

GLENBURN HOMESTEAD

During the latter part of the 1800s, Glenburn was a thriving small early European rural community. Today Glenburn Homestead is the only remaining dwelling in the area surrounding Glen Burn Creek.

A thriving community

The area was first settled by Europeans in 1831—Luke and Mary Colverwell were the first settlers. Later came the families of Alexander ‘Sandy’ McDonald, John McInnes, Stephen McNurney, Thomas Harman, George Horrocks, Richard Vest and John Gallagher.

Shearing days

The shearing shed complex on the eastern side of Glen Burn Creek is the oldest operating shearing shed in the ACT. The central section was built by John McInnes in the 1860s and was used by the Glenburn and other nearby communities.

School's in!

Between 1882 and 1906, the Kowen Provisional/Public School operated in a slab hut some 200 metres to the west of where Glenburn Homestead was subsequently built. The first teacher was Isabella O'Neill who initially boarded with the Harmans (who lived less than

500 metres to the north). The school opened with about 20 children including several from nearby Burbong and Kowen.

The Edmonds family and Glenburn Homestead

John James Edmonds married Agnes May Worthington in 1897 and they made their home at Glenburn in a two room slab hut which John James Edmonds built that year. As the family grew with the arrival of several children and John James' parents, additions were made to the slab hut and, around 1900, the separate pise (rammed earth) hut was built. The two huts became known as Glenburn Homestead. The two Edmonds' families, including five children, lived at Glenburn Homestead until they moved to Glencoe, near Glen Innes in northern NSW, in 1906. Because of its close proximity to the school, the homestead was a focal point for social functions in the community including dances. The Edmonds' farewell party was held there and attended by a large number of friends.

The homestead buildings

The original slab hut had two rooms, one with a brick fireplace on the southern end. The slabs are vertical, tapered at each end and fitted, top and bottom, into grooved supporting plates to form the walls. All were hand cut by axe and adze.

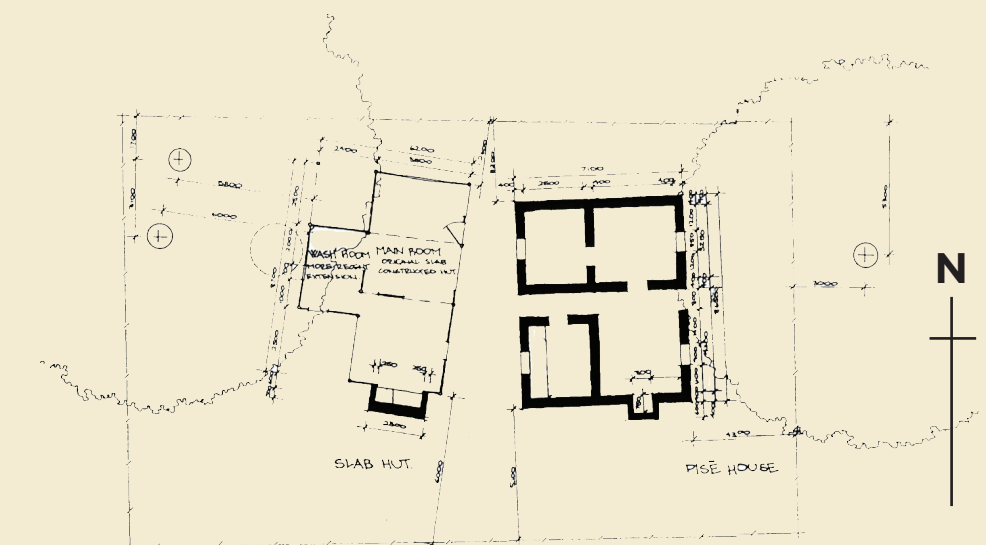
The pise hut has four rooms, one with a brick fire place on the southern end, and a central entrance hall. It was probably built by Gilbert McInnes. It also had a verandah on the eastern side but nothing remains. The combination of a slab hut and a pise hut is most unusual. Both huts were originally connected by a covered walkway and there were separate stables. Nothing of these remains today.

A community no more

By the time the Edmonds left Glenburn, the combination of generally small holdings, drought, land unsuitable for cropping and rabbits had taken their toll. Most families had already gone. Glenburn was a community no more.

Protection and conservation

Since 1978, various restoration projects have taken place. 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.



Agnes May, Margaret Jemima Wilson and John James Edmonds at Glenburn, 1947.



John James Edmonds and wife Agnes May 1900
Agnes wearing 1897 wedding dress