

THE GLENBURN HAY/MACHINERY SHED

RUINS & YARDS

In 1891, John James Edmonds purchased the property on which the shed and yards were built. However, he did not live here until he built the nearby Glenburn slab home in 1897 for him and his wife, Agnes May. He probably built the shed and yards in the late 1890s or early 1900s before the family moved to Glencoe in northern NSW in 1906.

Substantial structures

The shed and yards were substantial structures. The shed was of slab construction with an iron roof. The central part of the shed consisted of five paired sets of standing posts and was 16.5 metres by 3.7 metres. The yards were about 20 metres by 9 metres.

Just before John James Edmonds' extensive holdings in the area were resumed by the Commonwealth in 1915 to form part of the Federal Capital Territory, the shed was valued at 40 pounds (\$80), 10 pounds (\$20) more than the Glenburn slab home, which was described as a 'kitchen' at the time.



John James Edmonds standing in front of Glenburn Hay/Machinery Shed and Yards, 1947. Photo: Arthur Wilson

The deterioration of the shed and yards

The shed and yards have deteriorated over the years probably because the McInnes family, which took over the property from the Edmonds, no longer needed them. They may have used nearby facilities at Glen Burn Creek and the Glenburn Shearing Shed instead.

As seen in the photo, by 1947 the central roof beams of the shed had sagged and there was no iron on the roof. By 1971, none of the original shed roof remained and some of the wall slabs had disappeared and been replaced with other material. Not much of the yards remained. A ship's tank lay at one end. It is not known what happened to the dray (cart). Perhaps the metal rims in the slab home of Glenburn Homestead and the timber and metal remains inside the north-east corner of the surrounding post and rail fence may have come from it.



Glenburn Hay/Machinery Shed and Yards, 1971. Photo: David Reid, National Library of Australia



Remains of the Glenburn Hay/Machinery Shed and Yards, 2007. Photo: Max Lawrence

By the early 2000s almost nothing remained from the shed except some cut-off posts and a few rafters and rails lying on the ground. All that was left of the yards was a couple of standing posts, another on the ground and one embedded in the trunk of the dying pine tree that was cut down in 2008 (seen in the southern side of the pine stump). Sundry metal items remain on site including the ship's tank.

Protection and conservation

Ongoing weed control and mowing at this site will help protect what remains of the shed and yards. Remaining artefacts will be left as they are.



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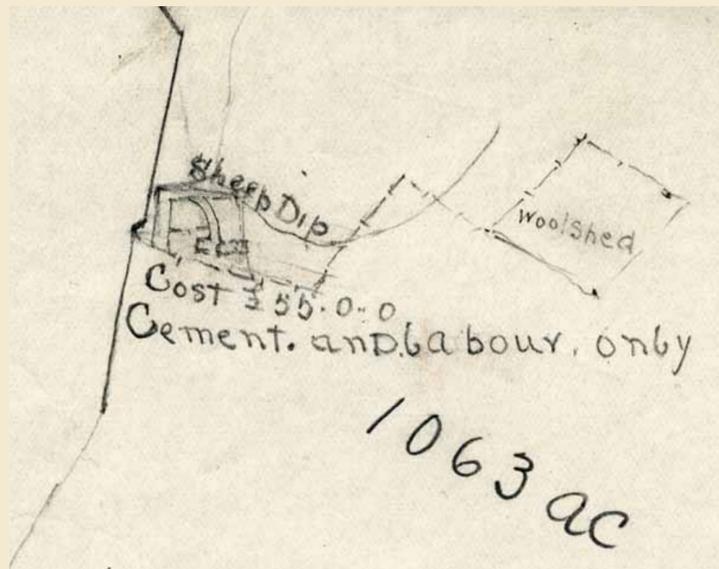
THE GLENBURN SHEEP DIP AND YARDS

From time to time, sheep need to be immersed or dipped in a chemical solution or otherwise treated with chemicals to control external parasites, particularly lice.

A 1915 survey map shows a sheep dip and yards at this location. They could have been built by John James Edmonds who purchased the land in 1891, or the McInnes family which leased the land after the Edmonds family left the area from 1906.

The present dip and yards

The remains of the present dip and yards date back to 1940 when Robert McInnes replaced the older facilities. His sketch plan of the dip indicated an estimated cost of 50 pounds (\$100) for cement and labor, a substantial amount back then.



Sketch plan of the sheep dip by Robert McInnes, 1940. ACT Archives

It is believed the dip was dug by George Gibbins and his wife who lived in Glenburn Homestead about 250 metres to the north-east of the dip during the 1940s while working for the McInnes family.

The ramp into the dip and the dip itself are made from stone and concrete. The dip is capped with brick.

Water for the dip would have been pumped from the nearby Glen Burn Creek or its tributary.

The post and rail yards would have been built from local timber. The two main components of the yards were a holding yard for the sheep before they were driven into the dip and a paved drainage yard at the top end of the straight section from where excess chemical solution ran back into the dip. This was done to save on chemicals.

An unusual dip design

Most dips have a straight run, but this dip is significant because it is curved at the lower end.

The curve could have been a clever design to help move sheep through the dip. The curve would have hidden the extent of the swim that lay ahead for the sheep. Another possible reason for the curve is that Robert McInnes knew that solid rock lay under the lower site of the dip.

Deteriorating dip

The facilities here, which have not been used for many years, and therefore not been maintained, have deteriorated. The dip and yards at the Glenburn Shearing Shed would have been much more convenient to use, particularly during the wool boom in the 1950s when large numbers of sheep passed through the shed.

Protection and conservation

The dip and yards will continue to degrade over time. However, control of weeds and grass will help to slow further deterioration.



The curved end of the dip, 2006. Photo: Max Lawrence



The holding yard with the dip in the background, 2006. Photo: Len Haskew.



The drainage yard above the top end of the dip, 2006. Photo: Max Lawrence

