

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	HERITAGE SURVEY ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET	Region 12 Eyre Peninsula
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ITEM NO.: CLE:037 Type of Item: 1004 Date: 1913

ITEM NAME: Homestead, "Sims Farm"

Former or Other Names: Dingle Dell

LOCATION	PERIOD: 1881 - 1914	CONDITION: Good
L.G.A.: Cleve		Town: near Cleve
No:		Street: off Cleve - Cowell Road
Section: 44		C/T No.: 4237-219,-220,-221,-222
County: Jervois		C/L 390-55
A.M.G. Ref. Z: 53	N: 6269400 E: 642150	Hundred: Mann

Architect: Builder:

CURRENT STATUS: State Heritage List: S.H.P. Region: 12
 National Estate:
 National Trust:

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Recommendation: State

Description:

Random coursed stonework house with rusticated quoins. Hipped gable ended corrugated galvanised iron roof with bargeboards, finials and half timbering. Brick chimneys. Bullnosed return verandahs with turned timber posts and timber brackets. Double hung sash windows.

Historical Summary:

Before the homestead of 1913 was built, the Sims, who took up the land in 1884, built their first home of pug and pine. In the 1940s the property was sold to nephew Gordon Sims who bequested it to the Department of Agriculture in 1960.

Significance:

Because it is used as a rural education centre for the region's youth, it is viewed as a vital facility.

REFERENCES

Written: 'Cleve on the Yadrarie Plains', ed. L. Spriggs and E. Wauchope, pp. 37-38, 232
 'Eyre Peninsula Tribune', 22.1.1931

Verbal: Ralph Hannemann, Tape 31A
 Wally Elson

PHOTOGRAPHS

B & W No.: 22/2

Slide No.: 22/2

Archival:

DANYERS ARCHITECTS
 1985



TO: SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE

FROM: MANAGER, STATE HERITAGE BRANCH

SUBJECT: HOMESTEAD, SIMS FARM (FORMERLY 'DINGLE DELL'),
CLEVE AREA SCHOOL, CLEVE - HERITAGE LISTING

DATE: 11 DECEMBER 1990

The Heritage Survey of the Eyre Peninsula and Far West Coast, conducted by Danvers Architects and completed in 1987, recommended the Sims Farm (formerly 'Dingle Dell'), near Cleve for the Register of State Heritage Items. The State Heritage Branch in assessing the Eyre Peninsula Heritage Survey in 1989 did not support that recommendation, as the heritage survey did not supply sufficient evidence for the placement of Sims Farm on the Register. The Sub-Committee of the South Australian Heritage Committee agreed with the Branch's recommendation to downgrade the property's heritage significance, which was supported by the full Committee at its meeting held on 19 August 1990.

Following a request by the Cleve Area School in August 1990 to assess Sims Farm for the Register of State Heritage Items, the State Heritage Branch agreed to reassess the heritage significance of the property and make a recommendation to the South Australian Heritage Committee. The Cleve Area School who own Sims Farm, through the Minister of Education, run the property for a two year secondary level vocational course in practical agriculture.

Historical Background:

Section 44, Hundred of Mann was granted to Thomas Sims the Younger, a contractor, in June 1911. Following his death in January 1931 the property passed to his son, Clarence Lincoln Gordon Sims in August 1932. Upon Gordon Sims' death in August 1960, he bequeathed 'Dingle Dell' to be used for purposes of agricultural education and the executors of his will transferred Sims Farm to the Minister of Agriculture in June 1962. The property was then taken over by the Minister of Education in August 1984.

Thomas Sims was born in 1853 and came to the West Coast of South Australia with his parents, Thomas and Jane Sims, in 1854. Thomas Sims (Senior) had intended to return to England, but following the desertion of sailors from the ship in which his family was sailing, the family settled on the Eyre Peninsula. Thomas was then employed on Lake Hamilton Station and after seven years the Sims family returned to Port Lincoln in 1861. Thomas Sims (Junior) was first employed with a Mr Thorpe on a farm near Tumby Bay and during the next few years he undertook a variety of

jobs, including working for Robert Cook, a meat contractor and butcher; the Railways Department; as a sailor on ketches around the two Gulfs and as an oyster catcher in Proper and Coffin Bays. Sims then worked as a contractor, involving fencing and taking bullock teams to Streaky Bay and Franklin Harbour (Cowell).

Arriving in the Cleve district in 1876, Thomas Sims carted copper ore from the local mine to Arno Bay. Soon after the mine's closure in 1880, Thomas Sims and James Melrose were contracted to clear of 800 acres of scrub and crop it over the next three years. Thomas married Amy Gates, of Port Lincoln in 1880 and they first lived in a pub and pine cottage on Mr. K B McDonald's property on Windittie Creek, before acquiring 'Dingle Dell' in 1911. The 'Dingle Dell' property had the first 32 volt automatic electric light plant, which was activated by switching on lights in either the house or sheds, and an early wireless receiver.

Thomas Sims was a member of the Franklin Harbour District Council for eighteen years (1893-1911) and its Chairman from 1908 to 1909. Upon the formation of the District Council of Cleve in 1911, Thomas Sims became its first Chairman and remained in that position until 1913. In addition he served on the Franklin Harbour Vermin Board from 1906 until his death in 1931 (Chairman - 1912-1931). Thomas Sims was involved in building both Cleve's Methodist and Anglican churches, he laid the foundation stone of the Cleve Institute and advocated the erection of the town's 1914-1919 War Soldiers' memorial.

Clarence Lincoln Gordon Sims, the son of Thomas and Amy Sims, was born in 1892. Gordon Sims, together with his four brothers (Dave, John, William and Herbert) and his three sisters (Pearl, Florence and Audrey), attended the nearby Cleve school, which was held in the local Methodist church. Upon taking over 'Dingle Dell' after his father's death in 1931, Gordon ran successful Southdown and Dorest Sheep studs on the property. With his sister Audrey, he became well known throughout the State as an excellent breeder of fat lambs, winning numerous Eyre Peninsula and State competitions and received national and international awards.

After Gordon Sims' death in 1960, Audrey continued living at 'Dingle Dell' until her death in 1974, though Gordon had bequeathed the property to the Minister of Agriculture for educational purposes. The 'Sims Bequest Farm', now operated by the Cleve Area School, provides practical training in a wide variety of agricultural and livestock practices and enables secondary school students in a rural area to have access to knowledge and techniques of primary production.

Architectural Description:

The Federation-style homestead was built in 1913 and is constructed of the following materials:

- Walls:** Random coursed stonework with rusticated quoins.
- Roof:** Hipped and gable ended corrugated iron roof with painted timber bargeboards and finials and half timbering to gable ends.
- Verandah:** Corrugated galvanised iron bullnosed return verandah with turned timber posts and timber brackets.
- Windows:** Double hung sash timber-framed windows.
- Chimneys:** Brick.

Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Sims Farm near Cleve, was established in 1911 by Thomas Sims the Younger and continued to be operated by son, Gordon as a highly regarded sheep stud until 1962, when Gordon bequeathed the property to the Minister of Agriculture to be used for educational purposes. The homestead and property were owned by notable residents of the Cleve area (Thomas and Gordon Sims) who played a leading role in the municipal and agricultural development of the district.

Circumstances:

The Cleve Area School, who are responsible for running Sims Farm as an educational institution, nominated the homestead for inclusion on the Register of State Heritage Items in August 1990. This nomination is strongly supported by the residents of the Cleve district, with various community groups (Apex, Lions) being involved in the maintenance of the homestead at Sims Farm.

STATE HERITAGE BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

The State Heritage Branch considers the Homestead, Sims Farm (formerly 'Dingle Dell'), near Cleve to be an important cultural heritage item. It is a tangible reminder of the agricultural development in the Cleve area and the role played by Thomas Sims in municipal affairs in the district. Together with support of the owner of the property (Minister of Education, through the Cleve Area School) and the local community, the Branch recommends the item be placed on the Register of State Heritage Items.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Conlon', is written over the printed name.

David Conlon

Manager

STATE HERITAGE BRANCH

SITE RECORD

Item No.: 6130-1439

Sims Farm (former 'Dingle Dell')
Cleve Area School
Cleve-Cowell Road
CLEVE

Location: Cleve-Cowell Road, Cleve

AMG Reference: 6269400 N
642150 E
[1:50,000 Map - Sheet No. 6130 (Verran)]

Description: Former homestead

Boundary: Cowell-Cleve Road; Section 120, Hundred of Mann; Section 45, Hundred of Mann and Part Section 44, Hundred of Mann

Land Description: Part Section 44, Hundred of Mann
Certificate of Title Vol. 4237, Fol. 219

L.G.A.: District Council of Cleve

Other Assessments: Heritage Survey of the Eyre Peninsula and Far West Coast (1987)
(Item No.: CLE:037)

Heritage Status: Nil

Photographs: Heritage Survey of the Eyre Peninsula and Far West Coast
Film No. 22; Neg No. 2

Report by: Hamish Angas

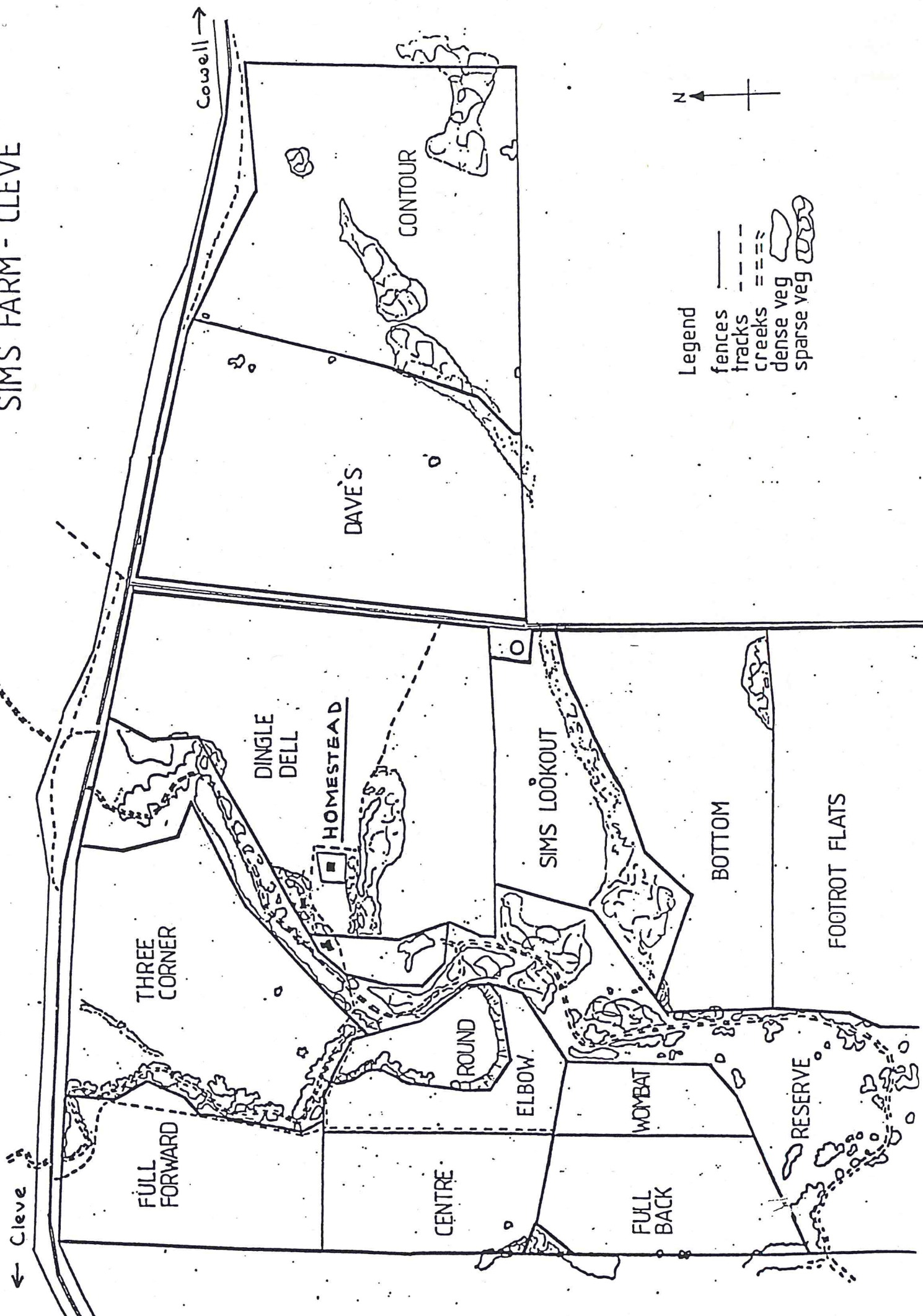
REFERENCES:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Franklin Harbour District Council | <i>Franklin Harbour District Council</i>
<i>(1888-1988)</i>
Adelaide, 1988 |
| Huff, Robert | <i>Sims Farm - Open Day Booklet</i>
<i>(1987)</i> |
| Spriggs, Laurel (Ed.) | <i>Cleve on the Yadnarie Plain</i>
<i>(1879-1979)</i>
Whyalla, 1979 |
| <i>Biographical Index of South Australians (1836-1885)</i>
Adelaide, 1986 | |
| <i>Eyre Peninsula Tribune</i> | 22 January 1931 |
| Department of Lands | Certificates of Title
(C/T 874/78; 1010/153; 1635/72;
1663/180; 1664/134; 4237/219) |
| Item Identification Sheet from the Eyre Peninsula and Far West Coast Heritage Survey (1985) - Item No. CLE:037 | |
| Miscellaneous Promotional Material for the Sims Farm, Cleve Area School | |
| Specification for the Upgrade of Sims Farm, near Cleve, prepared by the South Australian Department of Housing and Construction (SACON)
(1988-89) | |

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A Item Identification Sheet from the Eyre
Peninsula and Far West Coast Heritage Survey
(1985) - Item No. CLE:037
- Attachment B Floor Plan of Homestead, Sims Farm
(Scale - 1:100)
- Attachment C Site Plan of Sims Farm, near Cleve
(Scale - Unknown)

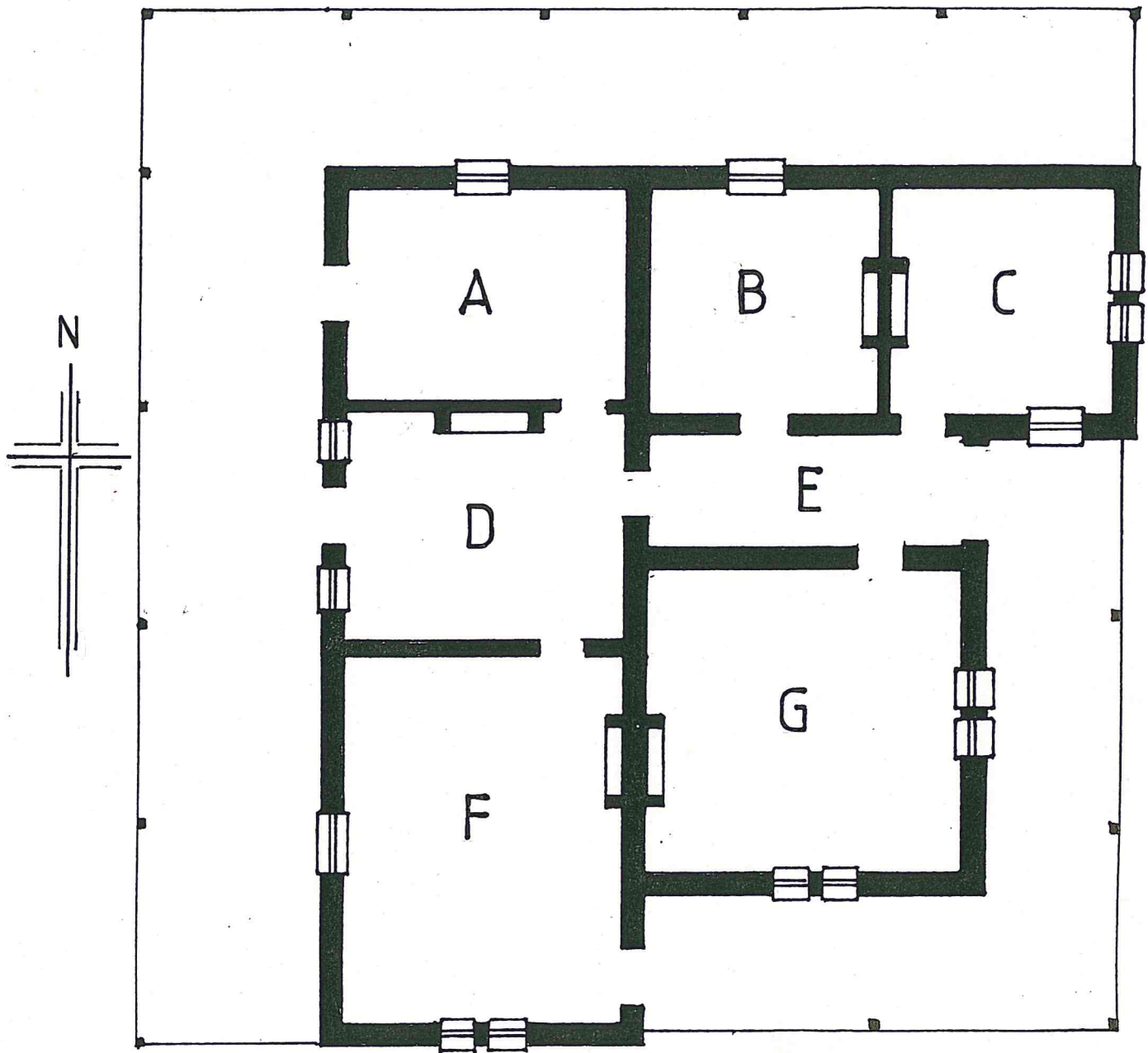
SIMS FARM - CLEVE



FLOOR PLAN OF THE HOMESTEAD, SIMS FARM, COWELL-CLEVE ROAD, CLEVE

Scale - 1:100

Item No. 6130-14383



ORIGINAL USE:

A Gordon Sims' Bedroom

E Front Hall

B Spare Bedroom

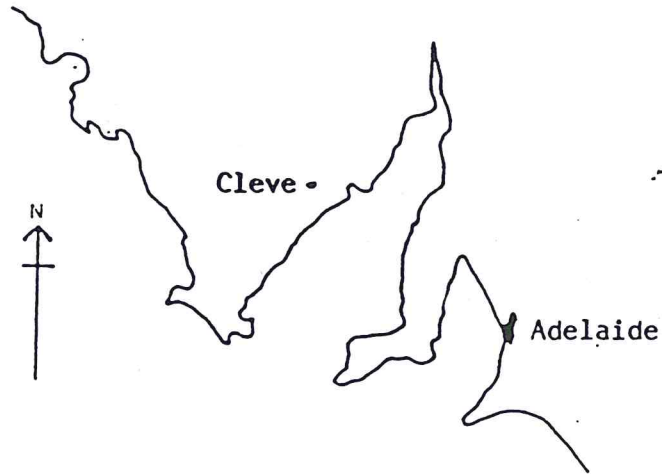
F Sitting Room

C Audrey Sims' Bedroom

G Lounge Room

D Kitchen

LOCATION MAP



SIMS' FARM

