

COLLIERS HOMESTEAD RUINS AND ORCHARD

During the late 1800s five settler families lived in Burbong, close to this section of the Molonglo River. They were those of William Collier, John Edmonds, William Cooper, Luke Colverwell Jnr and John Coppin. The home of the Colliers/Edmonds was of stone while the others were made of timber. Two of the timber homes had stone fireplaces.

Colliers Homestead

Built for George Campbell of Duntroon in 1880, Colliers Homestead was a substantial, high quality building with nothing rivaling its quality in the area. It was probably built by stone masons from Pialligo and took its name from the family that first lived there—William and Bridget Collier.

It has six rooms, two fireplaces and an entrance hall. One of the four small bedrooms has no internal access—it was a guest room. Originally, the homestead had two verandahs on the eastern and western sides, a separate iron kitchen to the north and a baker's oven on the outside north-east corner.

The Collier and Edmonds families

William and Bridget Collier lived in the homestead with their 11 children—nine girls and two boys.

The Collier family's period of residence is unclear but it was probably from 1880 to 1888 or 1889.

John Edmonds, his wife Jemima Catherine and their son John James Edmonds lived in the homestead from around 1889 or 1890 until sometime in the late 1890s.



Jemima Catherine Edmonds (wife of John Edmonds and mother of John James Edmonds).

In 1897, John James Edmonds moved to Glenburn Homestead when he married. His parents subsequently moved there too.

The basis of the Edmonds' occupancy is also not known. They probably worked for the Campbells, ran some sheep and worked as itinerant workers including as shearers.

In January 1895, a bachelors' ball was held at the homestead with people coming from Queanbeyan and Bungendore. Around 15 couples took to the floor, dancing to violin music from 9 o'clock till 4 o'clock the next day with only an interruption for an excellent supper provided by Jemima Edmonds.

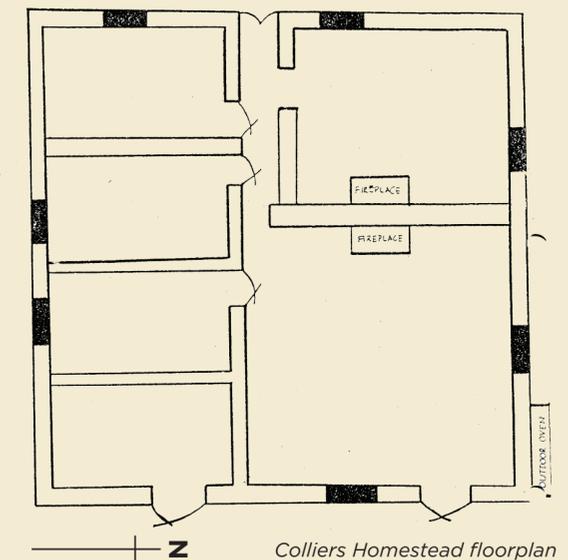
Colliers orchard

A substantial orchard was planted to the east of the homestead, probably in the 1880s. Today there is a large pear tree, two apple trees, two copses of quinces and several plums including suckers. The quince trees still bear fruit.

Please respect this site. It is an important part of the early European history of the area and is significant to many ACT and interstate families.

Protection and conservation

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service, with the assistance of The National Parks Association of the ACT and the Friends of Glenburn, has commenced protection and conservation work on the homestead and its surrounds.



Colliers Homestead floorplan



Colliers ruin, June 2006