in front of the cottage. In both illustrations the cottage appears to have a wide, open entrance on its eastern side suitable for drays to be housed or storing harvests. Prior to the barn being constructed sometime between 1851 and 1855 (or 1858), keeping wheat, hay and other produce dry and vermin free posed a problem, as noted by O'Halloran in 1845 (GRG56/79(RN)). In that year he employed ten men and one boy to harvest 190 acres of wheat by use of the 'Paddy Whack' harvester, being a larger variation of the Ridley Reaper (GRG56/79(RN); O'Halloran Family Papers, PRG2060). Prior to the construction of the barn he may have made use of the covered area attached to the little cottage in the lower left hand corner of the 1840s and 1851 sketches. O'Halloran also notes in 1845 that he provides the workers with 64 gallons of grape wine during their 39 days of employment. It is uncertain if the grape wine has been produced on his farm, or bought locally, but the twelve bullocks pulling the harvester are certainly his. By 1852 O'Halloran was exporting bottled wine to England so it is probable that he was able to supply his own needs in 1845.

O'Halloran extended his land purchase from the original two grants for sections 130 and 455 in several stages over a fourteen year period. His farming enterprises were various and seemingly all successful. Presumably he hired managers and a significant number of hands, during the years he



Figure 11.6
Glenthorne stables, 1970s

source Ralph Jones

was involved in expeditions to the south east of South Australia, the Murray or Port Lincoln.

These expeditions took him away for weeks or months at a time during the critical early years of Lizard Lodge. His resignation as Commissioner of Police in 1843, just four years after taking up the position, apparently arose as a personal protest against Governor Grey's proposed financial restructuring leaving the troops less resourced. But also by then, O'Halloran was in his 46th year and perhaps more enthused by farming than by leading expeditions. It would seem fairly evident that he had more than entertained the idea of a farming life when deciding to sell his commission in England and purchase land in a country that he had never seen.

He may have subsequently taken up the roles of Police Commissioner and Magistrate in order to secure an income whilst financing the establishment of Lizard Lodge rather than for career and status. According to a number of recollections from early pioneers, wheat for seed at 25 shillings a bushel was not only difficult to secure but prohibitively expensive for many (Magarey 2005). Also, there was the purchasing of livestock, building materials and equipment, none of which were readily available or competitively priced. Although O'Halloran arrived with the investment from his commission sale, his expenses included purchasing two Manning houses, transporting his family and the houses to the colony and then the cost of transporting family, houses and chattels to O'Halloran Hill, the hiring of laborers and the purchase of animals, fodder and seed. All of this would have been initially quite substantial – and perhaps a steady income appeared attractive despite any lack of enthusiasm he may have harbored towards the required duties. His journal of the expedition to investigate what later became well known as the 'Maria' incident leading to the conviction and hanging of two Milmenura men, portrays a very conflicted individual who by no means carries out his duties with any obvious triumph. Certainly Governor Gawler, in his letter to Major O'Halloran (14 August 1840) is very keen to demonstrate in this very first military expedition carried out in the colony, that justice will reign and settlers will be protected. O'Halloran's expedition journal reveals a man alternately reflecting on his eldest son's sixth birthday for which he is absent, ensuring to send money back to his wife, worrying over the safety of his men and worrying more that his interpreters are deceiving him. He himself had acted as an interpreter on many expeditions in India and no doubt understood the power dynamics behind such a task. By the time of his arrival in South Australia, O'Halloran had weathered many gory battles in India, survived a river crossing when all others in the same fleet had drowned, witnessed the death of his wife and first son, endured permanent separation from his surviving child and spent a total of some three years just on ocean voyages between India and England and England and Australia.

On this Maria expedition, as with following ones, he was under strict instructions from Governor Gawler (14 August 1840) to use 'no force unless really compelled to abandon temperate measures'. He is clearly anxious over the safety of his troops and the overlanders on this and a later expedition. He suffers the taunts of bogus interpreters and the Milmenura mocking him from a distance, knowing that he will not shoot. He finds the dismembered body of 'poor Martin',



Figure 11.7

Lizard Lodge, ca. 1880

SOURCE Mortlock Library, O'Halloran Collection

one of the dismembered overlanders and is overcome with horror. He commands his troops to burn all wurlies encountered, but to shoot at no-one. This man does not ride with certainty through the South Australian bush. He is fully aware that he and his troops may well be speared by the 'Big Murray Blacks, the Milmenura' accused of murdering and maiming both shipwreck survivors and overlanders. That he was tired of such a life and looked to an opportunity in a promising colony with a new family is probably an understatement. His expedition diaries and his own private journal, true to his generation, gender and background, record only the faintest of emotions during this time, belying the intensity of the situation. Gawler too, was not without personal grief during this time. His infant son Edward was born a few weeks after the Milmenura incident of September 1840 and died two months later when Gawler fell under question by the British establishment and the move was made to recall him. Baby Edward was buried in Hindmarsh Cemetery, and there left by his family when Gawler was recalled to England in 1841.

O'Halloran, like most men of his era and status, allowed only the vaguest notion of enthusiasm or emotion over personal events such as when turning toward home after a gruelling expedition, or the faint hint of pride when harvesting abundant yields and trialing new equipment. The speed with which O'Halloran became involved in public duties and charitable works after his resignation as Police Commissioner suggests he was ready to turn away from military life. He was quickly involved in founding a Female Refuge and Saint Peter's College and working voluntarily for the Agricultural and Horticultural Board, the District Council of Brighton, Saint Patrick's Society and the Church Building Society. In 1848 he donated a southern section of the Lizard Lodge estate for the building of Christ Church.

The illustration dated 1865 shows a neatly clustered farming establishment with all essential buildings and a modest homestead dwelling. The buildings included a double entrance barn to keep produce dry and with storage below, a carriage house and tack room and stables. The house comprises two adjoining buildings, one presumably for servants and the other for the family. The steep pitched cottage to the north west of Lizard Lodge (1865 illustration) was possibly for the farm manager's use and also to provide storage for produce and equipment. Wells have been sunk, orchards and vegetable gardens are planted out and a fine windbreak along the fences has grown up. The Great South Road coaches would certainly be able to stop in for repairs and respite. Travelers would apparently look out for the light on Lizard Lodge, hanging from the ornamental feature on top of the carriage house (Dolling 1981).

Although this photograph is rewarding in giving some insight to the placement of recognizable features it is not entirely enlightening about the layout or total number of built features. Only one other available photograph presents Lizard Lodge homestead after 1865, this is a photograph taken allegedly in 1880.

The roof of the house is by now collapsing in, the orchard is wildly overgrown and the fence posts are no longer upright. Two men stand outside the gate, one holding the reins of a horse and the other wearing a Magistrate's cloak. A woman stands on the front verandah, her hands resting on the railing. The photograph was dated to around 1880. By this time Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran had died, his widow Jane had returned to England, his daughter Frances and her husband were living in London, his sons had all moved from Lizard Lodge with their own families and careers and Lizard Lodge had been sold to Thomas Porter and his wife. In fact by 1880, the old house was no longer visible. In order to build the new residence in 1879, the far more stately house known as 'Glenthorne', the old homestead had either to be demolished or built over. The '1880' photograph must then date to sometime prior to 1879.

Despite the significant changes to the property since 1839, a number of features associated with the Lizard Lodge phase are still standing.



Figure 11.8
The Stone Barn, constructed between 1851 and 1858.

SOURCE HFZCHP 2004

Others are either dilapidated or were destroyed during construction works associated with later construction phases after 1879.

A heritage survey carried out in 1997 by Peter Bell identified a coach-house, underground water tank, cellar, a 'smokehouse' ruin and the site of the house and servants quarters as present and representative of the Lizard Lodge phase.

The feature identified as the coach-house, also known as 'Bob Inn' was described by Bell

(1997) as a classic English ‘bank barn’ design built of regular course stone with limestone mortar.

Interestingly a journalist for the *Observer* inspected a ‘primitive cellar’ on the property in 1907 and commented;

I went down to the old wine cellar built by this worthy pioneer (O’Halloran) and found marked in chalk vintages as far back as 1856... Major O’Halloran, chalk in hand, placed those hieroglyphics on the main support.

Observer 1907

This barn, now referred to as ‘Bob Inn’, is in the illustrations dated 1855 (or 1858) and 1865, and was, therefore, built sometime after 1851 and before 1858. The barn has deep ventilation slits on the east face. Bell (1997) refutes the comment by Dora Campbell in her recollections of residing at Glenthorne house during its era as a remount depot, that these slits are in fact for rifles to be discharged against any attackers. The slits have since been a point of controversy. Walshe *et al.* (2005) considered it highly unlikely that the ventilation slits, necessary to ensure good air flow would also have been designed for defensive purposes. It is apparent from the early sketches of Lizard Lodge that no attempt was made to fortify any of the buildings, including the cottage and homestead, against any possible attack, despite its vulnerability between 1839 and 1851. This time was the most critical between Indigenous people and settlers, as indicated in the journals of Tolmer (1972) and Hawker (1899) and the historical accounts by Blacket (1907).

The underground water tank has a corrugated iron roof, gables and ornamental barge boards.



Figure 11.9
Stone water tank

SOURCE HFZCHP 2004



Figure 11.10
Cellar entrance

SOURCE HFZCHP 2003



Figure 11.11
Stone ruin, now thought to be the coach-house, but previously described as a ‘smoke-house’.

SOURCE Keryn Walshe 2005

Although now largely underground, it is probable that most of the structure was originally above-ground and that surface soil deposits have obscured the lower portion of the walls over the past one hundred and fifty years.

It is probable that this stone water tank is the structure at the end of the covered walkway in the 1851 and 1855 illustrations. The architecture of the water tank also appears consistent with the Lizard Lodge construction phase.

The cellar was described by Bell (1997) as in poor condition with leaning walls, an olive tree crushing the roof and a warped and slumping wooden lintel. The cellar is a significant heritage building and is listed on the South Australian Heritage Register. It continues to undergo significant environmental deterioration, however, and the large olive tree recently caused the roof to collapse.

The cellar is built into an embankment and entered from the west side, with only the gable visible from the east. Its purpose and construction date remain inconclusive despite extensive archival research (Pidcock 2005). Interestingly, this feature is identical to a heritage listed dairy recorded in the Hallett district in the mid-north of South Australia (Danvers Architects 1996). The cellar has previously been associated with the Lizard Lodge phase (Bell 1997, Walshe *et al.* 2005) but this has not been confirmed and it is certainly absent from the earlier illustrations.

Bell's 'smoke house' is a long, narrow stone rubble building of two chambers without internal access. The front chamber measures approximately 10 m by 5 m whilst the smaller rear chamber measures only 1 m x 1 m. It gains its name from two red brick 'chimneys' placed on both gables of the small chamber. These are purely decorative, having no flues running through them and no fireplaces (Walshe *et al.* 2005). The smokehouse appears clearly in the 1851 illustration, recognizable by the two ornate roof features. An adjacent building stands on the southern side, differentiated by a narrower doorway. These two buildings are present in the 1858 illustration, but the structure on the southern side is obscured in the 1865 photograph. The 1880 photograph shows structures just visible amidst the trees beyond the gate and in alignment with the track to the north of Lizard Lodge. The structure on the east side of the track is most likely the southern building, adjacent to the coach-house. It is unclear when this building disappeared from the landscape, but its foundations were identified during the heritage survey of Glenthorne undertaken by the Hills Face Zone Cultural Heritage Project and the excavation of Glenthorne House in 2004 (Walshe *et al.* 2005). The 'smoke house' was re-interpreted as a carriage-house and tack room during this survey. The adjacent building was most likely for storing carriage equipment or as accommodation for the coachman.¹

O'Halloran successfully farmed wheat, oats, barley and peas. He also successfully adapted the new Ridley stripper for wheat harvesting (GRG56/79 (RN)). In 1844 he recorded in his journal 'flour mill used for the first time' but there is no evidence of a mill on the property and he may have been referring to a flour mill in the township of Noarlunga (Yelland 1983) some 15 kms south of Lizard Lodge. O'Halloran also planted a vineyard and by 1852 was sending bottles of wine to

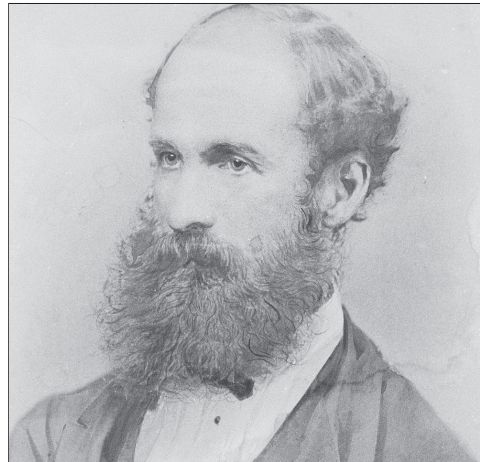


Figure 11.12

Portraits of Jane and Thomas Porter

SOURCE Mrs Jane Brummitt

England. A young olive tree plantation is visible in the 1865 photograph and archival records remark on fruit orchards in the garden below Lizard Lodge. O'Halloran was diverse in his approach and appears to have anticipated the soil quality, climate and topography. As suggested earlier in this chapter, O'Halloran brought with him a coterie of influences from India and Britain but just how these influences expressed themselves against one another and on the new land is yet to be fully explored.

All other buildings associated with the Lizard Lodge phase at Glenthorne were eventually demolished and removed prior to 1997. Available photographs, illustrations, oral histories and archival documentation presented by Walshe *et al.* (2005) are tantalizing but insufficient to confirm the position, arrangement and function of all of the early buildings. The use of an embankment or terrace to erect Lizard Lodge and its orchard is particularly interesting but the source of inspiration

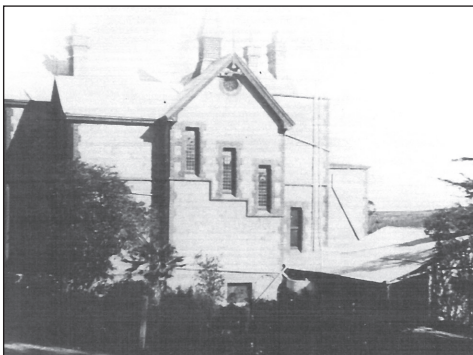


Figure 11.13

Glenthorne House, 1919

SOURCE State Library of South Australia B1445,
O'Halloran collection

is unclear. The excavation in 2004 (Walshe *et al.* 2005) succeeded in identifying very early stone foundations in two areas amidst the original establishment. Further excavation may well reveal more conclusive evidence about this particularly special place and phase. Certainly no other property within close proximity to the Adelaide CBD retains such a high degree of historic context and offers such potential for the interpretation of an early colonial agricultural enterprise.

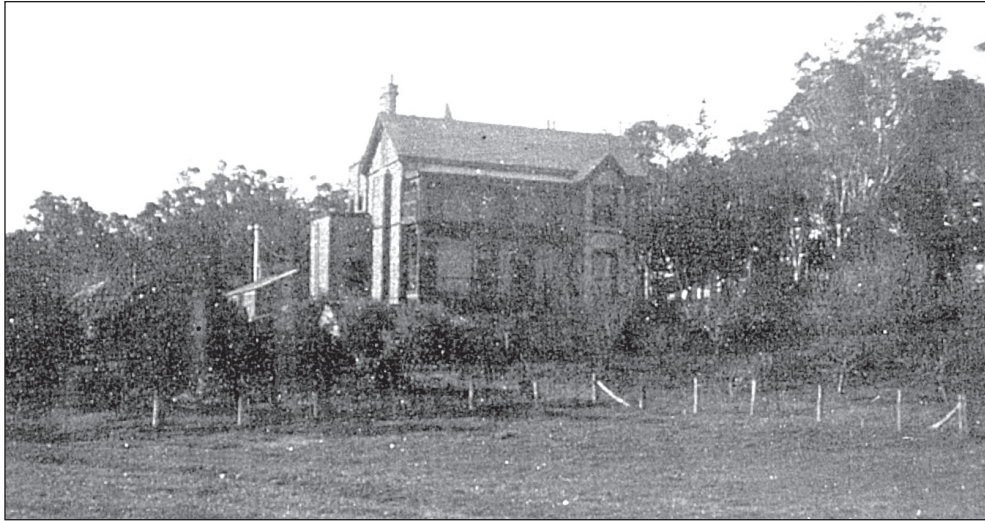


Figure 11.14

Glenthorne House viewed from the southwest.

SOURCE State Library of South Australia, O'Halloran collection, 1919

Glenthorne Estate

Following Major O'Halloran's death in 1870, Lizard Lodge passed to his eldest son Joseph who retained ownership for the next eight years. No substantial changes were made to the landscape during this time and it appears to have continued as a working farm, probably managed by an overseer. In 1878 Joseph O'Halloran sold the property to Thomas Saunders Porter (Dolling 1981) who, amongst other achievements is remembered for donating a Burne Jones stained glass memorial window to Christ Church. In 1879 Porter changed the entire property's name to 'Glenthorne' and built Glenthorne House. As noted in Walshe *et al.* (2005) this remarkable building, so unlike the earlier Lizard Lodge, was possibly inspired by Glenthorne House in Devonshire, England, which the Porters visited prior to 1878 (pers. com. J. Brummitt).

Glenthorne was designed by the architect Thomas English and is most remembered for the interior woodwork of cedar (Dolling 1981). It was built on three levels with two levels as living areas with an upper external balcony offering views to the Gulf, whilst the lowest level provided laundry and storage facilities. The house rarely failed to impress visitors with its grandness, exemplified in the use of coloured glass, polished wood interior and decorative external features. The front doors were 'handsome' glass ones opening onto a large hall from which the dining and drawing rooms were accessed as well as a small sitting room (Dolling 1981). Mrs Dora Campbell, wife of Captain Norman Campbell (officer in residence after 1913) recalls in her memoirs (Campbell n.d) two staircases, one leading from the kitchen and one from the entrance lit by stained glass windows. Meals were cooked in a wood stove and sent to the floor above via a 'dumb waiter' system operating through the pantry (Friends of Glenthorne 2000).

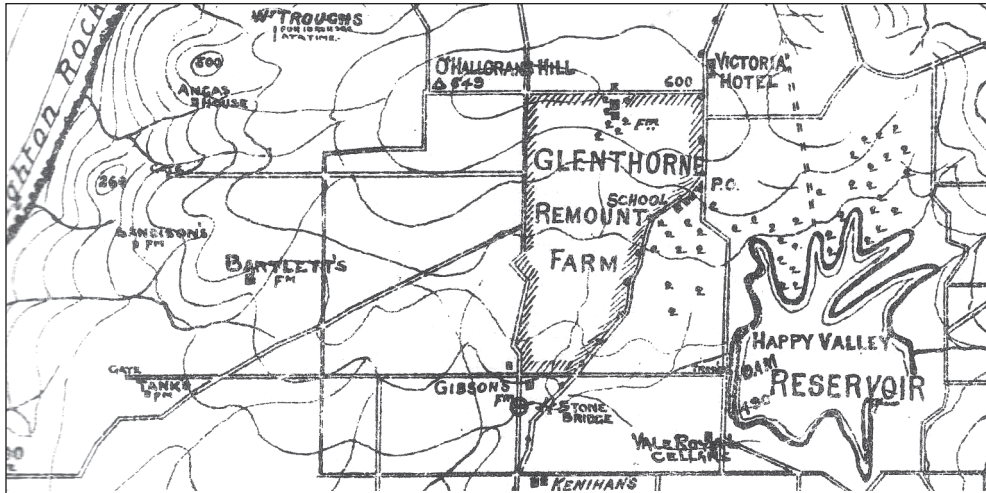


Figure 11.15

Army Map dated 1910 identifying the 64 acres purchased by the Australian Army in 1913 and adjacent Sections. Cartographer: Major Smeaton 1910.

source National Archives Series A877

Photographs available from this era show the house only, giving no sense of any alterations to the other existing buildings or surrounding land.

The excavation at Glenthorne in 2004 (Walshe *et al.* 2005) revealed the position of the house and by comparing the illustrations of Lizard Lodge, above, it became apparent that Glenthorne House was built on the site of the original Lizard Lodge. The excavation also revealed stone foundations on the north side of Glenthorne House and these were interpreted as being the servants' quarters behind Lizard Lodge (*ibid.*). The south face of Glenthorne house is illustrated in *Figure 11.13*. This photograph also shows a single storey structure on its northern side, with an electric light pole. The footings of this structure and the electric light pole were identified during the 2004 excavation of Glenthorne House.

It was thought that this structure may have been one of the original Manning houses imported by O'Halloran and erected on the property as servants' quarters adjacent to Lizard Lodge. It is thought that the stone footings were a part of a stone external wall similar to that described above in the description of Lizard Lodge (*ibid.*). The pitch of its roof indicates that it was aligned north-south and is the servants quarters illustrated in the pictures of Lizard Lodge. Glenthorne House, therefore, appears to have been built over the site of Lizard Lodge and the servants' quarters.

After Porter's death in 1890, his wife Jane remained in the residence until her death in 1901. Glenthorne then passed to her sons, Walter Hedley Rhead Porter and Ernest Saunders Porter. The sons held the property for less than two years and in 1903 sold it to George Brookman. Farming operations are unknown for the period from 1879 to 1903, but after 1903, George Brookman's son Norman took up stud breeding at Glenthorne, specializing in Dorset Horn sheep and Suffolk Punch

horses. Presumably such an enterprise would have required alterations and/or additions to the existing stables and yards.

In 1910 Glenthorne was sold by the Brookmans to Harold Drew, about whom very little of relevance is known. After a brief tenure of three years Glenthorne was compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth of Australia.

There is, however, evidence that the Australian Army had an interest in the property from the date that it was purchased by Drew and it is probable that it was leased by them from that date. A map prepared by Major Smeaton dated 1910, clearly describes Glenthorne as the Glenthorne Remount Farm.

1910 was also the year when Lord Kitchener visited Australia and it is likely that the artillery used in the military demonstration during Kitchener's visit came from the Glenthorne Remount Farm (refer to the chapter *What Lord Kitchener and the crew of the Coromandel saw: Reconstructing historic landscapes using GIS*, this volume).

The presence of the Australian Army at Glenthorne during Drew's ownership is supported by a government valuation which catalogued the property's infrastructure. In 1909 (not 1913) the Government Valuer catalogued seventeen paddocks watered from three wells; two dams pumped by windmills; stands of valuable timber; a garden and plantation; four cottages; a wine cellar; blacksmiths and carpenters shops; coach and motor house; a woolshed powered by an 8 hp Tangye oil engine; stables; horse yards; stock yards; stallion boxes; pig sties; drafting yards; extensive fowl yards and a sheep dip (Australian Heritage Database 2004). Glenthorne House itself was merely described by the Government Valuer as containing '13 rooms with electric light'. Presumably, in the absence of an incumbent owner or manager, the house had been slowly falling into disrepair over several years.

No. 9 Remount Depot, Glenthorne

On 27 February 1913 the Commonwealth of Australia compulsorily acquired 64 acres of Glenthorne from Harold Drew under the Lands Acquisition Act 1909 for use as a No.9 Remount Depot (*Commonwealth Gazette* no.15, 1 March 1913). The Commonwealth valued the property at £14,180, with the Estate comprising of

... the 13 roomed house, 17 paddocks, three wells and two dams, with water pumped by windmills into elevated tanks and then fed by a network of pipes to the homestead and the paddocks.

National Archive of Australia, file A877

The cavalry fought on horseback whilst the Light Horse brigade was a mounted infantry who travelled on horseback but fought on foot. Other horses were used for transporting military supplies. Glenthorne became one of a chain of properties acquired for the purpose of breeding horses and in 1913 became the No. 9 Remount Depot. The army needs led to additional structures such as barracks, officers' quarters and a shop and alterations to existing buildings, resulting in the most widespread change since 1865. Officer Commanding Captain Norman Campbell and his wife

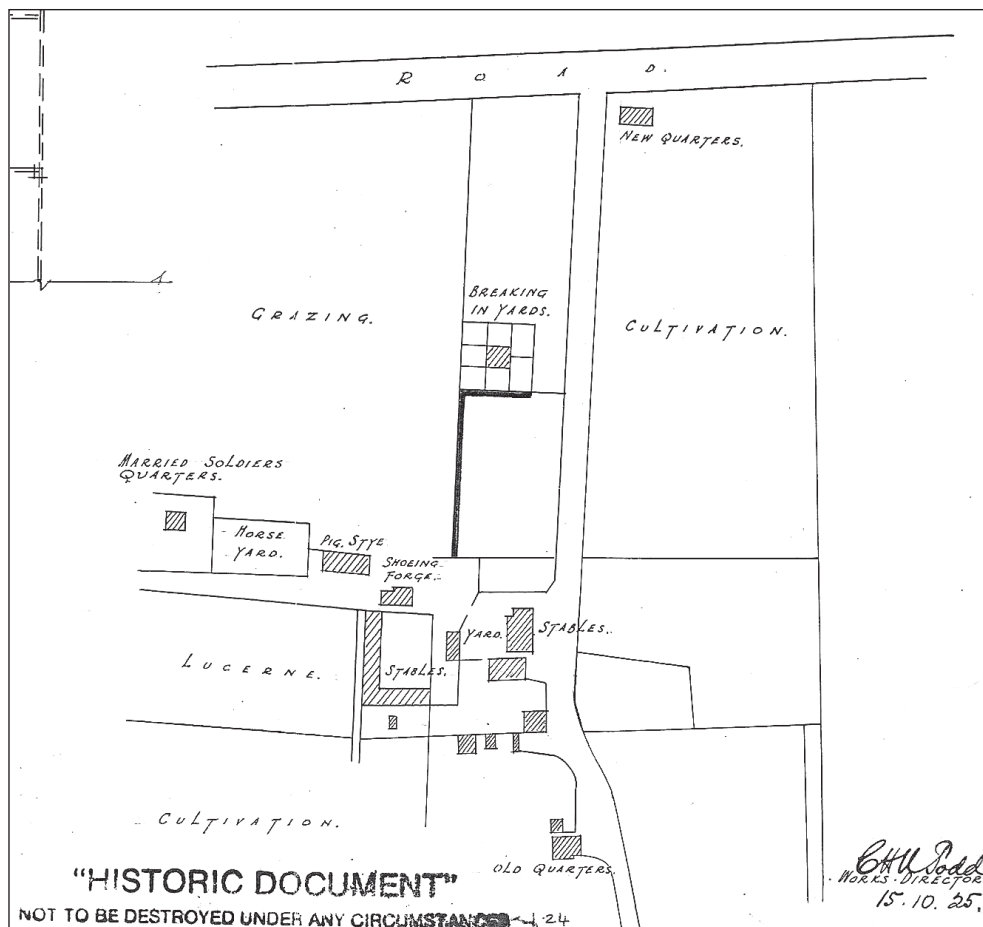


Figure 11.16

Glenthorne Military Plan, 1913, showing the 'Old Quarters' (Glenthorne House).

SOURCE Army Surveyors, Australian Army. Now National Archives of Australia, file 877

moved into Glenthorne House in 1913 and lived there until 1925. Various quarters were built for the military personnel as well as other structures reflecting the new purpose.

Advantage was taken of the open space of the property and munition stores were built on the south-west ridge of the property. These buildings remain today.

Whilst in charge, military survey teams produced a plan of the Remount Depot, identifying the position of 'Old Quarters', which is presumed to be the term for Glenthorne House. The Army surveyors were noted for their thoroughness, and when this plan was reused to identify the location of Glenthorne House ('Old Quarters') by the excavation team, the measurements were found to be exact (Walshe *et al.* 2005).

In 1924 Albert W. Pedler, a member of the 48th Battery (18 pounders) – a local militia force – was billeted with his unit in 'the magnificent old three storied house called Glenthorne'. They took

over the 'cavernous' ground floor for their mess and kitchen and were allowed to choose their sleeping spots and, reflecting the luxury of the house:

... two lucky lads were able to bunk down in the enormous drawers of the built in cedar furniture.

Pedler n.d.

Pedler spent the night on the balcony. He noted that there were several cottages scattered around the old house and that these were occupied by members of the permanent forces.

According to Pedler's diaries, he returned to Glenthorne in 1927, but this time they stayed in tents as the 'lovely old house' had burnt down. In fact, a fire did destroy the house, but not until 1932, although it is possible that there were two fires. Glenthorne House was gutted during the early hours of 20 August 1932, leaving only the walls. A newspaper report described the charred remains witnessed in the morning of 20 August 1932, but there appears to have been little regret felt by the officers who had long considered the building in need of extensive maintenance (*Advertiser*, 22 August 1932). According to news reports at the time, Glenthorne had been condemned for human habitation just a few years earlier. The remains and scattered debris are reported to have been razed in efficient military manner by the Army Engineers using explosives and earth moving equipment (pers. com. Mrs Sincock²). Unfortunately for later research, the army avoided photographing the buildings and documenting the land. Dora Campbell's journal and other oral histories offer the few, scant records of this era (Walshe *et al.* 2005).

Horses were no longer used for warfare by World War II and the remaining horses were relocated to the Army Depot at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills (Friends of Glenthorne 2000). Mules were trained at the No.9 Remount Depot and sent to Papua New Guinea during World War II and in 1946, at the end of the war, the depot was closed. On 2 April 1947 the former depot was transferred to the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the forerunner to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Under CSIRO administration, Glenthorne became known as Glenthorne Field Station.

CSIRO Glenthorne Field Station

The CSIRO Division of Biochemistry and General Nutrition carried out various long term research projects at the Field Station, focusing particularly on animal and human diet and nutrition and new farming methods aimed at minimizing environmental impact (pers. com. Dr Richard Smith, retired CSIRO Chief Research Scientist, 2004). The property became a working model for land management techniques, including innovative contour ploughing (Australian Heritage Database 2004). This was perhaps the busiest building phase for Glenthorne. Many of the existing structures were demolished and replaced with purpose-built buildings. These included sheep pens; additional stables; laboratories; storage sheds and an 'animal house' to house the monkeys and marmosets used in some experiments. Building also required a number of the early buildings to go, such as the stables, described above, which were demolished in the 1970s.

Ralph Jones was employed as the farm manager and caretaker from 1947 to 1980. He and

his family lived on site in a modern brick house built on the eastern ridge, south of the complex. During their time at Glenthorne Field Station Mr and Mrs Jones occasionally found discarded items representative of the earlier historic phases such as an engraved fork (illustrated) and 'chalice' (Walshe *et al.* 2005). They also retrieved slabs of slate from the area of the Glenthorne House site for recycling into the front steps of their own, modern 1950s house. Ralph also collected numerous used bricks which became a pathway around the side of his family house.

The buildings constructed during this time still stand today with the sheds and yards in use but the Administrative buildings and some houses stand idle. CSIRO dispensed with the Glenthorne Field Station in 1997, passing ownership and management to the University of Adelaide. Since 1997, the University of Adelaide has continued management of the property as a working sheep farm.

Current heritage status

Glenthorne is listed on the Australian Places Heritage Inventory (ID 103800) in recognition of its place as a colonial archaeological landscape of significance. This site is a unique feature in the Adelaide region and provides a magnificent opportunity to present to the public a complex part of settler history. As stated by Walshe *et al.* (2005) it is however, under threat from ongoing environmental deterioration and the lack of effective and consistent conservation and management. The site was excavated in 2004 as a key component of the HFZCHP and ideally the site will undergo further excavation to identify the precise whereabouts of Lizard Lodge, the foundations of the building adjacent to the carriage house, and determine the era of the water tank and dairy. Ideally further archival and other investigations will fill in the all too apparent gap in our knowledge of the post Lizard Lodge phases.

This portion of land along the Field River has been dramatically altered over the last 165 years, in similar fashion to many other land purchases made around Adelaide during the 1800s. The key difference however between other historic places and Glenthorne is that there does remain an opportunity at Glenthorne to inquire into the very beginnings of settler history and its complex interplay of influences. And how much more interesting given its association with such a public and occasionally controversial figure as Major Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran?

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NOTES

- 1 It was not uncommon for the coachman to be accommodated adjacent to the coach house. See the interpretation of the Claremont House ruin in Smith *et al.* 2004:28.
- 2 Mrs Sincock lived at Glenthorne as a child and recalled the night of the fire and subsequent events in an interview for the Hills Face Zone Cultural Heritage Project.

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