

# **Murrindindi Shire Heritage Study Stage 2**

**Volume 3:**

**Heritage Place & Precinct Citations**

**Final revised report**

**November 2011 (revised May 2014)**

**CONTEXT**

**Prepared for  
Murrindindi Shire Council**

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### Report Register

This report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Project Management Plan undertaken by Context Pty Ltd in accordance with our internal quality management system.

<b><i>Project No.</i></b>	<b><i>Issue No.</i></b>	<b><i>Notes/description</i></b>	<b><i>Issue date</i></b>	<b><i>Issued to</i></b>
1151	1	Draft Stage 2 citations report	18/08/08	Melissa Crane, Geoff Austin
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1151	3	Final citations report	03/12/08	Karen Girvan, Melissa Crane
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Overview

This *Heritage Place and Precinct Citations (revised)* report comprises Volume 3 of the *Murrindindi Shire Heritage Study Stage 2*. The purpose of this stage of the heritage study (the Study) is to assess places of potential post-contact cultural significance identified during Stage 1 within Murrindindi Shire (the study area), to make recommendations for their statutory protection, and to enter this information into Heritage Victoria's Hermes database.

The outcome of Stage 1 of the study was two volumes (plus place citations in the heritage database): *Volume 1. Murrindindi Shire Thematic Environmental History*, and *Volume 2. Key Findings and Recommendations*, produced 2005-06. Stage 1 of the Study identified a total of 202 places for further assessment. This comprised 106 individual places (plus 23 individual places within potential precincts) and five precincts classified as high priority, as well as 71 individual places and one precinct of medium priority.

During Stage 2 the high-priority places and precincts (plus a few new additions) were assessed. Another two place assessments were also added in 2011. This volume contains the citations for heritage places and precincts in Murrindindi Shire that were assessed of local or higher significance (or in need of some other further action). The citations are generated from Heritage Victoria's central heritage database (Hermes).

A total of seven citations were revised in response to public submissions received in 2013 and early 2014 after the Study was put on exhibition. These are indicated in the table of contents to Appendix C.

This volume should be read in conjunction with Volume 2 – *Stage 2 Key Findings and Recommendations (revised)*, which provides an explanation of the study methodology and lists of the places and precincts reviewed in this stage of the Study.

## 1.2 Purpose

The rich and diverse cultural heritage of Murrindindi Shire illustrates the historic use, development and occupation of the land. This history is demonstrated by a wide range of heritage places that include buildings and structures, monuments, trees and landscapes, and archaeological sites. They have one thing in common:

*These are places that are worth keeping because they enrich our lives – by helping us to understand the past; by contributing to the richness of the present environment; and because we expect them to be of value to future generations.* (The Burra Charter)

These places give Murrindindi a sense of historic continuity as well as a distinctive character. They reveal the way local communities in Murrindindi in past years thought about their local area as well as indicating prevailing economic, social and political circumstances that may have extended outside Murrindindi to include the whole of Victoria.

The purpose of the heritage place and precinct citations is to provide a description of the history of the place or precinct and its surviving fabric (including buildings, trees, fences, etc.) and, on this basis, to provide an assessment of the significance of the place. Further detail about how places were assessed can be found in Volume 1 of the Study.

## 2 HOW TO USE

### 2.1 Introduction

The citations in this volume are listed by locality and use a standard local place report layout provided by the Hermes database. There are citations for heritage places and precincts:

- Places and precincts of **local significance** to Murrindindi Shire. These are places that are worthy of protection in the Heritage Overlay (HO) of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. Some of these places may also be of State significance and have been nominated to the Victorian Heritage Register.
- Places to be **recorded**. These are places of historical significance but which are presently in such a poor condition that they should be archivally recorded for future research purposes before they fall down.

Heritage places and precincts of **local significance** have detailed citations that explain the reasons why they are significant and provide recommendations for future conservation and management. A few individual places within proposed precincts also have their own citations. The information that will be relevant to most users is included under the following headings:

- Description
- History
- Statement of Significance
- Recommendations

Maps for the heritage precincts are found in Appendix B.

On the other hand, citations for places of local interest generally contain only limited information.<sup>1</sup> These are places that are of some historic interest, but are not considered to be of local significance when compared to similar places within Murrindindi Shire and are not recommended for inclusion in the HO. They are found in the Hermes database for future reference, but have not been included in this report.

The terms used throughout this Study are consistent with *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Heritage Significance* (1999). A glossary of key terms and their meanings is provided in Volume 1.

### 2.2 Description

This provides a description of all the surviving physical fabric (such as buildings, trees, fences, etc.) that illustrates the history of the place and contributes to its significance. It may also describe elements that are considered intrusive or non-contributory to significance; and these are noted as such.

### 2.3 History

This provides a history of the place on the basis of the information available at the time of preparing the Study. It is not intended as a complete history of the place, but of the key events and influences that shaped its development. For example, the

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<sup>1</sup> For further information about the differences between places of local significance and local interest please refer to Volume 1 of this Study.

history would not usually provide a list of all of the owners of a place, but rather of those that were associated with key periods in its development, usually when it was first constructed or established, and when key changes or improvements were made. The extent of history depends on the availability of primary and secondary source material about a place.

## **2.4 Statement of Significance**

The Statement of Significance is based upon the information known about a place including its history and the surviving physical fabric that illustrates that history. On this basis, it seeks to describe the principal reasons for the significance of the place and is intended to be:

*... a brief, pithy but comprehensive statement of all the ways in which the place is significant. It should not just be a list of every conceivable reason for significance that the assessor can think up, however, it must state clearly and unequivocally the major reasons why the place is important. It must be supported by the presentation of sufficient evidence to justify the assessment judgement.* (Pearson & Sullivan, 1995)

## **2.5 Recommendations**

This provides recommendations for inclusion to any statutory registers including:

- The Heritage Overlay of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme, and
- The Victorian Heritage Register.

For places or precincts assessed or reviewed by this Study, it also includes general conservation objectives and guidelines for buildings (and trees, where relevant) to ensure that future use, development and management of the place or precinct is carried out in a manner that conserves (or minimises adverse impacts upon) its significance.

## APPENDIX A – RNE CRITERIA

### ***Criterion A.4***

Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

### ***Criterion B.2***

Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

### ***Criterion C.2***

Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

### ***Criterion D.2***

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique)

### ***Criterion E.1***

Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

### ***Criterion F.1***

Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

### ***Criterion G.1***

Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

### ***Criterion H.1***

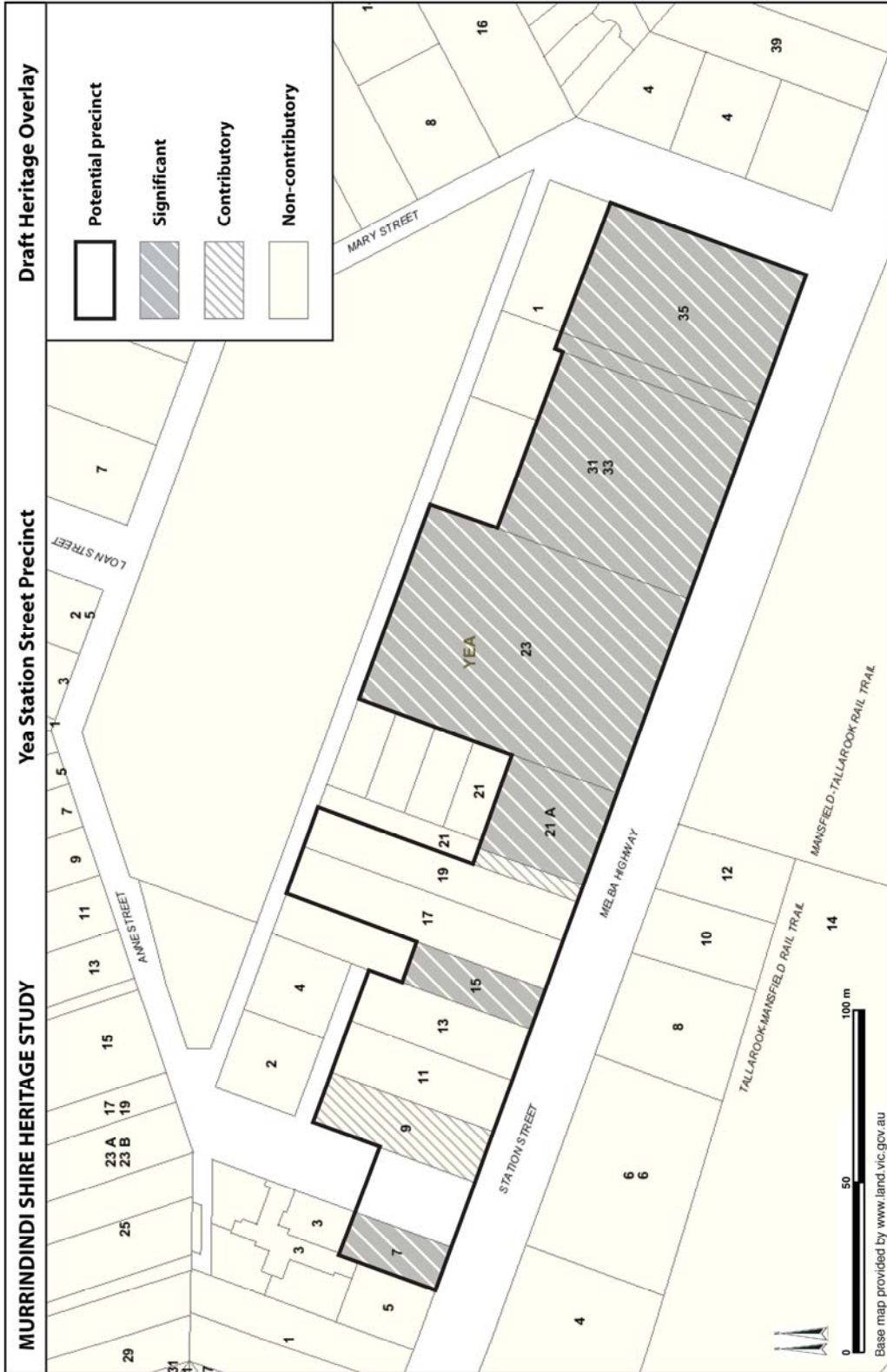
Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State, or region.

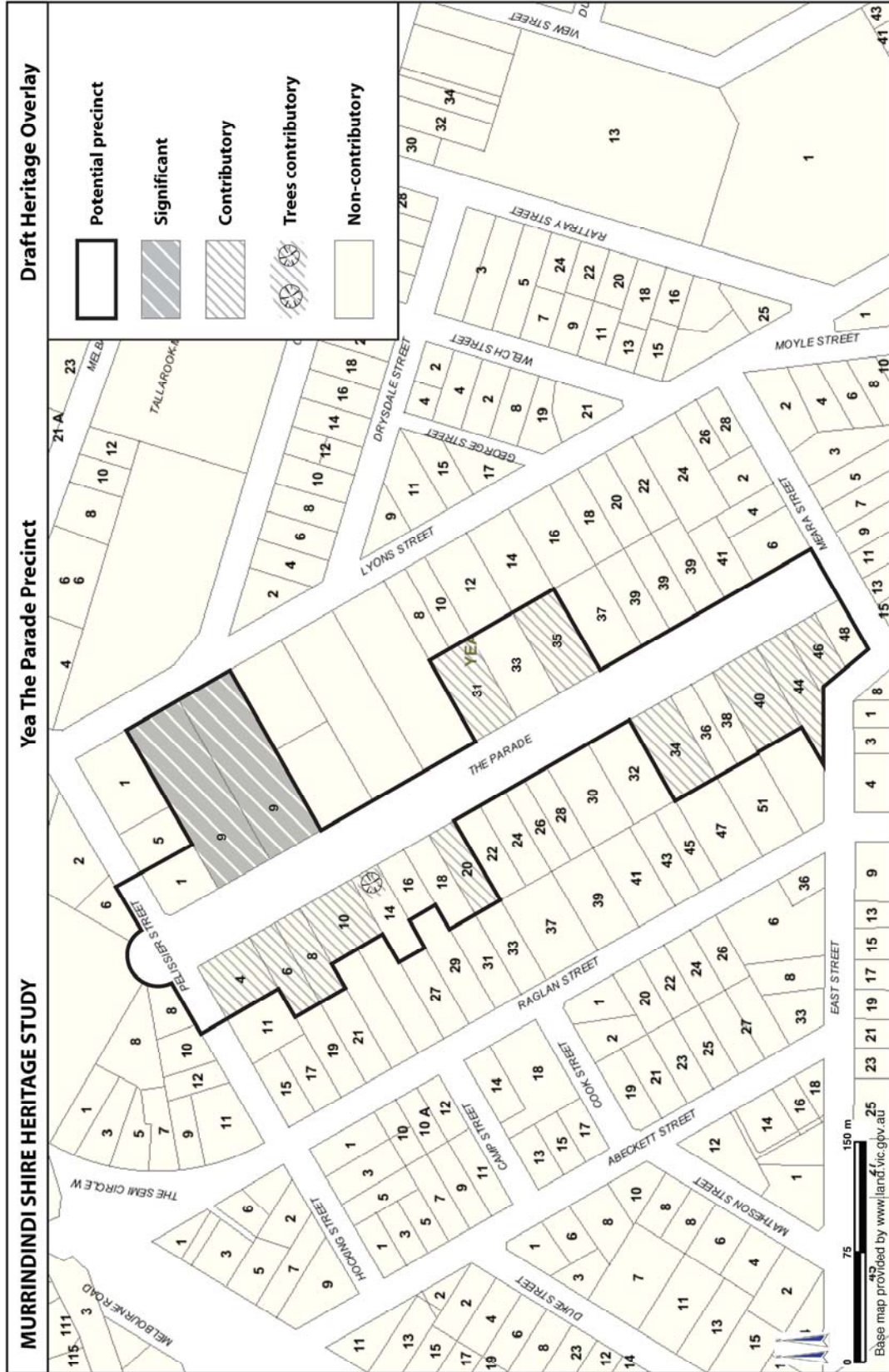
# APPENDIX B – PRECINCT MAPS











## APPENDIX C – CITATIONS

### Index of precinct citations

Please note that two places within precincts are also recommended for an individual Heritage Overlay. These are both churches for which Internal Controls are advised, namely Scots' Presbyterian Church in Station Street, Yea, and Sacred Heart Church and Presbytery in The Parade, Yea. Separate citations are included for these two places, after the pertinent precinct citations.

Separate citations are also included for several railway workers' houses within the Tallarook-Mansfield Railway precinct. This is because the precinct covers such a large area and so many separate sites and features, that it was felt that a detailed description of the related houses would be useful, even though separate HOs are not recommended for them.

Precinct	Address	Page
<b>Various</b>		
Tallarook-Mansfield Railway precinct	various	13
<i>Station Master's House</i>	<i>19 Station Street, Alexandra</i>	21
<i>Railway Houses</i>	<i>35 &amp; 41 Oliver Street, Yea</i>	26
<b>Alexandra</b>		
Alexandra Main Street Precinct	60-100 & 35-97 Grant Street	33
<b>Yarck</b>		
Yarck Township Precinct	6573-6607 & 6586-6608 Maroondah Highway	43
<b>Yea</b>		
Yea Station Street Precinct	7 to 35 Station Street	54
<i>Scots' Presbyterian Church</i>	<i>31 Station Street</i>	63
Yea The Parade precinct	1- 9, 31-35, 4-20 & 34-48 The Parade	69
<i>Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church &amp; Presbytery</i>	<i>9 The Parade</i>	78

### Index of individual place citations

Place	Address	Page
<b>Acheron</b>		
Breakaway Bridge	Breakaway Road & Hobans Road	85
<b>Alexandra</b>		
Albert Edward Masonic Lodge No 59	24 Webster Street	91
Alexandra Dairy Company building	9 Downey Street	96
Athlone, former	6 Johnston Street	101
Dove Cottage	6 Paynes Avenue	106
House	27 Perkins Street	112

Place	Address	Page
House and stables	66 to 68 Nihil Street	117
House	28 Grant Street	122
Oddfellows' Hall (former)	174 Grant Street	127
Princess Alexandra Statue	33 Perkins Street	132
St John's Anglican Church & Organ, Hall and Rectory	39 Downey Street	139
Summerview	199 Binns - McCrae Road	146
The Mount, former	2456 Goulburn Valley Highway	151
<b>Buxton</b>		
Acheron Park	2335 & 2337 Maroondah Highway	157
St Thomas' Church of England	2275 Maroondah Highway	166
<b>Cathkin</b>		
Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery	Cremona Road	171
Cathkin Hotel and Cathkin Post Office (former)	20 Maroondah Link Highway	175
Cremona Bridge	36 Ridds Road	181
<b>Caveat</b>		
Caveat Church and Grotto	479 Caveat - Dropmore Road	186
<b>Dropmore</b>		
Dropmore Homestead	1320 Caveat-Dropmore Road	191
<b>Eildon</b>		
Eildon Dam	Goulburn Valley Highway	197
Harris House, former*	28 Centre Avenue	205
Juverna	816 Back Eildon Road	212
<b>Fawcett</b>		
Elderslie	573 Spring Creek Road	218
Log Cabin	825 Spring Creek Road	224
Old Silo and Rabbiter's Hut	640 Spring Creek Road	229
Topsy Vale barn	147 Parsons Lane	234
<b>Ghin Ghin</b>		
Glenside	447 Ghin Ghin Road	240
Switzerland Station	324 Switzerland Road	246
Switzerland Station Burial Ground	324 Switzerland Road	253
<b>Glenburn</b>		
Glenburn Primary School No 3344, former	3873 Melba Highway	256
<b>Gobur</b>		

\* This place citation was revised in 2014 in response to a public submission.

Place	Address	Page
Allen Homestead (former)	1095 Yarck Road	262
Crathie	1 Frees Road	268
Gobur Cemetery	near 870 Yarck - Gobur Road	274
Kanumbra State School No 1932, former	276 Kanumbra - Gobur Road	278
<b>Kanumbra</b>		
Kanumbra St Paul's Church of England and Methodist Church (former)	7390 to 7392 Maroondah Highway	284
St Bee's and Old Kanumbra Estate Woolshed	7262 Maroondah Highway	290
<b>Kinglake</b>		
Eothen Residence	3005 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road	297
Kinglake State School No 2188, former and Kinglake Post Office, former*	6 McMahons Road	304
National Park Hotel	28 Whittlesea - Kinglake Road	311
<b>Kinglake West</b>		
Kinglake West Uniting Church*	1050 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road	317
<b>Koriella</b>		
Fairview Park	5759 to 5764 Maroondah Highway	323
<b>Limestone</b>		
Limestone Avenue of Honour	Langs Road (at Limestone Road)	328
<b>Marysville</b>		
Crossways Country Inn*	4 Woods Point Road	332
Marysville War Memorial	1 Murchison Street (in road reserve), cnr Woods Point Rd	337
Oak Trees	Murchison Street (between Lyell Street and river)	341
Wilks Creek Bridge abutments	176 Marysville Road	346
<b>Molesworth</b>		
Balham Hill	1599 Whanregarwen Road	351
Christ Church	4559 Goulburn Valley Highway	358
Molesworth Hall	4355 Goulburn Valley Highway	363
<b>Narbethong</b>		
St Fillan Farm	723 Maroondah Highway	369
<b>Strath Creek</b>		
Catholic Church, former	5 Forbes Street, cnr Glover Street	379
Chase Farm	23 to 55 Upper King Parrot Creek Road	383
Flowerdale Estate*	2261 to 2285 Broadford-Flowerdale Road	388
Hume & Hovell Cairn	1204 King Parrot Creek Road	395

\* This place citation was revised in 2014 in response to a public submission.

Place	Address	Page
Kerrisdale Race Paddock and Sheepwash Lagoon	1105 King Parrot Creek Road	399
Kerrisdale Station and Woolshed	852 to 880 King Parrot Creek Road	406
Strath Creek Public Hall	4 Ferguson Street	414
Strathmore	179 Falls Road	420
Uniting Church*	5 Fitzgerald Street	423
War Memorial	4 Ferguson Street	429
<b>Taggerty</b>		
Bunya Pines at Acheron Station site	85 Robertsons Road	433
Mundroola, former	3370 Maroondah Highway	438
Taggerty Hall	5 Taggerty-Thornton Road	443
Taggerty House	2741 Maroondah Highway	448
<b>Thornton</b>		
Blondell Park	696 Back Eildon Road	454
Eildon Park	1701 Goulburn Valley Highway	461
Thornton State School No 1371	9 Back Eildon Road	467
<b>Toolangi</b>		
Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans' at Toolangi State School No 3237	1756 Healesville-Kinglake Road	473
Singing Gardens at Arden	1694 Kinglake-Healesville Road (Main Road)	478
<b>Whanregarwen</b>		
Niagaroon Station Woolshed	4799 to 4849 Maroondah Highway	484
<b>Yarck</b>		
Chaff House	87 Yarck Road, west side	491
<b>Yea</b>		
Belvoir	9 Whatton Place	497
Camilla Cottage	140 High Street	501
Cloney Grange	5784 Goulburn Valley Highway	506
Duke of Clarence Masonic Lodge No 172	120B High Street	511
House	134 High Street	516
Old Yea Cemetery	Moyle Street, end	521
Rossmore Private Hospital (former)*	11 Raglan Street	527
St Luke's Anglican Church, Hall & Rectory	1-5 Pellisier Street	533
Yea Dairy Company building, former	70 Rattray Street	541

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\* This place citation was revised in 2014 in response to a public submission.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Tallarook-Mansfield Railway  
**Place Type** Other - Transport - RailRail Transport Precinct  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



## History and Historical Context

'The main northeast line reached Tallarook and Seymour in November 1872 and it was from the former location that it was eventually decided that the rail should branch eastward along the Goulburn River valley into one of the most picturesque areas in Victoria. However, it was ten years later in 1882 that a line was surveyed as far as Yea and the construction contract let. The route followed the curves and undulations of the valley, hugging the steep walls on the south side of the river. C & E Miller signed the contract to construct the 38.1 km railway on 27 September 1882 and 14 months later the line to Yea was opened for business.[1]

'This was a very creditable feat, achieved by a team of over 1000 men and requiring the erection of 23 bridges. The cost was \$200 000 and the terrain was not easy. For instance, in the first 11.2 km to Trawool, there were 17 curves and 68 changes of grade. The Minister of Railways, Mr Gillies, gave permission for the line to be opened on 16 November 1883, although engine sheds and turntables at Tallarook and Yea, goods facilities and intermediate sidings were not completed until the following year. The Tallarook loco depot was built in the V-shaped section of land between the main line to Seymour and the branch line.

'Intermediate stations to Yea were Trawool (until 1910 spelt Traawool, native for 'wild water'), Kerrisdale (initially called Windham) and Homewood. About 1893, a siding was opened 2 km on the down side of Trawool. It was named Wright's Siding. It later became Trawool Falls Siding, and was changed again in November 1904 to Granite, referring to the stone being loaded at that location. The siding was removed in 1919, but a one car length platform erected about 1910 remained until December 1951.

'Yea was the line terminus for six years. Several routes had been suggested for the extension of the line from Yea to Mansfield, but these were met with sporadic opposition from Benalla residents who preferred that a line to Mansfield should branch from the main line at their town. Eventually the decision was made that the line would extend from Yea. The first section, a 17.2 km extension to Molesworth, was started on 27 April 1887 and completed and opened on 12 November 1889 with two intermediate stations, Cheviot and Balham. The latter was closed on 17 June 1893.

'Three kilometres beyond Yea the line crossed the Yea River, a tributary of the Goulburn, on a curved bridge and climbed into the foothills of Mt Cunningham. Following up-grades of 1 in 40, the line ran past Cheviot station to a depression in the mountain range at which point it ran through the 183 m Cheviot tunnel. The summit of this bank is at the down end of the tunnel, which took two years to construct. From there 1 in 40 down-grades dropped the line again to the valley of the Goulburn River, which it followed to Molesworth station. One wonders what particular forces were brought to bear to follow this mountainous route, rather than follow the river valleys.'

'The 201m (660') long Tunnel was constructed to pass trains across the Black Range at McLouglin's Gap roughly half way between Yea and Molesworth. Built under tender by Kenny Bros. as part of the Yea to Cathkin section at a cost of £88,661/2/11 the work was delayed by accidents, floods and several industrial disputes. The tunnel was constructed from an estimated 675,000 handmade bricks using local clay. This was sourced from Quinlan's pit in a nearby paddock just west of the Tunnel. Some steel hooks that held lanterns in emergencies still exist near the four indented safety alcoves. These are located at regular intervals along the eastern wall.'[3]

The Cheviot Station was built to load sawn timber harvested from the Murrindindi Forest, some 14 miles (23km) away. . The first 3' (0.9m) gauge timber tramway opened in 1901 and led to a terminus some 5 miles (8km) from the Station. It was extended to the Station in 1905. A second tramline commenced operation in 1925. Both tramways stopped operation in 1937 when the horse-drawn wagons were replaced by trucks. Two six ton derrick cranes were installed at the station yards in the 1920s to handle the large volume of timber transported.[3]

'The completion of numerous bridges over the Goulburn River flats permitted quick construction, by 17 June 1890, of the next 4.4 km section to Cathkin, followed by the 7.1 km south-eastern stretch along the Spring Creek valley and gradually

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climbing to Alexandra Road, which was opened for use in September 1890. Alexandra Road will be remembered for its three name changes. It was renamed Lily in August 1909, after the nearby Lily Gully, then changed to Rhodes later in the same year and in 1916 was finally called Koriella - the native word for Goulburn.'

For a period in the 1890s, due to an economic depression, the line was held up at Alexandra Road. When the decision was finally made to extend to Alexandra in 1909, it was largely because of the significant revenue to be had from the Rubicon forest timber. The former Alexandra station is currently the home of the Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum and Historic Park. The line to Mansfield was closed in 1978 and partially dismantled.[2]

'For 19 years, Alexandra Road was an inconvenient railhead for Alexandra, seven kilometres away, but on 11 August 1908 work began in rough steep 1 in 30 grade country on the 'Alexandra Township Railway Extension'. The line climbed to its greatest elevation at Eglinton cutting, before dropping down towards the Goulburn River valley, through the deep cutting at Victoria Gap, to Alexandra. This line was opened on 28 October 1909. In the 1920s, Alexandra became the railhead for materials used in the construction of the original Eildon Weir which was ready for use in 1927 and again when the weir was enlarged in the early 1950s.

'From Cathkin, the Mansfield line stretched north east through Yarck and Kanumbra to Merton, a distance of 24.9 km. This section was opened on 10 November 1890. Curves were few and grades easy to Kanumbra but beyond, the ascent to and descent from Merton Gap (398 m) posed heavier going for the construction teams and the trains that followed. The first train from Melbourne to Merton averaged 29 km an hour.

'From Merton to Mansfield only an occasional sharp pinch of 1 in 40 disturbed the easy undulating nature of the line. The 36.2 km section was completed and opened in two parts, the 22.3 km from Merton to Maindample on 7 May 1891 and the 13.9 km from Maindample to Mansfield on 6 October 1891. .

'The contract for building the line from Cathkin to Mansfield (61.1 km) was let on 21 December 1889 to R Thomton for \$122 325. The sleepers were cut from gum trees growing on the banks of the Murray River at Koondrook, and the rails were imported from the Krupp works in Germany. .

'Locomotion for the first trains on the line was provided by 4-6-0 type American style W or S class steam engines with truncated diamond shaped chimneys. Some units, numbers 153, 155 and 217 - 235 (odd numbers) were built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, Penn., USA between 1879 and 1883. Odd numbers 197-215 were built at Ballarat by the Phoenix Foundry about 1883. Track speed was around 60 km/h.

'With the opening of the first section of the branch line from Tallarook to Yea in 1883, a daily return Monday to Saturday train was provided from Tallarook. . In 1884 the service was increased to two daily return trips and the situation held until the extension to Molesworth opened in November 1889. At this stage two return trips operated daily, but were based on Molesworth. This provided better connections to Seymour and beyond; as well as permitting a return day trip to Melbourne.

'As the line was extended to Cathkin in June 1890 and to Alexandra Road (Koriella) a few months later, two up and two down mixed (passenger and goods) trains operated on weekdays to Tallarook. Cathkin was the base, with the engine working to Yea every Sunday for maintenance.

'When Merton station was opened in November 1890, two return trips daily to Cathkin connected with Alexandra Road - Tallarook trains. When Maindample became the railhead in May 1891, one of these trains was extended to permit a day return connection from Melbourne, with the tram still standing overnight at Merton. .

'World War 2 coal restrictions caused reduction in steam service until October 1945, when 80 hp Leyland rail motor cars ('Double Enders') took over the passenger operation between Tallarook and Mansfield, providing two morning and two

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evening services each way per week. Four Double Enders went into service in 1925-26 and had accommodation for 27 first class and 29 second class passengers. The Alexandra line passenger service was terminated in October 1945, but goods trains still ran twice weekly, on Mondays and Wednesdays. A goods train also ran four days a week to and from Mansfield. The only surviving mixed train was the Monday morning up from Yea. .

'The mid-1970s saw state parliament accept recommendations for the closure of numerous branch lines, the setting up of Regional Freight Centres at certain main line stations with forwarding of goods by road and the introduction of buses for passengers.

'The Tallarook - Yea - Mansfield/Alexandra railway featured high on the list for elimination. As a consequence, train operations began to wind down with the cessation of the railmotor service on Saturday 28 May 1977.

'In the following February, the Seymour Freight Centre was established and regular goods trains were cancelled on the branch line, with locos and crews being transferred to Seymour. Wednesday 1 February and Friday 3 February 1978 were the dates of the running of the last goods trains to Alexandra and Mansfield respectively. The weekend 4 and 5 February 1978 was the first in 93 years on which an engine had not been stabled in the Yea loco area.

'For the following nine months, trains ran on the line on an 'as required' basis, operated from Seymour. On 2 August 1978, loco Y131 departed Cathkin at 8.45 am with the last revenue train to Alexandra. It left on the return journey with a guard's van and one truck. Two months later, on 23 October 1978, Y166 hauled steam loco J512 to be preserved on track at Alexandra as a static exhibit. The diesel returned light engine and the line had seen its last movement beyond Cathkin to Alexandra.

'Trains ran spasmodically to Mansfield for another fortnight, until finally on Monday 6 November 1978 loco Y158 trundled westward out of Mansfield into history with its small train, which after leaving Yea had only eight vehicles. Thus came to an end the working of the Mansfield line.

'The Railway Obituary printed in the Mansfield Courier on 9 November 1978 described the occasion as follows:

"Mansfield railway station was deserted on Monday soon after the last goods train pulled out at lunchtime. This train heralded the end of 86-1/2 years of rail service to Mansfield. Mansfield's ganger Ken Close and his cat were the only ones to see the last train disappear up the line.

"In a press release from VicRail it was announced that the Tallarook to Mansfield and Alexandra lines would formally close on Wednesday 8 November. It was on 28 May last year that the last passenger train left Mansfield for Melbourne. It took 2-3/4 hours to reach Yea because the track had deteriorated.

"Support for railway services had been falling for some years prior to the closure. Minimal maintenance was done to the line and it deteriorated until the speed of trains was curtailed to 20 mph in some sections of track. Recently this was reduced to 15 mph.

"The departure of the last passenger train last year and the last goods train on Monday was in marked contrast to the official opening of the track and arrival of the first passenger train on 6 October 1891".'

Sources:

[1] This entire text is an extract from Sid Brown, 'Mansfield Railway Centenary', in Newsrail, Sept. 1991, pp 268-277, expect where otherwise noted.

[2] RNE nomination for place No. 102784, accessed 2005.

[3] Brochure 'Cheviot Tunnel, A Key Piece of Yea's History', Yea Business & Tourism Association, n.d.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the *Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History*, 2006:

### 3.2 Railways

## Description

### Physical Description

The Tallarook to Mansfield/Alexandra rail line branched off from the Tallarook Station then went south-east toward Yea. This description will proceed from the western boundary of Murrindindi Shire where it intersects the rail line about halfway between the former Granite and Kerrisdale stations, continuing eastward to Cathkin and turning north toward Merton. Description of the later branch line to Alexandra will follow.

The first notable site from the western boundary of the shire is the Kerrisdale Ballast Pit. It is located just west of the Kerrisdale Station ground in front of 7675 Goulburn Valley Highway. Ballast is the coarse stone laid as a bed for the railway sleepers. A brick culvert with a granite-block outlet runs beneath the embankment at this point.

The Kerrisdale Station ground retains platform earthworks, a timber buffer stop, two concrete slab foundations (about 3x3m), stump foundations, and mature exotic trees (Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine) and possible garden remnants (Belladonna Lilies).

Just east of Kerrisdale Station is a large concrete and steel bridge crossing the King Parrot Creek, leading to a high earthen embankment. All of the remaining, smaller, bridges viewed between Kerrisdale and Yea also have concrete piers, some retain steel girders.

The Homewood Station ground is just east of the intersection of Goulburn Valley Highway and Homewood Road. It retains earthworks and a group of mature Monterey Cypresses. (Note: The site was viewed from the road.)

There is a notably deep cutting through rock east of the Bett Road/Goulburn Valley Highway intersection.

At the former Yea Railway Station (HO2) a number of mature peppercorn trees are situated east of the station site. The station complex includes a station building and platform, refreshment rooms, parcel/storage shed and goods shed. South of the station, at the east end of Oliver Street are two remaining railway cottages. The residence at 35 Oliver Street dates from the 1950s whilst the house at 41 Oliver Street is an intact example of a 19th-century railway house.

The Cheviot Station site is situated approximately 600m north-east of the Cheviot Road/Limestone Road intersection (along Cheviot Road). The site retains a dilapidated Goods Shed on a concrete pad which still bears a faded sign reading "Gisborne Building". An intact truck weighbridge is sited just north of the Goods Shed. The embossed structure reads '16 Tons No 733 Hawke and Co Kapunda SA'. It was made by HB Hawke & Co Engineering of Kapunda, South Australia, which operated from 1857 to 1983. Much of the site remains covered in blue-metal. West of the Goods Shed a brick viaduct/drain runs beneath the embankment. South of the railway cutting, a large cluster of Monterey Cypresses surround concrete foundation walls. There is a line of three mature Monterey Pines south-west of the station site.

The Cheviot Tunnel was constructed of brick in a horse-shoe cross-section with bluestone dressing at the end of the

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tunnel. It is 250 meters long, with most of the rails and sleepers removed, though some sleepers remain at the southern entrance.

The site of former Balham Station is just north of intersection of Cheviot Road and Native Dog Road. No evidence was noted from the road (e.g., no stands of exotic trees could be seen).

About 1 km north of the intersection of Cheviot and Native Dog Roads is the remains of bridge with concrete piers.

At Molesworth Station there is: a large cattle yard excavated into the rock of a hillside, a timber buffer stop west of the cattle yard, a remnant orchard and jonquils patch, Monterey pines, and a concrete pad foundation (broken up) next to former platform edge (bolts remaining).

Seven bridges were sighted along the section of the line running parallel to the Goulburn Valley Highway between Whanregarwen Road and Cathkin. At this point the railway line follows the Goulburn River basin and a number of these bridges cross creeks and tributaries. The majority of these have concrete piers, with the exception of two low timber bridges across marshy land just west of Cathkin.

The former Cathkin Station ground is on the south-east corner of Maroondah Link Highway and the Goulburn Valley Highway. The site is fenced in barbed wire and is undergoing development by local Landcare group. It retains a tiny CGI shed on the platform mound and a timber buffer stop. Remnant orchard trees exist with a cherry tree close to the road. (Note: this site was inspected from the road.)

Across the intersection, at the junction of the rail line to Mansfield and the branch line to Alexandra, are the remains of the railway turntable. It retains its central pin and two sections of curved concrete wall. A low earthen embankment leads to the turntable.

Turning north toward Mansfield, the next station site is at Yarck. While the station ground is quite large, set back behind a row of properties on the east side of the Maroondah Highway, the above-ground remains are clustered behind 6562 Maroondah Highway (Keath's Earthmovers Yarck). On the west side of the track depression is a dilapidated timber passenger shelter, across from which is a Goods Shed clad in corrugated iron and surrounded by timber buffers. Beside the shelter are two mature Monterey Cypresses. There are also three mature Monterey Pines on the west side of the fence around the station ground, which may be connected to the railway.

Between Parson's Road and Creightons Lane, on the east side of Maroondah Hwy are two bridges of note. The first is concrete and steel whilst the second, north of it, is a timber structure. A third timber bridge is between Parson's Road and Lundy's Lane.

On the south-east corner of Lorton Vale Lane and Maroondah Highway is the Kanumbra Station ground. Remnant fruit trees and a cluster of mature Monterey Pines are on the western side of the site. The goods platform (timber retaining wall, stumps and pins) is north of the trees.

The rail line continued north to the northern boundary of Murrindindi Shire at Merton.

Returning to the branch line from Cathkin to Alexandra, there are several large and prominent cuttings visible from the road. The first, is just west of the intersection between Maroondah Link Highway and the Goulburn Valley Highway.

There are rows of Monterey Pines on either side of the rail reserve most of the way from Cathkin to Koriella.

At the north-west corner of Goulburn Valley Highway and Spring Creek Road is the Koriella Station ground. Here there is a large excavated area including a sheep yard, lined with Monterey Pines and a peppercorn tree. Several old sleepers lie

haphazardly on the ground.

Further along the highway at Victoria Gap is a massive curved cutting through rock at the top of a hill overlooking Alexandra.

The former Alexandra Station is maintained by the timber tramway museum. A light exhibition tramway circles the park, there are several restored trains and engines, and a mock-up high lead log haulage system. Apart from the buildings related to the railway line are new additions for the tramway. Reportedly the museum retains station signs from a number of stops on the line. The former Station Master's House of c1923 survives next to the station.

## Conservation Policy

See railway precinct guidelines in the *Murrindindi Heritage Study*, 2011.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The rail line from Tallarook to Yea, later extended to Mansfield and Alexandra, constructed from 1882 to 1909. It closed in 1978 and much of the infrastructure was removed (such as portable station buildings, rails and sleepers, bridge decking, signals, crossing gates, platform walls). Two station sites are largely intact (at Yea and Alexandra, HO2 and HO22, respectively), some others retain sheds, platform earthworks, timber buffer stops and mature trees (mainly Monterey Pines and Monterey Cypresses, plus specimen Peppercorn trees). The most striking remnants of the line are the engineering works: dramatic cuttings through rock, high earth embankments, bridges, and the Cheviot Tunnel (HO7). Many of the bridges on the west part of the line were gradually replaced with concrete and steel structures, though a number of early timber pile bridges survive on the eastern and northern sections of the line.

How is it significant?

The Tallarook to Yea, to Mansfield and Alexandra rail line is of local historic, technical, architectural and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its strategic importance in the opening up of forests in the Black Range, Murrindindi and Rubicon areas. The decision to extend to Alexandra in 1909 was made largely because of the revenue to be had from the Rubicon forest timber and other extractive industries. The railways construction reflects the economic and resource priorities of the nineteenth century. The disused railway line is now one of the dominant historic features in this part of the Goulburn Valley. It is further significant as it reminds us of the changing patterns of transportation over the past one hundred years in the Goulburn Valley. (RNE criterion A.4)

Technically, several features associated with this line represent fine examples of engineering, among them, the Cheviot Tunnel which is of distinctive construction and the cutting at Victoria Gap outside of Alexandra which was accomplished by manpower. The linear network as a whole, and particularly the station grounds, contains an array of earthworks and structures. (RNE criterion F.1)

Architecturally, the Yea Station complex represents the most intact example of a small group of Gothic styled Railway Station buildings built in the late nineteenth century. The main station building is the most picturesque design of a

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railway building prepared by the Railways Department. (RNE criterion F.1)

Aesthetically, the mature conifers and plantings at the former station grounds and along some parts of the railway line are significant for their contribution to the cultural landscape created by the railway. The timber pile bridges, dramatic cuttings and high embankments, as can be glimpsed from the Goulburn Valley and Maroondah highways, add dramatic interest to journeys through the varied landscape of the shire. (RNE criterion E.1)

Archaeologically, below-ground remains along the line have the potential to yield information that will contribute to the understanding of the railway. (RNE criterion C.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes mature Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine & Pepper trees; remnant orchards at Molesworth, Cathkin & Kanumbra
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes gates & fences at level crossings, goods sheds, shelter sheds, fence at 41 Oliver St, Yea
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Station Masters House  
**Address** 21 Station Street ALEXANDRA **Significance Level** Contributory  
**Place Type** Railway Residence/Quarters  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS -



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA AND RAILWAY LINE

The township of Alexandra grew up around the Mount Pleasant pastoral run. It was first held by Thomas Marshall and John Morris Fisher in 1841, followed by Archibald Thom in 1849, Pettett and Ker in 1850, Donald McKenzie 1854, Charles Ibbotson and John Buckley 1858, and back to Donald McKenzie in 1861. McKenzie was still the run holder in 1866 when gold was found nearby. Gold mining was at the heart of Alexandra's very beginnings. Quartz reefs were discovered near Mount Pleasant Homestead in 1866 and by December that year it was reported by Mining Surveyor Samuel Vickery that quartz mining was in full operation, and that 'the nucleus of a township is already formed.' [1] The township was named Alexandra in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.

Despite Alexandra's ratepayers, councillors and interested groups instigating of a campaign in 1872 for a railway branch line, connecting Alexandra to the rail link to Melbourne, this was not achieved until the twentieth century.

Promises and plans for possible routes were made by successive ministries until 1886 when a route was surveyed for a branch line from Cathkin to Alexandra. However, it only went as far as Alexandra Road (which became Koriella), Spring Creek near the Five Mile Hotel, approximately 4.5 miles from Alexandra. The line ended in a paddock known as 'Ainsworth's Stump'. The line stopped below Spring Creek due to the steep grades. Surveying past this point meant a steep rise in construction costs. Even so, it took until 16 September 1890 before the line was opened, the delay this time due to fires and floods combined with a labour shortage.

In 1885 John Stanley James, the journalist who wrote as 'The Vagabond', described the Alexandra community as 'one of the happiest I know in Australia.' His impression was that in Alexandra neither crime nor even drunkenness were problems, and that wealth was fairly evenly spread out across the town's populace, a 'general prosperity'. [2]

A desire to increase timber production in the area, by providing millers with a low-cost means of transport - such as a railway line, finally resulted in the train line making it all the way to Alexandra Station on 28 October 1909. [3]

### HISTORY OF STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

The Station Master's House was built on part of Crown Allotment 27D in the Parish of Alexandra, County of Anglesey. The land was purchased by the Victorian Railways Commissioners on 23 June 1923 (Land Title Vol. 4716 Folio 943067) and it is thought the house was built in 1923 to accommodate the resident Station Master at Alexandra. [4] As a VicRail worker, Ian Hemming was given preference in the disposal of the property when the railways closed the line in 1978. [5] He purchased the house and land on 4 June 1981. Excavation has revealed bottles found in what was the old maintenance pit located on the northern side of the site. [6]

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.

[2] *ibid.*, p. 86.

[3] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.

[4] *Ibid*; Certificate of Title, Vol. 4716 Folio 943067.

[5] Personal conversation, Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

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[6]Personal conversation with Kaye and Bill Capper, the current owners, 24 May 2008 and email correspondence 25 June 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 3.2 Railways

## Description

### Physical Description

The Station Master's house is a circa 1923, weatherboard building with a high hip, (original) corrugated iron roof with side-facing gablets at the top. There is a plain red-brick chimney on the left-hand side of the roof. There is a verandah under the main roof to the front and two sides (it extends three-quarters of the way back). A 'half-timbered' gable to the verandah that marks the front entrance. The front door is a four-panelled with narrow sidelights, both in a configuration more popular in the late 19th century. The verandah posts are chamfered timber and have decorative bases. The house has one-over-one sash windows on the facade and sides.

The rear quarter of the house has rooms extending to the eaves. The windows are six-over-six sashes in this section of the house. There is central rear door and another door into this section from the verandah on the east side of the house. There is a simple skillion-roof verandah at the middle of the rear elevation. On the west side of it is a plain brick chimney with an external breast.

The house is externally intact (though the verandah may have originally had a decorative timber valance). It is in fair condition.

The garden contains mature trees including a large Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*).

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Paint the house (and roof, if its condition permits) to prevent further weathering.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

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Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Station Master's House, 21 Station Street, Alexandra, a c1923 weatherboard bungalow with a high hipped roof, constructed after the railway line was finally extended as far as Alexandra in 1909. Also there is a mature Monterey Cypress in the garden.

How is it significant?

The Station Master's House is of local historical significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with the long-awaited construction of the railway as far as Alexandra in 1909, which allowed an increase in timber production in the area. The mature Monterey Cypress is an example of the kind of tree planted at railway station sites in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (RNE criterion A.4)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

-

**Internal Alteration Controls**

-

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature Monterey Cypress

**Fences & Outbuildings**

-

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

-

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

-

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Railway Houses  
**Address** 35 & 41 Oliver Street YEA **Significance Level** Contributory  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS -

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson.[1] By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[2]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.[3]

### HISTORY OF 41 OLIVER STREET

This is a former railway worker's house, which was Railway Asset Number 585 (once displayed on the house).[5]

From its inception in the 19th century, Victorian Railways had provided staff housing for stationmasters at certain stations and at crossings for gatekeepers, let to the occupants at reasonable rents. As with other Government departments, Victorian Railways used a number of standard designs for their houses, and sometimes moved them around according to need.[6]

This house appears to be two T-designed railway houses (so-called for their T-shaped plan), which have been joined together. The earliest date on the Victorian Railways Records Card for the house is August 1916, when it was occupied by Railway Guard W. Jewell. Railway historian, Bob Whitehead, speculates that two T-design houses were moved to Yea from elsewhere at that time and joined on this site. [11]

As it was on the Yea Station site, which is Crown land, a land title was only created for it in September 1985 when ownership transferred to the State Transport Authority (Land Title Vol. 9657 Folio 284). The Transport Act 1983 restructured the administration of transport functions in Victoria. Under the provisions of the Act a State Transport Authority was established succeeding Victorian Railways and the Railway Construction and Property Board. [7]

In 1987 it passed into private ownership. It consists of Crown Allotment 8 of Section 24 in the Township of Yea, County of Anglesea.

### HISTORY OF 35 OLIVER STREET

In the 1950s the Victorian Railways struggled to improve the railway network to cope with the demands the post-war boom. To alleviate the shortage of labour, they recruited tradesmen and other railway workers from overseas, mainly

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Britain. In 1949 Mr P. Farnan, Assistant to the Victorian Railways Staff Board, was one of the recruiting party to visit Britain to select railwaymen for Victoria. Victorian Railways sought 1200 men at first, but were forced to revise the number to 750 because of Victoria's housing shortage. Part of the enticement was the assurance of employee housing. Married railwaymen were preferred, because they were considered more likely to remain with their employer, but single men were recruited, with hostels and 'batching camps' provided. [8] [9]

In what has been described as a 'unique program in Australia', the solution to the housing shortage was the importation from England of kit houses, known as 'pre-cut' houses, for assembly on site. The program was nicknamed 'Operation Snail' not to imply slowness - the whole program seems to have been carried out quite quickly - but rather because the immigrants were coming with their own houses. In 1949 1500 pre-cut houses were ordered from W.V. Simms, Sons & Cooke Ltd of Nottingham. Erection of the first of the houses commenced early in 1950 and the first eight British families arrived in August. By late 1951 392 of the new pre-cut houses were erected and occupied, mostly by the immigrant railwaymen and their families, but some by existing railway staff. [8]

The project must have impressed other government agencies, because Victorian Railways were subsequently authorised to import pre-cut houses for the State Electricity Commission, the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission, the Melbourne Harbour Trust and the Commonwealth Government. [10]

The pre-cut houses were made with Baltic timber walls and, initially Trafford asbestos cement-tile roofing. Because of a shortage of asbestos and the fact that the tiles were damaged in transit, aluminium roofing was substituted, then from 1951 CGC roofing was used. Each house came with its kitchen and bathroom fittings and built-in robes for the bedrooms. There were 30 different floor plans for the 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, but 44 different appearances could be obtained from five basic types. The houses came in a colour range - 'suntan', green, white, grey and cream exterior, with roofs in brown, green and natural - and the colour schemes appear to have been applied 'mix and match' at each estate. [8] [9]

These pre-cut Railway houses were erected throughout metropolitan and country Victoria, with the largest concentration by far being at Sunshine, where several hundred were erected. By 1970 most of the houses were still occupied by Railway employees, after that many were sold to the occupants or demolished. In 1989 Victorian Railways ceased the practice of providing housing for their employees, and the remaining houses were taken over by the Government Employees Housing Authority. This body ceased in 1995. [8]

The Victorian Railways Record Card for Railway Asset 3924 notes that a 'pre-cut house' was first occupied on this site in May 1955 by Railway Porter L. Martin. It was later occupied until 1968 by Assistant Station Master PJ McGowan.[11] [12]

As it was on the Yea Station site, which is Crown land, a land title was only created for the property (Allotment 7, Section 24, Township of Yea) on 28 April 1983 when ownership transferred to the Railway Construction and Property Board (Land Title Vol. 9481 Folio 591).

On 29 June 1988 it was sold to a private owner, Joan Clough. From the title certificate, it appears that she already resided at 35 Oliver Street at the time of the sale, indicating that she may have occupied it previously as a railway employee. Current railway employees were often given priority in purchasing their residence when it came onto the open market, as was the case with the former Station Master's House at 19 Station Street, Alexandra.

### SOURCES

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 26.

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[2] Ibid., p.185.

[3] Municipal Directories 1900.

[4] <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080653b.htm>

[5] Ian Newman, pers. comm., 2008.

[6] Leo Harrigan, *Victorian Railways to '62*, Melbourne, 1960, p 148.

[7] PROV VA 1038, description of agency (accessed 15/08/08).

[8] Banner, Chris & Rigg, Tom, 'Operation Snail: The Pre-cut Housing Scheme of the Victorian Railways', *Newsrail*, January 2008, pp 8-22.

[9] *Victorian Railways Annual Report, 1951-52*.

[10] Harrigan, Leo, *Victorian Railways to '62*, Melbourne, 1960, p 148.

[11] *Victorian Railways Records Cards*, in the private collection of Bob Whitehead, conversation 01/10/08.

[12] The Record Card for Asset No. 3924 lists the street address as '37 Oliver Street', but this appears to apply to the house in question (at 35 Oliver St), as the property between 41 and 35 Oliver Street has the address '16 Station Street'. Moreover, the house at 35 Oliver Street is known to have been owed by the railways (see title deed), and it is visually similar to other pre-fab railway houses of the 1950s.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from *Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History*, 2006:

### 3.2 Railways

## Description

### Physical Description

Two surviving railway houses - built to house employees of the Victorian Railways - have been identified in Yea, at 35 and 41 Oliver Street, both backing on to the railway station ground behind them on Station Street.

The house at 41 Oliver Street is 19th-century railway worker's house. It is weatherboard clad, with a corrugated iron roof and three corbelled brick chimneys (overpainted). It has two projecting gables on the facade, between which is a tiny entrance porch beneath a skillion roof. At right angles to the front gables are projecting side gables. The bargeboards for all four gables have simple curved ends. The front door appears to have two lower panels with glazing above. It is flanked by cricket bat moulds below sidelights. The windows in the front projecting gables are one-over-one sash, while most of the others are six-over-six sash. The house is in fair to good condition. There is an early 20th-century crimped-wire mesh and post fence at the front (which could date to 1916, when the house was first here). The fence is in poor condition.

The house at 35 Oliver Street is a 1955 railway worker's house, which appears to be one of the pre-fab houses imported



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from Britain as part of 'Operation Snail' (for details, see history). It has vertical timber cladding and a low pitched roof. It is gable fronted, with a minor gable on the west side of the facade. There is a cream brick rectangular chimney on the west side elevation. The house is in good condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. The front fence at 41 Oliver Street should be repaired, or the posts replaced in kind.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

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7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Railway Houses at 35 and 41 Oliver Street, Yea, which back onto the Yea Railway Station ground. 41 Oliver Street comprises two standard Railway T-design houses which have been joined together at this site by 1916. It has an early 20th-century crimped-wire mesh and post fence at the front, which is also significant.

35 Oliver Street is a prefabricated 'kit house' assembled here in 1955. It appears to be externally intact.

How is it significant?

The former Railway Houses at 35 and 41 Oliver Street, Yea, are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as part of the railway complex that includes the Yea Railway Station (HO2), behind it in Station Street. They provide tangible evidence of the importance of Yea on this railway line, as the original terminus, and of the practice of provision of employee housing by the Victorian Railways from its inception to the late 20th century. Also 41 Oliver Street a representative example of a highly intact 19th-century railway house, while 35 Oliver Street is a representative example of the Victorian Railways' ambitious 'Operation Snail' housing program, an effort intended to attract and keep employees by guaranteeing housing at a time of post-war materials shortage. It is the only such house identified in Murrindindi Shire. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	-
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	-
<b>Tree Controls</b>	- Front fence of 41 Oliver St
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	-
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	-

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Alexandra Main Street Precinct  
**Address** 60-100 & 35-97 Grant Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Commercial Precinct  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The history of this precinct reflects several important eras of the town's commercial and civic development:

- early development associated with the gold rush
- Consolidation in the late nineteenth century
- Renewal and growth in the twentieth century

### Early development - from first land sales

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant 'A' and 'B' pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form the Murrindindi Shire.

The following description of the town was given in the 'Victorian Municipal Directory' of 1900:

"Alexandra - Municipal township with telegraph station, savings bank, post and money-order and receiver and paymaster's offices, on the Goulburn River, 90 miles N.E. of Melbourne. Township prettily situated. Chief attraction Alexandra Falls - an immense volume of water dropping in a succession of cascades to a depth of 320 feet. Country of a mountainous character, interspersed with numerous wide valleys - the soil being very rich, especially along valley of the Goulburn. Branches of two banks, three churches, shire hall (to accommodate 1000 persons), cottage hospital, library (2000 volumes), five hotels and local newspaper. Country highly auriferous - large gold yield from mines near township. Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Society hold shows. Stock sales held first Tuesday and third Thursday in month. Rail to Alexandra-road station, 97 ½ miles; fares, 17s. 6d and 11s 7d; thence coach, 4 miles, fare 1s. Weekly half-holiday on Wednesday. Mary Robinson, postmistress. Population, 600."[4]

The town was built on gold rush foundations which are still evident in the civic buildings and hotels in the early 21st Century.

### GRANT STREET PRECINCT HISTORY

Early land sales and subdivision

Grant Street was named after James Macpherson Grant, a Member of Parliament, who had put through Land Acts in 1865 and 1869, and was interested in the Switzerland Run near Yea.[5] The town survey established a grid pattern of square

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blocks (modified where required by topography), with a standard street width of 100 links (20 metres), with a narrower 50 link (10 metre) north-south street dividing each of the squares in half. The main thoroughfare, Grant Street was made 150 links (30 metres) wide.

The Grant Street precinct covers land in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 65A facing the main street of Alexandra that was first sold as part of the original township; land sales were held in Nihil's Store on 5 April 1867. Rather than being bought up by a small number of dominant speculators, this land was purchased by many different individuals.

In Section 1 the allotment sales were to J Hofe (No. 1), J Smith (No. 4) and W Bansom (No. 5). In Section 2 sales were to P Coughlin (No. 1), H Johnson (No. 2), W Cook (No. 3), J Crowa [sic] (No. 4), H Cummings (No. 5) and A Cricton (No. 6). To the south in Section 3, land was bought by H Perkins (No. 1), G Woods (No. 2), J Kirwan (No. 3), T Legge (No. 4), C Harker (No. 5), J Quin (No. 6), J H Osborne (No. 7), R Hodgson (No. 8), R Saggars (No. 9) and M Hogan (No. 10). In Section 4 on the opposite side of Grant Street, purchasers were T Glynn (No. 1), R J Vinings (No. 2), T Hall (No. 3), E Cornell (No. 4), W Freeman (No. 5), J W Cairns (No. 6), J Williams (No. 7), C Jones (No. 8), E Farrell (No. 9) and W Fenton (No. 10).[6]

Early illustrations show that construction of mainly single storey timber buildings proceeded rapidly, the unsealed dirt roads still studded with mature gum trees. There was no water supply for the first decade, with water being brought into the town on carts. With wood fires and candles in standard use, fires were a significant problem in the early years of the town. On 4 November 1872, a fire broke out in the Corner Hotel on the south-east corner of Grant and Downey streets, and spread down the eastern side of the street towards Nihil Street, destroying around about half the commercial centre of the town. This disaster prompted the formation of the town Fire Brigade.[7]

In goldfield towns particularly, hotels had an important role as centres for community life, given the absence of civic amenities in the early years. By 1868-69 there were at least 24 hotels in Alexandra, serving the needs of a surging and transient gold-fields population. Dozens of other outlets also had licenses to sell liquor. It was not uncommon for businesses to have meetings in hotels, or have their offices there.[8]

The first building in the township of Alexandra is believed to have been Vining's Red Gate Shanty, a pub built by the entrepreneurial Richard Vining. Earnings from this venture enabled him to building the original Alexandra Hotel on a site in Grant Street later occupied by Brigg's Beehive Stores. The existing Alexandra Hotel occupies a building on the north-west corner of Grant and Downey streets that was formerly the Exchange Hotel. In the 19th century the hotel at this site was known as the Mining Exchange Hotel, and in 1895 the proprietor was Henry Wood. The current building was erected in 1904.[9] A tender notice published in the Builders, Engineering and Miners' Journal on 21 July 1903 by architects Munz and Munz of Collins Street most likely relates to this building or to the Shamrock Hotel [Lewis Index]. Hotel proprietors have included Mrs E.J. Whiting (1904-9), Lewis A Grant (1910-11), Joseph W. Ryan (1912-16) and Norm J. McNair (1927-31).[10] Signage identifies it as Ryans Exchange Hotel in a c.1945 photograph.[11] The building celebrated its centenary on 6 September 2003.[12]

The Commercial Hotel on the south-east corner of Grant and Downey Streets was also first established in the 1860s. Originally known as the Corner Hotel, it was rebuilt after being razed in the fire of 1872 and became the substantial two-storey masonry building that exists as the core of the hotel today. Alfred Hamea was the proprietor from 1868 to 1882, then Charles Andrew Wales until his death in 1914. It became the Commercial Hotel after his widow took over in 1915; Andrew Morris then became proprietor from 1916 until 1928 when it was taken over by the Darmody family. Various extensions and modifications have been made to the original building, including the addition of a wing along Downey Street in the 1950s.[13]

The Shamrock Hotel at 80 Grant Street was first established in the 1860s. The proprietors up to 1885 were John and Honora Kirwan, followed by James Ellery until 1886, then Albert and Alice Stillman who operated it until the early 1900s. Harry J Jennings was proprietor 1904-11, Martin Cruise 1912-16, and subsequent proprietors included Louisa

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Finemore, Percy Leith and James Arthur Luttrill by the 1930s.[14] The existing building dates from the early 20th Century.

The Mount Pleasant Hotel was first established by the late 1860s, with John Cook an early proprietor. By 1891-92 Mrs J Cook was listed as the proprietor, then James Murphy 1895 and 1899-1900, followed by Marshall Hutton (1904-9) and Thomas Bazley (1910-14). J.J. O'Connor is listed as proprietor 1915, and D.P. O'Dea in 1940.[15] The existing building dates from c.1920s.

There have been banks in Alexandra since the earliest days. The Union Bank had a presence in Alexandra as early as 1867, with the first manager being Joseph Proctor Bainbridge. The bank once held a gold-buyers licence. Legend has it that the first bank was run from a room in Vinings' Alexandra Hotel, with a timber building soon being erected on the east side of Grant Street. This was destroyed in the fire of 1872. The existing brick building at 93 Grant Street is believed to have been constructed in 1873. Bainbridge was manager until 1881, when he was succeeded by Joseph H. Waymouth, who served until 1904. The existing building was constructed in 1889.[16] The Union Bank became the Australia and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) in 1951.[17]

A branch of the National Bank was opened at 63 Grant Street in 1888, with a new brick building erected there by G.M. Payne of Yea to a design by architects Gibbs, Finlay and Muntz in 1907.[18] Later becoming the National Australia Bank, the bank vacated the building in 1998 (and moved to the former Beehive building at 67 Grant Street).

The street frontage of the Commonwealth Bank building at 92 Grant Street dates from 1990, when the State Bank of Victoria was taken over by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The double storey red brick building behind it was built in the 1920s and is the old State Savings Bank building, later the State Bank of Victoria.[19]

Alexandra Shire Hall is perhaps the grandest building in the town. The Shire of Alexandra was first formed in 1869, and initially operated in buildings purchased from a Mr Perkins. A municipal complex incorporating a post office, shire offices and courthouse was built at what is now 38A Downey Street in 1877.[20] The foundation stone for a shire hall was laid by the then Shire President, Peter Dunn, on 4 January 1882. It was opened on 13 July. The design was by a Melbourne architects, W.H. Ellerker & Co. and the builder was Thomas Carison at a cost of £2,214.[21]

The first Alexandra Library committee was established in 1877. On 18 November 1882 architects, W.H. Ellerker & Co. published a notice in the Argus calling for tenders for the erection of a Mechanics Institute and Free Library in the Shire of Alexandra [Lewis Index]. The new building was constructed by Thomas Carison at a cost of £467. The Mechanics Institute and Free Library was opened in June 1883. Additions to the building made in 1892 included a billiards rooms which provided additional funds for the Library.

The former Institute continued as a lending library and community venue until the 1950s when the Free Library Service Board set up the free regional library service and named it the Upper Goulburn Regional Library. It continued to operate out of the former Institute in Grant Street, the location of the current library. A modern addition has been made to the existing library. The library service is currently known as the Murrindindi Library Service, with branches at Kinglake and Yea; it also operates a mobile service.[22]

Other historic commercial buildings include the Beehive Store at 67 Grant Street. This is named after an enterprise established by Richard Vining in 1867, with the existing building replacing an earlier one destroyed by fire in 1899. It was later known as Leckie's Beehive Store and the Brigg's Beehive Stores. The National Australia Bank moved into the building in 1997.[23]

Historic buildings such as the former Mia Mia Tea Shop are a reminder of the early 20th century shopping experience whereas elsewhere the street is characterized by more recent commercial redevelopment.

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## SOURCES

- [1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.
- [2] Ibid., p. 86.
- [3] G. W. Noble, The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.
- [4] Victorian Municipal Directory, 1900, p. 264.
- [5] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 86.
- [6] Parish Plan for Township of Alexandra, Plan No. A 160(3).
- [7] Peter Rice, 'The Development of Fire Brigades in the Alexandra District', <http://www.virtual.net.au/~alexgroup/History.htm>
- [8] Lloyd, op.cit., pp. 76-77.
- [9] Coles Index.
- [10] Ibid.
- [11] Photo ID: 7901, Murrindindi Library Service.
- [12] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 95.
- [13] Ibid., p. 292-3.
- [14] Ibid., pp. 76-77.
- [15] Wises Post Office Directories, 1885-1900 and Sands and McDougall Directories, 1915-1960.
- [16] The Australian Heritage Database entry suggests a construction date of 1889, though notes their information to be provided by the nominator and not yet revised by the Commission. (See <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> )
- [17] Lloyd, op.cit., pp. 76, 80-81.
- [18] Ibid., p. 81.
- [19] Loc.cit.
- [20] See Victorian Heritage Register citation at <http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/>
- [21] Lloyd, op.cit., pp. 82-3.
- [22] Baragwanath & Hodgson, 1998, p. 10.
- [23] Lloyd, op.cit., pp. 81, 95, 256, 259.



## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 7. BUILDING TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS

#### 7.1 Township Development

## Description

### Physical Description

Alexandra Main Street is a civic and commercial precinct comprising buildings from the late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries. It includes buildings on both sides of Grant Street generally between Nihil Street and the Goulburn River.

The shops within the precinct are predominantly single storey, with the exception of two storey brick Federation brick shops at No.66 (south-west corner of Downey Street), which is one of four two storey buildings facing this corner, and the two storey weatherboard shops at Nos.95-97. Other two storey buildings include the four surviving hotels and the two banks (see descriptions below). Typically, the shops retain relatively intact parapets, but the ground level storefronts have mostly been altered. Some original or early shopfronts survive such as at No.61, Nos.79-81 (former tearooms - see below), No.97, No.100 and Nos.74-78 (see below).

Buildings of particular note include:

- Shire Hall and Free Library 35 and 55 Grant Street (both are already individually protected by HO16 and HO15, respectively)
- Former National Bank, 63 Grant Street. This two storey Federation brick bank is one of four two storey buildings surrounding the Downey Street intersection. It has a high degree of external integrity with original features such as the moulded render detailing to the facade and original windows and doorways in the principal elevations remaining intact.
- Alexandra Hotel, 64 Grant Street. This is one of four two storey buildings surrounding the Downey Street intersection. It is the most externally intact of the surviving nineteenth century hotels in Alexandra and retains its two storey verandah along two elevations. There is a single storey wing with a hip iron roof extending along the Downey Street frontage.
- Commercial Hotel, 65 Grant Street. This is one of four two storey buildings surrounding the Downey Street intersection. It comprises the c.1880 hotel and twentieth century additions and alterations including the verandah.
- Shops, 66 Grant Street. A two-storey red brick Federation brick shop building with a chamfered corner elevation featuring a small curved parapet at the top.
- Former Beehive Store (now National Australia Bank), 67 Grant Street. While the shopfront and verandah are not original, the building retains its original ornately detailed parapet.
- Shops, 74-78 Grant Street. These shops are notable as an intact example of a large inter-war shop building with an intact facade that includes the shopfront and the large rendered parapet composed of a raised central section with a flagpole flanked by lower curved sections.
- Former Mia Mia Tea Shop, 79-81 Grant Street. A circa 1905 single-storey brick commercial building with and intact

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shopfront, featuring render accents and decorative aprons below the windows, and a highly ornamental parapet.

- Shamrock Hotel, 80 Grant Street. This early twentieth century hotel has Arts & Crafts detailing such as the half timbering to the street-facing gable, and to the verandah which is supported on tapered rendered piers with brick bases. At street level some original detailing including tiling and windows survives.

- Mount Pleasant Hotel, 90 Grant Street. This hotel has an early twentieth century front section, Moderne detailing and a tiled roof - the rear section with a corrugated iron roof may contain an earlier section. The symmetrically composed facade comprises a central projecting balcony supported on fluted Tuscan order columns, which is flanked by rendered facade elements with double height windows with arched heads. The ground level central entrance doors and windows remain intact.

- ANZ (former Union) Bank, 93 Grant Street. This is a late nineteenth century bank, which has a high degree of external integrity.

All other buildings in this precinct are contributory, except:

North side: 71-73, and 89.

South side: 62 and 70-72, which are non-contributory.

The public realm comprises concrete kerbside and recent landscaping in the central median between Nihil Street and Downey Street.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (SPECIFIC)

The conservation policy may be achieved by ensuring that:

1. New buildings are built to the frontage (i.e., with a zero setback).
2. New buildings have a massing to the street that is consistent with parapet height of adjoining Significant or Contributory buildings.
3. Above verandah signage is limited and is sited in historically appropriate locations on buildings.
4. Building additions above the existing parapet level are to be set back to avoid being viewed from the opposite side of the street from an average height of 1.7 metres.
5. New infill development reflects the traditional proportions and rhythm of architectural elements on adjoining Significant or Contributory buildings.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (GENERAL)

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this precinct, it policy to:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other elements that contribute to the significance of the precinct. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the

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precinct and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Encourage the restoration or recreation of missing features based on historic evidence.

3. Encourage a contextual approach to new development within the precinct that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in design.

4. Ensure that new development does not become a dominant visual element within the precinct.

5. Discourage the demolition of contributory buildings except where it can be demonstrated that:

- The building is structurally unsound and cannot be repaired without undertaking significant replacement of fabric that would diminish the integrity of the building, and

- The proposed replacement building embodies design excellence that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings of primary significance and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in approach.

6. Demolition of part of a contributory building may be allowed when it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

?- The part to be demolished is not significant or the part demolition will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

?- It will assist in the long term conservation or maintenance of the place, or

?- It will support the viability of the existing use of the place or will facilitate a new use that is compatible with the ongoing conservation of the building, or

?- It will upgrade the building to meet contemporary living standards such as improving energy efficiency.

7. Conserve contributory plantings, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and associated buildings or other structures.

8. Retain views of contributory buildings and plantings from the street, and other views identified as contributing to the historic character of the precinct.

9. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in revealing or interpreting the significance of the place.

10. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to

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the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The commercial and civic buildings on both sides of Grant Street between Nihil Street and the Goulburn River, Nos. 60-100 and 35-97 Grant Street.

The town of Alexandra began in the 1860s as a mining camp and became the municipal centre of the Shire of Alexandra, which was formed in 1869. The properties in the precinct were sold in first land sales that were held in 1867 and early buildings were of timber, but a disastrous fire in 1872 destroyed many of the buildings in the town. Later buildings were built of brick, which reflected the growing importance and prosperity of the town, particularly after the opening of the railway. These included the Shire Hall and Free Library built in 1882 and 1883 respectively, the Union Bank in 1873, the Beehive Stores in 1899 and the National Bank in 1907. Up to 24 hotels were established in the township and four of these survive today in this precinct, which date from the late nineteenth and the early twentieth century. The development of the centre continued into the inter-war period as it became an important regional centre.

Today, the precinct comprises buildings from the late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries that illustrate its long history. All buildings are contributory with the exception of nos. 71-73, 89 and nos. 62 and 70-72. The shops within the precinct are predominantly single storey, with the exception of No.66 and Nos.95-97. Other two storey buildings include the four surviving hotels and the three banks. Typically, the shops retain relatively intact parapets, but the ground level storefronts have mostly been altered. Some original or early shopfronts survive such as at No.61, No.79 (former tearooms - see below), No.97, No.100 and Nos.74-78. Notable buildings of individual significance include the Shire Hall and Free Library, which form an impressive pair of civic buildings, the four two storey buildings on each corner of the intersection of Grant and Downey streets (being the former National Bank at 63 Grant Street, the Alexandra Hotel at 64 Grant Street, the Commercial Hotel at No. 65, and the shops at No.66), as well as the former Beehive Store at No.67, the shops at Nos. 74-78, the former tearooms at No. 79-81, the former Union Bank at No.93, and the Shamrock Hotel and the Mount Pleasant Hotel (Nos. 80 and 90).

How is it significant?

Alexandra Main Street precinct is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Alexandra Main Street precinct is significant for its associations with key phases in the historic development of Alexandra in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as the shire centre and an important town servicing the surrounding region. The prosperity and importance of the centre is reflected in the scale and quality of the significant buildings, particularly the Shire Hall, the Mechanics' Institute and Free Library, the banks and hotels. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

Aesthetically, Alexandra Main is significant as a representative example of a commercial and civic centre, which is notable for its relatively high degree of integrity. The qualities that contribute to its aesthetic values include the landmark civic and commercial buildings, in particular the notable pair of the Shire Hall and Mechanics' Institute & Free Library and the grouping of two storey buildings around the Downey Street intersection. (RNE criteria E.1)

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Alexandra Main Street precinct is socially significant as the centre of the former Alexandra Shire and a place where local people have gathered to meet, shop, work, socialise, worship and attend school for over 130 years. (RNE criteria G.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Yarck Township Precinct  
**Address** 6573-6607 & 6586-6608 Maroondah Highway YARCK  
**Place Type** Mixed Use PrecinctStreetscape  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YARCK

The Yarck Precinct covers properties along most of the main street of the town, which serves as an important community focal point for the surrounding rural locality. The history of this area reflects several important eras of the residential, commercial and community development:

- early private settlement before the formal survey of the town.
- early development of the town following the opening of the railway and the township survey
- early 20th century growth and development

#### Early settlement of Yarck

The explorers Hamilton Hume (1797-1873) and William Hilton Hovell (1786-1875) travelled together in 1824 on an exploratory expedition from New South Wales to Corio Bay near present-day Geelong and are believed to have travelled through the site of the future township of Yarck in 1824. A settlement on Spring Creek was proposed in an article in the 'Alexandra Times' in October 1868. The area was surveyed into large agricultural allotments by John Downey in May the following year, and blocks were gradually taken up by selectors beginning from 1877. The name Yarck is Aboriginal in origin, possibly deriving from words meaning either 'swamp grass', 'long river' or 'magic'.<sup>[1]</sup> It is believed miners had originally occupied land where the township is now located. <sup>[2]</sup>

The infrastructure of a small country town had begun to evolve by the early 1880s. As Downey had surveyed the area into allotments rather than a formal township, development proceeded along the Cathkin-Mansfield Road (now the Maroondah Highway) as land owners gradually subdivided their land. Postal directories list 27 residents by 1884-85, mostly farmers, but also included a schoolteacher and hotel keeper.<sup>[3]</sup> It actually took several decades after the initial survey for the town's name to be confirmed as Yarck. In the late 1880s there were two settlements in the area using that name, one being the current town of that name, and another along Spring Creek Road, about 3km north-east of Fawcett.<sup>[4]</sup> It would seem the opening of the Yarck Railway Station in 1890 confirmed the current town's use of the name.<sup>[5]</sup>

Construction of the railway line prompted the surveying of the township of Yarck, with a series of small blocks being laid out on the east and west sides of the station and along the Cathkin-Mansfield Road (see Precinct History below).<sup>[6]</sup> The subdivision next to the station included land for a primary school. The first school, originally built as rural school No. 69 was then called Home Creek and was opened on 1 September 1870. It was replaced by State School No. 1331 which opened on 18 January 1874. The School's name was changed from Home Creek to Yarck in August 1903.<sup>[9]</sup>

By 1891-92 town residents included the proprietor of Yarck Hotel, Mrs Elizabeth Goodear, storekeepers Haack Fritz and Robert T. Smith, bootmaker John Collins and a blacksmith, Frederick Brombam. A butter factory was opened by Abe Gough and Courtney Ware in 1895, though it was closed in 1898 after being acquired by the Yea Dairy Company.<sup>[7]</sup>

#### Early twentieth century and post-WWI period

By the early twentieth century Yarck had developed into a small town serving the needs of the surrounding rural hinterland. Another sign of the development of the town was the formation of the Yarck Fire Brigade on 29 January,

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1902.[8] By 1915 Sands and McDougalls Directories list nearly 50 residents in the town, including storekeepers Arch. Balding and Percy B. Chapman, blacksmith John M Halligan and baker William T. Williams. There was a post office, Roman Catholic Church, race club, public hall, National Bank, Methodist church, state school and athletics club.[10]

Electricity was installed in the township in the year of the Melbourne Olympics, 1956. Through the twentieth century the town has retained its rural character, and not undergone substantial major development. A significant event was the closure of the Yarck Railway Station in 1978 and the removal of the railway track and other associated infrastructure.[11]

## PRECINCT HISTORY

The Yarck Township precinct is situated on land originally contained in three allotments taken up by selectors in the late 1870s:

- Allotment 10C on the south-west corner of Maroondah Highway and Yarck Road
- Allotment 12A on the north-east corner of Wright's Road and Maroondah Highway
- Allotment 9B on the south-east corner of Maroondah Highway and Wright's Road.[12]

### Allotment 10C

Allotment 10C was originally sold to Nugent Taylor of Yea on 3 March 1876, who then sold it to Dugald Gillies on 28 March, 1877.[13] Gillies subsequently subdivided the land along the Maroondah Highway into a series of narrow allotments during the 1880s and 1890s. A series of houses and shops had been constructed on these sites by the turn of the century, forming the commercial heart of the town, most of which are still extant today.

The former Yarck Mechanics' Institute (now the Yarck Public Hall) was built in 1888. The quarter-acres site was chosen in October 1887, and purchased from Dugald Gillies for 10 pounds. It was designed by architect H.B. Gibbs of Melbourne, with a main hall and stage, behind which were a library and committee room. The planned facade was described as follows: 'the main entrance being through folding doors . each leaf with six raised panels. There will be two semi-circular headed windows in front, with deep mouldings, and it will be finished off with three louvres [sic!].' The contract was let to builder Mr Heffernan, and the 325-pound construction costs were financed as follows: 100 from public subscription, a Government grant of 50, leaving a debt of about 170. The hall was opened on 12 December 1888 with a concert and grand ball.[27] An extension was made to the rear in the 1950s or '60s.[14] It has been an important focus of community life for the township.

A photograph of the Yarck General Store (now believed to be Yarck Tea Rooms at 6585 Maroondah Highway) in 1910, and title information indicates it was owned by C. Perry [15]. A branch of the National Bank is believed to have operated at No. 6597. Additional buildings including CFA facilities, shops and dwellings have been erected in this part of the township in the twentieth century.

### Allotment 12A

Allotment 12A was sold to farmer Denis Hamilton of Alexandra on 18 April, 1879. He sold it to another farmer Samuel Allardyce of Alexandra on 17 June the same year [16], who sold it a decade later to Yarck farmer, Thomas Aldins. Aldins begin subdividing the allotment that year, selling a strip of land to the Victorian Railway Commission for the planned Tallarook and Mansfield Railway. On 13 October, 1893 he sold a block of land fronting what is now the Maroondah Highway to Martha Lancaster.[17] The strip of land that was sold to Martha Lancaster was later sold to Thomas Aldous, Grazier of Yarck on 30 April 1897 [18]. It was further subdivided in 1921. The corner site was sold to in two portions,



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the first to John Marshall Halligan, blacksmith, on 24 September 1921, and the second to John Henry George Creighton, storekeeper on 4 October 1921. It is not known what structures were on these sites at the time, although it is likely that a forge and a store had been constructed by this time.

The Yarck Motor Garage at 6608 Maroondah Highway is believed to have been erected in 1938. A motor garage is first listed in Directories in 1939. The proprietor was J.M. Halligan, subsequently becoming J.M. Halligan & Son. This business later included his son, John Thomas Tait Halligan who subsequently became the title holder on 8 April 1953 [19]. Thomas Lancelot Halligan was the proprietor from 1984 until his death in 1988 [20].

The shop at what is now No. 6606 Maroondah Highway became known as Yarck General Store, and John Henry George Creighton remained the owner until his death in 1952. The title was transferred to storekeeper Ian Austin Embling in June 1953, who subsequently sold it to Harold and Mavis Morgan in 1954. The store is now known as 'The Magpie's Nest' [21].

### Allotment 9B

Allotment 9B was first sold to farmer James Nicholson Frood of Alexandra on 17 September 1877, and was subsequently sold to John Tait on 30 September 1879 [22]. This block was also subdivided to make land available for the construction of the railway line.

On 7 January 1885, Tait donated a parcel of land along what is now the Maroondah Highway for the construction of a local Presbyterian Church, the initial title holders being parishioners Andrew Dunn, David Bruce, John Tait and Timothy Creighton (Land Title, Volume 1066, Folio 213097). The Yarck Presbyterian Church was opened in July 1885 by Rev Thomas Beecher Swift, and was built by George Grieson of Gobur. The title was transferred to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation on 14 March, 1946, then the United Church in Australia Property Trust in 1980 (Land Title, Volume 1648, Folio 239484). Local historian Brian Lloyd notes that in 1953 the Yarck Community Church Hall was transported from Cathkin, where it had been a church, and placed beside the church, across the highway from the Public Hall. In August 2005 the decline of the congregation at Yarck brought closure of the Uniting Church. Brian Lloyd wrote in 2006 that the buildings and property were to be disposed of by the Uniting Church in Australia Trust.[23] [24]

The remainder of Tait's allotment, including what is now the former shop at No. 6600 on south-east corner of Maroondah Highway and Wrights Road, was transferred to Margaret Agnes Tait on 23 August in 1918 (Land Title, Volume 4139, Folio 827691). The corner site was subdivided in 1919, sold to John Edward Harris in 1930, then Agnes Halligan (Land Title, Volume 4221, Folio 844135).

Following the First World War, memorials became a common way of honouring those who volunteered for the War and did not return. These memorials were frequently given prominence in local communities, and in Yarck a memorial was erected on the roadside reserve near the church by the people of Yarck, Kanumbra, Middle Creek, Gobur, Terip, Ruffy, Cathkin and Koriella.[25] A memorial to Hume and Hovell was later built, with an inscription reading 'Hume and Hovell passed here December 3rd, 1824'.

It is uncertain when the avenue of oaks and other exotic trees was planted along the main street of Yarck. It is not identified by J. Haddow in her 1987 study of avenues of honour in Victoria as a World War One memorial.[26]

### SOURCES

[1] Nigel Sinnot, *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Published by the Friends of the Alexandra Library, 2003, p. 170.

[2] Pat McGuigan, 'The History of Kanumbra', 1988, n.p.

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- [3] Wises Post Office Directory, 1884-5.
- [4] Sinnot, op.cit., p. 170.
- [5] Harvey Blanks, 'The Story of Yea', The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 2001, p. 289.
- [6] Parish Plan for Township of Yarck, Y 84(7).
- [7] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 158.
- [8] Ibid., p 247.
- [9] Vision and Realisation, p. 659.
- [10] Sands and McDougall Directory, 1915.
- [11] Blanks, op.cit., p. 289.
- [12] Parish Plan for Yarck, Y 84(4).
- [13] Land Title, Volume 937, Folio 187212.
- [14] Pam Baragwanath and Janette Hodgson, 'An Inventory of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria', Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 1998, pp. 1118-9. Pers. comm., Colleen Jones, 06/10/08.
- [15] Land Title, Volume 1096, Folio 139, McGuigan, op.cit. n.p.
- [16] Land Title, Volume 1196, Folio 131159.
- [17] Sands and McDougall Directory, 1940, 1960.
- [18] Land Title, Volume 2500 Folio 999
- [19] Land Title, Volume 1049, Folio 628.
- [20] Land Title, Volume 4469 Folio 769
- [21] Lloyd, op.cit., pp 101-2, Land Title, Volume 4499 Folio 622
- [22] Newman, I., Community Workshop Place Nomination Form, 2005.
- [23] Lloyd, op.cit., pp. 101-2.
- [24] Land Title, Volume 1648, Folio 239484.
- [25] Plaque inscription.
- [26] Janene Haddow, 'Avenues of Honour in Victoria', Masters Thesis, School of Environmental Planning, University of Melbourne, 1987.

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[27] 'Alexandra and Yea Standard', 28/10/1887, p 4; 20/04/1888, p 2; 10/08/1888, p 2; 16/11/1888, p 7; and 14/12/1888, p 4.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 7. BUILDING SETTLEMENTS AND TOWNS

#### 7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

Yarck is a representative example of a small rural town dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The precinct comprises the properties facing the Maroondah Highway (formerly known as the Cathkin-Mansfield Road) extending from No.6573 to 6607 (north-west side) and from No.6586 to 6608 (south east side) and the land within the road reserve. It contains single storey weatherboard commercial, residential and community buildings situated along either side of a wide road reserve containing mature trees and memorials that form a cohesive and relatively intact streetscape.

A key element in the townscape is the exotic and native trees that line both sides of the Maroondah Highway road reserve, extending from south of No.6589 at the southern approach to the town to North of No.6608 on the northern entrance. As noted in the history, the origin of the trees is not known and although they may have been planted as an avenue, they are of differing size and maturity suggesting that they were not planted at the same time or there were later replacements. The species include Oaks, Planes, Pines, Elms and Eucalypts. As noted below, one notable specimen (and possibly planted earlier than the others) is the massive Monterey Pine on south-east side adjacent to the war memorial. Other features within the road reserve include the war memorial (discussed below) and small footbridges over the creek. The bridge on the south-east side has a white painted timber balustrade with an arched top rail. The abutments are constructed of local stone - this bridge led to the former primary school (now demolished). The bridge on the north side, by comparison, is more utilitarian and has a metal pipe balustrade.

Properties on the north-west side of the Highway contain a number of Victorian/Federation era weatherboard cottages with typical detailing including gable or hip corrugated iron roofs, front verandahs and timber double hung sash windows. The example at No. 6581 is perhaps the most intact and is set back from the street. It has a simple scalloped valance to the verandah and a low brick chimney at the north end. Originally symmetrical in form, it has been extended at the south end, with the division marked by a timber stop. There are two doors in the front elevation - the original entrance (but not the original door), which is flanked by double hung 6 pane sash windows and the later door in the extension. The side window in the extension is also a double hung 6 pane sash and is possibly one of the original windows, re-used. There is a skillion section at the rear.

On the north side of the hall at No.6585 is a Victorian weatherboard house/shop, which is now the Yarck Tea Rooms. It has an M-hipped corrugated iron roof and a straight verandah. Additions have been made on the north side and some of the windows have been replaced. Further to the north at Nos. 6593-6599 there is a group of four small gabled cottages all set close to the frontage and with varying degrees of intactness:

- No.6593 is in fair condition and has been altered including the addition of a projecting gable to the front verandah and infilling of the side verandah. It has a central front door flanked by double hung sash windows and a brick chimney at the

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north end.

- No.6595 has a hipped roof and 6 pane double hung sash windows. Chimneys have been removed and the verandah has been altered.

- No.6597 (a former bank?) has a traverse gable roof extending to form the front verandah. It has double hung sash windows.

- No.6599 (now a store) has a traverse gable roof. The verandah with a bullnose profile has been altered or is a later addition, as is the large window in the facade and the picket fence balustrade.

To the north of this group of houses, on the north-west corner of Yarck Road, is the Yarck Hotel, which marks the end of the commercial group on this side. The hotel is built to the street boundary on both frontages. The principal facade of the building is much altered and retains little of its original (presumed) early twentieth century character, but there are a series of more original gable roofed buildings at the rear.

The other house on this side of the street is the substantial Queen Anne weatherboard house at No. 6573, which marks the southern boundary of the precinct. This has a homestead-style roof extending to form the return verandah, which has a simple timber frieze. Original windows in the front elevation are casements with coloured glass transoms and there is a single porthole window adjacent the front door. The projecting gable has half-timbering and there is one brick chimney. The gateposts are of similar design to those of the Presbyterian church.

The Yarck Public Hall at No. 6583 is an important landmark within the town. It is a gabled weatherboard hall, which comprises the 1888 hall and the c.1950-60 addition. The 1888 hall is built to the frontage and has a straight verandah over the footpath. The facade is very intact and comprises arched head windows on either side of a pair of four panelled doors with an arched transom. The windows and the doors have label moulds which terminate in rosettes. There is a small square opening adjacent to one window. Above the verandah there are three circular vents - one large central vent at the top and two smaller vents below with similar label moulds to the windows. Windows in the side elevations are rectangular double-hung sash and there is a single timber door in the elevation. The chimney is centrally located in the roof toward the rear and there are health department roof vents. The c.1950s-60s addition projects at right angles on the south side of the building. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof of lower pitch, also with roof vents and a concrete chimney on the outside of the southern wall. There are two standard double hung sash windows on either side of double timber doors. A plaque adjacent to door suggests that this addition may have been associated with the establishment of the Country Women's Association in the town. A flagpole situated in front on this addition was erected in 1989 and commemorates 50 years of the Country Women's Association at Yarck. Both the 1888 hall and the rear extension appear to be relatively intact. A later addition is the brick toilet block on the north side of the 1888 hall.

Properties on the south-east side of the highway include a small group of early to mid twentieth century commercial buildings on either side of Wright's Road intersection. The Yarck Motor Garage at No. 6608 is a simple late inter-war garage building, clad in corrugated and flat iron with a variety of iron and timber framed windows of different heights and sizes in the side elevations. The facade has a large door leading to the garage and a faded parapet sign with 'Yarck Motor Garage', and 'Petrol' on a small return on the north elevation. There is a small corrugated iron clad building at the rear of vernacular construction, which may pre-date the garage. The former Yarck General Store (now Magpie's Nest) at No. 6606 and the old shop on the opposite corner (no.6600) are simple early twentieth century weatherboard shops with gabled roofs and post verandahs. There is an Edwardian weatherboard residence at the rear of No.6606.

The World War I memorial occupies a prominent site at the edge of the road reserve, with a backdrop of rural land and the hills behind. It is a granite obelisk on a stepped base with the A.I.F. insignia in bronze at the top, which is surmounted by a soldier in a slouch hat holding a rifle. The front and sides are inscribed with the names of the districts and those who served. It is enclosed by a low fence comprising rough-hewn granite posts connected by single chains. A massive pine

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tree survives on the north side of the memorial and the stump of what was a second tree that would have framed the memorial exists to the south. The size of the surviving tree indicates that it was planted at the time the memorial was erected or soon after. To the south of the WWI memorial is the Hume & Hovell memorial, which is a simple concrete memorial with a pyramidal base surmounted by a square column with a bronze plaque proclaiming 'Hume & Hovell passed here Decr. 3rd 1824'.

The former Yarck Presbyterian Church at No.6592 is a simple Carpenter Gothic weatherboard church with a projecting gabled porch with a pointed arch doorway and finials to the gable ends. There are three lancet windows in each side of the nave. The adjoining church hall is a slightly smaller building with similar detailing, but without the projecting porch. It has two lancet windows in the front elevation, which flank a central square-headed timber doorway. The front gable has a timber cross beam connected to a long finial, extending to the apex of the gable. There is a small skillion addition at the rear. The white-painted timber post and rail and cyclone wire front fence likely dates from the post-war era, but includes two decorative posts surmounted by orbs on either side of the entrance gates, which may be remnants of an earlier, possibly late nineteenth or early twentieth century fence. To the south of the church and hall is the former Manse, which is a simple post-war brick house.

## Conservation Policy

### GUIDELINES (SPECIFIC)

The conservation policy may be achieved by ensuring that:

1. New houses have the same setback as contributory houses on adjoining sites. Where the adjoining houses have differing setbacks then the average should be used.
2. Additions to contributory houses are located at the rear and have the same setbacks from the side boundaries as the existing house.
3. Carports should be detached and setback at least 2 metres from the front facade wall.
4. New houses or buildings do not exceed the building height of the contributory houses on adjoining sites - where the heights are different, an average should be used.
5. Additions to contributory houses do not exceed the building height of the contributory house.
6. Front fences do not exceed 1.4 metres in height.

NOTE: These specific guidelines apply only to the houses in the precinct and not to the Hall, former Presbyterian church and hall and the shops and garage at 6600, 6606 & 6608.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (GENERAL)

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this precinct, it policy to:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other elements that contribute to the significance of the precinct. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the precinct and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Encourage the restoration or recreation of missing features based on historic evidence.

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3. Encourage a contextual approach to new development within the precinct that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in design.
4. Ensure that new development does not become a dominant visual element within the precinct.
5. Discourage the demolition of contributory buildings except where it can be demonstrated that:
  - The building is structurally unsound and cannot be repaired without undertaking significant replacement of fabric that would diminish the integrity of the building, and
  - The proposed replacement building embodies design excellence that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings of primary significance and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in approach.
6. Demolition of part of a contributory building may be allowed when it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The part to be demolished is not significant or the part demolition will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation or maintenance of the place, or
  - It will support the viability of the existing use of the place or will facilitate a new use that is compatible with the on-going conservation of the building, or
  - It will upgrade the building to meet contemporary living standards such as improving energy efficiency.
7. Conserve contributory plantings, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and associated buildings or other structures.
8. Retain views of contributory buildings and plantings from the street, and other views identified as contributing to the historic character of the precinct.
9. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in revealing or interpreting the significance of the place.
10. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Yarck township precinct, extending from No.6573 to 6607 (north-west side) and from No.6586 to 6608 (south east side) and the land within the road reserve.

The district surrounding Yarck was settled from the late 1870s and although town had begun to form from the early 1880s it was the opening of the railway in 1890 and the formal survey of the town soon after that led to the creation of the town as it exists today. The first school was opened in 1870 and the Presbyterian Church in 1885 followed by the Mechanics' Institute in 1892. By 1915 Yarck could boast of nearly 50 residents as well as shops, churches, a bank branch, state school, athletics club and race club. Yarck continued to grow during the inter-war period, but there was little growth after World War Two and as a result the town retains an historic core of buildings and other features dating from its key period of establishment and development in the nineteenth century and early to mid-twentieth century.

Contributory buildings and other features that illustrate this history include:

(North side) Nos. 6573, 6581, 6583 (Hall), 6585, 6593, 6595, 6597, 6599 and 6607 (Hotel)

(South side) Nos. 6592 (Church & hall including front fence), 6600 (former shop), 6606 (shop and residence), 6608 (former garage)

Road Reserve - Oak, Elm, Plane, Pine and Eucalypts, WWI memorial, Hume & Hovell memorial, footbridge on south side.

How is it significant?

Yarck township is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Yarck is significant as a representative example of a small rural township that is associated both with the early selection of land and the development that occurred after the opening of the railway in 1890. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

Aesthetically, Yarck is significant as a picturesque example of a small country town, which is notable for its relatively high degree of integrity. The qualities that contribute to its aesthetic values include the wide road reservation lined with mature trees, the War Memorial with its backdrop of rural landscape, and the late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings and structures that form a relatively intact and cohesive streetscape. (RNE criteria E.1)

Yarck township is socially significant as the centre of the district and a place where local people have gathered to meet, shop, work, socialise, worship and attend school for over 110 years. (RNE criteria G.1)

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature Oak, Elm, Plane, Monterey Pine and Eucalypts
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



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**Name** Yea Station Street Precinct  
**Address** 1-35 Station Street YEA  
**Place Type** Mixed Use Precinct  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The Station Street Precinct at Yea includes properties along the north side of a principal thoroughfare into the town from Melbourne. The alignment of the street is not a product of the location of the railway. The historic development of this precinct reflects its proximity to the town centre and to the railway station and is associated with several important eras of the town's residential, commercial and civic development:

- Late nineteenth century development after the opening of the railway line
- Growth of the community in the twentieth century

Early development - from first land sales to the 1880s

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed by Surveyor Pinniger, and laid out in 1855 with the first land sale in 1856. It was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[1]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.[2]

In 1900, the 'Victorian Municipal Directory' described Yea as a:

"Municipal township with telegraph station, post, money-order, savings bank and revenue offices, on Yea river and 75 miles (79 3/4 by rail) N.E. of Melbourne. Four hotels, agencies of three insurance companies, branch of one bank, State school, three churches, court-house, police camp, twelve creameries and butter factory. Stock sales first Friday in Month. District - pastoral and mining. Country between Tallarook and Yea, most romantic and picturesque in Victoria. District favoured by nature, the hot winds are refrigerated in their southern course by the Switzerland range, which abuts for miles and casts the shadow of its lofty and majestic outlines on the meanderings of Goulburn river. Geological formation, principally Palaeozoic intersected in places by masses of granite, show that auriferous quartz reefs of great extent and richness abound, only requiring a theoretical and practical mining knowledge, with the diamond drill, to make Yea a most important mining district. Land suited for vineyards, orchards, oranges and lemons. Station on Tallarook to Alexandra-road line, 79 3/4 miles: fares, 14s, 3d and 9s 8d. Weekly half-holiday on Thursday. Harriet Barclay, postmistress."[3]

This description was conducive to attracting settlers to the area and visitors were welcomed by shopkeepers and the hotel located opposite the railway station.

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## STATION STREET PRECINCT HISTORY

### Early land sales and subdivision

Before the subdivision and development of the area east of Station Street, the land was used as a town race track. Local historian, H.C. Gordon recalls that:

"The start was behind the present primary school and the course up by Lee Gow's corner around the site of the old Butter Factory, down around Miller Street and the finish behind the site of the Railway Hotel, which of course was not there then." [4]

Station Street was originally known as Upper Muddy Creek Road. It was renamed Station Street after the railway link from Tallarook to Yea was opened in 1883. The construction works included grubbing stumps and clearing the roadway. The existing railway station and associated outbuildings were erected in 1889. A site on the western end of Station Street next to what is now number 15, was considered for the town post office in the 1880s, but was abandoned in favour of land next to the courthouse. In another part of town a drinking trough for horses was installed in the street in the early 1890s. [5]

The existing layout of property boundaries and listings and original title holders has evolved considerably from the initial pattern of subdivision in the area. The construction of the railway line and station involved the acquisition of land previously sold and allocated to others, including property previously belonging to the school. A 1905 Parish Plan of the area gives a useful overview of initial land ownership, and also subsequent subdivision of land in the vicinity after the construction of the railway station. The Station Street precinct covers land, most of which was originally sold as a series of allotments in the first Crown Land sales in the late 1850s and early 1860s. These were Allotments 1 and 2 in Section 9, and Allotments 1 (A-E), and 2-5 in Section 10. While most of these allotments were later subdivided, the original pattern of subdivision of large rectangular parcels of land, intersected by Anne and Mary streets connecting Station Street to laneways at the rear, is still visible. [6]

Of the original allotments, Allotment 1 in Section 9 was originally sold to J. Hewlett on 24 September 1858. The adjoining Allotment 2 was sold to A. Wishart on 9 September 1864. In Section 10 on the eastern side of Anne Street, Allotments 1 (A-E) were not sold until the early 20th century - 1A to A.R. Stackhouse on 2 March, 1903, 1B, 1C and 1E to J.W. Johnston on 8 January, 1903 and 1D to H. Borrie on 8 January, 1903. Allotment 2 was sold to D. McLeish on 5 September, 1862. Allotment 3 was sold to D. Miller on the same day, with Allotments 4 and 5 also then being sold, to J. Edwards.

### Development on the Allotments

By the 1900s, the northern side of Station Street had developed into an area of mixed residential, commercial and community use, and it retains this character to this day. There has been ongoing development at most sites, and with a few exceptions, most of the surviving building stock is twentieth century in origin.

The shop at 7 Station Street was originally built by a Chinese storekeeper Lee Gow in 1889, who advertised his store as 'your dear old friend Lee Gow.' Taking advantage of that fact that trains passing through Yea would stop there for twenty minutes, Lee Gow sold confectionary, fruit and vegetables, small goods and soft drinks. During the 1980s the building was occupied by a French restaurant (Le Beret), and in the 1990s by the Kirby Family Antique and Second Hand Goods. [8]

The building at what is now 15 Station Street was originally built as a Temperance Hall, on Allotment 1A of Section 10. This land was transferred to John Speechly Gotch on 23 February 1886; then to farmer Robert Johnston and carpenter

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Alfred Cleeland of Yea on 5 June, 1903. (Land Title, Volume 1804, Folio 648). The Story of Yea records that 'In 1883 the Band of Hope, or Yea Temperance Regiment as it sometimes called itself, applied for a quarter acre block of land in Station Street on part of the old school site, expressing its desire to build a hall there. For some reason the Council objected, but relented a month later upon receipt of a letter from the Band of Hope's solicitors. Permission to build a hall was granted by a slim majority,' The hall would appear to have been built by the late 1880s, though it is not certain exactly when. It was subsequently used as a Salvation Army Hall, with officers of the Salvation Army James Hay and Wiebe Palstra becoming the title holders in 1917, then the Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust in 1931 (Land Title Volume 9856, Folio 148). Frank and Dorothy Pollard became the owners in 1967, the building becoming occupied by Pollard's Clothing Factory by the 1970s.[9]

The Peppercorn Hotel at 21 Station Street has been known as the Commercial Railway Hotel for most of its operation. It is thought to have been first established in 1871. Its location on the major road into the township also allowed it to take advantage of passing traffic as well as rail passengers stopping at Yea for twenty minute refreshment breaks. By 1900 William Oliver is listed in postal directories as the proprietor. An advertisement in 1915 cites Mrs W. Oliver as the proprietress, the hotel offering 'good accommodation for the travelling public, motor car on hire, good stabling, paddock, horses and traps on hire'. Later hoteliers include D. Hespby by 1930, Mrs V.G. Carter through the 1940s, and M.L. Harrison by 1960. The facade including the front verandah was remodelled in the early decades of the twentieth century.[10]

Yea Primary School No. 699 had been first established on 1 January 1860, though its presence at 23 Station Street only dates from 1923. In the early years, classes were held in the Presbyterian chapel, with sufficient funds being raised for the erection of a timber school building in 1872, which was replaced by brick school at a site on the Semicircle. The school had grown to 192 pupils by 1900, and continued growth led to Education Department searching for a new site for the school. Allotment 3 in Section 10 (now 23 Station Street) had been sold by David Miller to Eaton Stannard Purcell in 1888, then to Joseph Proctor Bainbridge in 1914. It was purchased by the Minister of the Crown administering Education on 26 June 1923, and the construction of a new Higher Elementary School (HES) building commenced soon after (Land Title, Volume 157, Folio 215). After the HES was proclaimed a high school in 1957, it was decided to move the school to a new site elsewhere in the town. Land on Racecourse Road was purchased in 1959, and the move to the new facilities was undertaken in 1964. 23 Station Street was then occupied by Yea Primary School (School No. 699).[11]

The Scots Presbyterian Church at 31 Station Street was built by L.J. Bishop in 1923. The foundation stone was laid on 16 December 1922 and it was officially opened by the Rt. Rev. John McKenzie on 12 July 1923. Funds were largely raised through bonds, with the final payment made in 1939. Harvey Blanks writes that this was 'partly as a result of a 500 pound legacy from Mrs Officer'. The Oregon pine seats (built by T. Watson) and part of the pulpit from the original church were moved to the present church. The first minister of the new church was the Revered Horatio Augustus Eugene O'Sullivan, who had begun his term at Yea in 1921. Local families have donated various items of furniture, stained glass and there have been minor alterations over the years. The new church was a successor to Yea's original Presbyterian Church, which had been commissioned by Mrs Alexander Miller in c.1863-1864. The total cost of the Church was 2600 pounds. The original church had been used as a school at different times.[12]

Station Street has always been partly residential in character, and the houses there today include examples of different architectural styles from the Victorian era up to the present day. Only a few nineteenth century dwellings remain, such as the timber cottages at 9 and 17 Station Street. Number 11 is typically 1940s in style. The most architecturally distinguished house in the street however is 'Halletta' at number 35, a large Federation style villa. The year of construction and identity of the architect and builder are not currently known. There is no entry for the property in Miles Lewis, Australian Architectural Index. The property now occupies land originally part of Allotments 4 and 5 of Section 10, with modifications occurring to the original allotment boundaries in the early 20th Century. In 1952 it was purchased by medical practitioner, Ralph Reginald Pilkington. It was then sold to other medical practitioners, Charles George Sargent Hosking and Dorothy Pryde Paterson on 20 May, 1964 (Land Title, Volume 7512, Folio 074). It is known locally as 'the doctor's house'.

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The Yea-Mansfield-Alexandra railway line closed in 1978. Some of the station facilities were removed and the remaining buildings, on the opposite side of Station Street, became derelict. In 1985 the Friends of the Yea Railway was formed to restore the old station building and turn the station grounds into a community reserve. Works undertaken over the next two decades have turned the area into a major asset for the town.[13]

## SOURCES

[1] Nigel Sinnot, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Published by the Friends of the Alexandra Library, 2003, p. 171; RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants, Yea Police Station Conservation Management Plan, 2002, p. 6; Harvey Blanks, The Story of Yea, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, pp. 131-3.

[2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yea,\\_Victoria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yea,_Victoria)

[3] Victorian Municipal Directory, 1900, p. 567.

[4] H C Gordon, Yea, Its Discovery and Development 1825-1920, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1954, p. 65.

[5] Andrew C Ward & Associates, Study of Historic Railway Buildings and Structures for V-Line, Appendices Volume 3, p. 469; Blanks, op.cit., pp. 199-202.

[6] Parish Plan for Township of Yea, 1905, Y563.

[8] <http://www.tourisminternet.com.au/yeheritw.htm>; Blanks, op.cit., p. 200, p. 286.

[9] Blanks, op.cit., p. 190; A Salvation Army Hall is listed in the town in Sands and McDougall Directories 1930-60, though the street address is not given; Blanks, ibid., p. 214.

[10] <http://www.peppercornyea.com.au/> (2007) accessed through [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org); Blanks, op.cit., p. 200; Sands and McDougall Directories 1915-60.

[11] Blanks, op.cit., pp. 225-6 and pp. 239-40.

[12] Blanks, ibid., pp. 187-8; Gordon, op.cit., pp. 85-6.

[13] Blanks, op.cit., p. 289, Yea Chronicle, 12 July p. 25.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

3.2 Railways

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

The north-east side of Station Street (numbers 7 to 35) from The Crescent to Mary Street comprises a number of 19th and

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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early 20th century residential and community buildings that are associated with the development of Yea after the opening of the railway in 1883. The buildings are on the north side of the street and face toward the railway station and the reserve that once contained the railway line and sidings.

Buildings of particular note are:

- Former Lee Gow's Shop at No 7. This is an early weatherboard shop, which is notable for its early/original shopfront with remnants of painted signage and the street verandah. It appears to have been constructed in stages, which is indicated by the two separate gable roofs. The front roof is concealed behind a stepped parapet.
- Former Temperance Hall at No.15. This is a simple gabled weatherboard hall. The windows are double hung sash with the upper pane divided in two. The facade retains what appears to be the original decorative pilasters. The front post verandah shown in early photographs has been removed and the front door replaced.
- Former Railway (now Peppercorn) Hotel at No.21. Originally single storey, this was enlarged in the 1920s and now has an Edwardian/inter-war appearance. It has two hip and gable roofs that are separated by render facade details that form an extension of the main wall and have moulded detailing. The two-storey front verandah is supported on brick piers and the upper verandah has paired posts and timber brackets with a timber balustrade.
- The Yea Primary School at No. 23 is a weatherboard school of typical inter-war design. It has a hip and gable iron roof and multi-paned windows in pairs. The roof extends to form a small porch over the entrance in a corner of the two parts of the building. A low fence constructed of local stone and wrought iron extends across the frontage. At the entry it forms a curved fence with stone piers supporting a timber sign with raised metal lettering 'Yea Primary School'. The front gardens contain some mature Ash trees.
- Scots' Presbyterian Church at No.31 is of Gothic Revival style with brick render banding details in a T-shaped plan. The church features lancet windows, a narrow bell tower at the front and exposed rafter ends. The roof has square tiles, possible of fibrous cement.
- 'Halletta' at No.35 is a large Federation brick house with a high clay tile hip roof with individual minor gables. There is a timber verandah valance and the roof has decorative features of cresting and terracotta dragon finials. The gables have Gothic bargeboards and half-timbering and casement windows with transoms. The property has a large garden and is surrounded by a sympathetic picket fence and gates, which may contain remnants of the original or early fence.

The other contributory building is the 19th century cottage at No 9, Station Street. It has an M-hip iron roof and a separate straight verandah that returns on one side. The centrally located front door has sidelights and highlights and is flanked by double hung sash windows. There is one brick chimney. The front and side picket fence is sympathetic, but not original.

Other houses, including the inter-war house at No.11, are non-contributory as they are not associated with the early period of development.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (SPECIFIC)

The conservation policy may be achieved by ensuring that:

1. New houses have the same setback as contributory houses on adjoining sites. Where the adjoining houses have

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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differing setbacks then the average should be used. This does not apply to lots adjoining the Railway Hotel, and the Presbyterian Church.

2. Additions to contributory houses are located at the rear and have the same setbacks from the side boundaries as the existing house.
3. Carports should be detached and setback at least 2 metres from the front facade wall.
4. New houses or buildings do not exceed the building height of the contributory houses on adjoining sites - where the heights are different, an average should be used.
5. Additions to contributory houses do not exceed the building height of the contributory house.
6. Front fences do not exceed 1.4 metres in height.

NOTE: These specific guidelines apply only to the houses in the precinct and not to the former Railway Hotel, Yea School, or Scot's Presbyterian church.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (GENERAL)

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this precinct, it policy to:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other elements that contribute to the significance of the precinct. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the precinct and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Encourage the restoration or recreation of missing features based on historic evidence.
3. Encourage a contextual approach to new development within the precinct that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in design.
4. Ensure that new development does not become a dominant visual element within the precinct.
5. Discourage the demolition of contributory buildings except where it can be demonstrated that:
  - The building is structurally unsound and cannot be repaired without undertaking significant replacement of fabric that would diminish the integrity of the building, and
  - The proposed replacement building embodies design excellence that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings of primary significance and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in approach.
6. Demolition of part of a contributory building may be allowed when it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The part to be demolished is not significant or the part demolition will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation or maintenance of the place, or
  - It will support the viability of the existing use of the place or will facilitate a new use that is compatible with the on-

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going conservation of the building, or

- It will upgrade the building to meet contemporary living standards such as improving energy efficiency.

7. Conserve contributory plantings, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and associated buildings or other structures.

8. Retain views of contributory buildings and plantings from the street, and other views identified as contributing to the historic character of the precinct.

9. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in revealing or interpreting the significance of the place.

10. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The north-east side of Station Street (numbers 7 to 35) from The Crescent to Mary Street. The buildings face toward the railway station and the reserve that once contained the railway line and sidings.

The district of Yea was settled as early as the 1840s. The township was surveyed in 1855 and the first land sales were held in 1856. Muddy Creek Road (renamed Station Street after the opening of the railway in 1883) was one of the main thoroughfares into the town and allotments were sold at the first land sales in 1856. The first Presbyterian church was built here in c.1864. The opening of the railway to Yea in 1883 stimulated development in the town and much of the development in Station Street today is associated with the growth in Yea in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This includes commercial businesses associated with the railway station such as the former Railway Hotel and Lee Gow's General Store. Other contributory places include the house at No.9, the former Temperance hall at No.15, Yea Primary School at No. 23, Scots' Presbyterian Church at No. 31, and 'Halletta', the fine Federation house on a large corner garden allotment at No.35.

How is it significant?

The Station Street precinct in Yea is of local historic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire.



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Why is it significant?

Historically, The Station Street precinct is significant for its associations with a key phase in the historic development of Yea after the opening of the railway in 1883. It is a representative example of the mixed commercial, community and residential precincts that developed in proximity to stations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The close connection between the station and the development of the precinct is demonstrated by the former Railway Hotel and Lee Gow's General Store. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

Architecturally, 'Haletta' is a fine example of an intact and richly detailed Federation villa, and the former Railway (Peppercorn) Hotel is a substantial and handsome hotel which retains its Arts & Crafts detail. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Scots Presbyterian Church

**Address** 31 Station Street YEA

**Significance Level** Local

**Place Type** Church

**Citation Date** 2011

**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended Heritage Protection**      **VHR - HI - PS** Yes

**Architectural Style**      Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940)  
Gothic

**Maker / Builder**      Bishop, LJ

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF SCOTS' CHURCH

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Mrs Alexander Miller instigated building the first Scots' Church in c.1863-64 and then either gave or sold it to the Presbyterian Church. It was built using local handmade bricks and pit-sawn Red Gum timber and until c.1885 the church bell swung from the branch of an old Red Gum. The first minister was the Reverend A. Murdoch. Other early ministers included the Reverends Mackie, Taylor Milne, Bett and Martin. From 1880-1883, a period when there was no minister, 'a typical Welsh singer and revivalist' named Mills, on weekdays a miner and blacksmith, preached at the church and conducted evening hymn meetings on the nearby river bank.[1] The original church was also used as a school; in the 1870s Charlotte Webster, after whom Mount Charlotte was named, taught at the school. Charlotte was a daughter of James D. Webster, a member of the first Yea Road Board. Her brother, J.D. Webster, was the first Shire President.[2]

## BUILDING OF THE NEW CHURCH

The foundation stone of the present church was laid on 16 December 1922; it was built by L.J. Bishop in 1922-1923. The church was officially opened by the Right Reverend John McKenzie on 12 July 1923.[3]

Early fund-raising for the new church caused serious problems. In 1907, fund-raising was launched with an All Nations Fair, but despite the then minister, Reverend F.E. Yeaman, prohibiting the running of raffles, some parishioners disregarded his decree and conducted them anyway. This resulted in the resignation of Reverend Yeaman and 'a bitter split among the congregation'. The split was partially resolved by using the funds raised at the Fair towards a new manse instead of the new church. Funds were largely raised through bonds. The final payment on the church was made in 1939 'partly as a result of a £500 legacy from Mrs Officer'.[4]

The Oregon pine seats, built by T. Watson, and part of the pulpit from the original church, were moved to the present church. The first minister of the new church was the Reverend Horatio Augustus Eugene O'Sullivan, who had begun his term at Yea in 1921. Gifts for the new church donated by parishioners included pulpit furnishings from R. McCracken, communion table from Mr and Mrs J.W. Dunlop, and the Elders' chairs from G. Liddell, D. Main, R. Sambrook and J. Tosh. Later gifts included the stained glass windows.

Minor alterations were made to the interior c.1964 when the choir stalls were moved to the eastern transept; the communion table, font and Elders' chairs moved onto the platform; new carpet laid and the interior painted. These alterations were a gift from L.J. Bishop, the builder responsible for the church's construction. Other gifts given in 1966 included a wooden cross from W Purvis, a Bible from Mrs O H M Jackson and Mrs L Sichlau, and a moderator's chair from the Purcell family.[5]

## SOURCES

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, 1973, pp. 185-7

[2] H.C. Gordon, 'Yea, Its Discovery and Development, 1825 to 1920', p. 40.

[3] *Ibid.*, pp. 85-6.

[4] Blanks, *op.cit.*, pp. 187-8

[5] *Ibid.*, pp. 188-9.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9.2 Religion

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Description

### Physical Description

The Scots Presbyterian Church is of Gothic Revival style with brick render banding details in a T-shaped plan. The church features lancet windows, a narrow bell tower at the front and exposed rafter ends. The roof has square tiles, possible of fibrous cement.

While the interior was not inspected, the church is still in use and it is understood that the interior is intact and retains many early furnishings and items donated by congregation members.

There is a modern 1960s hall at the rear.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Furnishings such as the pulpit from the original church, the Oregon pews, wooden cross, moderator's chair, choir stalls, communion table, font and Elders' chairs should be retained at the church if possible.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Scots' Presbyterian Church at 31 Station Street, Yea.

The first Scots' Presbyterian Church in Yea was established in c.1863-64 and was built using local handmade bricks and pit-sawn Red Gum timber and until c.1885 the church bell swung from the branch of an old Red Gum. It was also used as a school. The building served until a new church, the present building, was erected by L.J. Bishop in 1922-1923. The church was officially opened by the Right Reverend John McKenzie on 12 July 1923. The Oregon pine seats, built by T. Watson, and part of the pulpit from the original church were moved to the present church. Gifts for the new church donated by parishioners included pulpit furnishings from R. McCracken, communion table from Mr and Mrs J.W. Dunlop, and the Elders' chairs from G. Liddell, D. Main, R. Sambrook and J. Tosh. Later gifts included the stained glass windows. Minor alterations were made to the interior c.1964 when the choir stalls were moved to the eastern transept; the communion table, font and Elders' chairs moved onto the platform; new carpet laid and the interior painted. These alterations were carried out by the original builder.

The 1960s church hall is not significant.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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How is it significant?

The Scots' Presbyterian Church is of local historic, architectural and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the site is significant for its associations with the Presbyterian church since the earliest settlement of Yea and the present church illustrates the development of the parish in the twentieth century. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

The church is architecturally significant as a fine and relatively intact example of an inter-war Gothic church (RNE criterion D.2)

Socially, it is significant as the centre of Presbyterian worship in Yea and as a place with strong community associations for over 100 years. The associations between the church and community are illustrated by the various items that have been donated to the church since its construction including furnishings and the stained glass windows. (RNE criterion G.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

Yes

**Internal Alteration Controls**

Yes

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Yea The Parade Precinct  
**Address** 1-9, 31-35, 4-20 & 34-48 The Parade YEA  
**Place Type** Mixed Use Precinct  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The Parade precinct at Yea was laid out in 1855 as part of the survey of the Township of Yea by Thos. Pinniger and the historic development of this precinct reflects its proximity to the town centre and to the railway station and illustrates the development of Yea in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries after the opening of the railway line.

### Early settlement of Yea - from first land sales to the 1880s

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed by Surveyor Pinniger, and laid out in 1855 with the first land sale in 1856. It was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations.

### Growth and development of Yea after the opening of the railway

The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. The railway boosted the development as timber and produce could be dispatched directly to markets in Melbourne. It also promoted Yea as a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A post office was built in 1890, followed by a grandstand and a butter factory in 1891. In 1900, the 'Victorian Municipal Directory' described Yea as a:

"Municipal township with telegraph station, post, money-order, savings bank and revenue offices, on Yea river and 75 miles (79 3/4 by rail) N.E. of Melbourne. Four hotels, agencies of three insurance companies, branch of one bank, State school, three churches, court-house, police camp, twelve creameries and butter factory. Stock sales first Friday in Month. District - pastoral and mining. Country between Tallarook and Yea, most romantic and picturesque in Victoria. District favoured by nature, the hot winds are refrigerated in their southern course by the Switzerland range, which abuts for miles and casts the shadow of its lofty and majestic outlines on the meanderings of Goulburn river. Geological formation, principally Palaeozoic intersected in places by masses of granite, show that auriferous quartz reefs of great extent and richness abound, only requiring a theoretical and practical mining knowledge, with the diamond drill, to make Yea a most important mining district. Land suited for vineyards, orchards, oranges and lemons. Station on Tallarook to Alexandra-road line, 79 3/4 miles: fares, 14s, 3d and 9s 8d. Weekly half-holiday on Thursday. Harriet Barclay, postmistress."

Due to expansion of timber industry the population of the Shire increased from 1500 in 1888 to 3300 by 1897, while the population of Yea township also doubled during that time from 250 to 500. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915 and by 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126. This population has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## HISTORY OF THE PARADE

The Parade comprises parts of Sec. 11 and Sec 13 in the Township of Yea and was laid out in 1855 by Assistant Surveyor Thos. Pinniger as part of the first survey of the 'township on Yea on the Muddy Creek' [1].

The reason for the distinctive layout of The Parade is unknown - the township of Yea was otherwise laid out on a typical grid pattern, with some concessions made to the location of existing tracks and physical features. However, the location of the subdivision on the highest point in town and its distinctive layout with parallel streets (Raglan and Lyons streets) incorporating a crescent (The Semi-Circle) at the northern end recalls British town planning practices of the nineteenth century and is reminiscent of Henry Foot's c.1840s plan for the Brighton Estate and Clement Hodgkinson's c.1854 layout for St Vincent Place and surrounding streets in South Melbourne. [2]

The 1855 plan for the Parade was not fully realised - a continuation of The Parade to a circular feature at the southern end, which a notation on plan indicates was to be reserved for an 'Episcopal' (Anglican?) building did not eventuate (the Anglican church was built on another site [1]). The integrity of the layout was also disrupted somewhat by the later intervention of the Mansfield railway through the top of The Semi-Circle. The lots on either side of The Parade were originally about 1 acre in area and extended all the way through to the parallel side streets [3]. Later subdivision has reduced the size of most the lots - typically the rear portion was excised to create separate lots with frontage to the side streets and/or the part of the lot with a frontage to The Parade was subdivided down the middle to create two lots.

Examination of some (but not all titles) indicates that many lots were not sold until the 1870s, and others as late as the 1890s. [3] Development appears to have commenced in the late 1880s and was associated with the significant growth of Yea in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries after the opening of the railway in 1883. Allotments 2 and 3 in the subdivision were acquired by the Catholic Church and the first Sacred Heart church, a timber building, was constructed in 1890. A brick presbytery was built soon after. In 1902 the church was replaced by more substantial brick church [4].

The exact dates of the houses in the precinct are not known as this is difficult to establish from rate book information. However, some clues are provided by title information, which show that some early landowners were prominent businesspeople, and help in identifying periods of ownership that may have been associated with the construction of a dwelling.

The Crown Grant for Allotment 3, Section 13 (which comprises what is now No.10 The Parade as well as the two lots immediately to the rear facing Raglan Street) was made to Edward Smith of Yea in March 1876. In June 1890 Smith took out a mortgage to Charles Davey and just over one year later sold the property to Janet Bett, wife of James Bett.[5] The brick house on this site was possibly built by Smith or for the Bett family around this time. The Bett family retained ownership of the property until the 1930s when it began to be subdivided. James and John Bett, who became owners in 1938, also had an interest in No.10 The Parade (see below).

The Crown Grant for Allotment 3, Section 13 (which comprises what is now No.10 The Parade and the two lots immediately to the rear facing Raglan Street) was made to Eaton Stannard Purcell, a storekeeper of Yea in May 1884.[6] He had established a general store in the 1860s and in 1887 built a brick store, which was managed by several generations of his family who were prominent in the town.[7] The 1887 store still exists at 20 High Street. Purcell sold to Margaret Collins in 1888 who in turn sold to Mary Anne Daley in 1896. One year later Daley transferred the front part of the lot facing The Parade to a consortium of men comprising Hussey de Burgh Robinson, James Barrie, Richard Hall, Edward Smith, John Bett, Robert Drysdale and James Bett [8].

What is now No.35 The Parade was first acquired by James Marshall in June 1895. He sold the property in 1901 to James Wild, a tailor, of Yea who owned the property until his death in 1930 after which it was transferred to his widow, Amy [9]. The Victorian era house on this site is likely to date from either the Marshall or early period of the Wild ownership.

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James Alfred Wild was a tailor, hatter and men's mercer. He had a brick shop and workroom adjacent to the Commercial Bank, which was 'adjudged one of High Street's best buildings of the time'. Established in 1894, it was the only business of its kind in the district its workroom was considered to be the equal of any in Melbourne. James Wild made suits for most men in the area, who apparently considered his cut as good as any they could buy in the city. Born in Clunes in 1868, he served his tailoring apprenticeship in that town, after which he worked for four years as tailor and cutter with the Collins Street firm of Southwell Coultas and Co. He was one of Yea's prominent Freemasons, serving a term as Master of the Duke of Clarence Lodge, and was also a member of the local Oddfellows Lodge, as well as serving for many years as a vestryman of St Luke's Anglican Church. In 1900 he married Amy, daughter of Mr Charles Knights [10].

By the early twentieth century Yea had an established air and was described in 'The Cyclopaedia of Victoria' as 'one of the prettiest towns in Victoria ... in point of situation and general picturesqueness'. Special note was made of the tree planting in the main streets and the street layout, which 'not having been laid out with the rectangular regularity one is accustomed to in the typical Victorian township, wander away in curves which are so much more agreeable to the eye of the landscape painter' [11]. The 'softly rounded' hills within and surrounding the township of Yea came in for specific mention as did The Parade itself:

"The summit of another [hill], quite close to the town, and within its boundaries, indeed, forms a level plateau, and has been reserved as a parade, and this likewise commands a panoramic prospect of remarkable beauty, and even magnificence, for it comprehends not only the girdling hills so close at hand, but the grander and more distant ranges, locally known as the "Switzerland Station", in all their diversity of outline." [12]

### SOURCES

[1] PROV VPRS 8168 Historic Plans Collection, Sale 184, 'Plan of the Township of Yea on the Muddy Creek', Thos. Pinniger, Asst Surveyor, Nov. 11, 1855.

[2] Ward, Andrew, 'Port Phillip Heritage Review Version 2. Volume 1', 2000, p.27

[3] Land Victoria, Certificates of title, V.861 F.049. V.2603 F.473

[4] Harvey Blanks, 'The Story of Yea', Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, pp. 173-4.

[5] Land Victoria, Certificate of title, V.861 F.049

[6] Land Victoria, Certificate of title, V.1601 F.196

[7] Heritage Victoria, Citation for H0740 Purcell's General Store, viewed on-line 27 July 2008

[8] Land Victoria, Certificate of title, V.1601 F.196

[9] Land Victoria, Certificate of title, V.2603 F.473

[10] Blanks, *ibid*, pp.232-3

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

#### 3.2 Railways

## 7.1 Township development

### Description

#### Physical Description

The Parade is a wide street with a central median that runs along or close to the ridge of the highest hill within the town of Yea. Lyons Street and Raglan Street run parallel to The Parade and as they cross Pellissier Street turn inward to create a crescent called The Semi-Circle. The Parade terminates at Pellissier Street and, on plan, there is a small half-circle on the north side of Pellissier Street that echoes the shape of The Semi-Circle. By accident or by design, the land fanning out from this feature has remained as parkland, creating an open vista as you look down The Parade toward the north. As noted in the history, the distinctive layout is reminiscent of other nineteenth century subdivisions and recalls British town planning practices of the nineteenth century.

As also noted in the history, the lots facing the Parade originally extended all the way through to the adjoining streets. Later subdivision has created new separate lots facing those streets, however, four lots, including those owned by the Catholic Church, remain intact on the north side.

The housing stock comprises a mix of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, interspersed with later, post-World War Two houses. The contributory places are those associated with the early development of the precinct in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. On the west side of the street contributory houses are clustered in two groups at the northern and southern ends on the west side of the street and there are also two cottages in between. The northern group includes the Victorian brick house at No.4, the Federation weatherboard house (now reclad in fake brick) at No.6, the Edwardian/inter-war bungalow at No.8 and the Victorian weatherboard cottage at No.10.

The house at No.4 is notable as one of the few early brick houses in Yea. It is constructed of red bricks with contrasting cream brick banding above the paired windows in the projecting bay. The corbelled brick chimneys also have cream brick bands. It has a hipped iron roof and a separate straight verandah with timber posts and remnants of the cast iron frieze. There is a later weatherboard addition at the rear. The spear head picket fence is appropriate, but may not be original. The cottage at No. 10 has three multi-paned double hung sash windows and a door placed off-centre in the front elevation. The original early section appears to be only one room deep and there is a simple straight verandah that returns on one side and is partly enclosed. There is a large skillion addition at the rear. Other notable elements within this group include the mature Oak at the rear of No.8 and the Oak and Cedar (?) at No.14.

At the southern end on the west side is a group of three Victorian weatherboard houses. The house at No.40 is setback on a large original-width allotment. It has double hung sash windows, grouped in pairs in the main elevation on either side of a front door with sidelights and highlights. It has an M-hipped corrugated iron roof and an ogee-profile verandah, which has had some of the posts replaced. Remnants of early garden plantings include the Cordyline on the north side and conifers at the front. No.44 appears to have been built in stages and altered later. It comprises a transverse hipped roof section with three gables projecting toward the street. There are at least two brick chimneys. Windows in the main elevation are tripartite and there is a main entrance doorway almost centrally placed with sidelights and highlights as well as other doors giving direct access to the projecting gabled sections, suggesting it was used for multiple occupancy. The house at No.46 is a transitional block fronted house, which is asymmetrical in plan. It has a hipped roof with a projecting gable, which has an unusual detail where the eaves detailing extends as a cornice across the front of the gable. Windows in the main elevations are tripartite timber and double hung sashes in the side elevations. The front door has sidelights and highlights.

Other contributory buildings include the weatherboard gabled cottages at nos. 20 and 34. Both cottages have been altered, which includes the replacement/alteration of the verandahs, but retain their distinctive cottage form and some original

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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details such as chimneys.

The contributory houses on the east side illustrate how the early houses were oriented with the facades facing away from the street to take advantage of the views to the north-east over the town. The house at No.35 is a Victorian weatherboard house with an M-hipped corrugated iron roof and one corbelled brick chimney. The main elevation facing the town has a central door with highlights and sidelights, which is flanked by tripartite timber windows. Other original windows in the side elevations are double hung sash. The verandah has been altered or rebuilt and there are skillion additions at the rear. The house at No.31 ('Craigielea') has been built in two stages and includes a Victorian era section with a hip roof and corbelled brick chimney facing toward the town and an interwar bungalow section with a gabled roof facing toward the street. The two blocks immediately to the north of No.31 are unsubdivided and appear to have once had houses on them as street fences remain.

At the northern end of the precinct is the Catholic Church and Presbytery (No 9). The Presbytery is also oriented to take advantage of the view. It has an M-hip roof of corrugated iron with brick and render chimneys. A projecting gable overlooking town has a decorative pierced bargeboard and a render 'apron' below the window. The bullnose verandah at the back has cast iron lace. A weatherboard addition has been added to the street-facing elevation, as well as a new rear verandah with a flat roof. The Sacred Heart Church of 1902 is a red brick, gothic revival building with a slate roof with terracotta cresting. Features include stained glass windows, gabled roof vents, decorative door hinges and a bluestone plinth and buttresses. The siting of the church and presbytery in a prominent location give them landmark qualities.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (SPECIFIC)

The conservation policy may be achieved by ensuring that:

1. New houses have the same setback as contributory houses on adjoining sites. Where the adjoining houses have differing setbacks then the average should be used.
2. Additions to contributory houses are located at the rear and have the same setbacks from the side boundaries as the existing house.
3. Carports should be detached and setback at least 2 metres from the front facade wall of a contributory house.
4. New houses do not exceed the building height of the contributory houses on adjoining sites - where the heights are different, an average should be used.
5. Additions to contributory houses do not exceed the building height of the contributory house.
6. Front fences do not exceed 1.4 metres in height.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (GENERAL)

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this precinct, it policy to:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other elements that contribute to the significance of the precinct. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the precinct and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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2. Encourage the restoration or recreation of missing features based on historic evidence.
3. Encourage a contextual approach to new development within the precinct that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in design.
4. Ensure that new development does not become a dominant visual element within the precinct.
5. Discourage the demolition of contributory buildings except where it can be demonstrated that:
  - The building is structurally unsound and cannot be repaired without undertaking significant replacement of fabric that would diminish the integrity of the building, and
  - The proposed replacement building embodies design excellence that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the contributory buildings of primary significance and other elements, but is clearly contemporary in approach.
6. Demolition of part of a contributory building may be allowed when it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - ?- The part to be demolished is not significant or the part demolition will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - ?- It will assist in the long term conservation or maintenance of the place, or
  - ?- It will support the viability of the existing use of the place or will facilitate a new use that is compatible with the ongoing conservation of the building, or
  - ?- It will upgrade the building to meet contemporary living standards such as improving energy efficiency.
7. Conserve contributory plantings, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and associated buildings or other structures.
8. Retain views of contributory buildings and plantings from the street, and other views identified as contributing to the historic character of the precinct.
9. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in revealing or interpreting the significance of the place.
10. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the

significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Parade precinct at Yea comprises the properties at Nos. 1-9, 4-20, 34-48, 31-35 The Parade as well as all of the land within the road reserve.

The district of Yea was settled as early as the 1840s. The township was surveyed in 1855 and the first land sales were held in 1856. The Parade (and adjoining streets including Lyons, Raglan and The Semi-Circle) was laid out as part of the 1855 subdivision but did not develop until the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century after the opening of the railway to Yea in 1883 led to a period of growth in the township. The location of the subdivision on the highest point in town and its distinctive layout with parallel streets incorporating a crescent at the northern end recalls British town planning practices of the nineteenth century. Today, the early development of the precinct is illustrated by late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses at nos. 4-10, 20, 31, 34, 35, 40-46, and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Presbytery at no. 9. There are also early trees at nos. 8 and 14. The houses on the east side, including the presbytery, face away from the street to take advantage of the views to the north-east over the town. The prominent siting and the design and scale of the Catholic church and the presbytery make them landmarks within the town. Apart from the presbytery, the houses are mostly modest in scale and constructed in weatherboard with hip or gable corrugated iron roofs. One exception is the bi-chromatic brick house at No.4. The Parade is relatively wide and has a central reservation planted with eucalypts and at the northern end on the opposite side of the Pellissier Street intersection there is open space.

The following properties are non-contributory: Nos. 16, 18, 36, 38, 48, 33, and the house at No. 14.

How is it significant?

The Parade precinct in Yea is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, The Parade precinct is significant for its associations with a key phase in the historic development of Yea in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries after the opening of the railway. It is also significant as a representative example of formally-planned subdivision of distinctive layout that is unique in the Shire and demonstrates the influence of British town planning practices in Victorian towns in the nineteenth century. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

Aesthetically, The Parade is distinguished by its location on the ridge of a hill, circus layout, generous central reserve and attractive buildings, particularly Sacred Heart Catholic Church. (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature Oak at No 8; Oak & Cedar at No 14
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church & Presbytery

**Address** 9 The Parade YEA

**Significance Level** Local

**Place Type** Church/Presbytery/Rectory/ Vicarage/Manse

**Citation Date** 2011

**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Designer / Architect**

Kempson & Conolly

**Architectural Style**

Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Gothic

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

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Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

### HISTORY OF SACRED HEART

Roman Catholics living at Yea and Alexandra were first served by the Mansfield Mission, with priests travelling from Mansfield to Yea to hold services, usually in private residences. However, as Yea and Alexandra developed as townships, they were formally separated from Mansfield and became separate parishes in 1890. While waiting for a church to be built, a Presbytery was constructed in 1891, designed by architects Kempson, Conolly & Oldham.[1]

Plans to build the first wooden church and dwelling were made by Father Matthew Brady in 1897, and the church and presbytery were utilized by further priests until it was decided to rebuild. This, however, did not occur until after the turn of the century during the 'parochial office of Father Patrick O'Reilly'. The first baptism to be held in the original wooden Yea Sacred Heart Church was that of Emily Benson on 24 November 1890 and the first marriage celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church was between James Henry Taverner and Ellen Cahill on 14 January 1891.[2]

The current Sacred Heart church replaced the 1890 wooden church building. Designs for the new red brick building included plans for transepts which could be built as later additions. Construction of the church cost £2,369. The new church was formally opened and blessed by Archbishop Carr on 26 October 1902.[2] It was designed by the same architectural firm, by then called Kempson & Conolly, of Oxford Chambers, Bourke Street, Melbourne. [1]

The firm Kempson and Conolly did frequent work for the Catholic Church in the late 19th and early 20th century. William P Conolly (or Connolly) is considered one of the most prominent architects designing Catholic churches in Melbourne at this time. Works by this firm that are on the Victorian Heritage Register include: St Joseph's in Benalla of 1907-8 (H0845), the 1901 hall and presbytery at Sacred Heart Church, St Kilda (H1765), and extensions to Werribee Park Mansion in the 1920s when it was used as a Jesuit seminary (H1613).[6]

The first sermon was delivered by the Very Rev Matthew Maher; music for the opening was provided by a quartet from St George's Church in Carlton, accompanied by organist Miss Annie Quinlan. The Shire President Cr John Quinlan, presided over a dinner for three hundred in the old church building that evening.

Following the opening of the new brick church, the original wooden church became the parish hall until it was renovated and used as a school building from 1923-1957.

The Church and Presbytery were consecrated by His Eminence James Cardinal Knox, DD, DCL on 22 August 1968. A new altar of Harcourt marble was installed c.1969 following a Vatican directive that priests should be facing the people during Mass, and was consecrated by then Archbishop, the Most Reverend James Knox, assisted by Monsignor J Murray and other priests. A reception presided over by Shire President, Cr A J Bett was held in the new Civic Centre that evening.[3] In 1980 a mass by the former Bishop of Sandhurst, the Most Reverend Bernard Stewart, was celebrated on 26 October to commemorate the church's 90th year.[4]

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Sources:

- [1] Miles Lewis Architectural Index; Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley: A view of Strath Creek from 1838*, 1985, p. 71.
- [2] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 173-4.
- [3] *Ibid.*, pp. 173-4.
- [4] As recorded by a plaque on the building.
- [5] Miles Lewis Architectural Index.
- [6] Heritage Victoria Register on-line, accessed 28/07/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

The Sacred Heart Church of 1902 is a red brick, Gothic revival building with a slate roof with terracotta cresting. Features include stained glass windows, gablet roof vents, decorative door hinges and a bluestone plinth and buttresses.

The interior of the church was not inspected, but it is still in use and understood to be an intact work of architect Louis Williams.

The Presbytery is late 19th century (1892) red brick house with the facade facing away from the street and overlooking the town. It has an M-hip roof of corrugated iron with brick and render chimneys. A projecting gable overlooking town has a decorative pierced bargeboard and a render 'shirt' below the window. The bullnose verandah at the back has cast iron lace. A weatherboard addition has been added to the street-facing elevation, as well as a new rear verandah with a flat roof.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

### NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Presbytery at 9 The Parade, Yea.

The first Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yea was constructed c.1890. The presbytery was built soon after, in 1891 designed by architects Kempson, Conolly & Oldham. The presbytery is a red brick house with the facade facing away from the street to overlook the town. It has an M-hip roof of corrugated iron with brick and render chimneys. A projecting gable overlooking town has a decorative pierced bargeboard and a render 'apron' below the window. The bullnose verandah at the back has cast iron lace. The additions to the presbytery are not significant.

The original church was replaced by the present one in 1901-2. The same firm of architects, now styled Kempson & Conolly, were engaged. The firm did frequent work for the Catholic Church in the late 19th and early 20th century and William J Conolly is considered one of the most prominent architects designing Catholic churches in Melbourne at that time. The church is a red brick, Gothic Revival building with a slate roof with terracotta cresting. Features include stained glass windows, gabled roof vents, decorative door hinges and a bluestone plinth and buttresses.

How is it significant?

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Presbytery are of local historic, architectural, aesthetic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the site is significant for its associations with the Catholic Church since the late nineteenth century and the present church illustrates the development of the Parish by the early twentieth century. It is associated with the significant growth in Yea during that time. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

The church is architecturally significant as a representative and relatively intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church by prominent church designers, Kempson & Conolly. The church and presbytery have aesthetic values as landmark buildings as result of their scale and prominent siting within the town. (RNE criterion D.2, E.1)

Socially, it is significant as the centre of Catholic worship in Yea and as a place with strong community associations for over 100 years. (RNE criterion G.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Breakaway Bridge  
**Address** Breakaway Road ACHERON  
**Place Type** Road Bridge  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



## History and Historical Context

### CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

Bridges over the many rivers, creeks and streams running throughout Murrindindi Shire were vital for transporting travellers from one end of the shire to the other. Crossing the rivers began with barges and punts, and developed according to the available technology and finances often sought from the Colonial, later State Governments. Alexandra and Yea, first designated Road Districts in 1868, progressed to Shire Council status in 1869 and 1873, respectively. This change of status allowed the Shires to tender for, and construct, roads and bridges in their locality.

### HISTORY OF BREAKWAY BRIDGE

The Melbourne Road passing through Acheron and Taggerty dates from around 1870 when the area was surveyed. A timber bridge over the Goulburn River at Acheron was built in c.1877 on land donated by Thomas Connelly.[1] Later, a single lane bridge was built. As the river widened, the bridge was extended and remodelled.[2] This bridge was swept away shortly after the First World War, c.1918, following several wet seasons. Attempts were made to divert to original course of the river because of the many floods, caused by torrential rain in the headwaters. The area became known as the Goulburn Breakaway. Historian of the Taggerty Primary School, Peter Kerr, writes that the remains of the timber bridge are still on the bed and banks of the river downstream of the existing bridge which was built to replace it.

The present single-lane bridge, replacing the original, was built c.1920 by the Country Roads Board.[3] Two photographs of the bridge were taken c.1934, after a flood, and are available on the Murrindindi Library website. Handwritten notes on the reverse of the photographs indicate that the bridge had five spans added on the south side c.1932 when the river shifted course approximately 150 feet. The c.1920 section of the bridge served for 12 years with only minor repairs. The photograph shows that this original section, at the time the photograph was taken, was then located on dry land.[4] Timber for the bridge came from the Dobson and Rennie families who lived nearby. The term 'breakaway' describes the movement in the river, and the portion of the river that broke away during the floods of the early twentieth century.[5]

It is identified in VicRoads records as Structure Number M4089. Repairs were made to the bridge in October 1939, June 1947 and March 1956.[6]

#### Sources:

[1] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, Blackburn, 1969, p. 50.

[2] Marian Rennie, 23 July 2008;

[3] Geoff Dobson, 24 July; John Sharwood, 22 July 2008

[4] Murrindindi Library Service, photograph ID No. 7943.

[5] Geoff Dobson, pres. Comm., 25 July 2008.

[6] Noted from VicRoads bridge file by Gary Vines, 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

## 3.1 Developing road networks and bridges

### Description

#### Physical Description

The Breakaway Bridge crosses the Goulburn River where Hobans Road and Breakaway Road meet at the boundary between the localities of Acheron and Alexandra. It is a timber pile and stringer bridge, with raker piles, cross braces and corbels.

Its structure is similar to that of the Country Roads Board's standard timber bridge introduced in the early 1920s (as shown in Chambers, 'Wooden Wonders', 2006, p 28). A 1932 extension to the bridge after the 'Breakaway' (see History), was constructed in the same way. It comprises the five spans on the south (Acheron) side. In all the bridge has nine spans and is 67.5 metres long (the individual spans measure 7.8, 8.3, 7.7, 7.3, 7.7, 8.7, 6.5, 6.6, and 6.9 metres)

It is a single-lane bridge with cross decking, timber kerbs and two strips of running boards. Running boards were phased out in 1930 by the Country Roads Board, and are rare survivors today (Pers. comm., David Moloney, 2008). The piles and stringers are rounded logs, while the corbels beneath the stringers are squared timbers. Roman numerals are incised on the piles. The piers appear to have five original piers (plus some later reinforcements), and two pairs of criss-cross braces each. This is in contrast to the standard CRB single-lane bridge which has only three-pile piers. The extra piers may have been intended to combat the flooding this area was prone to.

The original timber railings have been replaced with metal. The transverse decking timbers are of varying lengths, indicating that some may have been replaced over the years. Some of the stringers are rather deteriorated and some of the piles have been replaced with steel I-beams.

Overall it is considered to be a large and highly intact bridge of this type which is becoming increasingly rare (Pers. comm., Gary Vines, 2008).

### Conservation Policy

#### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

- As bridge members deteriorate, they should be replaced with identical timbers. And where only part of a member is deteriorated, new sections should be spliced in where possible as a preference over total replacement of that member.

#### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

### NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Breakaway Bridge, which crosses the Goulburn River where Hobans Road and Breakaway Road meet at the boundary between the localities of Acheron and Alexandra. The Melbourne Road passing through Acheron and Taggerty dates from around 1870 when the area was surveyed. The first bridge was built c1877, but was swept away in a flood around 1918. The present single-lane bridge was built c.1920 by the Country Roads Board. Around 1932 five spans added on the south side when the river shifted course approximately 150 feet (an event known as 'The Breakaway').

It is a single-lane bridge with cross decking, timber kerbs and two strips of running boards. Running boards were phased out in 1930 by the Country Roads Board. The piles and stringers are rounded logs, while the corbels beneath the stringers are squared timbers. Roman numerals are incised on the piles. The piers appear to have five original piers (plus some later reinforcements), and two pairs of criss-cross braces each. This is in contrast to the standard CRB single-lane bridge which has only three-pile piers.

How is it significant?

The Breakaway Bridge is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a tangible reminder of the frequent flooding of the Goulburn River in the early 20th century, and particularly of the time the river 'broke away' and formed a new course in 1932. Also as a large and relatively intact Country Roads Board bridge of the type built in the 1920s, with extra reinforcing for this flood-prone location. The running boards are a rare survivor. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Albert Edward Masonic Lodge No 59  
**Address** 24 Webster Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Hall Masonic  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Free Classical

**Maker / Builder** Kidd, AH

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF MASONIC LODGE

Freemasonry was brought to Victoria in 1840, and was a powerful and influential force in local society, particularly through a number of Lord Mayors and Victorian Governors, who were prominent Masons (1). While Freemasonry has a strong element of secret ritual and mutual support amongst its all male membership, it also focuses on community service.

The first Masonic Lodge was formed at Alexandra in 1869. Originally members met at the Shire Hall. The existing building, the Albert Edward Lodge No. 59, was constructed in 1913 by Worshipful Master and local builder A H Kidd, at a cost of £800 which included the land. The interior features Honour boards of the Lodge's previous Worshipful Masters and Lodge members. Membership numbers have fluctuated over time. During the construction of the Eildon Weir in 1956, membership reached 200. Local workers, including American personnel working for Utah Constructions, swelled the membership numbers during this time.[2]

Sources:

[1] Encyclopedia of Melbourne, 2005:291.

[2] Personal Conversation with Don Birnie, member of Albert Edward Lodge, 05/02/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.4 Institutions of mutual support & helping other people

## Description

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Physical Description

The Alexandra Masonic Hall, Albert Edward Lodge No 59, consists of two distinct sections: the front brick building and a timber hall behind. The red brick section is nearly a cube in proportions, articulated by two rendered pilasters, a cornice and a small triangular pediment on the facade (with the date '1913'). On the frieze below are the words 'Masonic Hall'. Each of the three bays between the pilasters has a large, circular window with a rendered architrave and undersized keystone. The windows are high set, and under the central one is a square rendered area with the Masonic symbols of the compass and square. The south side of the brick section (facing Nihil Street) is similar, with two rendered pilasters, a central circular window and a rendered cornice. A rather incongruous roof is visible behind a parapet: it is gabled with a piggybacked gabled louvered ventilator on the ridge. There is a corbelled red-brick chimney visible at the rear of the brick section. This section has no visible entrances.

The weatherboard rear section of the lodge has a gabled roof, running parallel to Nihil Street, clad in corrugated iron, with exposed rafter ends. It has small high-set box windows resting on curved brackets. The hall is entered via a door, which has a simple open porch, near the junction with the brick hall. There are three large metal ventilators on the north slope of the roof.

The use of the building for Masonic purposes is reflected in design aspects that are typical of Masonic temples such as the small high-set windows in both sections (which prevent outsiders from seeing into the buildings and reflect the secretive aspect of Masonic tradition), and the incorporation of Masonic symbols on the facade.

There is a timber and wire mesh fence surrounding the brick section of the hall, which replaced the original picket fence (shown in Lloyd, 'Alexandra and District', p 105).

The Masonic Hall is very intact. It is in fairly good condition, but there are water ingress problems apparent at the upper reaches of the brick walls. The timber posts of the fence are in poor condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Do not paint the face brick.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The Alexandra Masonic Hall, Albert Edward Lodge No 59, constructed in 1913, at 24 Webster Street, Alexandra. It is comprised of two sections: a red-brick cube at the front with classically inspired ornament in cement render, and a rear weatherboard hall. The front yard is enclosed by an early timber and wire mesh fence.

How is it significant?

The Alexandra Masonic Hall, Albert Edward Lodge No 59, is of local historic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Albert Edward Masonic Lodge No 59 was one of the earliest institutions of mutual-support in Alexandra, formed in 1869, and this building of 1913 demonstrates the strength of the Masonic movement in Victoria in the early 20th century (RNE criterion A.4). Use of the building for Masonic purposes is reflected in design aspects such as the high-set windows for privacy and the Masonic symbols on the facade (RNE criterion D.2).

The Albert Edward Lodge also has social significance as the spiritual home of the Masonic community in Alexandra and district for almost 100 years. (RNE criterion G.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

No
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Post and cyclone wire fence
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Alexandra Dairy Company building  
**Address** 9 Downey Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Dairy  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF DAIRY

Dairying, often combined with mixed farming, was a favoured option for the pioneering farmers in Alexandra and Yea. Because of its distance from Melbourne, poor roads and sometimes unreliable transport facilities, milk had to be processed into butter or cheese if it was to reach its market in an edible condition.[1] Until the 1890s when key technological breakthroughs, such as the introduction of the cream separator, dairies were unhygienic places, and the production and quality of butter and cheese was inconsistent and unreliable. It was not until the cream separator was introduced in 1891 that butter and cheese production improved. From this time local farmers began separating milk on their farm before sending the cream to the factory to be made into butter. Refrigeration also played a major role in the advancement of butter and cheese production, and refrigerated vats in ships assisted in the export of Australian butter.

Local selector, William Nicholson, in an enterprising venture, set up the Alexandra Butter Factory in 1892. He imported Victoria's first Laval separator and set up a creamery and milk depot next to his flour mill, eliminating the wasteful and unhygienic settling and skimming of milk followed by unreliable transportation.[2] The establishment of the Butter Factory in 1892 was credited by the company Secretary, J H Weymouth, as having alleviated the local effects of the 1890s depression.[3] The existing brick and weatherboard building, constructed c.1930s, replaced the original 1892 timber building. It ceased to operate as a dairy in the 1960s.[4]

Sources:

[1] Tony Dingle, *The Victorians: Settling*, Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Assoc. Melbourne, 1984, p. 115

[2] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, Blackburn, 1969, p. 25.

[3] *Ibid*, p. 62.

[4] Ian Newman, personal conversation 4/4/08; personal conversation Alexandra Tourist Information 13/6/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## 4.3 Dairying

### Description

#### Physical Description

The Alexandra Dairy Company building is a striking brick and weatherboard structure on the outskirts of town. The building has a very wide gable roof (clad in corrugated sheet metal) with very low eaves to the sides and continuous clerestory windows projecting above the ridgeline. The red brick of the gable-end facade is laid in an English bond (three rows of stretchers per row of headers). This elevation is articulated by six brick pilasters, dividing into five bays: two wide ones on either side, and three narrow ones in the centre. The wide right-hand bay has a door and window at ground level. The three central bays each have a window at the first-floor level. The windows all have lintels of vertically laid clinker bricks. The windows are steel framed with six over six panes. The two central pilasters extend above the roofline to frame a parapeted gable end of the clerestory windows, with raised cement render lettering reading 'The Alexandra Dairy Coy Ltd'. The inscription is framed by clinker bricks laid vertically. The two central pilasters are topped by the same bricks.

The side elevations are weatherboard clad, and quite low in height beneath the broad eaves.

The building is in good condition and intact. It is now used by the JL Gould Sawmills company.

### Conservation Policy

#### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Alexandra Dairy Company building, built c1930s, 9 Downey Street, Alexandra. It has a gable-fronted brick facade, with very low eaves almost concealing the weatherboard side elevations.

How is it significant?

The Alexandra Dairy Company building is of local historic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Alexandra Dairy Company building is historically significant for its importance in building and sustaining the dairy industry, so important in this area, from 1892 (RNE criterion A.4). It is historically significant for its associations with

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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local selector William Nicholson (RNE criterion H.1).

The Alexandra Dairy Company building is architecturally significant as a striking industrial building with visual interest created by a broad gable-end facade with a small decorative parapet at the centre, and low spreading eaves over the side elevations. (RNE criterion F.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Athlone, former  
**Address** 6 Johnston Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Domestic Queen  
Anne

**Maker / Builder** Ferguson

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF ATHLONE

James Scale (1850-1929), farmer and later Shire President, married Eliza (née Smith) in 1879, who was born at Athlone, Ireland.

James' parents, Richard Scale (c1815-1887) and Margaret Williams (c1814-1873) had emigrated from Wales to Melbourne in 1840. He moved to the Alexandra district in 1871 and selected 'Cathkin Vale'. A number of their adult children settled in the district, including William, who selected 'Spring Hills' at Koriella, John Albert and his twin sister Elizabeth, who selected Flora Vale in 1871, Thomas Stewart, who inherited 'Cathkin Vale' upon his father's death, and James.

James and Eliza Scale moved to Alexandra shortly after 1880 - their first child, Nellie, was born in Collingwood in 1880, while sons Walter Bernard, William Henry and Willis Henry were all born at Alexandra (in 1883, 1885, and 1886, respectively). James first took over 'Glenbrook' at Koriella from his brother Thomas, at which point the house from 'Cathkin Vale' was moved there. In the early 1900s he purchased 'Woodlea' in Cathkin.[4]

This property, on the corner of Green and Johnston streets, was constructed for James and Eliza Scale in 1912 by Mr Ferguson of Alexandra. It was named Athlone after Eliza's home in Ireland.[5] The couple remained there until Eliza's death in 1926, after which James lived his final years in Melbourne.[4] An early view of the house is said to be in a 1912 or 1914 photo of the Alexandra Showgrounds held by the Murrindindi Library.[6]

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 86.

[3] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[4] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 341-342.

[5] Grant Scale, The Scale Family of Pembrokeshire and Australia, Grant Scale, 1990, p. 125.

[6] Personal comm., L & M Rouget, 04/06/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 6. GOVERNANCE

#### 7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Athlone is a large weatherboard house with a hipped roof. At the right-hand-side of the facade (north-facing) is a projecting gable-fronted bay with a canted bay window resting on small brackets. The bay has an unusual tapered hipped roof. An Edwardian door is situated at the centre of the facade, beneath the verandah, along with a one-over-one sash window to the left. The door has a large arched glass panel on the top half, and wide sidelights. The verandah has an unusual low ogee-curved roof and timber posts. It wraps around the side elevation. The verandah frieze is missing, as are two of the timber post caps on the side elevation. Below the eaves is a simple cornice of paired timber brackets and cricket bat panels.

The verandah continues across the entire side elevation, which faces Green Street. At the centre are modern multi-paned French doors with sidelights, and a one-over-one sash window at the rear. There is a corbelled brick chimney near the front of this elevation.

When visited in 2006, there was a small skillion-roof extension on the rear elevation. In 2008 this had been replaced by a larger hipped-roof rear extension that projects to the side. The verandah has been continued round on the north side of the extension. The paired bracket cornice has been copied on the extension, and a large external corbelled brick chimney. A new garage was also built at this time, at the rear of the Green Street elevation. In addition, the original short-sheet corrugated iron on the roof of the house had been replaced with Colorbond.

There are mature trees (one appears to be a maple and the other a liquid amber) in the front yard and a mild-steel and wire front gate from the 1920s.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Athlone, at 6 Johnston Street, Alexandra. It was constructed in 1912 by a Mr Ferguson for James Scale and his wife Eliza (née Smith), who was born at Athlone, Ireland. James Scale had moved into the area in the 1870s and was a farmer and later Shire President (1894 and 1905). It is a large weatherboard house with a hipped roof and projecting gable to the facade, with a three-sided bay window resting on small brackets. The bay has an unusual tapered hipped roof. The verandah, on the Johnston and Green street elevations, has an unusual low ogee-curved roof and timber posts. Below the eaves is a simple cornice of paired timber brackets and cricket bat panels.

A rear extension with a hipped roof was added c2008, which imitates the details of the original house. It is not significant, nor is the new garage.

There are two mature trees in the front garden which are significant.

How is it significant?

Athlone (former) is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the home of two-time Alexandra Shire President James Scale. (RNE criterion H.1)

Aesthetically, for its unusual detailing: the ogee-profile verandah roof and the tapered hipped roof to the canted window bay. The mature trees in the front yard add to the aesthetic value of the place. (RNE criteria D.2, E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature exotic trees in front yard
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Dove Cottage  
**Address** 6 Paynes Avenue ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Cottage  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham to form Murrindindi Shire.

## HISTORY OF COTTAGE

Dove Cottage is believed to occupy the site of one of the many miners' cottages and shacks which sprang up along the Ultima Thule Creek during the mining boom. While the exact date of construction is not known, it is estimated the cottage was built c.1890. The oldest visible section of the cottage is a wall of split palings at the rear. The chimney bricks were handmade at the local kilns and the maker's fingerprints are still clearly visible.[4] The earliest documented occupier of Dove Cottage was Mrs Gertrude Morris who lived in the cottage from 1926-39. Mrs Morris ran a laundry service for the local hospital, hotels and some of the surrounding farmers. The original laundry building remains at the rear of the cottage, although the copper and troughs have disappeared.[5] The cottage was also rented for a time by Mr Joe and Mrs Jean Norris. The last tenant in the property, Mrs Sarah Dove, had moved to Alexandra from Upper Rubicon after her home was burnt in the devastating 1939 Black Friday bushfires. Sarah was the widow of Charles Robert Dove; they had married in 1925. Charles died in 1938. She remained in the cottage from 1940-83. It is not clear if the cottage was known as Dove Cottage while Sarah Dove was resident or once she left the cottage. After her departure the cottage remained empty and was neglected.

In 1987 a public meeting in appointed a Dove Cottage Advisory Committee; later, the DCE Historic Buildings Branch decided the cottage should be retained as an important feature of Leckie Park, and as an historic reminder of the goldmining era. In November 1990 a 'Friends of Dove Cottage' group raised money and carried out renovations. The Friends group dismantled the old bathroom at the rear of the building and a new section, using donated old windows and doors, and including a sewered toilet, was constructed. The exterior of the building was painted heritage colours.[6] The Murrindindi Shire maintained the grounds.[7] From 1993-99 the Citizen's Advice bureau occupied the site. The Shire then used the cottage as consulting rooms for visiting professionals.

The Rotary Club of Alexandra took up the banner of Dove Cottage and proposed its gradual restoration, funding by themselves in cooperation with the Shire Council.[8] This plan was put into jeopardy following a building inspection which found that the verandah was unsafe, and that the floor joists sat on the ground and this had caused serious rotting to the base plate and studs. The report concluded that it was not worth repairing the building and that it should be left as it is, to eventually be replaced with a replica.[9]

Happily, in 2010 The Friends of Dove Cottage received a \$75,000 grant from the Jobs Fund (Heritage Projects) of the Federal Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The works were project managed by Ian Newman, with advice from Nigel Lewis, the Shire's Heritage Advisor. Works included removal and replacement of internal floors and restumping, replacement of rotted weatherboards, replacement of the verandah floor, and repainting. Original materials were retained wherever possible.[10]

Sources:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 51.

[2] *ibid.*, p. 25.

[3] Nigel Sinnott, Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Alexandra, 2003, p. 11.

[4] Joan Edwards, Notes on Dove Cottage for the UT Creek Croup, 2004.

[5] *ibid.*

[6] *ibid.*

[7] Lloyd, *op.cit.*, p. 261.

[8] 'Rotary Takes on Dove Cottage', Alexandra & Eildon Standard, 26/04/2006, p 13.

[9] 'Dove Cottage is beyond restoration - report', Alexandra & Eildon Standard, 12/07/2006, p 8.

[10] 'Dove Cottage', Alexandra Historical Society, <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alexhs/dove-cottage.htm>, accessed 12/04/2011.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 4.1 Mining

## Description

### Physical Description

Dove Cottage is a tiny weatherboard cottage located in Leckie Park. It has a transverse gable roof and a front skillion verandah with simple curved timber brackets. On the left-hand side of the facade is a doorway; to the right is a six-over-six sash window. The left-hand side verandah is partially enclosed with a timber lattice and weatherboards on the end, while the right-hand side has a low paling fence at the end. There are two external corbelled brick chimney on the right-hand gable end, built of handmade bricks.

There is a rear skillion extension, built in two phases, which nearly doubles the size of the small house. It incorporates salvaged windows and doors. The cottage was re-roofed with Colorbond in the 1990s. In 2010 it was extensively repaired and repainted, putting it into excellent condition inside and out.

At the rear of the property is a small laundry, which is in poor condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. The detached Laundry should be repaired, retaining as much original fabric as possible. Its condition before and after the works should be photographically documented.
2. If at some point in the future retention of the Laundry is found to not be feasible, then it should be documented before (and during) dismantling. This includes archival photos, to be housed at the State Library of Victoria and the Murrindindi Library.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.



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9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Dove Cottage, 6 Paynes Avenue, Alexandra. It is a tiny weatherboard cottage located in Leckie Park. With a transverse gable roof and a front skillion verandah with simple curved timber brackets. The recent rear additions to the cottage are not significant.

Dove Cottage is believed to occupy the site of one of the many miners' cottages and shacks which sprang up along the Ultima Thule Creek during the mining boom. While the exact date of construction is not known, it is estimated the cottage was built c.1890. The oldest visible section is a wall of split palings at the rear. The chimney bricks were handmade at the local kilns. The earliest documented occupier of Dove Cottage was Mrs Gertrude Morris who lived in the cottage from 1926-39. Mrs Morris ran a laundry service for the local hospital, hotels and some of the surrounding farmers. The original laundry building remains at the rear of the cottage.

How is it significant?

Dove Cottage is of local social and historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as an illustration of an early housing type erected by miners in this area of Alexandra in the early days of the settlement. Also for associations with laundress Gertrude Morris, who occupied the cottage in the Interwar period, and Sarah Dove, the last occupant (1940-83). (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

It is of demonstrable social significance, illustrated by the decades of effort local community groups have put into restoring and maintaining the cottage. It is seen as a link with the mining origins of Alexandra. (RNE criterion G.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Laundry
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** House  
**Address** 27 Perkins Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Bungalow  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style**      Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940)  
American Bungalow

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3] The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham to form the Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF HOUSE 27 PERKINS STREET

On 2 March 1916, Alice Lipscombe of Alexandra, widow and executrix under the will of James Lipscombe, acquired the Crown Grant for £80, to Allotment 8 section 65A in the Township and Parish of Alexandra, County of Anglesey, measuring two roods and fourteen perches (Parish Plan). This allotment would become today's 25 and 27 Perkins Street.

Alice Lipscombe then sold the property to John Robert Ferguson, builder of Alexandra (Title 3958/579) on 20 October 1916. Ferguson subdivided the property in 1927 and sold the south half of the allotment (No. 27) to Robert Percival Aldous, motor mechanic, on 9 September 1927 (5313/592). Ferguson retained the northern half (No. 25) until his death on 1 April 1936, when probate was granted to Robert James Moorhead Dobson, farmer of Acheron, and Robert Percival Aldous.

The house at 27 Perkins Street is a large California Bungalow which appears to date from the 1920s. Builder John Ferguson may have constructed it as a speculative dwelling shortly before subdividing his allotment and sell No. 27 to Robert Aldous, or Aldous may have had it built (by Ferguson or another builder) shortly after purchasing the property in 1927.

Robert Aldous retained the property at 27 Perkins Street until 21 July 1955, when he sold it to Bernard Vincent Joseph Rice, farmer, and Ida Fay Rice, married woman.

### Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.

[2] *ibid.*, p. 86.

[3] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.

[4] Personal conversation, Ian Newman, 4/4/08; Land Title Vol.9657 Fol. 808 and Vol. 5313/592.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## 7.1 Township development

### Description

#### Physical Description

This house is a substantial California Bungalow with a major and a minor gable facing the street and a verandah wrapping around most of the front and the left-hand corner of the house until it meets a projecting gable on the west side elevation. The body of the house is clad in weatherboard, while the major front gable is filled with small shingles at the top resting on a row of narrow timber corbels over a band of stucco with vertical strapwork. The minor front gable has shingles above a row of corbels, and the right-hand eave is supported on a triangular timber bracket. The gables have a wide eaves overhang with a lined fascia. There are two groups of tripartite box windows on the facade, on either side of the front door. There are sash windows with a four-pane upper sash. The verandah roof has exposed rafter ends and is supported on low brick piers beneath timber posts with curved timber brackets. There is a rectangular brick chimney at the rear of the house which has been painted.

The minor gable on the left-hand (west) side of the house is identical to the minor front gable (shingling, corbels, triangular brackets, tripartite box windows), though the windows are shaded by a curved pressed-metal hood.

A fairly sympathetic (though potentially confusing) extension has been made to the right-hand (east) side of the facade. The roof has a transverse gable and two banks of tripartite windows identical to those of the original part of the house.

There is a mature Canary Island Palm in front of the house.

### Conservation Policy

#### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house at 27 Perkins Street, Alexandra, built around 1927 for motor mechanic Robert Percival Aldous. It is a substantial California Bungalow with a major and a minor gable facing the street. The verandah is supported on chamfered timber posts on brick piers. The walls are clad in weatherboard while the gables have a combination of timber shingles and imitation half-timbering. Windows are four-over-one paired sashes.

There is a recent extension to the east side of the facade which copies the detailing of the original house. It is not significant.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The house is set in a large garden with a mature Canary Island Palm out front. The property neighbours Shiels Gardens and backs onto UT Creek.

How is it significant?

The house at 27 Perkins Street, Alexandra, is of local aesthetic and historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, as one of the most substantial dwellings in Alexandra, particularly of the Interwar period, and a representative example of a California Bungalow. Its significance is enhanced by the large front garden and mature Canary Island Palm, as well as its picturesque setting beside a public park and overlooking UT Creek. (RNE criterion D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

Yes Canary Island Palm
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

No
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** House and Stables, 66 - 68 Nihil Street  
**Address** 66 - 68 Nihil Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3] The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form the Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF HOUSE AND STABLES

The first Crown Grant was made for Crown Allotment 1, Section 16, Township of Alexandra on 8 October 1898 to George Bird of Ballarat, Carpenter and Builder (Land Title V2711 F161). This allotment stretched the entire length of Nihil Street between Coster and Albert streets. An addition was made to the west side of the house c1905, presumably by Bird himself as the builder. He retained the property until 1912, when it was sold to Rebecca Dobson and Margaret Jane Dobson. The property was later transferred to Gilbert Ernest Pearce on 4 March 1921 (Land Title Vol. 8746 Fol. 645).

Gilbert Pearce was the mill manager for Clark, Kidd & Co Pty Ltd, at a pioneering water-powered sawmill in the Rubicon Forest. In 1915 Pearce bought out the company, which became Pearce and Clark. In 1920 the trees were running out around the Clark and Pearce Mill No 1, so they created a second one (No 2), linked to the first by a timber tram line.[4] Pearce died on 23 December 1954 and the title transferred to Alan James Rice.

Part of the allotment, on the west side of the house, was subdivided off in 1961 and a house built at 68 Nihil Street, in front of the original stables (Land Title V8746 F645).

While the Crown Grant was made in 1898, the house appears to be much earlier, and probably dates to the 1870s, with an early 20th-century extension made by Mr Bird. The original part of the house may have been built on a Miner's Right, but this avenue has not been thoroughly investigated.

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.

[2] *ibid.*, p. 86.

[3] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.

[4] Lloyd, *op cit*, p 178.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

4.2 Timber

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

The house at 66 Nihil Street was originally approached from Coster Street - the front door faces this street and there are remains of a bluestone driveway. The drive would have led to the stables, now at the back of 68 Nihil Street.

The house was built in stages. The first stage was a double gabled weatherboard cottage that faces Coster Street. This has double hung sash windows. The centrally placed front door facing Coster Street has sidelights and highlights. There are two brick chimneys on the outside wall of the south elevation and a third chimney in the centre of the roof near the roof junction. All are corbelled brick with a dog-tooth detail. This part of the house may date as early as the 1870s.

Around the turn of the century, a tall projecting gabled wing was added at the rear, facing Nihil Street. It has an ornate tripartite casement window with coloured-glass transoms and a circular vent at the apex of the gable.

On the west side of the house is a large modern verandah/carport.

The front verandah has been rebuilt, as has the verandah floor. Reportedly the original rear kitchen was removed as was a dining room, on the west side of the house (Pers. comm., John Cannon, 2008). The house is in good to fair condition

The stables, located behind a c1961 cream brick house at 68 Nihil Street, have a transverse gable roof and a lean-to on the east end. There are two entrances to the stables on the north elevation - the double doors are gone. There is an access ladder and hatch in the lean-to to the hayloft. The internal board walls of the stable are intact, but the exterior has been reclad in fibro sheeting. It appears that the original external timber walls survive under the fibro, but may be in poor condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the

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place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house at 66 Nihil Street and the stables at 68 Nihil Street, Alexandra. While the first Crown Grant for this allotment was made in 1898, the house appears to be much earlier, and probably dates to the 1870s, with an early 20th-century

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extension made by George Bird, Carpenter and Builder, who purchased it in 1898. Bird sold it to Gilbert Ernest Pearce, principal of Pearce and Clark, in 1921. Pearce and Clark owned numerous timber mills in the Rubicon Forest. Pearce died in 1954.

Part of the allotment, on the west side of the house, was subdivided off in 1961 and a house built at 68 Nihil Street, in front of the original stables.

The house was originally approached from Coster Street - the front door faces this street and there are remains of a bluestone driveway that once led to the stables.

The house was built in stages. The first stage was a double gabled weatherboard cottage that faces Coster Street. The centrally placed front door facing Coster Street has sidelights and highlights. There are two brick chimneys on the outside wall of the south elevation and a third chimney in the centre of the roof near the roof junction. All are corbelled brick with a dog-tooth detail.

Around the turn of the century, a tall projecting gabled wing was added at the rear, facing Nihil Street. It has an ornate tripartite casement window with coloured-glass transoms and a circular vent at the apex of the gable.

The stables, located behind a c1961 cream brick house at 68 Nihil Street, have a transverse gable roof and a lean-to on the east end. There are two entrances to the stables on the north elevation - the double doors are gone. There is an access ladder and hatch in the lean-to to the hayloft. The internal board walls of the stable are intact, but the exterior has been reclad in fibro sheeting. It appears that the original external timber walls survive under the fibro, but may be in poor condition.

How is it significant?

The house at 66 Nihil Street and the stables at 68 Nihil Street are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a relatively early house in the township, with a grand extension made around the turn of the century, and one of the very rare ones to retain its stables. Also for its associations with Gilbert Ernest Pearce, co-owner of Pearce and Clark, which had numerous timber mills in the Rubicon Forest. (RNE criteria B.2, H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Stable

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** House, 28 Grant Street  
**Address** 28 Grant Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Domestic Queen  
Anne

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant A pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3] The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham to form the Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF HOUSE

The house at 28 Grant Street is late Queen Anne in style. It appears to have been built c1921 for William Roger Barton and George David Leckie.

Walter Graham Moon purchased part of Crown Allotments 1 and 2, Section 33 in the township of Alexandra on 4 June 1888 (Land title 2028/456). It was later transferred to Robert Christie and following Robert Christie's death on 13 December 1892, John Hall Gorman was granted probate on 23 February 1893 and the land transferred to Gorman who then transferred it to Eliza and Richard Vining on 29 December 1893. Eliza Vining, widow, died on 13 March 1920. Probate was granted to William Roger Barton and George David Leckie on 5 July 1921. Part of the property was transferred to George Alexander Payne on 9 July 1932 (Land title 5799/688) and the balance transferred to Gertrude Alice Newell on 20 May 1943 (Land title 6622/229). A mortgage to the ANZ Bank was held over the new title (5799/688) until it was discharged on 16 May 1952. At this point the property transferred to Alexander Dosser. Upon his death on 10 March 1980, probate was granted to Donald James Dosser.

Don Dosser, in his memoir, *Back When We Were Kids*, recalls happy childhood memories of this house and garden. Photographs of the house in his memoir describe the house at Aitken Street rather than Grant Street.[4]

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.

[2] *ibid.*, p. 86.

[3] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.

[4] D J Dosser, *Back When We Were Kids*, Histec Publications, 2004, pp. 7-11; Personal conversation Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

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[5] Land Title Vol 5799 Fol. 688 and Vol. 2028/ Fol. 456.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

The house is a late Queen Anne style, weatherboard building. The corrugated iron-clad roof is hipped, with a gablet to the front and rear, and a projecting gabled bay on the right-hand side of the facade. The roof retains its original short-sheet corrugated iron. The verandah, wrapping around the facade and south side elevation, is continuous with the main roof, but with a lower pitch, giving a broken-back profile. It has a light-weight timber valence in a criss-cross pattern, and exposed rafter ends. There is a corbelled brick chimney on the north side of the roof, set behind the projecting front bay.

The projecting gable on the right-hand (north) side of the facade has a projecting rectangular bay window at its centre. The bay window has a gabled rooflet with half-timbering, above five casement windows with transoms (three to the front, one on each side). The front door (with transom) is at the junction with the projecting bay and to the left (south) of it is a tripartite casement window with transoms.

The part of the verandah has been enclosed at the rear (south-west) corner of the side elevation facing Aitken Street. It has multi-pane windows.

When re-visited in 2008, a new verandah had been added recently to the north side elevation, at the front of the house. It has a wide skillion roof resting on simple posts. A small window and French doors had been created under this verandah. These features are easily identifiable as new.

A mature Canary Island Palm is in the front yard.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house and Canary Island Palm at 28 Grant Street, Alexandra. Probate was granted to William Roger Barton and



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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George David Leckie on 5 July 1921, following the death of former owner, Eliza Vining in 1920. It appears that the house was built for Barton and Leckie around that time.

The house is a late Queen Anne style, weatherboard building. The short-sheet corrugated iron-clad roof is hipped, with a gablet to the front and rear, and a projecting gabled bay on the right-hand side of the facade. The verandah, wrapping around the facade and south side elevation, is continuous with the main roof, with a broken-back profile. It has a light-weight timber valence in a criss-cross pattern, and exposed rafter ends. There is a corbelled brick chimney on the north side of the roof, set behind the projecting front bay.

A new verandah was added to the north side elevation c2008. It is clearly distinguishable as new and not significant.

How is it significant?

The house and Canary Island Palm at 28 Grant Street, Alexandra, are of local aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, it is a largely intact late Queen Anne dwelling of substantial size, with fine detailing. The mature Canary Island Palm, a variety very popular during the Interwar period, adds to its significance. (RNE criterion D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

Yes Canary Island Palm
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

No
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Oddfellows Hall (former)  
**Address** 174 Grant Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Hall Girl Guide/ Scout  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF HALL

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) maintained a structure of Lodges in Australia from the earliest days of settlement. The Order's beginnings date back to 18th century England, where it is believed the members earned their name as workmen of the 'odd' trades and as labourers not covered by the various craftsmen's guilds. They were also characterised as 'odd' because they belonged to a group focused on benevolence and good works initiated by themselves rather than through a church. The Order began in Sydney during the period 1844-1848. In 1854, the Port Phillip District separated from the NSW branch to establish the IOOF in Victoria. The motto of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows has always been 'to elevate the character of mankind under the Fatherhood of God and within the brotherhood of man'. [1] Through friendly societies, such as the IOOF, ordinary people such as labourers, miners, carpenters, etc grouped together and contributed their pennies to the funds of their Lodge which were used to provide some of the essential services their communities lacked. Friendly societies were democratic, and all decisions were made by majority votes of members. This allowed individual Lodges to provide for needs specific to their immediate community. [2] During the First and Second World Wars, many members enlisted for Active Service, and as with many other friendly societies, funds were created to provide for the medical benefits of serving members and their families.

The Alexandra Oddfellows' Hall, built in 1899, was originally located in Bayley Street and relocated to its current location. [3] Little information is available about membership of this Friendly Society, however, it was maintained in Alexandra until possibly the 1970s. The building is currently used as a Scout and Girl Guides Hall and in the 1980s it was used as the local Blue Light disco. [4]

Sources:

[1] <http://www.australianunity.com.au/au/info/companyhistory.asp> United (VIC) merged with Manchester Unity IOOF (VIC) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odd\\_Fellows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odd_Fellows).

[2] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, Blackburn, 1969, p. 63.

[3] Personal conversation, Mr Don Birnie, local resident, 05/01/08.

[4] Personal conversation, Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.4 Institutions of mutual support & helping other people

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Oddfellows' Hall is a small, parapet-front building with ashlar-look timber cladding to the facade and weatherboard sides. There is a central doorway with double ledged doors and a large transom window above. The door is reached via a modern timber ramp. On either side of the door is a 1-over-1 sash window. Above the window architrave is a flat arch and keystone, also of timber. The most striking feature of the building is the front parapet, set above a simple cornice of paired brackets. It has an arched panel in the centre (with the painted inscription 'Alexandra & District Youth Club'), flanked by simplified balustrades and timber posts with simple caps (missing on one side).

The weatherboard-clad side elevations are unornamented. The east side has two one-over-one sash windows. The west side also has two windows, as well as a ledged door behind them. The roof is gabled and clad with new corrugated iron.

There is a series of additions at the rear of the hall. The first, early weatherboard addition, has a skillion roof (with exposed rafters) and is the same width as the main building. It appears that there was a chimney (removed) at junction between the hall and this addition. There is a second weatherboard addition at the back of the first. It has a nearly flat roof. A third, fibro, addition juts out from the east side of the first addition.

The building is in fair to poor condition, and needs repairs (or replacement) to many timber elements and repainting.

On the north side of the hall is a mature oak tree.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. The building should have a regular repair and maintenance program. Repainting and minor repairs to the cladding is urgently needed.
2. The rear-most weatherboard addition and the fibro side addition are not significant.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Alexandra Oddfellows' Hall, built in 1899, and originally located in Bayley Street, now at 174 Grant Street, Alexandra. It is a small, gable-fronted building with ashlar-look timber cladding to the facade and weatherboard sides. Its most distinctive feature is a decorative front parapet and timber 'flat arches' and 'keystones' over the front windows. The two most recent rear additions are not significant.

There is a mature oak tree on the north side of the hall.

How is it significant?

The former Alexandra Oddfellows' Hall is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the former Alexandra Oddfellows' Hall, built in 1899, demonstrates the importance of friendly societies to localities founded in the 19th century to provide some of the essential services their communities lacked. (RNE criterion A.4)

Aesthetically, for its decorative parapet front, which makes it visually striking for its size. The mature oak tree adds to the aesthetic value of the site. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature oak
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Princess Alexandra Statue  
**Address** 33 Perkins Street, Shiels Gardens ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** SculptureStatue  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The settlement at Alexandra was first known as the Red Gate diggings, and was named because of a gate in a fence just south of Ultima Thule Creek that was the boundary between the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. John Downey, who surveyed the town, planned to call it Eglinton after the pastoral run, but it was renamed on 24 April 1867 in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Louise Julie (1844-1925). In 1863, Princess Alexandra had married Albert, Prince of Wales; she later became Queen consort when her husband became King Edward VII in 1901.[1]

### HISTORY OF STATUE

The marble statue of Princess Alexandra (sometimes incorrectly named Alexandria) by English sculptor Charles Summers (1825-78) was commissioned by Sir William John Clarke (1831-1897), landowner, stud-breeder and philanthropist.[2]

Charles Summers was born on 27 July 1825 at Charlton Mackrell, Somerset, England, son of George Summers, builder and mason, and elder brother of Joseph. Charles's schooling was negligible and he worked from the age of 8 in masons' yards. Known for his industry and for his skill at stone-carving, he was admitted to the Royal Academy as a student in 1850 and won medals for the best model from life and for the best group of historical sculpture. Ill health forced him to migrate to Melbourne in 1854, where he built a house, took up a claim at Tarnagulla goldfield where he was unsuccessful, then returned to Melbourne. Later he directed the sculpture work in the chamber of the Legislative Council (completed in 1856) and modelled the ceiling figures.[3]

Summers became a central figure in local artistic circles; he arranged annual art exhibitions and was a founder of the Victorian Society of Fine Arts in October 1856. In 1863 he became a member of the commission of inquiry into the promotion of the fine arts in Victoria, and next year was made chairman of a board of examiners testing drawing instructors for Common Schools. He executed many fine portraits, busts and medallions of local notables such as Charles Sturt, Sir Redmond Barry and John Pascoe Fawkner, but his finest achievement is the bronze group of Burke and Wills in Melbourne, which is made entirely of Australian materials; he lived for six weeks among Aborigines to help him to represent their figures accurately. With great courage, patience and skill he built the furnace and did the casting himself, reputedly the first ever done in Australia, and to that time the figure of Burke was the largest ever cast in one piece. The statues were completed and the bronze bas-reliefs, depicting scenes of the expedition, were fixed into place in September 1866.[4]

As a sculptor, Summers was dedicated to his craft and highly revered the classical form. His work is represented in the State Library and the National Gallery of Victoria, the Mitchell Library, Sydney, and the Adelaide Art Gallery. Summers married Augustine Ameot in 1851 in London. Their only son, Charles Francis (b. November 1857), joined him in Rome in 1868; he was a minor sculptor whose work is a feature of the Ballarat Gardens.[5]

In May 1867 Summers left Melbourne in the *True Briton* for England and thence to Rome, where he made a successful career. He exhibited at the Royal Academy twelve times between 1849 and 1876. After an operation for acute goitre he died in Paris on 30 November 1878.

The statue of Princess Alexandra formed part of Summers' last work commissioned in Victoria, the marble group of Queen Victoria, her Consort and the Prince and Princess of Wales. The sculpture, created in 1876, was presented to the National Gallery (now the State Library of Victoria) after his death in 1878.

This statue was offered by the National Gallery of Victoria to the Shire of Alexandra in 1939. It has stood in several

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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locations in Alexandra, including near the Baby Health Centre,[6] before being moved to its current position.[7] With funds from the Commonwealth Local Capital Works Program the statue was relocated to its current position in Perkins Street, and the colonnade erected in 1993. The refurbished statue was officially unveiled on 3 September 1994, the 125th Anniversary of the Shire of Alexandra.[8]

## SOURCES

[1] Nigel Sinnott, Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, pp. 11-12.

[2] [www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A060237b.htm](http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A060237b.htm)

[3] [www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A030396b.htm](http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A030396b.htm)

[4] Ibid.

[5] [www.alexandratourism.com/](http://www.alexandratourism.com/)

[6] Donald J Dosser, Back When We Were Kids: Memories of Alexandra, Mansfield and Benalla Around the 1940s, p. 19.

[7] Princess Alexandra plaque, photographed 04/02/08, Fay Woodhouse.

[8] Ibid.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 7. BUILDING SETTLEMENTS AND TOWNS

#### 9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

The Princess Alexandra statue is a white marble statue set on a grey marble plinth. Princess Alexandra is depicted seated on a chair, in flowing, classically inspired drapery, with a discrete crown on her head. It appears to be in good condition.

The sculpture is set in the Sheils Gardens underneath a classical, gable-fronted sandstone open-sided structure resting on four Tuscan-order columns. Its roof is glazed. There is a small plaque mounted in the concrete foundation of the structure which reads:

"Princess Alexandra.

This marble statue of Princess Alexandra (later queen of King Edward VII) is the work of English Sculptor, Charles

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Somers [sic!], and was commissioned in 1878 by Sir W. J. Clarke.

It was originally located in the National Gallery (State Library Building) Melbourne, until offered to and accepted by the Shire of Alexandra in 1939, where it stood in several locations in Perkins Street, Alexandra.

The Shire of Alexandra, in conjunction with funding from the Commonwealth Local Capital Works Program, erected this colonnade, refurbished and relocated the statue to its current position in 1993. The refurbished statue was officially unveiled on the 3rd September, 1994, the 125th Anniversary of the Shire of Alexandra."

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this place:

1. The condition of the Princess Alexandra Statue should be monitored regularly by a qualified professional (e.g., a fine arts conservator). If any remedial work is required (e.g., graffiti removal, general cleaning, repairs), these should also be done by a qualified fine arts conservator.
2. While the roof structure over the statue is not significant, it is sympathetic in style and should be retained to protect the statue from the elements.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in its future development or management:

1. Conserve the fabric of the statue, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the removal of significant or contributory fabric unless it is only of part of the statue and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the monument and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
4. Prevent adjacent development from overwhelming the key features or adversely affecting the integrity of the site as a clearly identifiable feature of the historical landscape.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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5. Retain views of the statue from the street.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of places may have changed.

It is therefore desirable that the information contained in this citation should be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Princess Alexandra statue, carved of marble in 1876 by artist Charles Summers on a commission from Sir William John Clarke, given to the town of Alexandra in 1939, and moved to the Shiels Gardens at 33 Perkins Street, Alexandra in 1994.

How is it significant?

The Princess Alexandra statue is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as part of the last work commissioned in Victoria from sculptor Charles Summers. The English-born Summers resided in Victoria from 1854 to 1867, where he was prominent in artistic circles and was the founder of the Victorian Society of Fine Arts in October 1856. He is best known in Australia for his bronze group of Burke and Wills, displayed in Melbourne's City Square. (RNE criterion H.1)

Aesthetically, as an accomplished example of 19th-century figurative sculpture. (RNE criterion G.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** St Johns Anglican Church & Organ, Hall and Vicarage  
**Address** 39 Downey Street ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Church Hall/Presbytery/Rectory/ Vicarage/Manse  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

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**Designer / Architect** Williams, LR  
**Maker / Builder** Payne, GA & Son

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF ST JOHN'S

A Church of England site was reserved on the corner of Webster and Nihil streets, Alexandra, and the first timber Church of St John's was erected there in 1868. It took only eight weeks to build and was officially opened by the Dean of Melbourne, the Very Reverend H B Macartney on 16 March 1868. The new church was generously supported, and the Alexandra Standard praised it highly:

'The building erected is one of the prettiest wooden buildings in the district and is a credit to all connected with it. The people have liberally responded to the numerous calls made upon them and are delighted to have a place to worship Almighty God.' [1]

A rectory was purchased for use at this site in 1885, but was pulled down in the early 1900s.

On 19 April 1901, Edward Charles Rigby (1873-1958), solicitor and local councillor, was married in the original St John's to Jane Whiting (d.1954); they had one son. Rigby was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1896, and on admission to the Bar in 1897, was sponsored by Alfred Deakin. He established, in 1902 with G A Fielding, the partnership Rigby & Fielding, a largely civil practice which, with Deakin's assistance, presented the first writ to the High Court of Australia.[2]

The Anglican church relocated to its present site on Downey Street in the late 1930s. Miles Lewis' Australian Architectural Index records sketch designs in 1935 by Louis R Williams of 100 Queen Street, Melbourne for St John's Church. The new church, constructed by George A Payne & Son, Master Builder, was constructed of reinforced concrete with the foundation stone was laid on 13 Nov 1937 by the Rector, Rev. Douglas Blake. It was consecrated in August 1943 by the Right Reverend TM Amour, Bishop of Wangaratta. The style was described as 'Arts and Crafts Continuing Gothic/Norman'.

The present Church Hall was the original timber church, constructed in 1868 at the corner of Nihil and Webster streets, Alexandra. This building was moved to its current site in 1938 next to the new church, and has been used as the church hall since then.[4] A plaque inside the hall commemorates it as the first church built in 1868.[5] However, a 1909 photograph said to be of the first church shows (a small portion of) a gable-fronted building with a gabled front porch,

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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both with decorative Gothic Revival bargeboards - a completely different form than the wide, hipped-roof church hall.[8] If the photo is, indeed, of the 1868 church, then the roof may have been rebuilt when it was moved in 1938.

The present rectory was built c.1907. It is not known whether it was moved along with the church from the previous site, or if it was built on the present site as a private house and retained by the church. It was restored and extended in 1987 at a cost of approximately \$50,000.[6]

The St John's Church Organ was built by an unknown English organ maker c.1870; its case has carved cresting, filigree fretwork panels and two three-pipe towers. It is presumed to have been in a private home in Melbourne until the 1930s when it was installed in St Roch's Church in Glen Iris. The Organ remained there until 1978 when it was moved to the home of Ann Blore in Ascot Vale, and later went with her when she moved to Surrey Hills; during her custodianship the facade pipes, until then painted silver, were painted by using sage green and gold by Marc Nobel. In 1990 it underwent restoration by S J Laurie involving extensive work on the action, wind system and pipework, together with the insertion of a tenor C metal Piccolo 2ft on a slide originally used for a Dulciana, but later a Violo and more recently a 2-2/3 made from the former string stop. It was installed in St John's Anglican Church in 1990.[7]

### ARCHITECT LOUIS R WILLIAMS

The following outline of Louis Williams' career is drawn from J Trimble's article 'Louis R. Williams: A Lifetime of Contribution':

'Louis Williams practised architecture in Melbourne from 1912 until his retirement in 1976, during which time he designed more than 130 churches . Born in Hobart in 1890, Williams developed a keen interest in the old colonial churches of Tasmania . Because of his interest in churches, Williams finished his articles in Launceston under the supervision of Alexander North, a respected ecclesiastical architect. In 1912 he joined North's firm as a junior partner and they moved to Melbourne. Among their first commissions in Melbourne were Trinity College Chapel at the University of Melbourne, and St. Peter's parish hall, Eastern Hill. .

'By 1921, Alexander North had retired and Williams established his own practice. . Williams designed churches for a number of different denominations, but his commissions were mainly for Anglican churches. .

'Williams believed the Gothic to be mandatory in church design, but rejected the reproduction of established styles and sought instead, to use the idea of the Gothic, and Gothic motifs, in a manner appropriate to the particular requirements of each commission. . The early churches also contain some splendid open timber roofs after the traditional medieval manner. . Williams's churches were inevitably built in brick. . Williams introduced clinker bricks into local ecclesiastical architecture in 1925. At that time clinker bricks were maligned as a reject from the kiln. .

'The architect's humanism is apparent in his attention to the ladder [gradation] of sizes in the small scale of such details as doors, steps, materials, ceiling heights and levels of sills and dados . The well-crafted quality of his churches is also evident in the care given to fine finish in the details of brickwork and in timber furnishings. .

'His integration of contemporary with traditional methods of construction, his interpretation of form, and the evolution of his own style illustrate Williams's capacity for innovation [in contrast to his conservative image]. . The reproduction of established styles was rejected in favour of a more imaginative and personal approach.' [9]

Louis Williams was 'regarded the most significant architect in the history of the Wangaratta diocese' and designed seven other important churches for it. [10]

Sources:



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- [1] Alexandra Standard, 1868, quoted in G Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, Blackburn, 1969, p. 58.
- [2] Edward Charles Rigby (1873-1958) <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110401b.htm>
- [3] Gerald Noble, cited in Context Pty Ltd, *Murrindindi Shire Heritage Study Vol. 1: Thematic Environmental History*, 2006, p. 84.
- [4] Joy Wells, 23 July 2008; Paul Dalzeil, 22 July 2008.
- [5] Noble, *op.cit.*, p. 58-9.
- [6] Parish Hall, Downey Street, Alexandra.
- [7] <http://www.ohta.org.au/organs/organs/StJohnsAlexandra.html>; Ann Blore, documents 24/5/08.
- [8] G Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, Blackburn, 1969, p. 58.
- [9] Judith Trimble, 'Louis R. Williams: A Lifetime of Contribution', in 'Victorian Historical Journal', May-Aug 1982, Vol 53, Nos. 2 & 3, pp 152-158.
- [10] Lloyd, 'Alexandra and District', Histec Publications, Brighton East, 2006, pp 97-8.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

This complex at the corner of Downey and Villeneuve streets comprises: the church hall (the original church of 1868), a rectory at the back of the site c1907, and the church of 1937.

The church of 1937 is a striking reinforced-concrete Arts and Crafts building, designed by Louis R Williams, with some Spanish Mission influence in the bell tower on the west side of the street front and the rough stucco finish of the walls, external and internal. The street front has a jettied jerkin-head roof above three narrow rectilinear windows. The low-sweeping gable roof is clad in dark clay tiles. The church is entered at the base of the belltower. The plan of the church is an oblong nave with semi-transepts at the chancel, and apsidal sanctuary at the east end and a baptistery at the west. Inside it has exposed hammer-beam trusses and the ceiling of the nave, apse and transept are clad in stained lining boards. There is also a stained timber dado below cement-rendered walls. The timber pews appear to be contemporary with the church. A 19th century organ sits in the west transept.

This church can be compared to a number of Louis Williams' other works from the 1920s and '30s. St George's in Lucknow Street, Travancore (1925-6) and All Saints' Anglican Church in Emu (1934) are both in the Arts & Crafts style, with jettied jerkin-head roofs, clay-tiled roofs, but have unrendered brick walls. At the Community of the Holy Name and Retreat House, Cheltenham (VHR HO2008), Williams' office was responsible for the design of the

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Community House of 1936 and a chapel added to it in 1940. These two buildings show a much stronger Spanish Mission influence, with white stucco walls and a simple campanile, minus the earlier Arts & Crafts flourishes. St John's in Alexandra can be seen as a transitional design between these two phases, and draws elements from both.

The original church of 1868, now the church hall, is a simple weatherboard building with modest pretension to the Gothic style. The roof has a low hip and the rafter ends are exposed. There are two metal ventilators on the right-hand slope of the roof. The present street front is asymmetrical, with one lancet window on the left side, a doorway and then two lancet windows on the right-hand side. The east elevation, which faces the present-day church, has pointed-arch double doors at the end nearest the street. They are made of diagonal boards with large decorative strap hinges. After the door are three lancet windows, a rectangular doorway and another lancet window. The lancet windows have diamond-shaped panes in the upper third and a three-pane sash below. The west elevation has rectangular windows and a narrow brick chimney. The roof retains early short-sheet corrugated iron cladding. The timber church was moved to the site in the 1930s, when the Louis Williams church was built. Its roof may have been replaced at this time, as a glimpse of the church in a 1909 photo shows a gable-fronted building, which would be more typical of a church of its era.

Behind the church and hall is a large weatherboard house, which serves as the rectory. It has a high hip roof and bullnose front verandah on timber posts. A large, unsympathetic, extension has been made to the east side of the facade. It has a lower hip roof than the rest of the house. Both roofs are clad in corrugated iron.

The church complex is entered from Downey Street through two gate posts (though there is no gate or fence). They have a stucco finish and bell-curved caps, and appear to be contemporary with the 1937 church.

The three buildings are in very good condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Interior controls are on the 1937 church, including the organ.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

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- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St John's Anglican Church complex, at 39 Downey Street, Alexandra, comprising a 1937 church designed by architect Louis R Williams using an amalgam of the Arts & Crafts and Spanish Mission styles, which contains an English pipe organ of c1870, a simple Gothic weatherboard church hall of which was the original St John's built in 1868 and moved to the site in 1938, and a weatherboard rectory of c1907. The site is entered via two stuccoed gate posts, similar in

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style to the church.

A Church of England site was reserved on the corner of Webster and Nihil streets, Alexandra, and the first timber Church of St John's was erected there in 1868, which was said at the time to be one of the prettiest wooden buildings in the district. A rectory was purchased for use at this site in 1885, but was pulled down in the early 1900s.

The Anglican church relocated to its present site on Downey Street in the late 1930s. The new church, designed by prolific ecclesiastical architect Louis R Williams, and built by George A Payne & Son, Master Builder, was constructed of reinforced concrete with the foundation stone was laid on 13 Nov 1937 by the Rector, Rev. Douglas Blake. It was consecrated in August 1943 by the Right Reverend TM Amour, Bishop of Wangaratta.

The 1868 timber church was moved to a site next door to the new church in 1938. Its roof may have been changed from gabled to the present hipped roof at that time. The present rectory was built c.1907. It is not known whether it was moved along with the church from the previous site, or if it was built on the present site as a private house and retained by the church.

The St John's Church Organ was built by an unknown English organ maker c.1870; its case has carved cresting, filigree fretwork panels and two three-pipe towers. It was installed in St John's Anglican Church in 1990.

How is it significant?

St John's Anglican Church complex is of local architectural, historic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, St John's Anglican Church of 1937 is significant as a transitional example of work by prolific ecclesiastical architect Louis R Williams from his favoured Arts & Crafts style to the simpler Spanish Mission. The interior detailing, including the hammer-beam ceiling and timber wall panelling are of high quality. (RNE criterion F.1)

Historically and socially, the St John's Anglican Church complex is significant for its strong associations with the local community for its continuous church use since 1868, as illustrated by the surviving 1868 church which now serves as the church hall. (RNE criterion G.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Entrance gate posts
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Summerview  
**Address** 199 Binns - McCrae Road ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** FarmHouseBarnShed  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra began as a mining camp. Gold was discovered in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings, named after a gate in a fence south of the Ultima Thule Creek - one of the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant A and B pastoral runs. Part of Grant Street runs close to the site that followed the original miners' track through the gate in the fence between the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Runs and on to the diggings further afield.[1] It was also called McKenzie's Diggings, after Donald McKenzie, the squatter of Mount Pleasant 'A' pastoral run.[2] In 1867 the District Surveyor, John Downey, intended to call the town Eglinton, after the nearby pastoral run, but instead it was named in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.[3]

The Shire of Alexandra was formed in 1869 and existed until Council amalgamations of 1994 combined it with the Shire of Yea and parts of the Shires of Eltham and Broadford to form Murrindindi Shire.

### HISTORY OF SUMMERVIEW

The property on the Binns-McCrae Road was owned by George Payne, one of the early diggers in the area. In 1872 he married Mary Jane Rosetta of Yan Yean. In 1878 they selected land on the Johnsons Creek, established a dairy farm and built this residence known as Summerview.[4]

#### Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 25, p. 51.

[2] Ibid., p. 86.

[3] G. W. Noble, The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 56.

[4] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 329 and Personal comment, Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

4.3 Dairying

## Description

### Physical Description

Summerview Homestead and outbuildings are set close to Binns-McCrae's Road, outside of the township of Alexandra. The homestead is on the east side of the road, and a small barn and workers' quarters are on the opposite side.

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The homestead, built c1878, is a weatherboard house with an M-hipped roof, and a projecting gable on the north side. The west side of the house faces the road, though the north side was the original facade. The three chimneys are corbelled brick (overpainted). The verandah on the facade and west side of the house has a skillion roof and framed cast-iron frieze, a configuration common in the 1870s. There are paired timber brackets and cricket-bat mouldings beneath the eaves. The front door is on the north side, beneath the verandah and adjacent to the projecting gable. It has sidelights and a transom. Beside it is a tripartite sash window on the west side, and an entrance door to the projecting gable on the east side. The projecting gable probably dates from c1900. There is a timber hood over the window in the gable (the window has sidelights).

There is a join in the weatherboards on the east side, which indicates an early extension (which has paired sash windows) The south side (original rear) of the house has a narrow skillion-roof extension with a simple verandah.

The house has been re-roofed with Colorbond.

Across the road from the house is a small timber barn, which appears to date from c1900 or earlier. It is clad in hand-split boards, patched in many places with corrugated iron and some new weatherboards. It has a hayloft at the top, with a dormer opening on the facade. There is a skillion extension on the south side. The barn is in poor to fair condition.

Also across from the house, just north of the barn, is a tiny timber hut. It has a simple skillion roof (highest at the front) with no eaves. There is a six-over-six sash window on the facade, a ledged door and a fixed six-pane window below a small door to a loft. There are early traces of paint on the fascia. The hut may have served as worker's quarters. It is in fair to poor condition

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider finding on-going uses for the barn and hut so that they can be repaired and maintained.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

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- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Summerview Homestead and outbuildings at 199 Binns-McCraes Road, Alexandra. The land was selected by former miner, George Payne, and his wife, formerly Mary Jane Rosetta, in 1878. There he built a house and established a dairy farm. The homestead, built c1878, is a weatherboard house with an M-hipped roof, and a projecting gable on the north side (which appears to be a later alteration of c1900). The house has three corbelled brick chimneys and a framed cast-



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iron frieze to the verandah. The main entrance is on the north side of the house.

On the opposite side of the road are two early outbuildings: a barn with hayloft, clad in hand-split boards, and a tiny worker's quarters.

How is it significant?

Summerview Homestead and outbuildings are of local historical significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with dairying, which was a major industry in Murrindindi Shire from the 19th century. Also as an intact complex of early farm outbuildings and homestead. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Barn & hut

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** The Mount, former  
**Address** 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA  
**Place Type** Residence  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF ALEXANDRA

The township of Alexandra grew up around the Mount Pleasant pastoral run. It was first held by Thomas Marshall and John Morris Fisher in 1841, followed by Archibald Thom in 1849, Pettett and Ker in 1850, Donald McKenzie 1854, Charles Ibbotson and John Buckley 1858, and back to Donald McKenzie in 1861. McKenzie was still the run holder in 1866 when gold was found nearby. Gold mining was at the heart of Alexandra's very beginnings. Quartz reefs were discovered near Mount Pleasant Homestead in 1866 and by December that year it was reported by Mining Surveyor Samuel Vickery that quartz mining was in full operation, and that 'the nucleus of a township is already formed.'<sup>[1]</sup> The township was named Alexandra in honour of 'The Rose of Denmark', Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie (1844-1925), wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.

### HISTORY OF THE MOUNT

John Frederick Webb (1861-1939) was born at Collingwood, the son of Frederick Edwin and Julia Ann (née Mander). He took up property at the head of the Ultima Thule Creek shortly before 1890, around the time he married Jean Hesketh Goodwin. The property was originally worked as a dairy farm. Webb improved his 4,000 acres of fine grazing country and also raised Merino wool, winning many awards for his produce. According to Alexandra historian, Brian Lloyd, he built The Mount, north of Alexandra, in 1888.<sup>[1]</sup> The original building was added to and extensively altered in 1907 after being gutted by fire. The house is a landmark building in Alexandra and one of the grandest former private residences. It is believed the house remained in the Webb family well into the twentieth century and was later owned by George Coombs. It has also been used as a guest house and reception rooms.

On 29 September 1978, the Alexandra Lions Club held a public meeting. They were looking for a project that would benefit the community as a whole and create employment. A survey indicated strong demand for a local centre - there were between 12 and 15 young people with a disability living in Alexandra. From this meeting, a committee of management was selected to go ahead with a project to 'assist the handicapped persons of our district and Victoria, to establish a day training centre along with activity therapy unit and holiday farm aspect'. They applied to the State Government in 1978 for \$50,000 to buy a 50 acre property in Alexandra. The committee believed the former Webb property, The Mount, would be the best property for the proposed centre.

Dame Pattie Menzies (née Leckie) (1899-1995), widow of former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies (1894-1978), was born in Alexandra. She was the eldest daughter of John William, farmer and later Senator and May Beatrice (née Johnston) Leckie. May Leckie died in childbirth in 1910. John Leckie was elected to the Victorian Parliament in 1913, serving as MLA for Benambra. He served in the Federal House of Representatives as a member for India from 1917-19, and in the Senate from 1935-47. He was a minister in the Menzies and Fadden Governments.<sup>[2]</sup> Pattie Leckie met Robert Menzies in 1919 and the couple were married in 1920. The Menzies had four children, one of whom died at birth. Dame Pattie was appointed Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her charitable work. She received this honour nine years prior to her husband receiving his knighthood in 1963. Dame Pattie was approached by her friend and Alexandra Shire President, Kath Cooper, to lend her name and be the patron of the proposed centre. Dame Pattie, who was no stranger to charitable work, accepted the challenge and the centre was established as the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre in 1979. In Melbourne, Dame Pattie was a member of the board of management of the Women's Hospital and had been involved in the Free Kindergarten movement. Pattie Menzies continued to support a range of organisations and causes right up until her death in 1995.<sup>[3]</sup> The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre celebrated 25 years of operation in 2006.<sup>[4]</sup>

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[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District incorporating The Red Gate by Gerald Noble, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 352.

[2] [www.damepattiemenziescentre.org](http://www.damepattiemenziescentre.org)

[3] [www.hansard.ct.gov.au/1995](http://www.hansard.ct.gov.au/1995); [www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/IMP0004b.htm](http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/IMP0004b.htm);  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pattie\\_Menzies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pattie_Menzies)

[4] [www.damepattiemenziescentre.org](http://www.damepattiemenziescentre.org) op.cit.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

4.3 Dairying

7.1 Township development

9.4 Institutions of mutual support & helping other people

## Description

### Physical Description

The Mount is a grand brick Victorian residence of c1888 with sandstone foundations. It is sited on a hill, reached by a circular drive, and faces north with views over the UT Creek. The building is L-shaped in plan, with an east-west gabled hipped roof (probably the 1907 extension), and a north-south M-hipped roof on the west side (probably the original house). There is also a projecting gable at the west end of the north elevation (the facade). At the junction of the gable with the hipped roof is a fine chimney with moulded bricks divided into two 'stacks' and rendered mouldings at the top and bottom. This gable has Flemish Revival rendered details, an oculus, and a canted window bay (with one-over-one sashes), and appears to date from the 1907 alterations and extension to the house. Other features dating to 1907 are the front door at the centre of the facade. It is a typical multi-panelled Edwardian door with a curved window near the top and an etched-glass transom, which is made more interesting by a side panel which is a half-width version of the door and transom. Paired windows on either side of the doorway are paired casements with transoms. The casements have two panes, the upper one and the transoms are segmentally arched. The verandah to the north and west elevations has a simple timber frieze and may be a reconstruction. (The posts are definitely later, Corinthian columns.)

The rendered cornice and stringcourse of the Flemish gable continue around to the east elevation, which has two plain one-over-one sash windows. The south elevation, behind the Flemish gable, has a projecting bay with a hipped roof. It has six casement windows in all (each with a transom) of the same segmentally arched design as those flanking the front door.

The interior features Art Nouveau details such as timber fretwork in the hall and window bays.

The roof has been reclad recently with corrugated steel. The verandah floor has been replaced with poured concrete and the verandah posts with Corinthian fluted columns. There is a sympathetic hipped-roof brick addition on the south side of the house, in the inner corner of the L-shaped plan. The house is in good condition, apart from cracks in the brickwork and missing mortar in the foundations at the east end.

A large carport with a hipped gable roof over a concrete slab was constructed next to the south-west corner of the house, adjacent to the circular drive, in 2010. While somewhat visually intrusive, it is adjacent to a secondary elevation of the

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house, and is freestanding.

Significant trees on the site include a number of oaks; one immediately to the north-east of the house and several in the paddock between the house and the highway. Some other, larger specimens are on the flats close to the river.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Do not paint the brick.
2. Repoint the sandstone foundation on west elevation.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

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6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

John Frederick Webb (1861-1939) selected property at the head of the Ultima Thule Creek shortly before 1890 and worked it as a dairy farm. He built the homestead, called The Mount after its site on a high hill, in 1888. The original building was added to and extensively altered in 1907 after being gutted by fire. The house is a landmark building in Alexandra and one of the grandest former private residences.

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre for young people with disabilities was established in 1979 and named after its illustrious sponsor, who was born in Alexandra.

The Mount is a grand brick Victorian residence of c1888 with sandstone foundations, and an extension to the west of 1907, creating an L-shaped plan. There is a Flemish gable at the west end of the 1907 wing.

Significant trees on the site include a number of oaks; one immediately to the north-east of the house and several in the paddock between the house and the highway. Some other, larger specimens are on the flats close to the river.

How is it significant?

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, formerly The Mount, is of local social, historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

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Socially, as a centre for disabled youth in the Alexandra district created in 1979 at the initiative of the local community, including the Alexandra Lions Club (RNE criterion G.1).

Historically, for its associations with major 19th-century landholder John Frederick Webb and with Dame Pattie Menzies, who was born in Alexandra and was appointed Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her charitable work, and was married to former Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies (RNE criterion H.1).

Aesthetically, as a landmark building in Alexandra located on a prominent hilltop site with views to mature oak trees, and one of the grandest late-19th/early 20th-century houses in the town (despite later alterations). (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature oaks
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

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**Name** Acheron Park  
**Address** 2335 & 2337 Maroondah Highway BUXTON  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF BUXTON

The Taggerty pastoral run of 50,000 acres was located between the Acheron and Granton runs on the east side of the Acheron River and was licensed in the name of Mrs Elizabeth Rose Watson in 1846. It was registered as No. 183 and gazetted on 4 October 1848. Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes that the large area was granted because of the mountainous nature of the run which was 'ruggedly beautiful'. Taggerty was held in the name of James Watson or his wife, and with Donald Cameron until 1849, when the license transferred to Henry Johnson who retained it for 15 years. He erected a rough house on his pre-emptive right, later known as Roslyn. The Taggerty Aboriginal Station was established in the early 1860s, and in 1864 the Taggerty lease was auctioned and James Batchelor was the successful bidder. Batchelor built a slab hut 'in a picturesque situation' and brought his wife and children to their new home, travelling through Marysville and then 'hacking a path through the bush'. His diary shows that his was the first vehicle to venture along the Acheron River. The original hut was replaced by Taggerty House which was built as a standard six-room Victorian house

### HISTORY OF ACHERON PARK

Ernest Batchelor (1870-1935), son of selector James Batchelor who owned Taggerty House, selected land north of Buxton at the turn-of-the-century and had three children there with wife Zoe Emma Manton. After Ernest's death, his son Arthur ran the farm until selling it to GG Foletta in 1939, who named it Acheron Park. (Lloyd, p 27).

The remainder of this account is cited directly from Brian Lloyd's 'Alexandra and District' (Histec Publications, 2006), pp 300-303. It is based on information provided by Julia Foletta:

Gotardo Foletta, born in Gerra Switzerland, arrived on the Great Britain in 1857. Two grandsons, George Gotardo Foletta (1892-1973) and Ernest Arthur Foletta (Ern, 1897-1974), became keen trout fishermen, and that brought them to the Alexandra. From 1929 they travelled to Eildon where they kept a cabin cruiser, Eildon's first. As members of the Victorian Fly Fishers Association (VFFA) they believed that the Acheron River was the best trout stream in the State. In 1937 Ern purchased Tarnpirr at Narbethong from Dr Cyril Crook for a holiday home. .

In 1939 George (GG) also purchased a place to fish on the Acheron River at Buxton and named it Acheron Park. He had noticed the property on his fishing trips, and when the land went on the market after the 1939 fires, he purchased the 410 acre property for £3,280 from Henry Arthur Batchelor, his brother James and sister Lois. Many fences had been destroyed, but spared from the fires were the four-room timber cottage [extended c1940], a sapling and hand-split shingle woolshed [not extant], stables and chaff shed, a small hut [not extant], a single cow dairy [not extant], a large oak tree and a few pines.

George Foletta (GG) was a small man with great vision. The eldest son of a wholesaler, he began his working life as a travelling salesman before taking a management position in his father's company. He was co-founder of Atlas Knitting and Spinning Mills, that became Prestige Ltd in 1922. Ten years later Prestige had the reputation for the finest lady's silk hosiery in the country and equal to anything in the world. During overseas trips, as well as visiting trout hatcheries, GG witnessed the latest spinning and weaving technology in action, and brought the equipment and some experienced operators to Australia. With the help of his brothers Ern and Harry, he built the business into a leading textile company, employing over 4,000 people. A keen supporter of tariff protection and the founding President of the Australian Industries Development Association, GG was awarded a CMG by Queen Elizabeth II in 1962 for his services to the nation.

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GG and his wife Myra (Cooper, 1890-1980) had four sons, identical twin boys Douglas (Doug, 1915-1971) and George (1915-1997) both possible successors in the business; Howard (1919-1999) who was more interested in the land, and studied at Dookie Agricultural College; and John (born 1921), technically minded and a born inventor. With his love of designing and building things and creating magnificent gardens, GG transformed Acheron Park into a showpiece of modern agricultural practice, a model farm for the Dookie students and an unofficial tourist venue for guests of the nearby guest houses.

Work began with a major extension to the Batchelor's small cottage, and the planting of the exotic trees that grace the driveways, parks and gardens of the property. By the early 1940s, with traditional building materials in short demand, GG used the latest concreting techniques to build a modern dairy with the latest walk-through bails, concrete silos to store oaten silage for winter fodder to maintain milk production, and a state-of-the-art concrete and timber piggery with outdoor individual pigsties set in 1/4-acre paddocks. Up to 1,000 pigs could be housed and they were fed grain and excess skim milk. The fertile river flats were irrigated for oaten silage and summer fodder. In winter the 200-head herd of Ayrshire cattle were fed silage in individual feeding stalls in a large enclosed shed. Effluent washed from the concrete yard was carried away via an elevated concrete aqueduct to an old army 'Blitz' buggy fitted with a tank for spraying the manure back onto the pasture. Rock and gravel based laneways were constructed and fenced to simplify cattle movement. The modern electric milking equipment, the houses and the water pumps were powered by two diesel generators. An adjoining property Kenloydon was purchased from the Ken, Lloyd and Don Woods family for the dry cows. Acheron Park had a contract to supply milk to the wartime tourist town of Marysville, but demand was unpredictable and a more stable market was found at Bon Del dairy in Alexandra. Surplus cream went to the Alexandra Butter Factory.

When World War 2 began, Doug was sent to England with the RAAF as a flight instructor for Beaufort bombers. George and Howard joined the Army but asthma prevented John from joining the Air Force, so he went to Buxton to help manage the property. When John was then accepted into the Army, Howard was brought back to Buxton to produce pig meat for the wartime American troops. Acheron Park, with its fertile river flats, was abuzz with farm workers organised by the Government Manpower organisation [and a] converted cottage housed land army girls. At the same time, Prestige Ltd was weaving the finest silk and making parachutes for the RAAF. The dwelling at Kenloydon provided a refuge for Harry Foletta's wife Mabel and children Lois and Greig, who had been evacuated from their home on Sydney Harbour. Greig attended Buxton Primary and Lois attended Melbourne Girl's Grammar School, evacuated to Marysville. ...

After the War, Acheron Park provided housing and much needed post-war employment for families, in particular Dutch migrant families. Kenloydon and Acheron Park could house eight families, and up to five at any one time were given full-time employment. Howard preferred sheep farming to dairying and, since sheep at Buxton were prone to footrot, Kenloydon was sold in 1953 to George and Dot Fellows, and Howard and family moved to better sheep country at Coleraine where two more children, Jan (1954) and Warwick (1957) were born.

After the War, Doug and George developed bi-polar disorder, and in 1953 Doug moved from his management position in Prestige to take on full-time management of Acheron Park. His wife Lorna (Rattray) (1915-1997) and four children Douglas, Louise, Kenneth (Ken) and Julia (Julie) were settled in schools in Melbourne and travelled to Buxton on weekends and holidays. Doug's twin brother George and family moved to Yin Barun near Benalla. In 1957, Doug purchased Acheron Park from his father, and it became DE Foletta and Co, with Doug and his children as shareholders.

In April 1960, the tragedy of the accidental death of Doug and Lorna's son, 18 year old Douglas, affected Doug's mental state and his subsequent erratic behaviour created trying times for the family, friends and local residents. Good workers were put off and staff turnover was high. In 1961 Doug purchased an additional 83 acres of neighbouring land from the Burchall family, and in 1965 married (2) Jean Collins. In 1968, following changes in dairying, the milk contract was leased out, dairy equipment was sold and the transition to beef production began. Ken married (1) Mary McGregor Dawson in 1969 (Sarah b. 1973, Alistair b. 1975). In 2000, he married (2) Diana Thomas.

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Doug Foletta died in 1971, aged 56. His children Ken, Louise and Julie, with advice from grandfather GG, continued to operate the 640-acre family farm. In 1971 Louise married Robert Utter (Megan b. 1976, Adrian b. 1978, James b. 1987). Julie married Kerry Cross in 1974 (Montgomery b. 1977, Jocelyn b. 1979). In 1975 Louise established summer camps for artists. For the next 27 years Melbourne families were drawn to the magnificent landscapes, ambience of the river and exciting old buildings. The property was alive with art, music, films, lively artists and interesting families. Julie and family moved to live at Acheron Park full time in 1980.

With work commitments and children's education and activities, running a farm was not easy for the three families. In 1983 grazing activities were reduced when 189 acres were leased to Sutherland Seeds. In 1988, 250 acres east of the highway were sold. In 2001 a Foletta Family reunion at Acheron Park, brought together 144 Folettas and their descendants, and included a first meeting with distant relatives: Ian Foletta (b. 1959), Karen (Aldridge, b. 1960) and their children Ruby (b. 1993) and Lachlan (b. 1994). By 2002 times and needs were changing. D E Foletta and Co was wound up and the land divided into three. A clearing sale in 2002 attracted hundreds of locals. A new chapter in the life of Acheron Park began for Doug's descendants. For 50 years, Acheron Park had provided a picturesque venue for work, pleasure and learning for Doug's children and their friends and later the seven grandchildren, their friends and their families.

In addition, the following was provided by J Foletta and A Magiafoglou in their nomination:

From 1939 until 2004 'Acheron Park' was in total ownership by the Foletta family. It has since been subdivided. Some sections are still in family hands, while others are not.

Buxton arborist John Coyne believes that the English oak tree may exceed in proportion and age the significant English oak at St Helier's in the Abbotsford Convent site. That oak is believed to have been planted around the 1860s.

The best we can find out about the age of the oak on "Acheron Park" is that previous owner Arthur Batchelor (b. 1912, d. 1995) described it as "a big tree when I was a boy".

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The property was hit by the February 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. The concrete dairy and piggery survived, while all other buildings were completely destroyed (the house, the cottage, the barns and other small outbuildings). The mature oak tree and other trees around the homestead were severely damaged. A new house was constructed on the site in 2011.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 4.3 Dairying

## Description

### Physical Description

*Updated description, 2011:*

Following the devastating Black Saturday bushfires of February 2009, the only surviving elements of heritage significance on the site are the Piggery at 2337 Maroondah Highway and the Dairy, fodder Silos and Acqueduct complex at 2335 Maroondah Highway.

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## *Description, 2008:*

While Acheron Park encompassed 370 acres until 2004, the core of the farm buildings are located on what is now a 10 acre site at 2335 Maroondah Highway, Buxton, with the Piggery is just over the boundary at 2337 Maroondah Highway.

The main house (built by the Batchelors and extended by the Folettas) and its garden (planted by the Folettas) are located near the front of the site. Beside it is the Land Girls' Cottage. Farm buildings are ranged behind them in a U-formation, with a mature English Oak on the south side of the 'U'. The Piggery is located down the slope at the rear of this farm complex, set well away from the house.

The House comprises a turn-of-the-century weatherboard house built for the Batchelor family which was extensively remodelled inside c1939, with Mountain Ash panelling and a Tudor Revival fireplace, and wings added to the front and south side by the Folettas. The original section of the house is weatherboard and has an M-hipped roof. On the south half of the rear is the former kitchen wing, which retains a timber paling roof under the current corrugated iron, four-pane fixed sash windows, and weatherboards which display curved saw marks. There was a verandah on the north side of the kitchen wing, which has since been enclosed. The kitchen wing has not been used for over 20 years and is in very poor condition, with the floor in a state of collapse. The c1939 wings to the front and side also have corrugated-iron hipped roofs and are clad in strapped fibro sheeting above a timber dado. The c1939 front verandah has paired timber posts on a low, weather-board clad wall and lozenge-shaped capitals, influenced by the California Bungalow style.

The front garden is planted with mature trees including a Copper beech, Pin Oaks, a Chinese Poplar and Golden Elm. There is a group of mature fruit trees on the south side of the house.

The small Land Girls' (or Workers') Cottage is of a similar date to the House extensions. It also has strapped fibro walls above a weatherboard dado (curved in profile). It was renovated in the 1980s, at which time windows to the kitchen and lounge were replaced and the original sleep-out at the south-west corner opened up to create a verandah.

Other surviving buildings that date to the Batchelors' tenure are a small Stable or vehicle repair Workshop and a Chaff Shed, both located beneath the mature English Oak on the south side of the farmyard 'U'. The oak has a 33 metre spread, is approximately 20 metres high and the trunk measurement is 1.51 metres at breast height. The Stable/Workshop is clad in very thin unpainted weatherboards (cut not split) with a slight curve to the gable-end roof. The east side of the roof is clad with Lysaght's 'Galvanized Tinned' corrugated iron, which was imported from England prior to the start of local manufacture in 1921. The Chaff Shed, on the east side of the oak tree, is also clad in weatherboards and was lined with flat sheets of galvanised iron bearing Lysaght's 'Queen's Head Australia' as rat-proofing. The floor is gone in this shed.

Also beneath the English Oak are two more weatherboard sheds which were built by the Foletta family. Next to the stable/workshop is the former Generator Shed, and appended to the Chaff Shed is a Toolshed which retains shelving for plumbing fittings. There is an open woodshed at the rear of the Toolshed, and a more recent carport on the east side.

On the west side of the 'U', opposite the House, is the c1939 Dairy and fodder Silos behind it. The Dairy has low mass concrete walls (the upper half left open), timber roof framing clad in corrugated iron, and fibro sheeting to the gable ends. The two circular Silos are also poured concrete and share a low gabled roof. The floor of the Dairy is concrete and cobblestones, with drains in the floor for hosing out. The effluent then flowed down an 'Aqueduct' at the rear onto a concrete platform from which it was collected for use as fertilizer. There is a track running up the middle of the Dairy and a large trolley on it. Feed was dispensed from the Silos into this trolley for distribution to the cows. There is a separator room and a sterilization room on the north side of the Dairy. The Dairy is in good to fair condition. The internal cow bails are gone.

On the north side of the farmyard 'U' is the Calf Rearing Shed and the Machinery Shed. The Calf Rearing Shed is

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weatherboard clad with a corrugated iron roof. It retains timber calf bails for feeding. Reportedly it originally had a second storey. The weatherboards appear to be damp as they are covered with an orange fungus. On the east side it opens into the Machinery Shed, which is open on the east and west sides. The other walls are clad in weatherboard with a corrugated iron roof. The roofing iron is 'River Brand Export Standard. Kawasaki' from Japan. The upright supports are bush poles. Much of the weatherboards on the north side are missing.

The Piggery, set well behind the house and farmyard down the hill, is similar in construction to the Dairy. It has low mass concrete walls with unpainted weatherboards above (some of which are missing). The corrugated iron roof has recently been replaced in part. While not inspected internally, concrete pig bays are said to survive inside.

## Previous Statement Significance

What is significant?

Acheron Park at 2335 and 2337 Maroondah Highway, Buxton. Ernest Batchelor (1870-1935), son of James Batchelor who owned Taggerty House, selected land north of Buxton at the turn-of-the-century. After Ernest's death, his son Arthur ran the farm until selling it to GG Foletta in 1939, who named it Acheron Park. Surviving buildings from the Batchelors' ownership include: a four-room timber cottage (extensively altered and extended c 1939), stables and a chaff shed, and a large English Oak tree.

Significant construction began by the Folettas in 1939 of buildings for a state-of-the-art dairy including large concrete fodder silos, undercover fodder bays, dairy and milk processing rooms, yards, drainage aqueduct and piggery.

Effluent washed from the concrete yard was carried away via an elevated concrete aqueduct to an old army 'Blitz' buggy fitted with a tank for spraying the manure back onto the pasture.

The Batchelors' cottage was extended and remodelled, including fine Mountain Ash panelling inside.

A timber and fibro workers' cottage was built for land army girls in the early 1940s. The machinery shed, calf rearing shed, workshop, generator shed to house diesel powered electricity generators, fuel storage shed were all located around the circular road and the electricity plant and to enable ready access for the milk truck and the numerous employees.

How is it significant?

Acheron Park is of local historic, technical and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its connections with two important families in the area: the Batchelors, and especially the Folettas. And for its illustration of the evolution of the dairying business and techniques. The Land Girls' Cottage is a rare tangible survivor of this aspect of the World War Two era. (RNE criteria H.1, A.4, B.1)

Technically, as a c1939 showpiece of modern agricultural practice, which even served as a model farm for Dookie Agricultural College. In addition, due to post-war building materials shortage, the latest concreting techniques were used to build a modern dairy with the latest walk-through bails, concrete silos to store oaten silage for winter fodder to maintain milk production, and a state-of-the-art concrete and timber piggery. (RNE criterion F.1)

Aesthetically, for its picturesque setting on the Acheron River below the Cathedral Range, as well as its mature trees, both in the front garden and in particular an English Oak believed to have been planted as early as the 1860s. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Previously unpainted surfaces, such as concrete, should be left unpainted.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

### What is significant?

Acheron Park at 2335 and 2337 Maroondah Highway, Buxton. Ernest Batchelor (1870-1935), son of James Batchelor who owned Taggerty House, selected land north of Buxton at the turn-of-the-century. After Ernest's death, his son Arthur ran the farm until selling it to GG Foletta in 1939, who named it Acheron Park. Significant construction began by the Folettas in 1939 of buildings for a state-of-the-art dairy including large concrete fodder silos, undercover fodder bays, dairy and milk processing rooms, yards, drainage aqueduct and piggery.

Effluent washed from the concrete yard was carried away via an elevated concrete aqueduct to an old army 'Blitz' buggy fitted with a tank for spraying the manure back onto the pasture.

### How is it significant?

Acheron Park is of local historic and technical significance to Murrindindi Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, for its connections with two important families in the area: the Batchelors, and especially the Folettas. And for its illustration of the evolution of the dairying business and techniques. (RNE criteria H.1, A.4)

Technically, as a c1939 showpiece of modern agricultural practice, which even served as a model farm for Dookie Agricultural College. In addition, due to post-war building materials shortage, the latest concreting techniques were used to build a modern dairy with the latest walk-through bails, concrete silos to store oaten silage for winter fodder to maintain milk production, and a state-of-the-art concrete and timber piggery. (RNE criterion F.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Dairy + silos, Piggery
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** St Thomas Church of England  
**Address** 2275 Maroondah Highway BUXTON  
**Place Type** Church  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Carpenter Gothic

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF BUXTON

The township of Buxton was named by the surveyor George Darbyshire, after Buxton, Derbyshire, England. Buxton was opened up for selection in 1866, the first and only two allotments, each of 126 acres, were taken up by John Jones and Jas Thompson. Buxton, originally part of the Shire of Healesville, transferred to the Shire of Alexandra in 1963.[1] When Murrindindi Shire was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires, Buxton became part of the Shire of Murrindindi. A report in the Melbourne Argus of 26 January 1885 described the area:

'Buxton is at the junction of the Fishers Creek and Narbethong roads. It is the centre of a pastoral and agricultural district with a population of about 100, and consists of a bush public house and a State school.'[2]

### HISTORY OF CHURCH

Religious worship was integral to the lives of the early settlers of Buxton. Joseph Sherwill, who had arrived in Australia c.1867, was the first preacher on the Methodist Free Church Circuit in St Kilda before moving to the Healesville area. Religious services were held by him informally until plans to build a church emerged in 1895. At a public meeting held on 1 April 1895 at the Buxton Hall, local landholder, James Batchelor, offered a site for the construction of a church. Mr Batchelor and Messrs Stratton and Nichols were elected the first Guardians of the Church of England, Buxton. Plans were drawn up and construction began. The church was opened by the Bishop of Melbourne, The Right Reverend Field Flowers Goe on 3 May 1895. Reverend Mr Lane and Mr Jackson, along with members of the Alexandra choir, were present to assist.[3] Mr Jackson, who gave an address at the opening ceremony, stated that the church was in need of several things - such as a font, bell, carpet, etc., and 'trusted that they would be obtained at an early date'. Great praise was given to Mr Jackson who had the responsibility of collecting in aid of the construction of the church and also in partly erecting it.[4]

The church enjoyed regular attendance by local Buxton residents and those from the outlying areas of Granton, Narbethong, Fernshaw and Marysville. Built in haste, the church remained in its original state until 1913 when iron roofing was placed over the original shingle roof. When the church was over 50 years old, in October 1949, two decisions were taken. After some debate it was decided to leave the church in its present place and the second decision was that it should be repainted and a new porch added. SEC power was connected in late 1966. Celebrations of the Church's eightieth and ninetieth birthdays passed without further renovations.

On the occasion of the Church's 100th anniversary, major renovations were blessed by the Bishop, the Right Reverend Robert Beal. Renovations included re-stumping, guttering and downpipes, new main door, new steps and landing, repairing and sanding the floor, carpet was laid, restoration of the altar frontal, new windows and heaters, along with staining of the interior and painting of the exterior. The cost of the renovations was donated by former parishioner, Cuthbert Macfarlane (Mac) Gibbs.[5] The church has been re-painted recently and a porch has been added since being photographed in 2006 for this study.[6]

Sources:

[1] Nigel Sinnott, Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 30.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[2] Church of Saint Thomas Buxton Centenary Souvenir, p. 5.

[3] 'Consecration of Buxton Church and Confirmation Services', Healesville Guardian, 10 May 1895.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Mary Kenealy, *The High Way to Heaven: A Story of Marysville and District*, Roundabout Publishing, 2006, p. 103.

[6] Church of Saint Thomas Buxton, op.cit., pp. 16-7; personal conversation with Rev. Stuart Young, Alexandra, 06/02/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

This is a small, gable-fronted building with a gabled entrance porch to the front and transverse-gabled vestry to the right rear. It is clad in weatherboard with a new CGI roof. The side elevations have six-pane casement windows. They may be smaller than the original windows, as there are joins on the weatherboards below. The interior walls and ceilings have beaded lining boards. The shape of the front door appears to have been altered from rectangular to a lancet form.

The church was renovated in 1995. It was restumped, the windows were replaced, the front door was replaced and new entrance steps built.

The porch roof was extended c2007 to cover the entranceway, with simple timber steps and railings in a sympathetic style.

There are mature trees on the site, near the road, including an oak and pines.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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What is significant?

St Thomas' Church of England at 2275 Maroondah Highway, Buxton. At a public meeting held on 1 April 1895 at the Buxton Hall, local landholder, James Batchelor, offered a site for the construction of a church. Mr Batchelor and Messrs Stratton and Nichols were elected the first Guardians of the Church of England, Buxton. Plans were drawn up and construction began. The church was opened by the Bishop of Melbourne, The Right Reverend Field Flowers Goe on 3 May 1895.

The church is a small, gable-fronted weatherboard building with a gabled entrance porch to the front and transverse-gabled vestry to the right rear. It is clad in weatherboard with a new CGI roof. The side elevations have six-pane casement windows (installed in 1995). A covered entry was added to the front porch in 2007.

There are mature trees near the road, including an oak and pines.

How is it significant?

St Thomas' Church of England is of local social, historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Socially, the Church is significant for its strong associations with the local community during its continuous church use since 1895 (RNE criterion G.1).

Historically, for its associations with important local landholder, James Batchelor, who donated the land for the church. (RNE criterion H.1)

Aesthetically, as a picturesque example of a 19th-century Carpenter Gothic church set behind mature exotic trees. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature exotic trees
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

No
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery  
**Address** Cremona Road CATHKIN  
**Place Type** Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF CATHKIN

The Cathkin settlement was named by Crawford Allen, the first squatter who arrived in the area in 1840 - he is said to have named the run after the Cathkin Braes, near Carmunnuck, Lanarkshire, Scotland.[1] In 1851 Cathkin was taken over by John Maxwell, who had arrived in Victoria in 1836. Maxwell was associated with one of Victoria's largest landholders, Hugh Glass, who also owned considerable property in what is now the Murrindindi Shire. The former pastoral settlement of 20,480 acres (9,300 ha) was first listed as 'Catkin' on Hiscock's 1874 map of the Parish of Anglesea. In Gaelic 'Catkin' means 'at the battle height'. [2] The first school opened in the 1880s but closed in 1895. The Cathkin State School opened in 1905 when the area was known as Molesworth East. This School closed in 1946. The railway station opened in 1890 - it was a junction for Koriella and Alexandra on the Tallarook-Mansfield line. The poet, James McRae Dunn, was station master from 1939-1970.[3] The line was finally closed in 1978.

### HISTORY OF CEMETERY

Early cemeteries, memorials to the lives of the early settlers, were established in country towns by the end of the 19th century. Pioneering life, while adventurous, was often short lived, and many people died young as life and work on the land could be dangerous; life could be cut short through timber cutting and mining accidents, bushfires and floods. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was common for women to die in childbirth and for children to die of childhood diseases. Cemeteries, though essential, were not always a first priority for towns, and in the earliest days of settlement, family members may have been buried on their properties.

The original location of the Molesworth cemetery proved to be unsuitable because of flooding, and by 1870 it was relocated to its present 22 acres of land at Cathkin. The land was donated by Mr J Dunn. The earliest known burial was that of Mrs Parsons in 1872.[1] Mrs Parsons' former husband Simmons was buried in 1868 in the Spring Creek Cemetery. This could possibly be the current cemetery as there is no indication of any burial site on Spring Creek Road and the fact that the current Cemetery is in very close proximity to Spring Creek and with the absence of information to the contrary it's logical to assume they are the same cemetery, and hence this may be the first recorded burial.[2] The first Trustees of the Cemetery were appointed in 1882 and included local residents James Scale, T. F. Roberts, James Dunn, Peter Dunn, John Macklin and John Quinlan. Sextons over the years included Thomas Lancaster, W. Cocking and Mr Jones.[3] Originally named the Molesworth Cemetery, the change was changed in 1906 to Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery.[4]

Sources:

[1] Jones, G P & N E, 1994, Molesworth 1824-1994, Molesworth Local History Committee, p. 98.

[2] Ian Newman and John Sharwood community consultation worksheets.

[3] Ibid, pp. 98-99.

[4] Ibid, p. 99 and [www.ozgenonline.com/aust\\_cemeteries/vic/murrindindi/cathkin.htm](http://www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/vic/murrindindi/cathkin.htm)

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## 9.5 Commemorating

### Description

#### Physical Description

The Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery is a small cemetery off a dirt track which runs parallel to Cremona Road. The block of land is wedge-shaped, with the wider section on the east side. A creek intersects the site, creating a small corner of land to the north of it and a much larger area to the south.

Opposite the entrance to the small, northern section is a large scar tree. There are only eight visible graves here. The two earliest are surrounded by cast and wrought-iron fences and set among mature Eucalypts. One is the grave of Charles W Ridd (1830-1903), which has a polished red granite headstone, and the other is the weathered marble headstone of James Woods 'who died Dec. 6th 1892, Aged 84 years, Colonist of 52 years'.

The larger, southern section of the cemetery can be divided into five general areas, going from the entrance at the east: 1) a modern lawn cemetery area with a line of young oak trees; 2) a group of Jeffery family graves; 3) a small group of early 20th-century graves; 4) a small group of 19th and early 20th century graves near the back; and 5) another few 19th and early 20th century graves sheltered beneath a large pine tree.

Among the graves in the fourth grouping are four early graves with cast and wrought-iron fences around them. One fence surrounds three marble headstones that have been laid flat. One of the graves has a granite plinth beneath the fence, and a large pine tree planted within its bounds.

The cemetery is well maintained. The early stones, especially the marble ones, are weathering.

### Conservation Policy

#### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - CEMETERIES

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Under section 43.01-2 of the Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme, no permit is required for interments, burials and erection of monuments, re-use of graves, burial of cremated remains and exhumation of remains in accordance with the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003.
2. The essential elements and character of the cemetery should be protected through a maintenance program which recognises its overall significance and that of individual elements. This includes the layout, mature plantings, and graves.
3. Stabilisation and protection of the nineteenth century graves should be undertaken as a priority.
4. Conservation works should be undertaken by workers skilled in the repair and conservation of historic cemeteries.

In order to conserve the heritage significance of significant trees:



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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5. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.

6. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.

7. Maintain the integrity of the perimeter planting by replacing trees 'like with like' species (e.g., Monterey Cypress with Cupressus macrocarpa) unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.

8. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery, relocated in 1870 to Cremona Road, Cathkin. A creek intersects the site, creating a small corner of land to the north of it and a much larger area to the south. There are a number of 19th-century graves, most with cast-iron fences around them and marble headstones. There are also 20th century graves, including a recent area of lawn cemetery. The graves are set among mature Eucalypts and Pines.

How is it significant?

Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery is of local historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for the history of the district recorded in its headstones as well as demonstrating the art of the stone mason in the memorials. Also for commemoration of early Cathkin settlers, such as Charles Ridd (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, as a picturesquely situated rural cemetery with early graves surrounded by mature Eucalypts and exotic trees. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature pines & eucalypts

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Cathkin Hotel and Cathkin Post Office (former)  
**Address** 20 Maroondah Link Highway CATHKIN  
**Place Type** Post Office Housing & Quarters  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF CATHKIN

The Cathkin settlement was named by Crawford Allen, the first squatter who arrived in the area in 1840 - he is said to have named the run after the Cathkin Braes, near Carmunnuck, Lanarkshire, Scotland.[1] In 1851 Cathkin was taken over by John Maxwell, who had arrived in Victoria in 1836. Maxwell was associated with one of Victoria's largest landholders, Hugh Glass, who also owned considerable property in what is now the Murrindindi Shire. The former pastoral settlement of 20,480 acres (9,300 ha) was first listed as 'Catkin' on Hiscock's 1874 map of the Parish of Anglesea. In Gaelic 'Catkin' means 'at the battle height'.[2] The first school opened in the 1880s but closed in 1895. The Cathkin State School opened in 1905 when the area was known as Molesworth East. This School closed in 1946. The railway station opened in 1890 - it was a junction for Koriella and Alexandra on the Tallarook-Mansfield line. The poet, James McRae Dunn, was station master from 1939-1970.[3] The line was finally closed in 1978.

### HISTORY OF POST OFFICE

Postal and telegraph services were an important means of communication between the early townships and the outside world. The efforts to establish a means of communication via mail and telegraph services in townships such as Alexandra, Yea, Molesworth and Cathkin were of vital importance in these somewhat isolated regions during the nineteenth century. The telegraph facility was introduced in Cathkin in 1890 and to nearby Whittlesea in 1891.[1]

Local historians G P and N E Jones record the history of the post office in their local history, 'Molesworth 1824-1994'. The post office at Cathkin was established at the railway station on 6 October 1890 and Alfred O Capell, who was the station master, became the first postmaster. John A Macauley succeeded him in 1891 and remained at the post office until 1893. James Bennett was postmaster until 1901. Record keeping for the 1901 to 1937 period appears irregular at best and may have lapsed at worst. However, it is known that A W White was postmistress around 1908 and it is believed W F Meehan took over the duties of postmaster in 1910 until his daughter, Miss Mary Meehan became post mistress on 15 February 1937, a position she held until 1943.

The post office was eventually moved from the railway station and located next to the Meehans' house just over the road, itself originally built by J D O'Callaghan in 1893 as the Cathkin Hotel (see below). Following Miss Meehan's retirement the post office was run first by Mrs Bertha Tucker then Mr Andrew Reilly who assumed control in 1944. After his death, his widow, Mrs Annie Reilly became postmistress in 1957 and continued in the post until 1966. The last postmistress was Mrs Betty Dolling who ran the Post Office and Telephone Exchange. The post office closed on 29 September 1973. Since being moved next to the former Cathkin Hotel, the post office building has been relocated several times. First it stood just in front of the house, to the west side, where it faced the road at that time (as shown in a photo from the 1930s:[2] NB: the former road is now the driveway to the house). The Thomas family then moved it to behind the house on the east side once it had closed. The current owner relocated it to a position at the south-east corner of the house approximately 4 years ago.

### HISTORY OF HOTEL

The Cathkin Hotel, known as the Temperance Hotel, was established by local identity, John D O'Callaghan in 1893 in the front part of his house. It was located next to the railway terminus, which guaranteed regular trade. Although the house, hotel and furnishings were auctioned on behalf of O'Callaghan in 1899 (he may have gone bankrupt), the hotel

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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continued, it is thought by local historians as a wine shanty, under many licenses. Local hotel keepers have included Miss T Williamson, Mr Leonard Dawson and Mr George Sadler. The hotel eventually closed and was converted to a residence c.1914.[4] It served as the Meehan family residence for many years (possibly from 1914). Later owners, the Thomas family added a rear extension to the house in the 1980s. The house retains 19th century features such as Baltic pine lining boards internally.

## Sources:

[1] P Evans, *Rails to Rubicon: A History of the Rubicon Forest*, Light Rail Research Society of Australia, Melbourne, 1994, p. 67, and Ethel Duffy, *Reminiscences of Whittlesea*, Lowden, Kilmore, 1971, p. 25.

[2] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, p. 91.

[3] Mark Klein, 24 May 2008; Betty Dolling, 13 June 2008.

[4] GP & NE Jones, *Molesworth 1824-1994*, pp. 68-9.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

3.2 Railways

3.3 Mail and Telegraph services

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Cathkin Hotel is a weatherboard house of 1893 with a corrugated-iron, M-hipped roof and wrap-around verandah on all sides. It faces (roughly) south toward what was once a public road (now the driveway) and the Cathkin Railway Station (demolished). There are paired eaves brackets on the south elevation (the facade). The verandah has a bullnose roof and an arched timber frieze with vertical slats. It rests on chamfered timber columns which retain their capitals (though the bases have been replaced with concrete). There are two corbelled brick chimneys (overpainted).

The facade has two one-over-one sash windows on the left-hand (west) side of the front door and one on the right. The door is four-panelled with cricket-bat moulds, and cricket bats below the sidelights.

The west elevation of the house, which faces Maroondah Link Highway, has an Edwardian entrance door (two panels below an arched window with a decorative apron), which appears to correspond with the conversion of the hotel to residential purposes in 1914. There is a one-over-one sash window on either side of the doorway. There is another window to the north with modern stained glass (part of the addition, see below).

The east elevation of the house has another four-panelled door, with one one-over-one sash window to the south of it and two to the north.

There is a large extension at the rear (north) of the house (of the 1980s), which is about half the width of the original section, creating an L-shaped plan overall. The wall of the extension continues the line of the original on the west side, but the old corner strip makes the join visible. The extension copies the details of the original house, like the verandah and eaves brackets.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The verandah floor has been replaced with concrete. The bases of the verandah posts have been replaced (or covered) with concrete. The corrugated iron of the verandah has been replaced (in-kind) on the west side. The house is in good condition.

The former Cathkin Post Office is a tiny gabled weatherboard building. Its present location is at the south-east corner of the former Cathkin Hotel, although when last in use it stood at the south-west corner (as shown in Lloyd, 'Alexandra and District', p 91). As shown in this c1930 photo, it had a transverse ridge line and a skillion-roof verandah at the front. Beneath the verandah was a service window (two casements, one quite narrow), with a four-panelled entrance door on the gable end. At present the post office is on new stumps, which are higher than those shown in the photo. The verandah has been removed and its parts are in storage.

The building is in fair condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider reinstating the Post Office verandah, using all salvageable original material and guided by the c1930 photo (Lloyd, 'Alexandra and District', p 91) to reconstruct details where necessary.
2. Consider replacing the bases of the verandah posts with appropriate timber elements.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

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3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Cathkin Hotel and the former Cathkin Post Office, 20 Maroondah Link Highway, Cathkin. The Cathkin Hotel, known as the Temperance Hotel, was established in 1893, John D O'Callaghan in the front part of his house, which neighboured the Cathkin Railway Station. It was converted to residential use in 1914 by Postmaster W F Meehan, whose daughter, Mary Meehan, later took over the job 1937-43.

The former Cathkin Hotel is a weatherboard building with a corrugated-iron, M-hipped roof and wrap-around verandah on all sides. There are paired eaves brackets on the south elevation (the facade) and a four-panelled door. There is an Edwardian entrance door with an arched window on the west elevation. The verandah has a bullnose roof and an arched timber frieze with vertical slats. There are two corbelled brick chimneys.

The 1980s extension to the north end of the house is not significant.

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The Cathkin Post Office was established at the railway station when it opened in 1890 and Alfred O Capell, who was the station master, became the first postmaster. The post office was moved before 1930 to a position in front of the former Cathkin Hotel (south-west corner, which by that time was known as the Meehan House (residence of Postmaster WF Meehan). The post office closed in 1973, and the building has since been moved several times around the site of the former Cathkin Hotel. The former post office is a tiny gabled weatherboard building. It has a transverse roof and front service windows beneath a verandah (currently in storage). The building has a four-panelled door on the gable end.

How is it significant?

The former Cathkin Hotel and former Cathkin Post Office of are local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire. The Post Office is also of potential State significance.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the location of the former Cathkin Hotel and Post Office opposite the former Cathkin Station site is tangible evidence of the influence the coming of the railway line in 1890 had on the small settlement of Cathkin. There are only three surviving buildings associated with the railway station (the other is the Ganger's House next door) (RNE criteria A.4)

Both the former hotel and post office have associations with the Meehan family, who occupied the hotel (which became known as Meehan House) from 1914 to at least 1943, and who held the job of postmasters from 1910 to 1943. It was the Meehans who move the post office from the railway station to the hotel site. (RNE criterion H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Post Office

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Cremona Bridge  
**Address** 36 Ridds Road CATHKIN  
**Place Type** Road Bridge  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF CAHTKIN

The Cathkin settlement was named by Crawford Allen, the first squatter who arrived in the area in 1840 - he is said to have named the run after the Cathkin Braes, near Carmunnuck, Lanarkshire, Scotland.[1] In 1851 Cathkin was taken over by John Maxwell, who had arrived in Victoria in 1836. Maxwell was associated with one of Victoria's largest landholders, Hugh Glass, who also owned considerable property in what is now the Murrindindi Shire. The former pastoral settlement of 20,480 acres (9,300 ha) was first listed as 'Catkin' on Hiscock's 1874 map of the Parish of Anglesea. In Gaelic 'Catkin' means 'at the battle height'. [2] The first school opened in the 1880s but closed in 1895. The Cathkin State School opened in 1905 when the area was known as Molesworth East. This School closed in 1946. The railway station opened in 1890 - it was a junction for Koriella and Alexandra on the Tallarook-Mansfield line. The poet, James McRae Dunn, was station master from 1939-1970.[3] The line was finally closed in 1978.

### HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE

Quoted from: Alves, L., Holgate, A., Taplin, G. 'Monash Bridges: Typology Study - Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Victoria 1897-1917', Faculties of Arts and Engineering, Monash University, Melbourne, 2nd edn., 1998:

The Cremona Estate, acquired by the Closer Settlement Board and subdivided into seven allotments in 1911[1], offered settlers rich soil for agriculture, but it had two large drawbacks which deterred buyers. The land, situated on the flood plain in a bend in the Goulburn River, was subject to frequent inundation, and it was isolated from Cathkin township and railway station by the lack of a river crossing. The flood problem was expected to be remedied when the planned Sugarloaf irrigation scheme was built. The communication problem was to be addressed by the building of a bridge and a new road to link the Estate directly with the Cathkin railway station.[2]

It is quite possible that Monash received a tip-off about the proposed bridge from his former partner J.T.N. Anderson, who had recently resigned as Alexandra Shire Engineer and still resided in the vicinity.[3] It seems Monash found out about the job just in time to examine the proposed site before tenders were called on 11 December 1912.[4] The Closer Settlement Board was responsible for providing the bridge, and it was a remarkably straightforward decision by the Board to award the contract to the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co. at £1868 including the approaches. Forestry being a major industry in the Alexandra district, the traditional bridge-building material was wood. Although there seems to have been some criticism, any council opposition to the introduction of reinforced concrete was not aired in public, probably because Council did not have to find the money for the bridge. Nevertheless, while the Alexandra Shire Council welcomed closer settlement, they did not seem very confident about Cremona Estate's prospects, and this bridge must have seemed an awful extravagance for only seven prospective ratepayers.[5]

Cecil Short, the new Shire Engineer, was responsible for supervising construction. As the Company was not usually interested in doing the approach work, Lynch subcontracted it to local contractor, J.F. Webb, who had been a rival tenderer.[6] If the negotiation stage had been easy, things changed when construction started in March 1913. Lynch found it difficult to get supplies in such a scattered district, and the material for the embankments that he expected to find near the site was two miles away and much more costly to cart. Monash persuaded Short to allow the embankments to be built of earth rather than stone, with just a small layer of stone on top. Difficulties were also experienced with the south abutment and wing walls, which had to be redesigned and rebuilt using more cement. Although hair cracks appeared in the wing wall after the repairs, the bridge was satisfactorily tested on 27 October 1913.[7]

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The Shire President, Cr Edwards intended to make the test a 'great public function', however arrangements made with the traction engine owner did not allow sufficient time for him to invite councillors from neighbouring shires. Cr Edwards was very proud of having such new technology in his Shire. As usual, most of the credit went to the Shire Engineer. He congratulated Short, telling him that the bridge would be his 'monument of efficiency in a far off time'.<sup>[8]</sup> But this was not be.

On the day the bridge opening was reported there was also a report of the Government's intention to defer the Sugarloaf Scheme.<sup>[9]</sup> The Sugarloaf Dam, now known as Eildon, was not completed until the early 1920s. The Cremona Closer Settlement Estate was never a success, and by the 1920s the seven allotments had reverted to one farm.<sup>[10]</sup> The Goulburn's frequent floods scoured the banks and undermined the inadequate abutment foundations. Maintenance to the bridge was probably neglected because of its relative unimportance. According to Jones, Cremona Bridge finally collapsed during the great flood of 1934, although this was not mentioned in the reports of flood damage in the Shire.<sup>[11]</sup>

Sources:

[1] Victorian Year Book, 1913.

[2] Alexandra & Yea Standard, 4 July 1913.

[3] Ibid., 8 November 1912.

[4] Company records, Box 93 File 963, note 9 December 1912; Standard, 6 December 1912, tender invited Age, 11 December 1912.

[5] Remarks made by the Shire President at the opening of the bridge suggests that there was some criticism of the bridge, but no discussion appears in the pages of the Standard in the months leading up to the tender. The Company was notified that it had won the tender on 20 December, Company records.

[6] Correspondence between Monash, Short and Lynch during April and May 1913, Company records.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Standard 31 October 1913.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Victorian Year Book, 1922.

[11] Jones, G.P.& N.E., Molesworth 1924-1994, 1994, p.32; Standard, 7 December 1934.

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

3.1 Developing road networks and bridges

### Description

## Physical Description

This large concrete bridge has five spans with three girders. The internal spans measure 37 feet 6 inches (11.4 m) from centre to centre of piers and the outer spans 36 feet 9 inches from centre of pier to face of abutment. In terms of overall length this bridge is only exceeded by Janevale and Benalla Bridges, and its spans are amongst the longest found in Monash girder bridges. The shear reinforcing covers almost the whole girder, apart from a gap of about one metre in the middle of the span. The two columns of the piers are joined by a reinforced concrete curtain wall and crosshead in the same manner as the bridges at Shepparton (demolished) and Strathallan (q.v.) built at the same time. Each column is firmly founded on four reinforced concrete piles, which have withstood the Goulburn's frequent floodings. The piers have cutwaters on the upstream sides. The abutments shown on the original drawings were very shallow, being founded at the top of a steep bank of earth and are no longer in evidence, due to scouring of the banks. The timber handrailing is gone with only the standards remaining. This large bridge is in ruins because of inadequate abutments.

(quoted from: L Alves, Monash Bridges: Typology study; reinforced concrete bridges in Victoria 1897-1917')

## Conservation Policy

If public safety becomes an issue, the collapsed end spans may be removed, so that the bridge is not accessible.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Cremona Bridge, at 36 Ridds Road, Cathkin, over the Goulburn River, designed and built by John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co., in 1913.

This large concrete bridge has five spans with three girders. The internal spans measure 37 feet 6 inches (11.4 m) from centre to centre of piers and the outer spans 36 feet 9 inches from centre of pier to face of abutment. In terms of overall length this bridge is only exceeded by Janevale and Benalla Bridges, and its spans are amongst the longest found in Monash girder bridges. Due to the inadequate abutments, the ends of the concrete bridge collapsed in the great flood of 1934 and is no longer usable.

How is it significant?

Cremona Bridge is of local historic and scientific significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its association with closer settlement in the Molesworth district, and it symbolises a failed closer settlement estate (RNE criterion A.4). And for its associations with engineer and concrete innovator John Monash (RNE criteria H.1).

Scientifically, as an example of a large reinforced concrete girder bridge designed and built by John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co., which serves as a reminder of the hazards of innovative technology and the difficulty of designing bridges to withstand the frequent floods of the Goulburn River (RNE criterion H.1).

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Caveat Church and Grotto  
**Address** 479 Caveat - Dropmore Road CAVEAT  
**Place Type** ChurchGrotto  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Maker / Builder** Yuritta, P

## History and Historical Context

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## HISTORY OF CAVEAT

There are two traditions of grottos: the non-religious ones which were popular in gardens and parks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The second type of grotto commemorates the appearances by the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, France in 1858. There are dozens of such grottos, to house a statue of Mary, at Catholic churches, schools and convents in Victoria, which date from the late 19th to mid 20th century. The Caveat grotto, however, is the only one identified in Murrindindi Shire.

Caveat, in the north of the shire, was settled in the late 1920s by Czech, Polish and Ukrainian immigrants who purchased small holdings in the area.

## HISTORY OF CHURCH AND GROTTA

The Caveat Church and grotto were built with voluntary labour in 1955-6 on land donated by Douglas McAlpin. One of the families involved in its erection was the Kopanakas.[1] It was called the Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows.

The following is an account of its construction:

'The church is a district icon, and was built in 1956 on land donated by the late Doug McAlpin. Money was raised by raffles and donations, which came from all over Australia, and even USA and Canada, and was organized by the community of European-born residents of the district. Some names were Kopanica, Hlinka, Yuritta, Lebidka, Pietka, Strnatka, Andrusiak, Sapniak, Krzuik, Razga and Salo. These families came from the Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia, from the 1920s to 1950s. The building was designed and built by Peter Yuritta with the help of local volunteer labour. The church was opened and blessed by Bishop Fox, and the marriage of Emil Kopanica and Anne Hlinka . was celebrated soon after. .

'A large Yellow Box on the Kopanica farm was felled and taken to Ruoke Sawmills in Alexandra in one piece. The cross was made for them for no charge. The Bell Tower was made with nearly all local labour and the bell was especially cast in Germany. The picture on the Bell Tower is of St Isador - the patron Saint of Farmers. Next was the Grotto, many tons of local granite being delivered to the site, and a statue was placed in it before it was blessed by Monsignor Hannan. The statue was broken some years ago and was replaced by the Bafumo family who live close by.'[2]

Other unusual external features included 'a sort of wayside shrine carrying a painted representation of the crucified Christ' - a feature common along rural roads of Central Europe, and a freestanding belltower, the bell (blessed by Bishop Fox) which was imported from Germany, with a painted panel of St Isadore at the base. Interior features include a painted panel behind the altar created by a Czech artist from Sydney, and a candle set in a symbolic grain of wheat to be lit at Christmas. In c.1966 a lectern was donated by E Henshaw and family.[3]

The church was deconsecrated around 2005, though non-denominational Christmas services were held there in 2006 and 2007. Community group Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative now hold a 20-year lease on it for a peppercorn rent and it is used as a community meeting hall and for special events.[4]

Sources:

[1] McAlpin, R., Community Workshop Place Nomination Form, 2005.

[2] Peg Lade, 'Caveat Church', in The Granite News, Vol 2, Issue 8, 17/03/2008.

[3] Ibid., pp. 189, 182, 185.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[4] Pers. comm., Rick McAlpin, 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

The Caveat Church is a small weatherboard building with a corrugated iron roof. The gable-fronted facade has cross-bracing at the apex, above a gable-fronted entry porch. The porch has a single 1-over-1 sash window. On the left side of the porch is the church's most distinctive feature: a cream-brick bell tower. The tower is quite thin (a couple of bricks thick), with a flat top on which a cross stands. The central face of the tower has an arched opening at the top, accommodating the bell, which continues downward in the form of a recessed panel. Near the bottom of the recessed area is a painting of St Isadore within an arched niche.

The side elevations each have two 3-over-3 sash windows with vertical muntins. There is a small skillion-roof addition at the rear, projecting from the left side of the church.

The church is intact and in good condition (though mould on the gable of the facade indicates possible moisture problems).

An imposing grotto, at the front of the site, is constructed of field stones and granite, and has a large opening at the bottom and a smaller niche up higher. It originally contained a statue of the Virgin Mary, which was missing when viewed in 2006, but has since been replaced.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

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- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Caveat Church and grotto, called Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, at 479 Caveat-Dropmore Road, Caveat. It was built in 1955 with volunteer labour drawn from the Czech, Polish and Ukrainian immigrants to the area, on land donated by Douglas McAlpin. It is a small, gable-fronted weatherboard building with a cream-brick bell tower on the facade. The



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large stone grotto is at the front of the site.

How is it significant?

The Caveat Church and grotto is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as tangible evidence of the influx of Central European immigrants in the 1920s, who took up small-holding farms in the district. The cooperation between the immigrants and the longer-term residents, as evidenced by the donation of land by the McAlpins, illustrates the evolution of this community. Also as the only known grotto in the Shire. (RNE criteria A.4, h.1, B.2).

Socially, the Church is significant as tangible evidence of its strong associations with the local community and as a centre of community life since 1955 (RNE criterion G.1).

Aesthetically, as a picturesque complex of a small rural church with an imposing stone grotto. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Grotto

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Dropmore Homestead  
**Address** 1320 Caveat-Dropmore Road (cnr Nolans Road)  
DROPMORE  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR** Yes **HI** - **PS** Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Gothic Revival

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY

The Dropmore Run adjoined the western boundary of the Gobur Run on the Hughes Creek to the north of Molesworth. Dropmore Run originally consisted of two licences covering a total of 37,000 acres and with a grazing capacity of 12,800 sheep.[1] It covered the Terip Terip area and was an estimated area of 40 square miles.[2] It was first occupied from October 1841 to 1849 by John Hearne Webster, then by William James and Arthur Wiggett Ruffy until 1856, then by W J Ruffy until 1871. Grice, Sumner and Company held the run until 1876, then Henry and John Campbell until James Hastie Crystal took over in 1883.[3] Historian Les Blake suggests the name Dropmore may come from Dromore, County Down, Ireland; however there is also a Dromore in County Sligo, Ireland. It may be more likely that it is named after Dropmore in Buckinghamshire, England - an ecclesiastical district south-west of Beaconsfield. The name, it is proposed by Nigel Sinnott, is Old English, meaning deop or deep, and mor, meaning fen, marsh, wasteland or upland.[4]

The Dropmore Homestead is believed to have been built in the mid 1850s by brothers William and Arthur Ruffy. The Ruffy brothers and a third brother between them held not only Dropmore but also Tarcombe and Glen Lyon Stations.[5] Although James Hastie Chrystal held the licence from 1883, he lived at Killingworth Station with his brother-in-law John Gotch (of Gordon & Gotch, publishers)[6] until Killingworth was sold in 1895.[7] Dropmore Homestead was developed in two stages. Surviving from the first, c.1840s stage, are the barn, a dairy and remnants of the first garden and orchard, most likely established by the Websters. The second stage dates from the time William James and Arthur Wiggett Ruffy took possession in the mid-1850s. The Gothic Revival house appears to have been constructed c.1856. In the 1870s, a timber woolshed was constructed. The original homestead building and other outbuildings, dating from the 1850s to 1870s have survived. In 1913 the property was sold to James and Arnold Randell.[8]

Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 123.

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 20; *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer 1865*, p. 121.

[2] *ibid.*

[3] *ibid.*

[4] Nigel Sinnott, *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 49..

[5] Blanks, *op.cit.*, p. 123.

[6] [http://www.gordongotch.com.au/CONSUMER/c\\_history.asp](http://www.gordongotch.com.au/CONSUMER/c_history.asp)

[7] Blanks, *op.cit.* p. 123.

[8] *Ibid.*

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## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

Dropmore Homestead was developed in two stages.

Surviving from the first stage, in the 1840s, are the barn, a tiny timber dairy, and remnants of the first garden and orchard, all on the Hughes Creek flats. The barn has two gabled-roof sections, side by side. One is of split timber weatherboards with a dovecote in the gable and timber shingles under the corrugated-iron roofing. The other of rendered bricks (reportedly handmade), has a ledged timber door on the ground floor gable end, with small double doors above to the loft. A skillion-roofed addition has been made to one side of the rendered section, and it has small modern windows in the rear gable end (which faces the current house). The rendered section has been converted to residential use, while the timber section is empty and stands open as its double doors are gone.

The second stage, when the Ruffy family took possession, was built on slightly higher ground, overlooking the earlier site. They built a c1850s Gothic Revival house of rendered masonry. It has an M-hipped roof with a front gabled bay. The roof is clad with short-sheet corrugated iron, and has three rendered chimneys. The gabled bay has a decorative timber bargeboard, with a finial and crossbar at the apex. There is a lancet-shaped louvered vent below the crossbar, and below that an angled three-sided projecting window bay with a crenulated parapet. There is a similar, five-sided, parapeted projecting window bay on the right side of the gable. There is a skillion-roof verandah on the left side of the gabled bay. It has timber posts and the verandah frieze appears to be missing. Set back on the right side of the house is a c1930s weatherboard addition with a much lower gabled roof and a front porch set under the roofline.

The house is in good condition, and apart from the c1930s addition, is very intact.

In front of the house is a spectacular mature oak tree, set in front of a drystone wall. The drive to reach the house is also lined with drystone walls and an avenue of mature elms.

Behind the house is a c1870s timber woolshed set on stumps. It is in fair condition.

Comparative analysis: Dropmore Homestead can be compared to other early grazing properties in the shire. Murrindindi Station (HO01, VHR H0371) has a complex of vernacular buildings, dating from the late 1840s onward, some of them very intact. The homestead, begun in the late 1840s, is also vernacular in style and sited within an early garden.

Doogalook Homestead (HO3) is of interest as the original pre-emptive right homestead is contained within the current house. The pastoral lease for Doogalook was granted in 1843.

The house and outbuildings at Glenmore Station (HO20) date from the 1850s on. The first homestead was a simple 4-room cottage. A number of other vernacular station buildings survive, in particular the stables being a fine examples of split and adzed timbers.

In comparison, the barn, dairy and original garden next to Hughes Creek are earlier than buildings at Murrindindi Station and Glenmore Station, though the breadth of station outbuildings may not be as extensive. The Dropmore Homestead of

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c1856 is unusual in that it has stylistic pretensions, being in the Gothic Revival style, while the other homesteads are vernacular in style.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Dropmore Homestead, 1320 Caveat-Dropmore Road, Dropmore, which includes the c1840s barn and dairy, the 1850s Gothic Revival house, the 1870s timber woolshed, the mature oak and the elm avenue.

How is it significant?

Dropmore Homestead is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi and potentially to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the early grazing runs in the shire, occupied from 1841, which retains buildings and other remains of its first occupation in the 1840s (RNE criterion B.2). And for its associations with the Ruffy brothers, who took up the pastoral lease in 1849 and built the Gothic Revival house, and possibly the woolshed, during their occupancy (RNE criterion H.1)

Architecturally and aesthetically, as an intact Gothic Revival house of stylistic pretension rare among squatters' houses in the shire set among noteworthy mature trees and drystone walls (RNE criterion F.1).

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Oak & Elm avenue

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes barn & dairy, woolshed

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Eildon Dam  
**Address** Goulburn Valley Highway EILDON  
**Place Type** Water Supply Reservoir/ Dam  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF EILDON

The Eildon Run, located on the north side of the Goulburn River running west from its junction with the Delatite River, was licensed from 1838-48. Dr James Dickson was the first leaseholder in 1838, followed by John C Aitken in 1844 and Archibald Thom in 1848. Eildon was named after the Eildon Hills near Melrose, Scotland, much loved by Sir Walter Scott. Nigel Sinnott in his Place-names of Alexandra, writes that historian Les Blake claims the name was given to the run by Dr James Dickson, though this appears to be a matter of contention, as the property was also called Dickson's Run. Dr James Dickson was an overlander from New South Wales, arriving in the Port Phillip District in 1838, prior to taking up the license for the Eildon Run. Local historian, Wendy Falconer, in Eildon: The Whole Dam Story, proposes that the name of the run and the township is believed to have been given to the station by Archibald Thom, who held the license from 1848, in honour of the birth place of his wife. When the Eildon Run was advertised for sale in 1881, only 315 acres of its 16,000 acres were listed as 'Freehold and Conditionally Purchased'.

### HISTORY OF EILDON DAM

The Eildon Dam was built primarily as a water supply for irrigation, and for flood mitigation.[1] Eildon Dam Number One (called the Sugarloaf Dam/Weir/Reservoir until 1927) was constructed between 1914 and 1931. While initially completed in 1928, subsidence in 1929 necessitated a further 3 years work, adding more rock-fill to the outer slopes. The Dam was built by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission using designs by J. Dethridge and Elwood Mead; engineers were C.H. Kernot, Mr Game, Mr Peckham, Mr Pharnwright and Mr Robertson.[2]

The site was chosen for at least two reasons - the river bottom was solid rock which provided an excellent foundation for the dam wall, and a relatively small area of land would be submerged. No railway lines would be affected. The only towns to be affected were Darlingford, which would end up under around 20 metres of water, as well as the village of Upper Thornton.[3] Upper Thornton had consisted of a public hall, a school and a post office, which are now submerged at the Thornton end of the Pondage.[17] As well as the Darlingford township, individual properties fully or partly lost included those owned by Sid Allen, John Barnewall, Beattie, Chant, Fry, Gilmore, Nicholas, Rennie, Sawers, Taylor, Waterson and Wood.[4] Some houses at Darlingford were relocated, others dismantled, and bodies in the cemetery were exhumed and reburied in Eildon, Alexandra and Mansfield cemeteries.[5]

Although not inundated, the township of Enoch's Point was also doomed by the Dam as it cut off the town's valley access, leaving only narrow and difficult tracks to Kevington and Warburton.[6]

The construction of the Dam provided relatively long-term employment for the local population. Locals who, with horses and drays, carted materials for the construction included Jack Anstey, Jack Burness, Abe Chanter, Vin Longton, Vic Newman and Bill Thom. Locals employed to work on the construction included Arthur, Fred and George Anstey, Giles Brettener, Bert Burness, Jim Cameron, Tom Davies, Hec Johansen, Hec Kilpatrick, Ern and Eugene Macintosh, Charlie Peake, Jim Taylor, Jack Savage and Les Thomas. Those employed to supply wood for the workers included Brent and Charlie Coller, Frank 'Digger' Hughes, Alex Munro and Les Williams.[7]

Construction was slowed down by the many workers who left Australia to fight in The Great War.[8] At home, only seven men lost their lives during construction.[9]

In 1925 a hydro electric power station was constructed by the State Electricity Commission at the base of the spillway.[10] During World War Two, concern that Eildon Weir would be bombed, and as a consequence that Alexandra

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would be flooded, the precaution of streetlights being turned off and households in the area blacking out their windows was taken.[11]

Eildon Dam Number Two was built between 1951 and 1956 by the Utah Construction Company of the USA;[12] and included a new hydro electric power station for the SEC.[12] The first sod of earth was turned by the Premier J McDonald, while the opening was performed by Premier Henry Bolte.[13]

Local historian, Donald James Dosser, recalled with fondness the closure of the old Eildon weir:

'The day they closed the old Eildon Weir to build the new Eildon Dam was a good day out. There were little boats everywhere with flags all over them and we had a ride in one. Everyone from Alexandra was there: it was a big day for the kids as the lake from that day was closed for five years, as the Yanks came in to build the new wall. They had an observation point on top of a hill, where you could go at night and see the big machines under lights.'[14]

During construction of Dam Number Two the incidence of fatalities and serious injury was relatively low.[15]

The beginnings of the township of Eildon was constructed between 1950 and 1952 to provide accommodation for the dam workers, the houses being of 14 different designs with the sections pre-fabricated in England. There were also separate hostels for single men and women, with the women's one later converted into Eildon's first motel. Temporary two bedroom housing units constructed in barrack-like blocks were also built in what is now called Eildon West.[16] The original township of Eildon, on the weir side of Eildon Cemetery, was submerged during this phase of the work. Reportedly some houses moved from this site are found in the present Eildon Township.[17]

Sources:

[1] Eildon Community, Eildon, The Whole Dam Story, 1986, Eildon Primary School, pp. 12, 14-18.

[2] Ibid, p 14.

[3] Ibid. and Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, 2006, p 195.

[4] John, Big River Days, 1996, J K Pilkington, Clifton Hill, p. 98.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid., p. 100

[7] Eildon, The Whole Dam Story, op.cit., pp. 13-4.

[8] Pilkington, op.cit., p. 99

[9] Ibid.

[10] Eildon, The Whole Dam Story, op.cit., p. 14.

[11] Donald J Dosser, Back When We Were Kids: Memories of Alexandra, Mansfield and Benalla Around the 1940s, p 23.

[12] Eildon, The Whole Dam Story, op.cit., p. 27.

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[13] Ibid., p 29.

[14] Dossier, op.cit., p. 23

[15] Eildon, The Whole Dam Story, op.cit., p. 27.

[16] Ibid., p. 29.

[17] Pers. comm., Leonie Taylor, 07/12/2007.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

- 4.5 Directing the water supply
- 5.3 Tourism in the 21st century
- 7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

Lake Eildon is a large man-made dam set in steep rugged terrain and dense forest. It consists of a dam wall, pondage, power generating equipment, spillway and township. Associated features include a rock wall, a road to the lookout, visitor facilities, spillway, power station, and water tower. The dam forms part of the Goulburn Valley irrigation area to the north. It was constructed by the State Electricity Commission (SEC), and is now owned and operated by AGL. [1]

Source:

[1] Description is taken from the Australian Heritage Database citation for 'Lake Eildon Including Dam Wall and Power Station, Goulburn Valley Hwy, Eildon, VIC, Australia' (ref: 103421)

## Conservation Policy

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it policy to:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other elements that contribute to the significance of the place and in particular to:

-Encourage the accurate restoration or reconstruction of missing or modified elements on the basis of available evidence.

-Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in revealing or interpreting the significance of the place.

2. Encourage a contextual approach to new development that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the elements of primary significance, but is clearly contemporary in design.

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3. Ensure that new development does not become a visually dominant element as a result of its scale, form or siting; i.e. it should appear as a secondary element when compared to the original building/s.

4. Discourage the demolition of elements of primary significance except where it can be demonstrated that:

-The building is structurally unsound and cannot feasibly be repaired without undertaking significant alterations that would diminish the integrity of the building, and

-The proposed replacement building embodies design excellence that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the elements of primary significance, but is clearly contemporary in approach.

5. Demolition of part of an element of primary significance may be allowed when it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that its demolition or removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place and, as appropriate:

-It will assist in the long term conservation or maintenance of the place, or

-It will support the viability of the existing use of the place or will facilitate a new use that is compatible with the on-going conservation of the place, or

-It will upgrade the place to meet contemporary standards such as improving energy efficiency.

6. Consider the demolition or modification of elements of secondary significance only if the proposed replacement building embodies design excellence that is complementary in form, scale and materials to the elements of primary significance, but is clearly contemporary in approach.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The original dam wall was built between 1914 and 1927 and the current dam wall replaced the Sugarloaf Dam and was built by the American construction company Utah between 1952-1956. Flooding in 1956 changed the Eildon township.

Eildon Weir, Eildon Reservoir or (currently) Lake Eildon has been commonly featured in publicity about the region for many years. The expansion of the dam in the mid 1950s is featured as part of Victoria's post-war reconstruction effort. The scale of the weir wall and the size of the water body created are thought to be still widely recognised as a major engineering feat, symbolic of the period. The lake provides a facility for recreation, employment and leisure, as well as water for irrigation and hydro electricity. The Eildon project was constructed from 1951 by contract. Its construction and design was overseen by lead designer, Milton Speedie, design engineer in the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission, Victoria. Through his work on the Eildon Dam project, Speedie developed new and significant knowledge about dam engineering. Being in charge of the design of Eildon Dam, he was faced with the challenge of designing what was the largest earth and rockfill dam in Australia at that time. His thorough research in applying soil mechanics principles to the previous dam failure enabled him to understand the basic causes. This appreciation, coupled with the application of the new science to the design of the large new embankment, resulted in an entirely satisfactory structure. Its excellent performance was demonstrated by the readings of instruments embedded in the embankment during construction.

Eildon Dam pioneered the way for large engineering contracts and this is the common practice today in the construction and mining industries in Australia. It demonstrated that, with better knowledge and experience, a much higher dam could

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be constructed close to the site of a previous dam that had suffered a major subsidence and extensive remedial measures in the 1920s.

Previous practice for large government water supply projects favoured construction by day labour work forces because capital funds were allocated on an annual basis, an incompatible arrangement with a firm contract extending over several years. However studies by the SR&WSC's Chief Constructional Engineer in the USA had indicated that a project of the magnitude and complexity of Eildon Dam could best be undertaken by contract. The Eildon Dam project was advertised internationally and Utah Construction Ltd of USA was awarded the contract. Although the Eildon project suffered severe financial restrictions due to inadequate loan allocations early in the contract period, after intense efforts on the part of the contractor and the SR&WSC, who temporarily sacrificed progress on several of its other current projects, Eildon Dam was able to be satisfactorily completed within the terms of the contract.

The water storage provided by Eildon Dam enabled a vast increase in the irrigated area and provided security of supply in times of drought. When required, the Waranga Western Channel can deliver Eildon water as far as the Mallee district in the northwest of Victoria.

The first Lake Eildon (known as Sugarloaf Reservoir) was a popular place for local boating and various water-based sports. Fishing and other recreational activities were also popular in the area. A strong boat club, with most of the members from Melbourne and local townships, was established at Eildon and it provided facilities for various water activities. With the completion of the present Eildon Dam, the much larger surface area and shoreline length of the reservoir greatly increased interest as a tourist destination and a centre for recreational activities. The permanent township of Eildon expanded greatly, with many residents purchasing houses formerly used for accommodation for the constructional personnel. Various shopping facilities and businesses developed in the town and accommodation for tourists and other visitors was established both at Eildon and at other centres around the reservoir.

How is it significant?

Eildon Dam is of local historic, technical and social significance to Murrindindi Shire and potentially to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Eildon Dam is significant for the important evidence it provides as a major infrastructure project associated with the rapid expansion of irrigation in Victoria after World War II when new farms were established for returned servicemen and immigrants. The region, now known as the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District, has grown into the largest area of irrigated farmland in Australia (800 000ha). Eildon Dam supplies a large proportion of the water to this district and is the major carryover storage in the supply system. Eildon Dam has therefore been a major contributor to the development of irrigation in Australia and to farming and rural development in Victoria. (RNE criterion A.4)

Technically, Eildon Dam is significant for the important innovations achieved in its design and engineering. Eildon Dam pioneered the way for large engineering contracts and this is the common practice today in the construction and mining industries in Australia. It demonstrated that, with better knowledge and experience, a much higher dam could be constructed close to the site of a previous dam that had suffered a major subsidence and extensive remedial measures in the 1920s. (RNE criteria F.1, B.2)

Aesthetically, Eildon Reservoir is significant for its design as a public space, with roads, and lookouts and vantage points designed so people could experience the scale of the work from strategic vantage points, looking down the valley to the lower river, over and across the dam wall, and by circulating around the dam and over the dam wall. The design itself

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utilises modernist elements that were beginning to emerge in landscape design in America in the late 1940s, as seen in the work Thomas Church in the Donnell Garden, Sonoma, California such as organic curves and local materials used in the dam wall and the visitor shelter with panoramas over the dam, dam wall, and valley below. (RNE criterion F.1)

Historically and socially, the first Lake Eildon (known as Sugarloaf Reservoir) is significant as a popular place for local boating and various water-based sports. With the completion of the present Eildon Dam, the much larger surface area and shoreline length of the reservoir greatly increased interest as a tourist destination and a centre for recreational activities. The permanent township of Eildon also expanded greatly, with many residents purchasing houses formerly used for accommodation for the constructional personnel. Various shopping facilities and businesses developed in the town and accommodation for tourists and other visitors was established both at Eildon and at other centres around the reservoir. (RNE criterion A.4, E.1)

Historically, Eildon Dam is significant for its close associations with the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission, Victoria (SR&WSC). The SR&WSC was established in 1905 to take control of all water supplies outside Melbourne and played a leading role in the development of irrigation for the next 80 years. It became a significant builder of dams throughout Victoria, with the objective of meeting the expanding needs of irrigators and country towns. The completion of Eildon Dam was a major achievement and a significant event in the work of the Commission. (The Rural Water Corporation superseded the SR&WSC in 1984 but was abolished in 1995. Goulburn-Murray Water became responsible for Eildon Dam after that date.) (RNE criterion H.1)

Historically, Eildon Dam is also significant for its associations with eminent engineer Milton Speedie, the lead designer of Eildon Dam. Speedie was directly involved in the design of at least 15 major dams in Victoria between 1959 and 1973. Highly regarded for his knowledge of the design earth and rockfill dams, he became Chief Designing Engineer of the SR&WSC, Chairman of the Australian National Committee on Large Dams and a Vice-President of the International Commission of Large Dams. (RNE criterion H.1)

Socially, Lake Eildon is significant as a grand engineering work, constructed during the post-war reconstruction period, which expressed a collective pride in its achievements. It quickly became highly valued by the community as an important symbol of the period and a well-recognised regional landmark throughout Victoria. (RNE criterion G.1)

Note: This citation has been adapted from the RNE nominations for Eildon Dam (Ref 101537) and Lake Eildon Including Dam Wall and Power Station, Goulburn Valley Hwy, Eildon, VIC, Australia (ref: 103421). Both are listed on the Australian Heritage Database with 'Indicative place' status.

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Lookout shelter

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

## Other Recommendations

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Proposed extent: the area encompassed by the embankment, spillway structures and approach channel, outlet tower and power station, pondage weir, and the downstream pondage lake.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Harris House, former  
**Address** 28 Centre Avenue EILDON  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Designer / Architect** Earle, J

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF EILDON

The Eildon Run, located on the north side of the Goulburn River running west from its junction with the Delatite River, was licensed from 1838-48. Dr James Dickson was the first leaseholder in 1838, followed by John C Aitken in 1844 and Archibald Thom in 1848.[1] Eildon was named after the Eildon Hills near Melrose, Scotland, much loved by Sir Walter Scott. Nigel Sinnott in his *Place-names of Alexandra*, writes that historian Les Blake claims the name was given to the run by Dr James Dickson, though this appears to be a matter of contention, as the property was also called Dickson's Run.[2] Dr James Dickson was an overlander from New South Wales, arriving in the Port Phillip District in 1838, prior to taking up the license for the Eildon Run.[3] Local historian, Wendy Falconer, in *Eildon: The Whole Dam Story*, proposes that the name of the run and the township is believed to have been given to the station by Archibald Thom, who held the license from 1848, in honour of the birth place of his wife. When the Eildon Run was advertised for sale in 1881, only 315 acres of its 16,000 acres were listed as 'Freehold and Conditionally Purchased'.[3]

The present township of Eildon dates from 1950-52 and was built almost entirely on the west side of the Goulburn. It was built as a township to support the migrant workers, mainly American, who built the Eildon Dam. The town and the Dam were built by the Utah Construction Company. By 1954 the township housed around 4,000 people - workers and their families.[4]

### HISTORY OF HOUSE

The land at 28 Centre Avenue, Eildon, was purchased by the Masonite Corporation (Australia) Pty Ltd, of Melbourne in October 1956. At this date, the lot excluded the portion to the north, with the rear boundary matching that of Nos. 30 and 32 Centre Avenue. In September 1962, the lot was sold to Harold Greenwood, a retired builder, and his wife, Ivie, who remained the owners until August 1965, when it was sold to RIH Pty Ltd, of 227 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, 'RIH' an abbreviation for Reginald Iliff Harris [5].

The house at 28 Centre Avenue was designed and built for owners Reg and Cora Harris in 1965, designed by well-known Modernist architect James Earle, who designed the house to incorporate the principles of sustainability and 'solar control'. The house was built of local field stone (on the north and south elevations) with full-length window panels (to the east and west elevations), skillion roof and a raised timber floor. The house was also designed to enable its construction by country tradesmen. The house was effectively built as an 'over-nighter' house for Harris, who lived elsewhere, to occupy while working in the area [6].

Reg Harris was a financier and entrepreneur who financed the construction of four or five houses in the town of Eildon, as well as a timber yard. The house at 28 Centre Avenue was one of four buildings designed by Earle & Partners for Harris, which included the flats at 525 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn (for which George Tibbits was the main architect) [7]. From 1964 to 1965, Harris was the Mayor of the City of Hawthorn [8].

In February 1978, the house was transferred into the names of Reginald Iliff Harris (Gentleman) and his wife, Cora. Three years later in 1981, the Harrises sold the house [5], when the projects Reg Harris worked on in the area came to a close [7].

*James Earle, Architect*

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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James H Earle completed his Bachelor of Architecture at RMIT (formerly Working Men's College, then the Royal Melbourne Technical College). During Earle's third year of study at RMIT, he was taught by Roy Grounds, Senior Design Tutor (later of the firm Grounds, Romberg & Boyd). Grounds introduced the students to the concept of sustainability and environment, which Earle admits heavily influenced his Modernist designs. Grounds instilled in his students the concept of keeping out or controlling the sun, which is reflected in overhanging eaves and window placement, as well as cross-ventilation. Earle then continued his studies at the University of Melbourne [7].

In 1950, Earle graduated from the University of Melbourne, before traveling widely [9]. His travel included study in Sweden at Stockholm Technical College. During this post-war period, Sweden led the world in architectural design, therefore architects from Australia attended the three week course, which strongly emphasised Modern design principles across many disciplines including architecture. [7]. The following year, in 1951, Earle visited the 'Festival of Britain' held in London, which celebrated the best in British art, design and industry [11], as part of the country's own promotion of post-war redevelopment [7].

In 1953, Earle returned to Melbourne to open his own practice. During this period, Earle also completed part-time postgraduate studies in Town Planning at the University of Melbourne, a course led by Neil Abercrombie, the son of Professor Abercrombie who replanned London after the war. This enabled Earle's firm to encompass architecture, planning and landscape, with an integrated design approach [7]. The firm operated under various names including Earle & Bunbury (with Arthur Bunbury; 1955-60), Earle, Shaw & Partners (1967-72), Earle & Partners (1960-67, 1972-2007) as well as Earle & Associates. Initially, his firm was best known for its Modernist houses, such as Gye House in Beaumaris (1961) [9] and Harris House in Eildon (1965).

Earle personally attributes a number of architects as influencing his designs. These include Robin Boyd, Professor Brian Lewis (of the University of Melbourne), George Mitchell, John Mockridge, George King (head teacher at Gordon Technical College, Geelong), as well as the firms Buchan, Laird & Buchan and McGlashan & Everist [7].

Earle is best known for his Methodist churches of the 1950s and 60s, which were influenced by a study trip to the USA looking at ecclesiastical design [10]. Earle's contribution to ecclesiastical work has been significant and influential, having involvement with over 200 church and ancillary buildings, predominantly for the Methodist Church and subsequently the Uniting Church, as well as the Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Baptist, Catholic and Salvation Army Churches [12]. His notable modern churches include those located in Pascoe Vale South (1957), Boort (1958) and Willangie (1959) [9].

In the 1960s, the firm designed many hospitals, schools and flats, including the innovative and much-published cooperative housing project in Cross Street, Carlton (1971) [9].

Earle's firm closed in 2013 [7]. James Earle was awarded an Order of Australia for services to architecture and has been involved with the RAIA, RAPI [12] and the formation of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) [9].

## Sources

[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 33.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 53.

[3] Alexandra Standard, 3 March 1881, quoted in Alexandra and District, p. 13; Nigel Sinnott, op.cit., p. 52.

[4] Wendy Falconer, Eildon: The Whole Dam Story, p. 3.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[5] Land Victoria (LV), Certificates of Title V:10507/F:060.

[6], [7] James Earle, Architect, personal communication, 5 March 2014 & 12 March 2014.

[8] Hawthorn Historical Society (2003), "'Bigwigs" of Hawthorn', <http://hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au/>, accessed 4 March 2014.

[9] Reeves, Simon (2012), 'Earle, James' in Philip Goad & Julie Willis' *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Port Melbourne, p. 220.

[10] Reeves, Simon (2009) 'Memories of modernism: The role of oral history in the assessment of post-war heritage', paper presented to Australia ICOMOS 'Unloved Modern' Conference 2009, Sydney, accessed online 23 July 2010, [http://www.aicomos.com/wp-content/uploads/2009\\_UnlovedModern\\_Reeves\\_Simon\\_MemoriesofModernism\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.aicomos.com/wp-content/uploads/2009_UnlovedModern_Reeves_Simon_MemoriesofModernism_Paper.pdf)

[11] Museum of London (2001) *The Festival of Britain*, accessed online 17 August 2010, <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/archive/exhibits/festival/index.htm>

[12] Coleman, Ian and Roslyn (1996) *Twentieth Century Churches in Victoria, a Study*, for the Historic Buildings Council, pp. 59-60.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

4.5 Directing the water supply

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

The house at Centre Avenue is a rectangular house with a monopitch (or skillion) roof set on a treed site. It combines the style of modern architecture with rustic stone side walls of great thickness in order to anchor the house to its bush location. The combination of large areas of glass in a window wall was a popular way of maximizing sun into and views from the house. The entire front of the house forms an outdoor living zone (with a spectacular view) in the form of a balcony. The roof overhangs this area to provide controlled shade to the windows in summer. The roof is supported by paired timber rafters that are cantilevered over the balcony to form a verandah. Infill panels of lightweight material occupy some of the window wall where floor-to-ceiling windows are not appropriate for the rooms behind. The stone is laid in a field stone manner and is possibly non-loadbearing, but acts as a facing to the loadbearing masonry underneath. The balcony cantilevers out from the line of the house and the stumps are set back to be invisible. The roof is designed to be a thin slab over the exposed rafters. The house is a good example of modern architecture and appears to be intact.

## Conservation Policy

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Any proposed additions and alterations to the house should be carefully considered not to impact on its form. Additions should be in a separate building rather than simply extending the original.
2. The stone should not be rendered or painted.
3. The design of the window wall should remain, even if the windows require replacement when no longer serviceable.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
  - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
  - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

### What is Significant?

The house designed by architect James Earle in 1965 as a weekender for Reg Harris at 28 Centre Avenue, Eildon. The trees surrounding the house contribute to its setting.

### How is it Significant?

The house at 28 Centre Avenue, Eildon is of local historic and architectural/aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

### Why is it Significant?

Historically and architecturally, for its associations with James Earle who ran an architectural practice in Hawthorn from the early 1960s. James Earle is well known for his work within the Royal Australian Institute of Architects over a long period of time, as well as the Modernist designs for houses, flats, hospitals, schools and especially churches. (RNE criteria H.1)

Aesthetically and architecturally, for the use of stone in the end walls and a window wall running the entire length of the house. As a stylish representation of modern architecture in a rural shire, the house is rare in the municipality. It is also increasingly rare as an intact architect-designed house from the 1960s since many of these in the metropolitan area have been altered or demolished. It is further distinguished for its early incorporation of sustainability and 'solar control' in the original design, for example, the generous roof eaves over the window wall. (RNE criteria E.1, B.2)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Juverna  
**Address** 816 Back Eildon Road EILDON  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF EILDON

The Eildon Run, located on the north side of the Goulburn River running west from its junction with the Delatite River, was licensed from 1838-48. Dr James Dickson was the first leaseholder in 1838, followed by John C Aitken in 1844 and Archibald Thom in 1848.[1] Eildon was named after the Eildon Hills near Melrose, Scotland, much loved by Sir Walter Scott. Nigel Sinnott in his Place-names of Alexandra, writes that historian Les Blake claims the name was given to the run by Dr James Dickson, though this appears to be a matter of contention, as the property was also called Dickson's Run.[2] Dr James Dickson was an overlander from New South Wales, arriving in the Port Phillip District in 1838, prior to taking up the license for the Eildon Run.[3] Local historian, Wendy Falconer, in Eildon: The Whole Dam Story, proposes that the name of the run and the township is believed to have been given to the station by Archibald Thom, who held the license from 1848, in honour of the birth place of his wife. When the Eildon Run was advertised for sale in 1881, only 315 acres of its 16,000 acres were listed as 'Freehold and Conditionally Purchased'.[3]

The present township of Eildon dates from 1950-52 and was built almost entirely on the west side of the Goulburn. It was built as a township to support the migrant workers, mainly American, who built the Eildon Dam. The town and the Dam were built by the Utah Construction Company. By 1954 the township housed around 4,000 people - workers and their families.[4]

### HISTORY OF JUVERNA

Matthew Ryan applied for a 7-year lease on Allotment 14 (137 acres) in the Agricultural Area of Eildon in December 1868, and then for Allotment 13 (125 acres) in March 1869. He added parts of the adjoining Allotments 11 and 12 (57 acres in all) to his leasehold in 1872. When renewing that lease in 1875, he noted that he had not built a dwelling on 11 or 12 because he already resided with his family in a four-room house on Allotment 13, the site of Juverna. Shortly after, he was able to purchase Allotments 13 and 14 freehold, the Crown Grants dated 21 Dec. 1875 and 13 Nov. 1875, respectively.[6]

The Crown granted Matthew Ryan of Alexandra, 137 acres, one rood and twelve perches of Crown Allotment 14 in the Parish of Eildon (Agricultural Area of Eildon), County of Anglesey on 13 November 1875 (Land Title 841/147). Peter Henricus Ryan and Michael Ryan, both of Eildon, farmers and Bridget Ryan of Alexandra, State School teacher, became the registered proprietors of the land as Executors and Executrix in the will of Matthew Ryan, who died on 8 March 1905. Probate was granted on 20 June 1905. In August 1926, all the land was transferred from Peter, Michael and Bridget Ryan to Peter Henricus Ryan as sole proprietor (Land Title 841/147).

When Peter Ryan died in March 1927, probate was granted to the National Trustees Executors Company of Australia Limited in October 1929. Three Caveats had been lodged over the property, two in 1926 and the other in 1929. They were withdrawn in 1943. The title to the property was transferred to Frederick Valentine Hay, Robert Charles and George James Hay on 9 October 1944 (Land title 6728/536).

The original owner, Matthew Ryan, and his wife, Mary O'Reilly, had three children: Peter Henricus (1860-1927), Sarah (1862-1941) and Michael (1864-1937). In the 1930s the children purchased The Oaks (HO14), on the Mount Pleasant A subdivision, south of Alexandra.[5] It appears that the first part (four rooms) of Juverna was built shortly after the Ryans acquired the property in 1875/1869.

Sources:



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 33.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 53.

[3] Wendy Falconer, *Eildon: The Whole Dam Story*, p. 3.

[4] *Alexandra Standard*, 3 March 1881, quoted in *Alexandra and District*, p. 13.

[4] Nigel Sinnott, *op.cit.*, p. 52.

[5] Lloyd, *op. cit.*, p 340.

[6] PROV VPRS 629/P0 Unit 59, File 10947 (Allot. 13), File 10948 (Allot. 14); VPRS 625/P0 Unit 295, File 19915 (Allot. 11 & 12).

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2.2 Selection

## Description

### Physical Description

Juverna is a large Victorian brick house set in a garden with mature trees, with neighbouring paddocks and farm outbuildings.

The house has a corrugated-iron hip roof and skillion verandah, which wraps around the facade and two sides of the house. The house is set on high foundations. It has large corbel brick chimneys and retains its sash windows and central front door (with transom and sidelights). The house has a rear weatherboard gable-roofed extension, with a corbelled brick chimney, which may be the original kitchen.

The brick walls have been painted. The verandah posts have been replaced (and valance removed) and the verandah floor replaced with concrete. There is a gable-roofed carport at the rear, west side.

The house is surrounded by mature trees, mainly conifers.

To the west of the homestead is a collection of farm buildings. Two have bush-pole frames clad with corrugated metal. A third is a small weatherboard cottage with a brick chimney at the gable end. It is in poor condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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1. Consider finding an on-going use for the timber cottage so it can be repaired and maintained.
2. Consider reinstating the verandah posts and decorative frieze in an appropriate style, preferably based on documentary evidence such as old photos.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
  - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
  - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## NOTE:

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

### What is significant?

Juvena, at 816 Back Eildon Road, Eildon. Juvena is a large Victorian brick house set in a garden with mature trees (mainly conifers), with neighbouring paddocks and farm outbuildings.

The house has a corrugated-iron hip roof and skillion verandah, which wraps around the facade and two sides of the house. The house is set on high foundations. It has large corbel brick chimneys and retains its sash windows and central front door (with transom and sidelights). The house has a rear weatherboard gable-roofed extension, with a corbelled brick chimney, which may be the original kitchen.

To the west of the homestead is a collection of farm buildings. Two have bush-pole frames clad with corrugated metal. A third is a small weatherboard cottage with a brick chimney at the gable end, which would have served as farm workers' quarters.

Matthew Ryan took up a lease on Allotment 13, Agricultural Area of Eildon, in March 1869. By April 1875, he had built a four-room house on the property, which is believed to be the core of Juvena. Matthew Ryan, and his wife, Mary O'Reilly, had three children: Peter Henricus (1860-1927), Sarah (1862-1941) and Michael (1864-1937). The family also owned the Oaks (HO14), on the Mount Pleasant A subdivision, south of Alexandra, from the 1930s. Juvena remained in the Ryan family until the 1940s.

### How is it significant?

Juvena is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, as a representative example of a selection-era farm, retaining a substantial brick homestead set in a garden of mature trees, early farm outbuildings and farm workers' quarters. Also for its associations with the Ryan family, who were land owners in the area from the 1870s to 1930s. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2, H.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature trees in garden
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes cottage, bush-pole sheds
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Elderslie  
**Address** 573 Spring Creek Road FAWCETT  
**Place Type** HouseShedDairy  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

HISTORY OF FAWCETT

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes in *Alexandra and District*, that the first mention of the need for a township on Spring Creek appeared in the *Alexandra Times* in October 1868.[1] The area of Spring Creek was surveyed by John Downey in 1869 for a township to be called Yarck, but the township was not gazetted.[2] The name, Fawcett, was first used for the area in 1885, possibly named after John Fawcett who lived either in the Eglinton Creek or Mount Prospect area in the late 1860s.[3] Nigel Sinnott writes that the surname Fawcett is derived from Yorkshire, and is Old English meaning ford, house, settlement. It could also have been Facit from Lancashire meaning coloured, flowery and side slope.[4] The name of Yarck on Spring Creek persisted because of the expectation that the proposed railway would go through the district up to Spring Creek and through the Puzzle Ranges. This idea was abandoned because of the high cost of a tunnel. The town site on Spring Creek was then abolished, and a new settlement of Yarck moved to the north. The locality on Spring Creek then became known as Fawcett.[5]

## HISTORY OF EDERSLIE

The site on which the current house, Elderslie, stands comprises part of 20 acres originally selected by Charles Miller on 4 August 1874.[7] The original residence on the site was constructed, in part, c.1869 on adjoining land which was subsequently incorporated into the existing farmhouse.[8] The shearing shed, constructed c.1874-80, remains on the property, as does a dairy shed.

The property transferred from Charles Miller to George Payne (senior) on 25 September 1900 for a purchase price of £200. The property was subsequently added to, and George Payne transferred the property to his son, Charles Payne, on 19 November 1908. Charles Payne had resided in the c1869 house located on an adjoining property located across Spring Creek. They moved the house, now called Elderslie, to its current site.[9] Charles Payne subsequently transferred the land to the Crown for the Closer Settlement Board.[10]

Gunner Leigh Trevelyn Sloggatt, who had served with the 11th Field Artillery Brigade in Egypt and Gallipoli, returned to Australia in January 1918. He had won the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. Sloggatt, born c.1885, was oldest the son of William and Rachel Sloggatt of 'Langside' Oakleigh, who had emigrated from Cornwall.[8] His father is believed to have been an artist. In 1919 Leigh Sloggatt married Rosalind Crooke and selected this freehold property in Spring Creek Road. The land consisted of 342 acres 2 roods 5 perches.[11] The description and condition of the property when purchased is noted on Closer Settlement Land Files.[9] The property contained a 'dwelling, weatherboard, iron roof, 6 rooms, fairly old building worth £300, general shed worth £60'.[9] Military records of his younger brother, Guy Rosevear Sloggatt indicate that Leigh was born at Elderslie Station, Winton, Queensland. It appears the property was named after the station in Queensland.[12] The two-storey dairy shed on the property was built by Sloggatt in 1919. In 1924 the property was transferred to Charles Newman who took over responsibility for the mortgage with the Closer Settlement Board. Leigh Sloggatt died in Caulfield in 1932. In the 1930s the residence was substantially remodelled by Charles Newman and Mr Carrington, former miner in the Beehive Mine, Parsons Lane, Fawcett.[12]

## Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 58.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 56.

[3] *ibid.*

[4] *ibid.*

[5] Lloyd, *op.cit.*, p. 58.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[6] Personal conversation with Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

[7] Selection file sighted at PROV by Ian Newman.

[8] Files relating to this property and in possession of Ian Newman include 324/86.6, 6 December 1920, Seymour District, Closer Settlement Land Files.

[9] [www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8080/showPerso?pid=277334](http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8080/showPerso?pid=277334)

[10] Personal conversation, Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Personal conversation, Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

## Description

### Physical Description

Elderslie is a weatherboard Victorian building, extensively remodelled c1908 and in the early 1930s.

The house has a corrugated iron, hip gable roof, a broken-back verandah roof and a half timbered projecting front gable. There have been successive minor changes to the rear of the building, including new windows.

A hedge is at the front of the property.

The dairy shed is a vernacular building of 1919-20 with corrugated iron upper walls and roof and elevated by a timber platform, which is an unusual form. It has an internal bush-pole frame. The external entrance stairs are new.

The shearing shed is from the late 1870s and is a vernacular, paling-clad building with a corrugated iron roof. It was originally built as a general purpose shed and was adapted for use as a wool shed by Charles Newman. It has been extended to one end and a rear addition was made by James Newman in 1984 with materials reclaimed from the old Hardcourt Tennis Pavilion in Leckie Park, Alexandra, demolished by Ian Newman.

There is also a small shed behind the house that functioned as a generator room prior to electricity being connected.

All buildings are in very good condition.

## Conservation Policy

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Elderslie, including the house, shearing shed and dairy, at 573 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett.

Charles Miller selected the land in 1874 and built a general-purpose shed soon after (later converted for use as a shearing shed). The shearing shed is relatively small, clad in palings and has been extended to one side and the rear.

The house was built c1869 on land adjoining the present site. It was moved to its present location c1908 by Charles Payne. It was named Elderslie by Gunner Leigh Sloggatt, who obtained the property through the Closer Settlement Land Act in 1919. Charles Newman extensively remodelled the house in the Queen Anne style in the early 1930s. It has a corrugated iron, hip gable roof, a broken verandah roof and a half timbered projecting front gable.

The dairy shed dates from 1919-20 and was one of Sloggatt's improvements to the property. It is a vernacular building with corrugated iron walls and roof, a bush-pole frame and, unusually, elevated by a timber platform.

How is it significant?

Elderslie is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a farm complex that illustrates the successive stages from selection in the late 19th century, thorough to Closer Settlement after the First World War. Also for its associations with the early owners, Charles Miller, George and Charles Payne, and Leigh Sloggatt. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

The c1920 dairy, with its raised floor, is unusual in form. (RNE criterion B.2)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Shearing shed, dairy
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Log Cabin  
**Address** 825 Spring Creek Road FAWCETT  
**Place Type** Mining camp/settlement/housing  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF FAWCETT

Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes in *Alexandra and District*, that the first mention of the need for a township on Spring Creek appeared in the *Alexandra Times* in October 1868.[1] The area of Spring Creek was surveyed by John Downey in 1869 for a township to be called Yarck, but the township was not gazetted.[2] The name, Fawcett, was first used for the area in 1885, possibly named after John Fawcett who lived either in the Eglinton Creek or Mount Prospect area in the late 1860s.[3] Nigel Sinnott writes that the surname Fawcett is derived from Yorkshire, and is Old English meaning ford, house, settlement. It could also have been Facit from Lancashire meaning coloured, flowery and side slope.[4] The name of Yarck on Spring Creek persisted because of the expectation that the proposed railway would go through the district up to Spring Creek and through the Puzzle Ranges. This idea was shelved because of the high cost of a tunnel. The town site on Spring Creek was then abolished, and a new settlement of Yarck moved to the north. The locality on Spring Creek then became known as Fawcett.[5]

### HISTORY OF LOG CABIN

The log cabin is a remnant of the mining and selection era in this region and is believed to have been built in the late 1860s by or for the owner, Harrison Ralph.[6] Ralph, who was born in Kent on 29 May 1828, had arrived in Port Philip in November 1852 on the *Arundal*. Ralph was a mounted trooper at Bendigo during the gold-rush era of the 1850s; he subsequently went to Rushworth where he became a butcher and had a grocery shop. He moved to the Spring Creek area c.1867-8. Ralph opened up the *Britannia Mine* and then *Durham Lead* in *Durham Gully*. He was married, with a family of 7 and built the log cabin on the site, after which he applied for a licence to cultivate in June 1868. He died on 30 May 1887 and is buried at the *Alexandra Cemetery*. His wife *Annie Green Hicks* died in 1912.[6]

A second log cabin was located directly behind the house, but was demolished about 60 years ago.[7]

The current house is located on property believed to be the site of the original town of Yarck. The property also incorporates within its current structure the original homestead built by or for Harrison Ralph.

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 58.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 56.

[3] *ibid.*

[4] *ibid.*

[5] Brian Lloyd, *op.cit.*, p. 58.

[6] Personal conversation with Ian Newman, 4/4/08. Land file at PROV and Ian Newman, *History of the Spring Creek Goldfields 1867-80*, unpublished MS, 1976, in possession of Ian Newman; Lloyd, *op.cit.*, p. 58.

[7] Pers. comm., Una Luckman, 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

4.1 Mining

## Description

### Physical Description

The small log cabin built by Harrison Ralph in c1868. It stands behind the present house.

It was constructed of round logs (with the bark removed), notched at the ends. The gaps between the logs are filled with sticks and clay. The building has a steep gabled roof clad in recent corrugated iron, supported on narrow bush poles (three at the apex). The original roof covering has been removed. The gables are clad in hand-split weatherboards. Over the doorway (on the south side) is a ventilation grate made of diagonal sticks. A similar opening on the north gable has been patched with hand-split weatherboards. The roofline has been extended to shelter the doorway: additional bush poles were added at the apex and the eaves rest on upright logs. The log cabin is entered via a light-weight ledged doorway on the south gable end. It is a replacement.

Inside this tiny cabin is a single room. The walls are whitewashed. There was originally a fabric ceiling, and the nails are still in evidence on the rafters. The floor is covered with a thin (and soft) layer of concrete.

The structure of the cabin is very solid, though the floor beneath the front door is being undermined by the digging of a wombat. The cabin is very intact.

Log cabins were not common in Victoria, but were mostly used on the goldfields, as was this one. The earliest surviving examples date from the 1850s (Miles Lewis, 'Victorian Primitive', 1977, pp 23-25). This is one of only three 19th-century log cabins identified in Murrindindi Shire - all related to mining. The other two are: c1860s cabin at 1 Frees Road, Gobur (also recommended for an HO), and Strathmore, c1870s, at 1790 Falls Road, Strath Creek (recording recommended, due to its very poor condition).

NB: The house was not inspected to determine if the core dates from the 1860s.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Discourage undermining of the floor by wombats.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The c1868 log cabin at 825 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett. It is believed to have been built in the late 1860s by or for the owner, Harrison Ralph. He moved to the Spring Creek area c.1867-8. Ralph opened up the Britannia Mine and then Durham Lead in Durham Gully. He was married, with a family of 7 and built the log cabin on the site, after which he applied for a licence to cultivate in June 1868.

The cabin is constructed of round logs (with the bark removed), notched at the ends. The gaps between the logs are filled with sticks and clay. The building has a steep gabled roof clad in recent corrugated iron, supported on narrow bush poles. The gables are clad in hand-split weatherboards. Over the doorway (on the south side) is a ventilation grate made of diagonal sticks. A similar opening on the north gable has been patched with hand-split weatherboards. The roofline has been extended to shelter the doorway: additional bush poles were added at the apex and the eaves rest on upright logs. The log cabin is entered via a later light-weight ledged doorway on the south gable end.

How is it significant?

The log cabin is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of only two log cabins dating from the 1860s identified in Murrindindi Shire. It is also one of the very earliest buildings in Fawcett, which was laid out in the same year the cabin is believed to have been built (1868). For its associations with Harrison Ralph, who opened up two mines in the area. (RNE criteria B.2, H.1, A.4)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

Yes

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Log cabin

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Old Silo and Rabbiters Hut  
**Address** 640 Spring Creek Road FAWCETT  
**Place Type** SiloShed  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

**Architectural Style**

Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF FAWCETT

Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes in *Alexandra and District*, that the first mention of the need for a township on Spring Creek appeared in the *Alexandra Times* in October 1868.[1] The area of Spring Creek was surveyed by John Downey in 1869 for a township to be called Yarck, but the township was not gazetted.[2] The name, Fawcett, was first used for the area in 1885, possibly named after John Fawcett who lived either in the Eglinton Creek or Mount Prospect area in the late 1860s.[3] Nigel Sinnott writes that the surname Fawcett is derived from Yorkshire, and is Old English meaning ford, house, settlement. It could also have been Facit from Lancashire meaning coloured, flowery and side slope.[4] The name of Yarck on Spring Creek persisted because of the expectation that the proposed railway would go through the district up to Spring Creek and through the Puzzle Ranges. This idea was shelved because of the high cost of a tunnel. The town site on Spring Creek was then abolished, and a new settlement of Yarck moved to the north. The locality on Spring Creek then became known as Fawcett.[5]

### HISTORY OF SILO AND HUT

The Old Silo was built in the late nineteenth century on land selected by J Hicks. It is a construction of timber frame exterior supported by a tree trunk at its centre, connecting with wire lines to the four walls. The Old Silo was originally used by local farmers in the Fawcett district and is one of only a few original Fawcett buildings remaining in the district.

On the same site is the Rabbiter's Hut, a small 1920s timber building with corrugated iron roof. The chimney is a later addition.[6] The hut was moved from the front of the property to its current location. It was used by rabbiters and single men working on the property. No original furniture remains.

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 58.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 56.

[3] *ibid.*

[4] *ibid.*

[5] Brian Lloyd, *op.cit.*, p. 58.

[6] Personal conversation with Ian Newman, 4/4/08; conversation with Sam Hicks 4/4/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

## Description

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Physical Description

The Old Fawcett Silo, built c1890s has very unusual construction of a timber-frame exterior supported by a tree trunk at centre with connecting wire lines to the four walls. Within the timber frame are rough (hand-sawn) lining boards. The silo has a low-pitched gable roof. It is entered by an off-centre ledged and braced door. There is also an opening to the loft.

The silo is structurally unstable. The internal wires need to be re-tensioned and supplemental bracing may have to be added to the frame.

The Rabbiter's Hut is a 1920s tiny, weatherboard building. The roof is a transverse gable, clad in corrugated iron, extending over a deep front verandah. Only one verandah post survives. There is a central front door on the facade, and on the left-hand side, a six-over-six sash window. There is a brick chimney on the left-hand gable end.

The chimney is reportedly a later addition and the hut has been moved slightly from its original position. The hut is in poor condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. To stabilise the Old Silo, the internal wires should be re-tensioned. Supplemental bracing to the frame may also be necessary to prevent further leaning. This work should be done with the advice of the Shire Heritage Advisor (or qualified heritage architect).

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Old Silo and Rabbiter's Hut at 640 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett. The Old Silo was built in the late nineteenth century on land selected by J Hicks. It has an external timber frame supported by a tree trunk at its centre, connected with wire lines to the four walls. Inside the farming are rough-sawn vertical lining boards. It was originally used by local farmers in the Fawcett district and is one of only a few original Fawcett buildings remaining in the district.

The Rabbiter's Hut is a small 1920s timber building with corrugated iron roof. The weatherboards of the roof run over the verandah. The chimney is a replacement. It was used to accommodate rabbiter's and single men working on the property.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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How is it significant?

The Old Silo and Rabbiter's Hut are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Old Silo is one of very few original Fawcett buildings remaining in the district. Moreover its structure, supported by an internal tree trunk and tensioning wires, is very unusual. It also has associations with early resident and selector, J Hicks. (RNE criteria B.2, H.1)

The Rabbiter's Hut illustrates the modest accommodation used by rural workers in the early 20th century. (RNE criterion D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Silo & hut

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Topsy Vale barn  
**Address** 147 Parsons Lane FAWCETT  
**Place Type** HouseBarn  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF FAWCETT

Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes in *Alexandra and District*, that the first mention of the need for a township on Spring Creek appeared in the *Alexandra Times* in October 1868.[1] The area of Spring Creek was surveyed by John Downey in 1869 for a township to be called Yarck, but the township was not gazetted.[2] The name, Fawcett, was first used for the area in 1885, possibly named after John Fawcett who lived either in the Eglinton Creek or Mount Prospect area in the late 1860s.[3] Nigel Sinnott writes that the surname Fawcett is derived from Yorkshire, and is Old English meaning ford, house, settlement. It could also have been Facit from Lancashire meaning coloured, flowery and side slope.[4] The name of Yarck on Spring Creek persisted because of the expectation that the proposed railway would go through the district up to Spring Creek and through the Puzzle Ranges. This idea was shelved because of the high cost of a tunnel. The town site on Spring Creek was then abolished, and a new settlement of Yarck moved to the north. The locality on Spring Creek then became known as Fawcett.[5] Topsy Gully, west of Fawcett, runs into an unnamed tributary of Spring Creek near Parsons Lane. It was named after Topsy Mine.[6]

### HISTORY OF TOPSY VALE

William Parsons Jr, Bricklayer and Farmer, of South Australia and Alexandra, first applied for Allotment 99, Parish of Gobur, with a total area of 320 acres (comprising the present property at 147 Parsons Lane) for lease from the Crown in April 1881. The Mining Department objected to the lease, as the Topsy gold reef ran diagonally through the allotment (hence the present name of the property). So the allotment was divided diagonally into 99A, 99B and 99C, and Parsons was granted a lease to 99A and 99B (a total of 125 acres), and received a grazing permit only to the central portion (99C) which contained the reef. In his July 1888 application to renew his lease on 99A and 99B, he detailed his improvements to the land. They included a four-room weatherboard house with a paling roof and a detached kitchen, a woolshed of palings with a bark roof (measuring 20 x 25 feet), and sheep and drafting yards. There was also a barn measuring 20 x 14 feet, with slab walls and a paling roof. Parsons noted that he had resided at the property for six years already, and had planted a kitchen garden of 1 acre containing 12 fruit trees.[7]

After having leased Allotments 99A and 99B for over 20 years, Parsons was successful applying for a Crown Grant, dated 6 April 1903 (Land Title 2971/055), for which he paid £197.

He was able to lease Allotment 99C, containing the gold reef, from 1885. By 1900 he had built a log hut with paling roof and a drop-slab stable (25 x 25 feet) with a paling roof on this land. A paling woolshed with a bark roof was initially listed on this application, but was then crossed off. This may be because the woolshed was actually on Allotment 99B (the one listed in 1888 application, above).[7] The confusion arose because the site of the homestead and outbuildings is right on the boundary between Allotments 99B and 99C. Examination of present day aerials shows that the drop-slab barn in question may be just over the line in 99C, so it could be the stable mentioned in the 1900 lease application. On the other hand, it is just behind the house site (NB: the original house burnt down and was replaced in the 1930s), so it could also be the barn mentioned in the 1888 application. The pre-1888 date is supported by the dimensions of the present-day drop-slab building - it is rectangular, instead of square in plan, as was the pre-1888 barn (20 x 14 feet), unlike the square (25x 25 feet) stable. Local sources also point to its 1880s origins.[9]

In 1914, once the second lease had run its course, Parsons applied to purchase the three allotments as freehold. On 28 March 1914, Crown Allotment 99C, consisting of 125 acres 20 perches, was granted to William Parsons (Land Title

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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3798/415).

There is mention of a William Parsons as early as 1871 in Lloyd's history of the area, when he was involved in discovering a new gold reef near the Lily Prospecting Claim. He is noted as the former owner (at this time) of Parsons' Beer House (Five Mile House) on the Yea Road. Parsons, along with William Popple, also built the bark and paling Alexandra Road (Koriella) School in December 1872. As William Parsons Jr, owner of Topsy Vale, was only 19 years old when he applied for the first lease in 1881, the William in these two instances must have been his father. Again a William Parsons and William Popple were instrumental in establishing a new school, this one in Fawcett in 1904. By this time William Snr had died, so this would have been his son, the owner of Topsy Vale. [8]

William Parsons died on 21 June 1931. Probate was granted to Florence Jane Parsons, spinster, and William Henry Parsons on 26 October 1931. William Henry Parsons of Koriella, grazier became the sole proprietor of the property on 16 June 1950. WH Parsons died on 24 May 1950 and probate was granted to Betty Parsons and Murray William Parsons on 24 March 1992.

Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 58.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 56.

[3] *ibid.*

[4] *ibid.*

[5] Brian Lloyd, *op.cit.*, p. 58.

[6] Sinnott, *op.cit.*, p. 158.

[7] PROV VPRS 626/P0 Unit 37, File 2549 & VPRS 440/PO, Unit 17, File 2750.

[8] Brian Lloyd, *op. cit.*, pp 56, 111, 116.

[9] Community information form, Ian Newman, 2005.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

## Description

### Physical Description

The Topsy Vale barn is a two-storey timber building with a transverse gabled roof. It is believed to have been built shortly after William Parsons took possession of the site in 1881, and was certainly there by 1888. The ground floor has drop-slab walls with slats at the top of the wall to provide ventilation for livestock inside. There is a ledged door with

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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strap hinges at the middle of the east elevation (which faces the road). The upper storey is clad in hand-split weatherboards, with a door on the south side to load feed into the loft.

At the rear is a later skillion-roof addition clad in corrugated iron.

The building is in fair condition. Some of the weatherboards are missing from the north elevation.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Topsy Vale barn of c1880s at 147 Parsons Lane, Fawcett. The barn, or possibly stable, is a two-storey timber building with a transverse gabled roof. The ground floor has drop-slab walls with slats at the top of the wall to provide ventilation for livestock inside. There is a ledged door with strap hinges at the middle of the east elevation (which faces the road). The upper storey is clad in hand-split weatherboards, with a door on the south side to load feed into the loft.

The Parsons family were early selectors in the area. William Parsons Snr, father of the first owner, was involved in gold mining and ran a hotel on the Yea road in the early 1870s. His son, William Parsons Jnr, applied for a lease on the site in 1881. The Topsy gold reef ran diagonally through it, however, so he was granted a lease to the two outer parts of the allotment (99B and 99A), but initially received only a grazing permit to the gold-bearing allotment 99C. By 1888 he had already built a weatherboard house, a woolshed and a drop-slab barn with a paling roof. This is probably the barn that survives to the present day, considering its measurements, but it could also be a drop-slab stable that was built on allotment 99C between 1885 and 1900 (as the barn is on the boundary).

How is it significant?

The Topsy Vale barn is of local historic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically and architecturally, as a rare surviving outbuilding of the selection era and a good example of its type. Also for its associations with early selectors, the Parsons family. (RNE criteria B.2, D.2, H.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Barn
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Glenside  
**Address** 447 Ghin Ghin Road GHIN GHIN  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Domestic Queen  
Anne

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF GLENSIDE

William Anderson, a pioneer to the Yea and Ghin Ghin area, arrived in New South Wales from Scotland as a young man in 1850. From 1851 he was engaged in the carrying business between the diggings and Melbourne until he began farming at Lake Learmonth near Bullarook. In 1867 he moved to Yea and looked for a suitable selection on the Ghin Ghin run. Local historian Harvey Blanks recalls the story that when Anderson arrived at Ghin Ghin he was met by the squatter, T E Brooke who ordered him off the run. Not to be deterred, Anderson made his way to the river and selected two river-front blocks; 'one he put in the name of his wife, who had been a Miss Clyne, from Caithness, Scotland'.<sup>[1]</sup> William continued to select land, adding to his original 640 acres, or one square mile. He also purchased the original homestead, although 'other parts of the original run were selected by the Marshalls and others'.<sup>[2]</sup> Anderson was a breeder of Clydesdale horses, many of them were sold to wheat-farmers in the Goulburn Valley. His brand 'A' was famous all over Victoria.

Anderson acquired Beaumonto from Alexander Hume and ran it in conjunction with Ghin Ghin until his death in 1899. The family holding was enlarged in 1918. Of his four sons, Adam Beattie Anderson managed Ghin Ghin for the family after his father's death and married Flora Purvis of Homewood. He served on the Shire Council as president in 1910 and from 1938-40. Anderson's other sons, William, David and Archibald all married local girls. Anderson also had two daughters; Elizabeth married Major Frederick Purcell and Annie married local Yea resident, Rev. W Bett of the Scots Church.<sup>[3]</sup>

The current owners of Glenside are the daughter of David Clyne Anderson (grand-daughter of William Anderson), and her son. While Adam Anderson retained the 'Old Ghin Ghin Homestead' (at 163 Old Ghin Ghin Road), his brother David built the house, 'Glenside', around 1914 for his new bride. David received the land from his father in 1903 (Land Title Vol 2945 Fol 877). As William's land was divided amongst his children, David's siblings also built 'Caithness' and 'Coolangatha' (directly across the road) also in Ghin Ghin.<sup>[5]</sup>

Family folklore has it that 'Glenside' was designed along the style of a house at Dunkeld, especially the steeply pitched roof which allowed room for an attic storey. In the 1920s an extension to the rear of the house was added. However, during the mid-1990s renovations to 'Glenside', this extension was demolished. When the rear extension to the home was demolished, the owners found newspapers dating back to 1923.<sup>[4]</sup>

#### Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, p. 74.

[2] *ibid.*, p. 75.

[3] *ibid.*, p. 75.

[4] Pers. Comm., David Anderson, 22 July 2008.

[5] Pers. comm., Wendy Heathcock, 24 May 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2.2 Selection

## Description

### Physical Description

Glenside is a large rural property, with a collection of buildings near Ghin Ghin Road, just across from Coolangatha (a former Anderson family property). The homestead is set back behind a tennis court and front garden, but is still visible from the road. Behind it are early outbuildings: a stable and a woolshed.

Glenside homestead is a grand weatherboard, late Queen Anne house with a very high hipped roof with gablets, which more than doubles the house's overall height. It has three projecting gables: at the front and on both side elevations, all with decorative timber hoods over the tripartite sash windows. The gable on the south side elevation is the most ornate: with decorative cross-bracing. There is also a gablet at the south-east corner of the house. All gablets and projecting gables have a pressed-metal ram's horn ornament. The roof is clad in corrugated iron, which appears to be the original short sheets. There are three tall and slender brick chimneys with unusual corbelling - swelling outward to create a 'belly' about three-quarters of the way up.

The facade has a projecting gable on the north (right-hand) side, and a return verandah across the rest of it. The verandah has a skillion roof, is supported on turned timber posts and has a framed cast-iron frieze. The timber brackets have been removed, apart from one that has survived where the south end of the verandah has been enclosed in wire mesh as a sleep-out. The front door has an Edwardian door with an arched window at the top, small arched sidelights, and three transoms - all of these windows retain original leadlights. Beside it is a tripartite sash window with transoms. Beneath the verandah, the facade has ashlar-look cladding. It is also found on the projecting gable, up to nearly the verandah height, above which are notched weatherboards.

The side and rear elevations have ordinary weatherboards. There is another section of verandah at the front of the north side elevation.

On the south elevation the verandah has been extended (c1920s) with a sleep-out verandah with a steeper pitched roof. Judging from the interior, with dark-stained plywood panelling and plate rails in the front of the house, there was a substantial renovation (and expansion) in the 1920s.

An extension of 1924 (as dated by newspapers under the lino) was removed in the 1990s from the rear of the north side elevation. The original kitchen was extended to the rear and side (out as far as the projecting gable) as part of this work. It has a skillion roof, which is easily distinguishable from the rest of the house, and simple rear verandah.

Behind the house is the former stable. It is a very simple transverse gabled building that has been reclad in corrugated iron. The original cladding, visible on the west wall, was weatherboards. Inside, the walls are covered with lining boards. There is a raise feed-storage room at the south end, as well as stalls and feedboxes. There is a recent lean-to addition to the rear (west side).

The woolshed is believed to date from the 19th century, before the property was divided amongst the Anderson sons. It is still in use and retains a 19th-century timber wool press. The building, including additions, roughly has an L-shaped plan. The bottom of the 'L', at the rear, appears to be the oldest section. It is a small gabled building with a lean-to on one side,

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clad in hand-split weatherboards, and resting on high log stumps. It has a single small (unglazed) window on the west gable end. The east end abuts the rest of the woolshed.

The main section of the woolshed (closest to the house), has a gabled roof and is clad in weatherboards on the east side, Hardiplank (or similar) on the north side, and corrugated iron on the west side. It has lean-to additions on the west and south sides (abutting the weatherboard section). The lean-tos are also clad in corrugated iron. The interior retains timber pens and shearing stations.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. If the verandah is to be restored in the future, use the surviving timber bracket (within the sleep-out) as a model.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

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6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Glenside homestead and outbuildings at 447 Ghin Ghin Road, Ghin Ghin.

William Anderson arrived in the Yea area from Scotland, via New South Wales, in 1867 and selected land that had been part of the Ghin Ghin Run. He established the Old Ghin Ghin Homestead. After his death in 1899, the property was divided amongst his four sons. David Anderson received the part that is now Glenside in 1903, and around 1914 built a grand house for his new wife. In the early 1920s an extension was made to the rear (now removed), the interior of the front part of the house redecorated with dark timber panelling, plate rails and wallpaper friezes, and one side verandah extended to create a sleep-out, presumably for the growing family.

Glenside homestead is a grand weatherboard, late Queen Anne house with a very high hipped roof with gablets. It has three projecting gables: at the front and on both side elevations, all with decorative timber hoods over the tripartite sash windows. All gablets and projecting gables have a pressed-metal ram's horn ornament. The roof is clad in corrugated iron, which appears to be the original short sheets. There are three tall and slender brick chimneys with unusual corbelling - swelling outward to create a 'belly' about three-quarters of the way up. The return verandah has a skillion roof, is supported on turned timber posts and has a framed cast-iron frieze. The front door has an Edwardian door with an arched window at the top, small arched sidelights, and three transoms - all of these windows retain original leadlights.

The 1990s extension to the kitchen at the rear is not significant.

Behind the house is the former stable. It is a very simple transverse gabled building that has been reclad in corrugated

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iron. The original cladding, visible on the west wall, was weatherboards. Inside, the walls are covered with lining boards. There is a raise feed-storage room at the south end, as well as stalls and feed boxes. There is a recent lean-to addition to the rear (which is not significant).

The woolshed is believed to date from the 19th century, before the property was divided amongst the Anderson sons. It is still in use and retains a 19th-century timber wool press. The building, including additions, roughly has an L-shaped plan. The bottom of the 'L', at the rear, appears to be the oldest section. It is a small gabled building with a lean-to on one side, clad in hand-split weatherboards, and resting on high log stumps.

How is it significant?

Glenside homestead and outbuildings are of local historic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with the Anderson family, who were pioneer selectors in the Yea district and continue to have a presence in the area. Glenside is the only one of the four original Anderson-family properties still in family hands. Also as an illustration of a turn-of-the-century rural property which retains early outbuildings, including a woolshed with an early timber woolpress, and a stable. (RNE criteria H.1, A.4)

Architecturally, as an unusually grand late Queen Anne house with a very high hipped roof and multiple gables, in an attractive rural setting. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Woolshed, stable
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



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**Name** Switzerland Station  
**Address** 324 Switzerland Road GHIN GHIN  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Designer / Architect** Flanagan, Leo J, La Patourel, A      **Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Arts and Crafts

**Maker / Builder** Hunter, JA

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND STATION

Switzerland Station, No. 49 in the Murray District, located on the Goulburn River 6 miles north of Yea, was originally a pastoral run of 11,420 acres with a grazing capacity of 100 cattle and 4,500 sheep. It was first licensed to Thomas Grant. From 1845 to 1866, the lease appears in the names of George S or Robert Grant, and then passed to the descendants of Robert Grant - Alexander Thomas Grant, George Sutherland McKeith Grant and Wilhelmina McKeith Grant. A map titled 'Switzerland Pre-emptive Section surveyed for Thomas Grant Esq' of 1862 shows a woolshed, and another tiny building next to a fenced paddock in the approximate location of the present homestead. There is also a sheep dip to the south-west of this site.[5]

George Grant was a member of the first Yea Road Board and its first elected chairman. The Grants held Switzerland Station until 1874 when it passed into the hands of Grice and Summer as a result of the rural depression.[1]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1867, and three reefs worked. The Ghin Ghin township grew up around the Switzerland pastoral run. Nigel Sinnott in his Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, notes that in its heyday, Ghin Ghin had 13 houses, two shops, and 'innumerable shanties and huts built by the several thousand hopeful miners and fossickers who flocked there'.[2] A school was established in 1881 but eventually closed in 1930.

After several changes of ownership Switzerland Station was sold to Albert and Arthur Tyson in the early 1890s, prior to the major economic depression. The Tysons grazed cattle rather than sheep on the Switzerland river flats. In the early twentieth century it was sold to the Aitken brothers. In November 1905 a tender was let to Leonard John Flannagan to design a villa residence for A N Aitken at Switzerland. The builder was James A Hunter.[3] Alfred Aitken lived at the homestead.

Architect Leonard J Flannagan (1864-1946) was responsible for many notable works including dwellings, several churches and convents and works for the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust. A number of his buildings are on the Victorian Heritage Register including: Darnlee, a grand Queen Anne house of 1899 in Toorak (VHR H1024); the Elizabethan style Little Sisters of the Poor Convent in Northcote of 1888-90 (H1950); and a number of buildings for the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust, including a shelter in Caulfield of c1915 (H0174).

Historian of Yea, Harvey Blanks writes that 'the homestead was destroyed by fire, and was replaced with a brick building designed by Arthur Le Patourel, who acquired it in 1910.'[2] Curiously, the current homestead is an early 20th-century timber building (with rough-cast details), instead of a brick one. Behind it is a tiny render brick cottage. It could be that the Flannagan-designed house was not burnt down entirely, but repaired instead. Le Patourel may have built the brick cottage behind it as temporary quarters.

Four years later, Switzerland was sold to Robert McCracken who improved the property. McCracken was a member of the Shire Council and President of the Yea Agricultural, Horticultural and Pastoral Association for many years. Local historian, Harvey Blanks notes that McCracken so greatly improved the property by top-dressing and other scientific improvements that it won a wide reputation as a producer of fat bullocks. McCracken sold to John Paterson Davis in 1952 and it remains in the family.

It is understood the original roof was tiled but was replaced with corrugated iron by John Davis. Most of the outbuildings were destroyed in the 1969 bushfires which devastated the area.[4]

Sources:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[1] Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 284.; and Spreadborough & Anderson, Victorian Squatters, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 70.

[2] Harvey Blanks, The Story of Yea, Hawthorn Press, 1973, pp. 85, 117, 243, 256, 261.

[3] Miles Lewis Index.

[4] Pers. comm., Charles Davis, 2008.

[5] PROV VPRS 15899 Historic Plan Collection, microfiche #136, Pr S43.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

Switzerland Station homestead is set in a large garden with many mature trees, including an oak tree in front of the house and sycamores on the east side of the house. Behind it is a small brick cottage with a weatherboard extension and a tiny rendered shed.

The homestead is a sprawling building with a high hipped roof, fronted by a broad half-timbered gable, jettied over the entrance, and a variety of gabled wings extending from it. The walls have a shiplap dado, up to window-sill height, while the upper walls are finished in roughcast render with chamfered timber framing. The verandah wraps around nearly the entire building. The windows are one-over-one sashes, single or in threes. There are also windows flanking some of the many doors into the house. The house has several very tall and slender brick chimneys (overpainted) with decorative roughcast and mouldings on the upper third.

At the south-west corner of the house is a striking Scottish Baronial semi-circular bay window. Beneath its low roof is a band of roughcast, then two rows of terracotta shingles, above four curved sash windows with multiple panes in lead comes. The base of the bay is clad in vertical boards, which have been varnished (this finish appears to be recent).

The east wing of the house has a long hipped roof with a broken-back profile. The hipped part is narrower than the rooms beneath, and the skillion part of the roof is then continuous with the wrap-around verandah, giving an exaggerated silhouette.

On the right (west) side of the projecting entrance bay the verandah roof has been extended and enclosed with fly wire, an alteration which dates from the 1920s (judging from the style of the screen door). Within this enclosure a single original curved timber verandah bracket survives. The verandah post bases have been replaced with concrete (possibly in the 1920s).

At the rear, there have been several alterations to the kitchen. The chimney has been removed, leaving the external breast. Two windows (on the east and west sides) have been replaced with picture windows. The roof is now clad in corrugated iron, which replaced the original tiles in the 1950s (Pers. comm., Charles Davis, 2008).

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Inside, the fireplaces are all marble with corbels under the mantel shelf (white marble, and black marble in the former dining room) - a style typical of the 19th century and rather out of date for a grand house of the early 20th century.

The house is in fair to good condition.

Behind the house is a modest cottage (or outbuilding) built in two stages. The first section is roughcast rendered brick with a pyramidal roof extending over a verandah on the west and north sides. As the ground slopes away to the south, the verandah rests on a brick plinth, with concrete topping. There are two rooms in this section, both with 4-panelled doors (bottom two panels flush, top two glazed. The rendered section was extended in weatherboard, surrounding the core on the south and east sides. A room on the south side has a fireplace and served as accommodation. The door leading to it is the same type as those in the rendered section. Its window hardware appears to date from the first decade of the 20th century (a sash fastener with a turned knob at the top). The eastern weatherboard section is a utility area, with an opening (no doors) under the north-side verandah. It appears that the original rendered cottage was expanded and altered in the early 20th century. The cottage is in good to fair condition (some weatherboard replacement needed).

Behind the cottage is a tiny gable-fronted shed with a smooth rendered finish with a golden cast to it. The roof and gable are covered in corrugated iron. There is a simple timber bargeboard (in poor condition). There is a doorway (no door) on the north face and a window on the west side, both are framed in timber. Inside, the walls are also finished in smooth render. The roof framing is of sawn timbers.

There are no other early outbuildings around the site, as the farm buildings burnt down in the 1969 bushfires (Pers. comm., C Davis, 2008).

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. If the verandah is restored in the future, reproduce the surviving timber bracket found next to the front door.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

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- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Switzerland Station homestead and garden, 324 Switzerland Road, Ghin Ghin. Switzerland Station, No. 49 in the Murray District, located on the Goulburn River 6 miles north of Yea, was originally a pastoral run of 11,420 acres with a grazing capacity of 100 cattle and 4,500 sheep. It was first licensed to Thomas Grant. From 1845 to 1866, the lease appears in the names of George S or Robert Grant, and then passed to the descendants of Robert Grant. Gold was discovered in the area in 1867, and three reefs worked. The Ghin Ghin township grew up around the Switzerland pastoral run.

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After several changes of ownership Switzerland Station was sold to Albert and Arthur Tyson in the early 1890s, prior to the major economic depression. The Tysons grazed cattle rather than sheep on the Switzerland river flats. In the early twentieth century it was sold to the Aitken brothers. In November 1905 a tender was let to Leonard John Flannagan to design a villa residence for A N Aitken at Switzerland. The builder was James A Hunter.

Reportedly, the house burnt down in 1910 and a new one was designed in brick by then-owner Arthur Le Patourel. However, the current house is timber with roughcast, while there is a tiny brick cottage behind it, leaving the question open of whether the Flannagan-designed house may have survived.

In 1914, Switzerland was sold to Robert McCracken who improved the property. McCracken was a member of the Shire Council and President of the Yea Agricultural, Horticultural and Pastoral Association for many years.

Switzerland Station homestead is set in a large garden with many mature trees, including a pair of Italian cypresses flanking the entry, an oak tree in front of the house and sycamores on the east side of the house. Behind it is a small brick cottage with a weatherboard extension and a tiny rendered shed. The homestead is a sprawling building with a high hipped roof, fronted by a broad half-timbered gable, jettied over the entrance, and a variety of gabled wings extending from it. The walls have a shiplap dado, up to window-sill height, while the upper walls are finished in roughcast render with chamfered timber framing. The verandah wraps around nearly the entire building. The windows are one-over-one sashes, single or in threes. There are also windows flanking some of the many doors into the house. The house has several very tall and slender brick chimneys (overpainted) with decorative roughcast and mouldings on the upper third. At the south-west corner of the house is a striking Scottish Baronial semi-circular bay window. The east wing of the house has a long hipped roof with a broken-back profile. The hipped part is narrower than the rooms beneath, and the skillion part of the roof is then continuous with the wrap-around verandah, giving an exaggerated silhouette.

How is it significant?

Switzerland Station is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the original pastoral runs in the area and for its associations with the Grant family, including squatter Thomas Grant and George Grant, a member of the first Yea Road Board and its first elected chairman. And for associations with accomplished architect Leonard J Flannagan, who designed in 1905 for Alfred Aitken a new house. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, as a sprawling early-20th-century affluent country house set in a large garden with many mature trees. (RNE criterion E.1)

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Cottage, shed
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Switzerland Station Burial Ground  
**Address** 324 Switzerland Road GHIN GHIN  
**Place Type** Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND STATION

Switzerland Station, No. 49 in the Murray District, located on the Goulburn River 6 miles north of Yea was originally a pastoral run of 11,420 acres carrying 100 cattle and 4,500 sheep. It was licensed to Thomas Grant 32 months prior to New South Wales Order-in-Council of October 1847. From 1845 to 1866, the lease appears in the names of George S or Robert Grant, and then passes to the descendants of Robert Grant - Alexander Thomas, George Sutherland McKeith Grant and Wilhelmina McKeith Grant. George Grant was a member of the first Yea Road Board and its first elected chairman. The Grants held Switzerland Station until 1874 when it passed into the hands of Grice and Summer as a result of the rural depression. After several changes of ownership it was sold to Albert and Arthur Tyson in the early 1890s, prior to the major economic depression. The Tyson's grazed cattle rather than sheep on the Switzerland flats. In the early twentieth century it was sold to the Aitken brothers.

This burial ground was used for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal burials. It is a raised mound immediately north of the homestead garden fence. Local resident, Ian Newman's great-great-grandmother, Sarah Newman, wife of Henry Newman, station labourer, and who died in c.1860-1 is buried there. Sarah was born in 1806 in the Parish of St George in East London. She was the daughter of Thomas Richmond and Sarah (nee Simmons). It is family legend that she died of an infection to the eye as a result of stone being thrown accidentally. However, at this time a death certificate was not issued and an inquest did not take place. Both Sarah and Henry had been employed at Habbies Howe station, adjoining Switzerland Station. Aboriginals are also said to be buried there.[1]

Source:

[1] Personal conversation, Ian Newman 4/4/08.

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

The burial ground is located directly in front of the homestead garden, on the north side, between the front fence and a curved drive. It is in the form of an earth mound, next to which is a mature deciduous tree. The mound and around the mound are over a dozen long depressions of the approximate size of a grave. None of them are marked

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

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1. Keep the burial mound clear of plantings (apart from grass).

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The burial ground at Switzerland Station, 324 Switzerland Road, Highlands. Switzerland Station was licensed to Thomas Grant in 1845-66, and then his family until 1874 when it passed into the hands of Grice and Summer as a result of the rural depression. After several changes of ownership it was sold to Albert and Arthur Tyson in the early 1890s, prior to the major economic depression. It not known precisely when the first burial was made at the Switzerland Station burial ground, but Sarah Newman, wife of Henry Newman, station labourer, and who died in c.1860-1 is buried there. She worked at the neighbouring Habbies Howe Station at the time of her death. Aboriginals are also said to be buried there.

The burial ground is located directly in front of the homestead garden, on the north side, between the front fence and a curved drive. It is in the form of an earth mound, next to which is a mature deciduous tree. The mound and around the mound are over a dozen long depressions of the approximate size of a grave. None of them are marked.

How is it significant?

The burial ground at Switzerland Station is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for associations with the early settlers in the area who are buried here, like the Newman family. (RNE criterion H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	-
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	-
<b>Tree Controls</b>	-
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	-
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	-
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	-

## Other Recommendations

Joint HO with Switzerland Station recommended

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**Name** Glenburn Primary School No 3344, former  
**Address** 3873 Melba Highway GLENBURN  
**Place Type** School - State (public)  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes  
**Designer / Architect** Public Works Department

## History and Historical Context

*Cited from the Heritage Victoria place citation, accessed 29/03/11*

### CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

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## *One-room schools*

By the 1870s the Education Department had established standard plans for one-room schools, of which hundreds were built. The predominant two types were those for accommodating either forty or sixty pupils. Most were built of wood, and roofs were at first of shingles, later of corrugated iron. The school for forty was about 24 ft by 16 ft.

From 1885 to 1901 over half of new school building work was additions and relocations: from 1894-99 virtually no new schools were built (Peterson, p 5). From the 1870s portable buildings, which had teachers' quarters even smaller than those of the forty-type schools, became common. Throughout the 1880s these were virtually the only type of one-room school built, but no more were built after c 1890. Transport costs for the portable builds were high, and often in remote areas it was cheaper to build a school locally to the same plan and specifications as the portables. Most of these were built in north-east Victoria and the Otway Ranges. In the period 1900-1920, 650 new schools were built.

## *School residences*

The Education Department always attached residences, of two to four rooms, to single room schools, as it was cheaper than providing a separate residence. However they were considered to be inadequate for their purpose, especially if the teacher had a family. After 1880 the number of rooms in residences attached to forty type schools was supposed to be three. (Peterson, p 7) After 1888 detached residences were required (Peterson)

## *The Upper Goulburn Region*

The schools in the Upper Goulburn region in the nineteenth century 'tended to be small wooden one-room buildings, generally termite ridden, with galvanised iron roofing' (*Vision & Realisation*, v 3, p 625). Though the schools in the larger towns were more substantial, the typical school facility was the small single or double-room timber school, which served the immediate rural vicinity. Attendances were small, between about seven and thirty. Schooling was not always regular, and in this region many schools operated on a half-time basis. Floods and seasonal work made considerable inroads into many students' school time.

## HISTORY OF PLACE

The increasing population of the Glenburn area in the 1890s indicated a need for a local school. The school site of one acre was acquired from D & M McLeish at a cost of £5 in 1899, and the building was completed on 25 March 1900. The drawings are dated October 1899 and the contract December 1899. The elevation was virtually the same as for the nineteenth century 'ordinary school for forty', but the plan dimensions correspond to those for portable schools.

The original building consisted of one classroom and a two-room living quarters for the teacher. The school was intended for an average attendance of 20-25 pupils. The first Head Teacher was Annie Robertson, who enrolled fifteen pupils in 1902. Until 1905 the school was known as State School 3344 Woodbourne South, but as there was another school at Woodburn (No 2875) it was changed to Glenburn.

In an effort to contain the cost and number of small schools the Education department had for many years set minimum enrolments for the establishment of new schools, and, to cover the gaps, offered conveyance allowances or worked existing schools part time (L E Burchell, 'Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940', 1989, pp i-ii). Attendances at Glenburn declined and from 1907, threatened by closure, the school operated part-time with SS Murrindindi, with the teacher shared between the two schools. By 1938 with enrolments above thirty, a Senior Master was appointed.

The teachers' quarters were very small and were seldom used, as boarding at the hotel or with local residents was preferred, and in the late 1940s the classroom space was expanded by removing the partitions between the classroom and the teacher's quarters and between the two rooms of the quarters. In 1952 a timber residence was built adjacent to the school.

The changes made in the late 1940s included: the removal of the partitions between the classroom and teacher's quarters and between the two rooms of the teacher's quarters; the removal of a verandah (possibly a cloak room?) on the north

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side and the filling in of the door and window openings on this side of the building and the addition of two new chalkboards.

There is a shelter shed to the west of the school building. One is shown in the same position in the c1950 PWD drawings for the changes to the school. It is assumed that this is the same as the existing shelter shed.

The school closed in 1993. The enrolment at the time was eleven. The property was purchased by the Yea Shire (now Murrindindi), and the school is run by the Glenburn Hall and Progress Association Inc.

## SOURCES:

LJ Blake (Ed.), *Vision and realisation: A centenary history of state education in Victoria* (Vol. 1). Melbourne: Education Department of Victoria, 1973.

LE Burchell, 'Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940', 1989.

R Peterson, 'Historic Government Schools: A Comparative Study', for Heritage Management Branch (Dept of Planning and Development), 1993.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.1 Education in Victoria

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Glenburn Primary School No 3344 is a single storey weatherboard building with twelve-paned double-hung sash windows and a corrugated iron roof. It originally comprised a gable-roofed classroom on one side of the building and teacher's quarters of two small rooms, expressed by two smaller transverse gables, on the other side, with separate entrance porches for each. Some of the internal partitions have now been removed. At the centre is a brick chimney with fireplaces on each side to warm both the classroom and the teacher's quarters. The fireplaces have been bricked up, but the mantels above have been retained. The interior, including the coved ceiling, is lined with Baltic pine. The former entrance porch to the classroom has been blocked off and converted into a kitchenette. On the classroom wall is an honour board to former students and staff who served in World War I. To the west of the school building is a timber shelter shed, with seats around three sides of the interior, which appears in the 1940s drawings.

Works in 2011 uncovered infestation by termites in the floor and wall timbers.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider relocating the modern metal shed from the front of the site, as it obscures views to the Shelter Shed and schoolhouse.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Comparative Analysis

The single-room school houses known to survive in the Shire of Murrindidi, apart from the Glenburn SS, are:

The former Kanumbra State School No 1932, 276 Kanumbra-Gobur Road, Gobur, is a single-room weatherboard school house, built by the Public Works Department in 1921. It is quite intact, but was moved from its original location to a private property in the 1970s.

The former Kinglake State School No 2188, 6 McMahons Road, Kinglake, was a single-room timber schoolhouse, constructed to a Department of Education design in 1927. It has undergone a number of alterations and additions.

The Kinglake West State School No 3255 is another single-room schoolhouse built in 1922-23. It has been extensively altered.

The former Molesworth State School No 2253, 4394 Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth, was a single-room timber schoolhouse, which has since been enlarged for use as a private residence. Its construction date is not known, but it appears to date from c1915-25.

Thornton State School No 1371, 9 Back Eildon Road, Thornton, has two phases of construction. The first small, single-room school dates from 1902, with the addition of an additional room in 1923. Both sections are quite intact. In the yard is a shelter shed of c1920s, and a mature oak planted in 1923.

In comparison, the Glenburn Primary School No 3344 is the earliest known single-room schoolhouse in the Shire. While the 1902 schoolroom in Thornton is quite close in age and intact in detail, the addition of a larger room in 1923 greatly changes its appearance and scale.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Glenburn Primary School, State School No 3344, built in 1900. The original building consisted of once classroom and diminutive two-room living quarters for the teacher within the same building. It is a single-storey weatherboard building with six-over-six sash windows and a corrugated iron-clad roof. It originally comprised a gable-roofed classroom on one side of the building and teacher's quarters, expressed by two transverse gables, on the other side, with separate entrance porches.

Inside, a wall between the classroom and teacher's quarters has been removed. It retains a brick chimney at the centre with fireplaces on either side (the fireplaces have been bricked up, but the mantels remain). The interior walls and ceilings are lined with Baltic pine. On the classroom wall is an honour board to former students and staff who served in World War I.

The kitchenette (in the former entrance porch to the classroom) is not significant.

The pre-1940 timber shelter shed to the west of the school building, with seats around three sides of the interior, is also

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significant.

How is it significant?

The former schoolhouse and shelter shed are of local historical, architectural and social significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, it is significant as a largely intact example of a small country school built at the turn of the nineteenth century. The one-room timber school with an attached teacher's residence was one of the most common types of schools built in country Victoria in the late nineteenth century, but although hundreds of such schools were built few have survived intact. It is the earliest such school known to survive in the Shire of Murrindindi and one of the most intact. The shelter shed with wooden bench seats around three sides of the interior is now an unusual example of its kind. (Criteria D & B)

Historically, it is significant as a demonstration of the way in which many of the children in rural localities of the Shire of Murrindindi were educated around the turn of the nineteenth century. The small size of such rural schools and of their attached teacher's residences is a reflection of the small numbers of children enrolled in such isolated rural schools and demonstrates the differences in the school facilities provided in these areas compared to those in larger towns. (Criterion A)

Socially, it is significant as a centre for Glenburn children and their families for over a hundred years. From 1900 to 1993 it served as the local primary school, and is still used as a community centre owned by the Murrindindi Shire Council. A local community member nominated the former schoolhouse to the Victorian Heritage Register in 2009, giving further expression to their attachment to the former schoolhouse. (Criterion G)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

Yes

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Shelter Shed

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Allen Homestead (former)  
**Address** 1095 Yarck Road GOBUR  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF GOBUR

Gobur is a Parish, township, pastoral run and former goldfield. The township is located on Godfrey's Creek.[1] The Gobur pastoral run of 60,000 acres was named by Henry Godfrey who was the licensee 1845-46, and was listed in William Henry Wells' 1848 Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies as 'Gobier'. [2] The township was also known as Godfrey's Creek, O'Brientown and Pennington - after Ezekial Wilson Pennington. [3] Pennington was the first to discover gold on a tributary of the Goulburn, north of the UT Creek. News of the Gobur goldfield appeared in the Alexandra Times on 21 August 1868. Local historian, Brian Lloyd writes that Gobur once threatened to eclipse Alexandra as a mining town, but its prosperity was short-lived as mining declined and it became entirely a farming community. Gobur was pioneered by the Burge, Cumming and Gartlan families. [4] In 1974, the Victorian Municipal Directory recorded that Gobur had a post and telegraph office and public hall. The town's population was not noted. [5]

### HISTORY OF ALLEN HOMESTEAD

George Pittock Allen, farmer, applied for a license to occupy 20 acres (Allotment 16, Parish of Gobur), the site of the present house, in April 1877. On the application it was noted that part of the allotment lay in an 'auriferous [gold-bearing] area'. A John Ryan added a letter to Allen's application, declaring that he had 'no objection to George Allen Selecting the land on which my Hut stands.' After holding a lease to Allotment 16 for 9 years, Allen the applied to purchase it in June 1886. He noted that 5 of the 20 acres were under cultivation, and that there was a stockyard and shed, a storeroom (15 x 10 feet) and stable (15 x 15 feet), both with slab walls and a bark roof, on the site. He noted that he did not yet reside on this allotment, as he already had 'a good residence three chains from this land. Intend to build a residence in it shortly.' This residence was reportedly on the 'opposite side of the road.' [6]

Allen received a Crown Grant of Crown Allotment 16 Section C of 20 acres 10 perches in the Parish of Gobur on 8 September 1886. He may have built a house on the site shortly after purchase, as intended. Local sources mention a sapling and timber house built by Allen in the 1880s. [5]

Allen died on 21 April 1895 and the property transferred to Fredrick Pilcher Allen, farmer, of Queensland. In January 1910, William Allen and Shadrach Allen purchased 231 acres and 23 perches of Crown Allotments 15B, 16, 32 and 33 of Section C in the Parish of Gobur; and on 17 July 1910 they purchased 5 acres 3 roods 8 perches of Crown Allotment 15A, Section 1A, Crown Allotment 15C, Section C in the Parish of Gobur. Shadrach Allen's property holdings in March 1911 included town allotments 15A, Section 1, 15B, 15C, 16, 33 and 34 in Section C. Shadrach Allen retained the property until his death on 9 February 1961, at which time it passed to Shadrach Vincent Allen of Furlong Road, Seven Creeks, Euroa, farmer. He retained it until at least the 1980s (Land Title 3491/029).

George Pittock Allen (d 1895, 59 years), his wife Isabella (d 1900, 66 years) and their son George (d 1896, 24 years) share a marble gravestone in the Gobur Cemetery.

Sources:

[1] Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515; Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 215.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 64-5.

[3] Ibid., p. 65.

[4] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, p. 59.

[5] Personal conversation Ian Newman, 4/4/08, 2005.

[6] PROV VPRS 439/P0 Unit 1, File 49/4.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2. SETTLING THE LAND

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Allen homestead is a Victorian weatherboard building with a high hipped, corrugated iron roof. The central doorway with transom is flanked by sash windows. There is a gable-fronted wing to the left-hand side, probably added in the 1930s.

When viewed in 2006, the front verandah of the 19th-century section had been removed and the glazing removed from the windows. When visited again, in 2008, the property had been subdivided and the house fixed up for sale. A new verandah had been built. It has a nearly flat skillion roof and is not very appropriate.

Two sheds, one next to and one behind the house had been fixed up, but a larger, corrugated-iron-clad shed to the south of the house had been demolished. The surviving sheds may date from the 19th century, and certainly from the Allen family occupation.

There are mature Monterey Pines at the front (eastern side) of the property.

The house could only be viewed from a distance on both occasions.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider rebuilding the front verandah in accordance with documentary sources, such as photos.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is

affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

### Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Allen Homestead, at 1095 Yarck Road, Gobur. George Pittock Allen, farmer, applied for a license to occupy 20 acres (Allotment 16, Parish of Gobur), the site of the present house, in April 1877. Allen was able to purchase the land in 1886, at which time he noted that 5 of the 20 acres were under cultivation, and that there was a stockyard and shed, a storeroom (15 x 10 feet) and stable (15 x 15 feet), both with slab walls and a bark roof, on the site. He noted that he did not yet reside on this allotment, as he already had 'a good residence three chains from this land. Intend to build a residence in it shortly.' Local sources mention a sapling and timber house built by Allen in the 1880s.

George Pittock Allen died in 1895 and the property transferred to Fredrick Pilcher Allen, farmer, of Queensland. In 1911 Allotment 16 passed into the hands of Shadrach Allen, who retained it until his death in 1961. It remained in the Allen family at least until the 1980s.

The homestead is a Victorian weatherboard building of c1887 with a high hipped, corrugated iron roof. The central doorway with transom is flanked by sash windows. There is a gable-fronted wing to the left-hand side, probably added in the 1930s by Shadrach Allen. The verandah has recently been replaced and is not significant.

There are also two timber sheds, which date from the Allen family ownership.

How is it significant?

The former Allen Homestead is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

There are mature trees along the eastern boundary of the property.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the home for over 100 years to the Allen family, who were early settlers in Gobur. Also as one of the few 19th century buildings to survive in the township area of Gobur, which once threatened to eclipse Alexandra as a mining town, but its prosperity was short-lived. It also retains early outbuildings which add to understanding of the site. (RNE criteria H.1, B.2, A.4)

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Monterey Pines
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Sheds
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Crathie  
**Address** 1 Frees Road GOBUR  
**Place Type** Farm  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF GOBUR

Gobur is a Parish, township, pastoral run and former goldfield. The township is located on Godfrey's Creek.[1] The Gobur pastoral run of 60,000 acres was named by Henry Godfrey who was the licensee 1845-46, and was listed in William Henry Wells' 1848 Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies as 'Gobier'. It had a grazing capacity of 3,500 sheep.[2] The township was also known as Godfrey's Creek, O'Brientown and Pennington - after Ezekial Wilson Pennington.[3] Pennington was the first to discover gold on a tributary of the Goulburn, north of the UT Creek. News of the Gobur goldfield appeared in the Alexandra Times on 21 August 1868. Local historian, Brian Lloyd writes that Gobur once threatened to eclipse Alexandra as a mining town, but its prosperity was short-lived as mining declined and it became entirely a farming community. Gobur was pioneered by the Burge, Cumming and Gartlan families.[4] In 1974, the Victorian Municipal Directory recorded that Gobur had a post and telegraph office and public hall. The town's population was not noted.[5]

### HISTORY OF CRATHIE

Thomas Cumming, born in Aberdeenshire Scotland in 1831, and his wife Christina (née Ferrier) born 1836, arrived in Melbourne in 1857 and went to the McIvor (Heathcote) diggings, where their son John was born. Thomas had bakeries at Rushworth and Echuca, and further children, before coming to the Alexandra district. Three more children were born and registered at Alexandra and Gobur. In all, they had five sons and two daughters. As local historian, Brian Lloyd writes, by June 1868 Thomas was established as a baker at Gobur, where he supplemented his income by acting for mining companies. In 1877 he selected 80 acres which he named Crathie after his birthplace in Scotland - within sight of Balmoral Castle.[6]

His application for lease of the yet unsurveyed land (which became Allotment 23) was dated 19 Oct 1877. An unmade track ran northward through the land, and there were several complaints when Thomas Cumming fenced off access to it. By 1880 the Cumming family had already constructed a five-room weatherboard house (33 x 40 feet) with an 'iron & shingle' roof; a barn (32 x 12) of sawn timber with an 'iron & shingle' roof, and a storeroom, built of 'round timber' (i.e., logs) with a bark roof (20 x 14). By 1890, there was also a weatherboard workshop with bark roof (20 x 12), a log stable with bark roof (24 x 18), two log and bark sheds (20 x 10, 15 x 10).[7] The present log building on the site could have been any of these log outbuildings (which one could be more accurately determined by measuring it).

Thomas Cumming died on 1 August 1882, aged 51. He died intestate, so shortly after his sons applied to have the lease on the 80 acres transferred to his widow, Christina.

In 1883, Thomas Cumming Junior, who began his working life as a carrier to the railway at Longwood, selected 200 acres on the opposite side of Merton Road; his brother William, selected 140 acres adjacent to Crathie. William died in 1890, leaving his property to his brother George who bred thoroughbreds in the 1890s. Thomas junior took over the Commercial Hotel at Gobur from Roland Cramer in 1890 and married Cramer's niece, Christina Victoria. He ran the hotel as well as the farm at Crathie. In the early 1900s he managed the Mount Gobur mine.

John Webster Cumming, the eldest son of Thomas Senior and Christina Cumming, married Sarah Allsop in 1885. The lived at the property Fernlea in Gobur. In 1888 John built the first creamery in the area.[6]



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In March 1896, Christina Cumming of Gobur, widow of Thomas Senior, applied for a Crown Grant of Crown Allotment 23 of Section A1 in the Parish of Gobur (Land Title 2633/521). The purchase price was £80. The property remained in the family, as ownership transferred to her son George Watson Cumming on 28 March 1907. On 19 April 1905 George Watson Cumming had purchased in addition, for £140, Crown Allotment 44 in Section 1A of the Parish of Gobur (Land Title 3067/295). Both properties were then transferred to Jane Free of Gobur on 19 September 1914 and on 19 May 1936 to Susan Isobella Cumming and Jane Victoria Cumming. In 1971 the properties were transferred to Ray Rowntree Cumming who died in 1989. Probate was granted to Marjorie Joan Cumming of 'Crathie', Gobur, on 15 August 1989. The property remains within the Cumming family.

Sources:

[1] Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515; Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 215.

[2] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, p. 64-5.

[3] Ibid., p. 65.

[4] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, 2006, p. 59.

[5] Victorian Municipal Directory op.cit, p. 515.

[6] Lloyd, 2006, p 291.

[7] PROV VPRS 626/P0 Unit 19, File 1262.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2. SETTLING THE LAND

#### 4.1 Mining

## Description

### Physical Description

At the corner of Frees Road and the Kanumbra-Gobur Road is a homestead site with a small log outbuilding, a 19th-century house built in three or four phases, and a corrugated-iron clad barn.

The farmhouse has four sections. The section at the rear appears to be the oldest: it has a steeply pitched transverse roof, with an external corbelled brick chimney at the east end. Considering the roof form, this section appears to date from the 1870s. The roof iron is rusted and may be early. At the front of the farmhouse is a second transverse gabled roof section (with a slightly lower pitch and no eaves), and a front skillion verandah. There is a central front door flanked by two windows (replaced by aluminium sliding windows). This section of the house also dates from the 19th century. Between the two early, gable-roofed sections, is a skillion-roofed extension behind the front of the house, which projects out to the west. It has aluminium windows and sliding door. Between this extension and the 1870s house at the back is a small, nearly flat-roofed link with a small verandah on the east side.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Next to the house, on the east side, stands a small log cabin with a steeply pitched roof. The walls are made of roughly squared logs, which have lost their chinking. The gables are clad in unpainted, handsplit weatherboards. The door is on the west gable end.

Further east from the log cabin is a large barn clad in corrugated iron. It was not inspected closely, but may be early as well.

Log cabins were not common in Victoria, but were mostly used on the goldfields, as was this one. The earliest surviving examples date from the 1850s (Miles Lewis, 'Victorian Primitive', 1977, pp 23-25). This is one of only three 19th-century log cabins identified in Murrindindi Shire - all related to mining. The other two are: c1868 cabin at 825 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett (also recommended for an HO), and Strathmore, c1870s, at 1790 Falls Road, Strath Creek (recording only recommended, due to its very poor condition).

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider finding an on-going use for the log cabin, so that it undergoes regular maintenance and is kept weather-tight.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

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4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Crathie, at 1 Frees Road, Gobur. It is a homestead site established c1877 with a small log outbuilding, a 19th-century house built in three or four phases, and a corrugated-iron clad barn, which may be pre-1890 in date. The land (80 acres) was selected in 1877 by Thomas Cumming, and his wife Christina, who had come from Scotland in 1857. They first went to the McIvor (Heathcote) gold diggings, and then moved to Gobur in 1868, where Thomas established a bakery. At Crathie, named after Thomas' birthplace, they built a weatherboard home, a barn, and a log storehouse, and planted an orchard and vegetable garden. Thomas died in 1882. In 1896 his widow, Christina, applied for a Crown Grant to the land. It has remained in the Cumming family to the present day.

The Crathie homestead is a small building built in four phases. The section at the rear appears to be the oldest (c1877): it has a steeply pitched transverse roof, with an external corbelled brick chimney at the east end. At the front of the house is a second transverse gabled roof section (with a slightly lower pitch and no eaves), and a front skillion verandah. This also dates from the 19th century. Between the two early sections are two extensions of later date.

Next to the house, on the east side, stands a small log outbuilding with a steeply pitched roof. The walls are made of

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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roughly squared logs, which have lost their chinking. The gables are clad in hand-split weatherboards. As it has no windows, it probably served as a storehouse.

Further east from the log cabin is a large barn clad in corrugated iron. It was not inspected closely, but may be early as well.

How is it significant?

Crathie homestead and outbuildings are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as tangible evidence of its associations with the Cumming family for over 130 years. Thomas and Christina Cumming came to Gobur in 1868, the same year the Gobur goldfield was discovered, making them one of the pioneer families in the area. Very little of the township remains, making the Crathie hamestead complex a rare survivor. In addition, the log outbuilding is a rare survivor of the goldfields. Only two others have been identified in the shire. (RNE criteria H.1, A.4, B.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

No
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Log cabin, barn
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Gobur Cemetery  
**Address** Yarek Road GOBUR  
**Place Type** Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF GOBUR

Early cemeteries, memorials to the lives of the early settlers, were established in country towns by the end of the 19th century. Pioneering life, while adventurous, was often short lived, and many people died young as life and work on the land could be dangerous; life could be cut short through timber cutting and mining accidents, bushfires and floods. In the late nineteenth century, it was common for women to die in childbirth and for children to die of childhood diseases. Cemeteries, though essential, were not always a first priority for towns, and in the earliest days of settlement, family members may have been buried on their properties.

According to John Waghorn's history of the area, 'Gobur and the Golden Gate, a history of the Township and Parish of Gobur in the Shire of Alexandra', shallow alluvial gold was discovered at Godfrey's Creek on the Gobur pastoral run in August 1868, not far from the site of the present township of Yarck. The discoverer, Ezekial Wilson Pennington, had also been responsible for finding the Ghin Ghin field the previous year. When gold was discovered the population of the small town swelled, and the presence of increasing numbers of families at Gobur is underlined by an enrolment of 43 children at the Common School in 1869.

### HISTORY OF CEMETERY

As the population increased, the necessity for a cemetery also increased. The Gobur Cemetery, laid out on Allotment 10C and 10D of Section B1 in the Parish of Gobur, was established in 1871. All early records of the Cemetery were lost when the Post Office burnt down in 1898.[1]

Source:

[1] J F Waghorn, *Gobur and the Golden gate, a history of the Township and Parish of Gobur in the Shire of Alexandra*, J.F. Waghorn, Thomastown, 1981, pp. 2-4 and p. 75.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.5 Commemorating

4.1 Mining

## Description

### Physical Description

The Gobur Cemetery is sited on a slight hill, with the entrance at the bottom, on the west side. Mature Monterey Pines trees encircle the site on the north and east sides. The cemetery is divided into roughly equal halves by a gravel path that runs east from the entrance gate.

The lower (western) half of the cemetery is empty, apart from a small modern cream-brick mausoleum on the left hand side of the path. There is a large grouping of graves two-thirds up the hill, on either side of the path. Most of those graves

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on the left (south) side are 19th-century graves with marble headstones and cast-iron fences around them. Those on the right (north) side are mostly mid-20th century. There is a small cluster of 19th and 20th century graves in the north-east corner of the cemetery. There is one more small group of 19th-century graves in the south-east corner of the cemetery, at the top of the hill, as well as a grave with a black-granite headstone just west of them.

Some of the earlier markers include (all marble headstones, unless otherwise noted):

-Robert Meggitt, d 1897

-Donald Stewart, d 1889

-George Eyre Simcocks, d 1879 & Hannah Simcocks - decoratively carved marble headstone which may have been added upon Hannah's death, within the same enclosure as a timber marker

-Charles Gay, d 1890

-Frederick Burge, d 1908 (unusual Gothic cast iron fence)

-John Coghill, d 1914 (polish red granite headstone)

-George Pittock Allen, d 1895, Isabella Allen, d 1900, George Allen, d 1895 (decorative carved marble headstone)

-Phillip Ryan, d 1914, John Ryan, d 1915 (polished black granite headstone)

The cemetery grounds are regularly maintained - most of the grass mowed and the path regravelled - but some of the early graves themselves are suffering from typical problems such as weathering and subsidence.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - CEMETERIES

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Under section 43.01-2 of the Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme, no permit is required for interments, burials and erection of monuments, re-use of graves, burial of cremated remains and exhumation of remains in accordance with the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003.
2. The essential elements and character of the cemetery should be protected through a maintenance program which recognises its overall significance and that of individual elements. This includes the layout, mature plantings, and graves.
3. Stabilisation and protection of the nineteenth century graves should be undertaken as a priority.
4. Conservation works should be undertaken by workers skilled in the repair and conservation of historic cemeteries.

In order to conserve the heritage significance of significant trees:

5. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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management.

6. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.

7. Maintain the integrity of the perimeter planting by replacing trees 'like with like' species (e.g., Monterey Cypress with Cupressus macrocarpa) unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.

8. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Gobur Cemetery, established in 1871, on Yarck-Gobur Road, Gobur. There are primarily 19th-century graves and a mausoleum on the south side of the cemetery, and mostly 20th-century graves on the north. The 19th-century headstones are all white marble, with cast-iron fences around them. There are also two pre-WWI polished-granite headstones. The site is encircled by mature Monterey Pines on the north and east sides.

How is it significant?

Gobur Cemetery is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for the history of the district recorded in its headstones as well as demonstrating the art of the stone mason in the memorials. Also for the associations with the early settlers in Gobur who are buried here, like the Allen family. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, for its picturesque situation on a hillside, with a backdrop of mature Monterey Pines. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Monterey Pines

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Kanumbra State School No 1932 (former)  
**Address** 276 Kanumbra - Gobur Road GOBUR  
**Place Type** School - State (public)  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Designer / Architect** Public Works Department

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KANUMBRA

Kanumbra Station was, for most of its existence, known as Millers Ponds, and Nigel Sinnott writes that the name alludes to a drowning in the area. The name was changed in c.1874 to Kanumbra by the last joint licensees J P Rowe and Dr David Edmund Stodart of Miller's Ponds Run. The settlement was named by land officer, John Hardy, of Alexandra, possibly after the pastoral run. Sinnott also records that Kanumbra probably came into being as a collection of properties in the parish of Yarck, along the road from Cathkin to Merton - what is today the Maroondah Highway. However, when the railway arrived in 1890, two stations were established - Yarck and Kanumbra, so the name Kanumbra gradually became restricted to and included only properties near the more northerly Kanumbra railway station. Until 1895 the state school was called Millers Ponds after the pastoral run. It is believed Kanumbra may be Aboriginal (Taungurong) meaning 'light or human spirit'. Kanumbra is described in the Victorian Municipal Directory of 1974 as a 'Village with post and telegraph office, two churches and rail'.[1]

### HISTORY OF SCHOOL

The former Kanumbra State School No. 1932 is now located on the Brilliant Estate. It was moved from the south-east corner of Maroondah Highway and McGuigans Road, Kanumbra, where a stand of mature Monterey Pines marks its former location.

This one room weatherboard building is typical of a small town school building. In April 1875 the first application for a school was made to the Education Department by W H Hewitt and T Nixon or Lorton Vale, Merton. They reported 22 children in the locality. District Inspector Main supported the application, naming the site of 5 acres as Allotment 57, Parish of Yarck on the Gobur Road. A wooden portable building, with teacher's quarters of two rooms attached, was erected at a cost of £189 and opened on 10 August 1877 with Charles B Beetson as Head Teacher. In 1880 State School No 1932 worked half-time with State School 1341 at Durham Gully. In 1895 the name changed from Millers Ponds to Kanumbra and in 1896 the annual attendance was 26. The following year it again became a full-time school as its population had increased to 46. State School 1341 at Durham Valley was closed.[2]

Kanumbra got a new schoolhouse in the early 1920s. A contract was let by the Public Works Department in June 1921, for construction of a one-room school of the Eumeralla Estate type. This was the second school of this type to be constructed (followed by only two more: Killawarra No 2860 in 1921, and Llowalong No 4007 in 1922). This type of schoolhouse, first used in Eumeralla (No 4066), only months earlier, was designed to serve up to 64 students, with a classroom measuring 21'6" by 21'0" (about 6.5 x 6.4 metres). It was distinguished by a recessed corner porch (also a feature of the very similar Bena type school, used at the same time, which was for 80 students). None of the four Eumeralla-type schools built are still in use as schools (Eumeralla Estate closed in 1929, Killawarra in 1941, and Llowalong in 1951).[3]

The school was closed in the late 1970s and was sold to Worrall Jones for \$500. He relocated it from the corner of Maroondah Highway and McGuigans Lane to the Brilliant Estate, where it was used by his wife as a crafts workshop.[4]

Sources:

[1] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra

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Library, Alexandra, 2003, pp. 80-1; Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515; Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 243.

[2] Vision and Realisation, pp. 684-5.

[3] LE Burchell, 'Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940', for Historic Buildings Branch, 1989, pp 25-26, 88 (plans of Eumeralla Estate school)

[4] Pers comm., Tom and Alison Jones, 24/5/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.1 Education in Victoria

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Kanumbra School is a one-room weatherboard schoolhouse of 1921, built to the same Public Works Department design as the Eumeralla Estate School, started two months earlier. This design is for a gable-roofed building with a bank of three multi-paned windows at one end. The other end has two transom windows and a recessed corner porch with a large multi-paned window beneath it. The porch has curved timber brackets. The side elevations do not have any windows, only vents. There are two circular roof vents at the peak of the roof.

The Kanumbra schoolhouse is identical to the drawings of the Eumeralla Estate School, except in the absence of a vent at the peak of the each gable. The chimney was also removed from the Kanumbra School, presumably when it was moved. Apart from this, the schoolhouse is highly intact, inside and out. Inside, it retains lining boards on the walls and coved ceilings, a chalkboard and a fireplace mantelpiece (cast-iron insert removed). The external weatherboards are curved in profile. The building retains its short-sheet corrugated-iron roofing.

Only four of this type of school was built in Victoria, none of which still function as schools. It is the only one of this type in Murrindindi Shire. There are, however, two very similar schools (of the Bena type): Kinglake West No 3255 and Middle Kinglake No 3315, both of 1922. The Bena design differed in size (for 80 instead of 64 students), the size of the bank of windows on the gable end (five instead of three), and the number of roof ventilators (four instead of two), but had the same recessed porch. Both of the schools in Kinglake have been extensively altered, unlike the Kanumbra School.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Regular maintenance for the schoolhouse, including exterior painting, is encouraged.
2. Finding an ongoing use for the schoolhouse, which does not require significant alterations to the original fabric, is encouraged.

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3. If the schoolhouse is moved again in the future, it should remain in the Kanumbra area.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

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While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Kanumbra School No 1932, currently located at 276 Kanumbra-Gobur Road, Gobur. In April 1875 the first application for a school was made to the Education Department by W H Hewitt and T Nixon or Lorton Vale, Merton. A wooden portable building, with teacher's quarters of two rooms attached, was erected at a cost of £189 and opened on 10 August 1877 with Charles B Beetson as Head Teacher. In 1895 the name changed from Millers Ponds to Kanumbra. Kanumbra got a new schoolhouse in the early 1920s. A contract was let by the Public Works Department in June 1921, for construction of a one-room school of the Eumeralla Estate type. This type of schoolhouse was designed to serve up to 32 students, with a classroom measuring 21'6" by 21'0" (about 6.5 x 6.4 metres). This design is for a gable-roofed building with a bank of three multi-paned windows at one end. The other end has two transom windows and a recessed corner porch with a large multi-paned window beneath it. The porch has curved timber brackets. The side elevations do not have any windows, only vents. There are two circular metal roof vents at the peak of the roof.

The school was closed in the late 1970s and was sold to Worrall Jones for \$500. He relocated it from the corner of Maroondah Highway and McGuigans Lane to the Brilliant Estate, Gobur.

The chimney was also removed from the Kanumbra School, presumably when it was moved. Apart from this, the schoolhouse is highly intact, inside and out. Inside, it retains lining boards on the walls and coved ceilings, a chalkboard and a fireplace mantelpiece (cast-iron insert removed). The external weatherboards are curved in profile. The building retains its short-sheet corrugated-iron roofing, and a painted timber sign reading: 'Kanumbra School No. 1932'

How is it significant?

The former Kanumbra School is of local historic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the physical remnant of the Kanumbra School, which served the local community from 1877 to the late 1970s. (RNE criterion A.4)

Architecturally, as a remarkably intact example of the Eumeralla Estate type one-room schoolhouse designed by the Public Works Department in the early 1920s. Only four of this type of school was built. (RNE criterion F.1)

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Kanumbra St Pauls Church of England and Methodist Church (former)  
**Address** 7390 - 7392 Maroondah Highway KANUMBRA  
**Place Type** ChurchChurch Hall  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended Heritage Protection**      **VHR - HI - PS** Yes

**Architectural Style**      Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Carpenter Gothic

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KANUMBRA

Kanumbra Station was originally formed from a portion of the Tarcombe Run and covered approximately 24,000 acres (12,000 ha) of land between Kanumbra settlement and Fawcett. It is believed Kanumbra may be Aboriginal (Taungurong) meaning 'light or human spirit'. For most of its existence the run was known as Millers Ponds, and Nigel Sinnott writes that the name alludes to a drowning in the area. The name was changed c.1874 to Kanumbra by the last joint licensees, J P Rowe and Dr David Edmund Stodart. The settlement was named by land officer, John Hardy, of Alexandra, possibly after the pastoral run. Sinnott also records that Kanumbra probably came into being as a straggle of properties in the parish of Yarck, along the road from Cathkin to Merton - what is today the Maroondah Highway. When the railway arrived in 1890, two stations were established - Yarck and Kanumbra - however the name Kanumbra gradually became restricted to and included only properties near the more northerly Kanumbra railway station. The first state school was called Millers Ponds after the pastoral run.[1]

### HISTORY

The two buildings on this site were once the local Methodist (later Uniting) and Church of England (later Anglican) church buildings. They were constructed on the site in 1898 and 1894, respectively. The land for both churches was donated by William McGuigan of the early pioneering family. A reserve for the Church of England of just over 35 acres was made at the south-east corner of Maroondah Highway and McGuigans Road on 1 February 1895.[8]

The first church on this site was St Paul's Church of England (later Anglican) church, built in 1894 on the south side (at No. 7390). Local historian of Kanumbra and Yarck, Pat McGuigan, states that the Fox families were the main congregation. Ministers travelled from Alexandra every second Sunday for morning church services. The Church of



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England became known as the Anglican Church of Australia in 1981. The church closed in 1984 and the land was sold.[6]

The Methodist Church (No. 7392) was built next to it at a cost of £100 in 1898. The pulpit was donated by Mrs Morris in memory of her late husband, Reverend E Morris, who died whilst minister of Alexandra circuit of which Alexandra was part.[4] In 1977, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches joined to become the Uniting Church of Australia.

With declining numbers of worshippers, a decision was taken to close the church. The final service at the Methodist (by then Uniting) Church was held 17 April 1988 and it was later de-consecrated. While the building functioned as a church, it was also used for many social activities including guild meetings, harvest festivals, auctions, ju-jitsu classes, youth club activities and social evenings.[5]

The current owners have used the buildings as holiday houses since around 1995.[7]

[1] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, pp. 80-1; Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515; Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 243.

[2] Pat McGuigan, The History of Kanumbra - Kanumbra Methodist Church - Yark Presbyterian Church, pp. 12-13.

[3] Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515.

[4] Personal conversation Sharon Fox and Muriel Sicily 1/9/08; Personal conversation Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

[5] McGuigan, op.cit.

[6] Ibid., p. 14.

[7] Planning permit issued by Murrindindi Shire on 22/2/1995 for 7392 Maroondah Highway to refurbish the existing church building to a dwelling and construct a shed.

[8] Yarck Parish Plan, June 1877 with later additions.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

Former St Paul's Church of England (7390):

The church is a simple, gable-fronted weatherboard structure with a corrugated iron roof. There are no front windows and two bay lancet windows on the side. The gable has a pendant-finial, and there is a rear addition.

Former Methodist Church (7392):

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This is a simple, gable-fronted weatherboard structure with corrugated iron roof, and is slightly larger than the Anglican Church. The gable has decorative crossbracing and there are three bay lancet windows on the side and no front windows.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

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9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Methodist Church at 7392 Maroondah Highway, Kanumbra, and the former St Paul's Church of England beside it at No. 7390. St Paul's was constructed first, in 1894, and it primarily served the Fox family of local selectors. In 1898 the Methodist Church was built next to it. St Paul's closed in 1984 and the Methodist Church in 1988, after which it served as a community hall until both buildings were converted to use as holiday homes in the 1990s.

St Paul's is a simple, gable-fronted weatherboard structure with a corrugated iron roof. There are no front windows and two bay lancet windows on the side. The gable has a pendant-finial, and there is a recent rear addition (which is not significant).

The former Methodist Church is a simple, gable-fronted weatherboard structure with corrugated iron roof, and is slightly larger than St Paul's. The gable has decorative cross-bracing and there are three bay lancet windows on the side and no front windows.

How is it significant?

The former St Paul's Church of England and former Methodist Church are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as two of the last public buildings of the Kanumbra township which survive in their original location (though no longer used for public purposes). As tangible evidence of the period of township formation in Kanumbra just before the turn of the century. Also for their associations with the McGuigan and Fox families, who were pioneers in the area. And for their role as a centre of the community for 90 years. (RNE criteria B.2, H.1, G.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** St Bees and Old Kanumbra Estate Woolshed  
**Address** 7262 Maroondah Highway KANUMBRA  
**Place Type** HouseWoolshed/Shearing ShedCairnSilo  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KANUMBRA

Kanumbra Station was originally formed from a portion of the Tarcombe Run and covered approximately 24,000 acres (12,000 ha) of land between Kanumbra settlement and Fawcett. It is believed Kanumbra may be Aboriginal (Taungurong) meaning 'light or human spirit'. For most of its existence the run was known as Millers Ponds, and Nigel Sinnott writes that the name alludes to a drowning in the area. The name was changed c.1874 to Kanumbra by the last joint licensees, J P Rowe and Dr David Edmund Stodart. The settlement was named by land officer, John Hardy, of Alexandra, possibly after the pastoral run. Sinnott also records that Kanumbra probably came into being as a straggle of properties in the parish of Yarck, along the road from Cathkin to Merton - what is today the Maroondah Highway. When the railway arrived in 1890, two stations were established - Yarck and Kanumbra - however the name Kanumbra gradually became restricted to and included only properties near the more northerly Kanumbra railway station. The first state school was called Millers Ponds after the pastoral run.

### HISTORY OF THE WOOLSHED

Kanumbra Station was, for most of its existence, known as Millers Ponds, and Nigel Sinnott writes that the name alludes to a drowning in the area. The name was changed in c.1874 to Kanumbra by the last joint licensees J P Rowe and Dr David Edmund Stodart of Miller's Ponds Run. The settlement was named by land officer, John Hardy, of Alexandra, possibly after the pastoral run. Sinnott also records that Kanumbra probably came into being as a collection of properties in the parish of Yarck, along the road from Cathkin to Merton - what is today the Maroondah Highway. However, when the railway arrived in 1890, two stations were established - Yarck and Kanumbra, so the name Kanumbra gradually became restricted to and included only properties near the more northerly Kanumbra railway station. Until 1895 the state school was called Millers Ponds after the pastoral run. It is believed Kanumbra may be Aboriginal (Taungurong) meaning 'light or human spirit'. Kanumbra is described in the Victorian Municipal Directory of 1974 as a 'Village with post and telegraph office, two churches and rail'.<sup>[1]</sup>

Alexander Brock held the licence for the Gobur Run until March 1860 when it was transferred to John Bon's bachelor brothers, James and William. John brought them out from Scotland and helped them to take over the licences for Gobur and Millers Ponds. James and William were hard working and inseparable companions. During their tenure, a woolshed, later identified with Kanumbra, was constructed. It was the only woolshed in the area. The 140 x 40-foot building was constructed of pit-sawn red gum timbers, to accommodate 26 blade shearers. The Kanumbra woolshed was part of the old Kanumbra estate and is part of the original 1840s Millers Ponds pastoral run. William died in 1871 aged 62, and James survived him by less than a year and died at 60 years of age.<sup>[2]</sup> They were buried in the garden at Kanumbra.<sup>[4]</sup> The woolshed and 640 acres was purchased in 1921 by Timothy Creighton Fox, the owner of St Bee's across the road. The land has remained in the Fox family to the present day.<sup>[3]</sup>

### HISTORY OF ST BEE'S

St Bee's is a separate piece of land (320 acres) on opposite side of the road to the Old Kanumbra Estate Woolshed. James Fox (1832-1904) emigrated from England in 1852, and married Sarah Creighton four years later. They had a total of 14 children. In 1871 he selected 240 acres in the Yarck (Home Creek) area, and was able to secure this land under a Crown grant on 9 April 1881. He named his selection St Bee's. Some years later he also purchased the neighbouring property, Lorton Vale from the Nixon family.<sup>[7]</sup> Historian Brian Lloyd notes in his 'Alexandra and District' that James 'died at his

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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property Lorton Vale' in 1904.

James' son, Timothy Creighton Fox, was born in 1881. He married Jane Ann Smith in 1906, and shortly after built the present house at St Bee's. Timothy and Jane had three children, Agnes (b 1909), Sarah (b 1912) and Roy (b 1917).[6]

After the increase in the price of wool after the Korean War - when wool sold for £1:1lb - Roy Fox had a woolshed built on St Bees in May 1957. Electricity was installed in 1958.[5]

A memorial cairn at St Bee's reads: 'This cairn was erected by the descendents of the late James Fox 1832-1904 upon the centenary of his selection of land at Kanumbra on this allotment on 12th April 1871.'

St Bee's remains in Fox family ownership.

Sources:

[1] Nigel Sinnott, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Friends of the Alexandra Library, Alexandra, 2003, pp. 80-1; Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515; Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 243.

[2] Personal conversation Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

[3] Roy Fox, pres. Comm., 24 May 2008

[4] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, p. 24.

[5] Personal conversations with Sharon Fox, Roy Fox and Rhyl Long 24/5/08.

[6] Lloyd, op cit, pp 304-5. NB: Lloyd incorrectly records Roy's year of birth as 1912.

[7] Sharon Fox, Owner feedback, Oct. 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.1 Squatting

2.2 Selection

4. UTILISING NATURAL RESOURCES

## Description

### Physical Description

ST BEE'S

St Bee's is an extensive rural property comprising of a homestead, a modern shearing shed, silo, other sheds, an early tennis court, cairn, and many mature trees.

The c1906 homestead is a Queen Anne weatherboard house with a gabled hipped roof and projecting half-timbered front

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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gable. There is a return verandah supported on timber posts with simple timber brackets. The verandah roof is continuous with that of the house.

Alterations to the house include: addition of a fourth bedroom in 1952, alterations to the front (lounge) room in the 1960s which included the insertion of a picture window. The front wire fence and gate date to the 1920s.[1]

The silo, which consists of a timber frame with a tin insert, was moved from Kanumbra Estate by the current owner and is said to be over 100 years old.

Other outbuildings include an open-sided hay shed, and three enclosed sheds. There is also a shearing shed, from 1957, east of the homestead site, which wasn't seen during the inspection. Two of the enclosed sheds are weatherboard and the other is of corrugated galvanised iron. The open-sided hay shed, raised on bush poles, is situated behind the silo.

There is a line of mature pines on the north side of the homestead and cypresses to the road. A tennis court and a cairn are in the front of the property. The cairn of 1971 commemorates James Fox's selection in 1871.

## WOOLSHED

The property now extends over to the west side of the highway (since 1921); a section signposted as 'Old Kanumbra Estate', which contains a woolshed. It is a vernacular building of the 1860s. It has a bush pole structure with weatherboard cladding to the upper storey and a nave and aisle plan. Some of the ground floor sections are clad in later vertical planks interspersed with corrugated galvanised iron. This corrugated galvanised iron was shipped from England as ballast for the wool transport ships returning to Australia and was used to patch the cladding by the current owners as it matched the roof material.[1] The woolshed is fairly dilapidated. There are timber-fenced stockyards around it.

Source:

[1] Sharon Fox, Owner feedback, Oct. 2008.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider seeking funding for urgent repairs and maintenance to the Woolshed.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The Old Kanumbra Estate Woolshed and St Bee's homestead and outbuildings, at 7262 Maroondah Highway, Kanumbra.

Alexander Brock held the licence for the Gobur Run until March 1860 when it was transferred to John Bon's bachelor brothers, James and William. John brought them out from Scotland and helped them to take over the licences for Gobur and Millers Ponds. During their tenure, a woolshed, later identified with Kanumbra Estate, was constructed. It was the only woolshed in the area. The 140 x 40-foot building was constructed of pit-sawn red gum timbers, to accommodate 26 blade shearers. William died in 1871 aged 62, and James survived him by less than a year and died at 60 years of age. The woolshed was purchased in 1921 by Timothy Creighton Fox.

James Fox (1832-1904) emigrated from England in 1852, and married Sarah Creighton four years later. They had a total of 14 children. In 1871 he selected 240 acres of land in the Yarck (Home Creek), which he named St Bee's.

His son Timothy Creighton Fox was born in 1881. He married Jane Ann Smith in 1906, and shortly after built a house at his property, named St Bee's, which was part of the original Fox selection. Timothy and Jane had three children, Agnes (b 1909), Sarah (b 1912) and Roy (b 1917).

St Bee's is a rural property comprising of a homestead, with a silo, farm sheds, and many mature trees grouped around it. The c1906 homestead is a Queen Anne weatherboard house with a gabled hipped roof and projecting half-timbered front gable. There is a return verandah supported on timber posts with simple timber brackets. The verandah roof is continuous with that of the house.

The silo, which consists of a timber frame with a tin insert, was moved from Kanumbra Estate and is said to be over 100 years old. An open-sided hay shed, raised on bush poles, is situated behind the silo. Two enclosed sheds are weatherboard and the other is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There is a line of mature pines on the north side of the homestead and cypresses to the road. An early tennis court and a 1971 cairn, which commemorates James Fox's selection in 1871, are near the entrance.

How is it significant?

The Old Kanumbra Estate Woolshed is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

St Bee's homestead and outbuildings are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Old Kanumbra Estate Woolshed is a rare early survivor of the pastoral era. Its impressive size illustrates the scale of wool production that went on in the Kanumbra era in the 19th century. (RNE criteria B.2, A.4)

Historically, St Bee's has associations dating back to 1871 with the Fox family. James Fox was an early selector in the area, and his son, Timothy, built the St Bee's homestead. Also as a relatively intact early 20th-century complex of farm house and outbuildings. (RNE criteria H.1, D.2)

Aesthetically, St Bee's has many mature trees, including pines and cypresses along the road and around the entrance to the property. (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Monterey Pines, Cypresses
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Kanumbra Woolshed; St Bee's silo & sheds
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Eothen Residence  
**Address** 3005 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road KINGLAKE  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## **History and Historical Context**

### **HISTORY OF KINGLAKE**

Originally part of the Eltham Shire, Kinglake (including Kinglake Central, Kinglake East and Kinglake West) were named after the British historian Alexander Kinglake (1809-91).[1] The name was chosen by John Lindsay Beale to honour the historian.[2] Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Alexander Kinglake was called to the Bar in 1837. Subsequently he devoted himself to politics, and wrote *History of the War in the Crimea* (1863-7) and *Eothen* (1844) in which he describes a journey made in 1834-5 through parts of the Ottoman Empire, the Holy Land and Egypt.[3] Beale, born 1830, was the youngest son of Major Anthony and Katherine Rose Beale, Paymaster-General for the East India Company on the island of St Helena. The family sailed to Melbourne in 1839 and established a property on

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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the Plenty River named St Helena after which the area of St Helena became known. Beale first took up land in the Kinglake district in the County of Anglesey in 1873. He was active in community affairs, was instrumental in the establishment of the school at Kinglake Central and is recognised as a pioneer of the district. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Kinglake district and was a member of the Eltham Shire Council from 1879-94, during which time he served two terms as Shire President.

Kinglake National Park, proclaimed in 1928, is one of Victoria's oldest national parks and the largest in the Melbourne area. It includes forests, fern gullies, walking tracks and viewpoints.

The Kinglake area, which was part of the North Riding of the Eltham Shire, was annexed to the Shire of Yea in October 1972. When Shire amalgamations took place in 1994, Kinglake became part of the Murrindindi Shire. Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake East and Kinglake West are located on the Great Dividing Range at an altitude of 1,800 feet. The first post office was established in the district in 1862 at Mountain Rush. The first outward mail left Mountain Rush at 2pm every Thursday on its 24 hour journey to Melbourne. However, when the gold rush petered out, the mail service was withdrawn and the area remained without postal services until 1883. Land was opened up for selection in 1876. The first Kinglake primary school was opened in 1879, and the first public hall opened in 1897. Church services arrived later in Kinglake, St Mary's Catholic Church opened officially in 1901 and St Peter's Church of England opened in 1922. The first meeting to form a Kinglake sub-branch of the RSL was held in October 1945, and the RSL Hall was officially opened in 1952.[4] In 1974, the Victorian Municipal Directory listed Kinglake, Kinglake East and Kinglake West. The towns featured a post office, hotel, hall, fire station and school. Their combined population was 235.[5]

### HISTORY OF EOTHEN

Eothen was built as a retirement home for William Adolphus Laver c1925.

The Kinglake property, Eothen, at 3005 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, was named after Alexander Kinglake's book of his journey through the Ottoman Empire. It is the former home of William Adolphus Laver (1866-1940), Ormond Professor of Music at the University of Melbourne.[6] Laver, born at Castlemaine, Victoria, to John Laver, farmer, and his wife Mary Ann, née Fry, had studied the violin from an early age. In 1881 the famous German violinist August Wilhelm heard Laver play and, impressed with the boy's potential, offered to have him trained in Germany at the Hoch Conservatory of Music at Frankfurt. In 1887 Clara Schumann offered Laver a conducting post at Nottingham, England. He refused on hearing that Francis Ormond was to establish a chair of music at the University of Melbourne. Though not yet 22 and with his studies unfinished, he applied for the position, travelling to London to lobby the selection committee, and mounting a vigorous campaign in Australia through his brothers and their contacts. He returned to Melbourne on 13 May 1889 with detailed plans for a conservatorium on the Frankfurt model. Neither the attempt to realize these plans nor his application for the chair was successful. He was declared below the age limit for the professorship and lost the appointment in 1890 to G W L Marshall-Hall. In 1900 when Marshall-Hall's dismissal resulted in the establishment of a rival conservatorium, Laver, now in opposition to his old friend, resumed the acting professorship of the University Conservatorium and then, unsuccessful in a second bid for the chair, became vice-director under F S Peterson. Laver finally became third Ormond professor of music after Marshall-Hall's death in 1901. In 1925 he retired from the Ormond Chair to his retreat, Eothen, at Kinglake, where he lobbied tirelessly for the preservation of bushland. He was instrumental in the creation of Kinglake National Park in 1928 and even donated part of his land to it. In 1938 as acting professor during (Sir) Bernard Heinze's sabbatical leave, he opened the Grainger Museum at the University of Melbourne.

Laver almost certainly named his Kinglake property Eothen. The land was originally Allotment 39, Parish of Kinglake, County of Evelyn. It consisted of 155 acres 27 perches. The grant of Crown Allotment 39 was made to Mary Alexander of Kinglake on 20 June 1896 for the sum of £150 (Land Title Vol. 2631/Fol. 061). On 23 March 1916, 155 acres, 1 rood and 36 perches were transferred to George Perrett, Gentleman of Brunswick and Alfred Ernest Fairhead, confectioner of Prahran as tenants in common. Alfred Fairhead died on 24 September 1922 and Letters of Administration were granted to

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Myrtle Victoria Fairhead, widow of Caulfield on 26 February 1925.

Professor Laver retired from the University of Melbourne in 1925 and on 26 February 1925 the title for the land at Kinglake was transferred from George Perrett and Myrtle Fairhead to William Adolphus Laver (Land Title Vol.3953/Vol. 459). Shortly afterwards, Laver began to subdivide the property and sold small one and two-acre portions to various purchasers including the Country Roads Board. Laver donated 22 hectares of his own land to the Kinglake National Park when it was established in 1928 by Sir James Barrett, then Chancellor of the University.[8]

Laver died at Kinglake on 2 July 1940. He was survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter, and was buried in Brighton cemetery. A portrait by W B McInnes is held by the University of Melbourne.[7] The property was then sold in 1944.

Sources:

[1] Deidre Hawkins (ed.), Kinglake Pioneering Days, p. 1.

[2] Les Blake quoted in Hawkins, *ibid*.

[3] Alexander Kinglake, Eothen, Könemann Travel Classics, Hungary, 1977, dust jacket.

[4] Hawkins, *op.cit.*, pp. 1-72

[5] Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 638.

[6] Hawkins, *op.cit.*, pp. 46-7.

[7] Australian Dictionary of Biography Online <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100007b.htm>

[8] Daniel Catrice, 'Kinglake National Park History'.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

5.1 Early nature appreciation, health and well being

## Description

### Physical Description

Eothen is a single-storey, triple-fronted fibro and weatherboard house with a high hipped corrugated galvanised iron roof (short sheets), punctuated with projecting gables, and a broken-back verandah. The core of the house has a hipped roof with the broken-back verandah, with gable-fronted wings, one on the right-hand side of the facade, and the other at the middle of the left-hand (east) side elevation. The house has three brick chimneys with simple projecting bands near the tops. The verandah, which wraps around nearly the entire house, has a simple timber frieze and plain timber posts resting on low brick piers showing California Bungalow influence. A few sections on the west side of the house are more recent additions.

The front and east side of the house have a weatherboard dado and strapped fibro panelling above. The west side and rear

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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of the house are clad entirely in weatherboards. The windows to the facade are paired one-over-one sashes. There is a front door with sidelights and a door into the front gabled section. Both doors and windows have simple timber architraves with an extended top piece, giving them a Japanese feel. The windows have the same type of architraves on the east elevation. These windows are more ornate; near the front is a bank of three casements with two vertical transom-like panes at the top. The gabled wing on this side is jettied out to rest on the verandah posts, below which is a canted bay with the same sort of casement windows. The gable has decorative cross bracing. A double door on the north side of the gabled bay provides access. Beyond the jettied bay is another tripartite casement window and a high-waisted door.

There is a recent pergola addition to the back of the house. Some of the windows on the west side of the house have been replaced.

The front garden contains many mature trees, including a eucalypt and oaks, with a mature cypress hedge along the front fence.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Eothen, at 3005 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Kinglake. It was built as a retirement home c1925 for William Adolphus Laver (1866-1940), and named after Alexander Kinglake's book of his journey through the Ottoman Empire. Laver was the Ormond Professor of Music at the University of Melbourne from 1901. In 1925 he retired from the Ormond Chair to his retreat in Kinglake, where he lobbied tirelessly for the preservation of bushland. He was instrumental in the proclamation of Kinglake National Park in 1928. Laver remained at Eothen until his death in 1940.

Eothen is a single-storey, triple-fronted fibro and weatherboard house with a high hipped corrugated galvanised iron roof (short sheets), punctuated with projecting gables, and a broken-back verandah. The house has three brick chimneys with simple projecting bands near the tops. The verandah, which wraps around nearly the entire house, has a simple timber frieze and plain timber posts resting on low brick piers showing California Bungalow influence. Both doors and windows have simple timber architraves with an extended top piece, giving them a Japanese feel. The gabled wing on the east side is jettied out to rest on the verandah posts, below which is a canted bay with casement windows. The gable has decorative cross bracing.

The front garden contains many mature trees, including a eucalypt and oaks, with a mature cypress hedge along the front fence.

How is it significant?

Eothen is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Why is it significant?

Historically, as the retirement home of Ormond Professor William Adolphus Laver (1866-1940), who was instrumental in the creation of Kinglake National Park. (RNE criterion H.1)

Aesthetically, as substantial Interwar house, which is largely intact, set in a garden of mature trees. (RNE criterion D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature trees in front garden, cypress hedge

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Kinglake State School No. 2188 and Kinglake Post Office, former  
**Address** 6 McMahons Road KINGLAKE  
**Place Type** School - State (public),Post Office  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

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**Designer / Architect** Coney, CH

**Maker / Builder** White, A

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KINGLAKE

Originally part of the Eltham Shire, Kinglake (including Kinglake Central, Kinglake East and Kinglake West) were named after the British historian Alexander Kinglake (1809-91). The name was chosen by John Lindsay Beale to honour the historian. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Alexander Kinglake was called to the Bar in 1837. Subsequently he devoted himself to politics, and wrote *History of the War in the Crimea* (1863-7) and *Eothen* (1844) in which he describes a journey made in 1834-5 through parts of the Ottoman Empire, the Holy Land and Egypt. Beale, born in 1830, was the youngest son of Major Anthony and Katherine Rose Beale, Paymaster-General for the East India Company on the island of St Helena. The family sailed to Melbourne in 1839 and established a property on the Plenty River named St Helena after which the area of St Helena became known. Beale first took up land in the Kinglake district in the County of Anglesey in 1873. He was active in community affairs, was instrumental in the establishment of the school at Kinglake Central and is recognised as a pioneer of the district. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Kinglake district and was a member of the Eltham Shire Council from 1879-94, during which time he served two terms as Shire President. The Kinglake area, which was part of the North Riding of the Eltham Shire, was annexed to the Shire of Yea in October 1972. When Shire amalgamations were undertaken in 1994, Kinglake became part of the Murrindindi Shire. Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake East and Kinglake West are located on the Great Dividing Range at an altitude of 1,800 feet.

The first post office was established in the district in 1862 at Mountain Rush. The first outward mail left Mountain Rush, located on Mountain Creek at the head of the Yea River, at 2pm every Thursday on its 24 hour journey to Melbourne. However, when the gold rush petered out, the mail service was withdrawn and the area remained without postal services until 1883. Land was opened up for selection in 1876.

The first Kinglake primary school was opened in 1879, and the first public hall opened in 1897. Church services arrived later in Kinglake, St Mary's Catholic Church opened officially in 1901 and St Peter's Church of England opened in 1922. The first meeting to form a Kinglake sub-branch of the RSL was held in October 1945, and the RSL Hall was officially opened in 1952. In 1974, the Victorian Municipal Directory listed Kinglake, Kinglake East and Kinglake West. The towns featured a post office, hotel, hall, fire station and school. Their combined population was 235.

### HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

The first Kinglake Primary School No. 2188 on this site was the first school to be built in the Kinglake district. It was a pre-fabricated building, erected in 1879.[1] A petition was organised in 1895 requesting that the school be moved to a site nearer to Kinglake Central, but when the relocation arrangements were near completion, a second petition was organised requesting a delay until a public meeting on the issue could be held. At this meeting a motion was carried for a new school to be built at Kinglake Central instead, which the Education Department agreed to.[2] The original school building burnt to the ground in 1926.[3]

The first stage of the present building was constructed in 1927 by Mr A White and originally consisted of a classroom with a cloakroom and storeroom attached. It was officially opened by the Hon. J. Lemmon, Minister for Education, in 1927.[4] The design provided by the Department of Education had first been used in Melton South (No. 3717) in 1922, though with some modifications in Kinglake. The design was for a gable-front building with an off-centre gabled porch on one end. 180 schools were built in Victoria using this design, which was intended to serve 64 pupils. There was a projected attendance of only 25 pupils in Kinglake at the time, so it was obviously intended to serve the community well

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into the future. The District Architect responsible for adapting the plans for Kinglake was CH Coney.[10]

The classroom was enlarged in 1951 by adding 10ft to its eastern side (NB: this must have been an internal alteration, as the building envelope is intact).[5] An additional classroom was added in 1952. A new pre-fabricated classroom and an office/storeroom were built in 1955, with the classroom connecting to the existing building by a long corridor. In 1965 a stone wall and fences were constructed by students.[6] In 1979 a partition was erected across the original cloakroom, the two halves then being used as a storeroom and a kitchen. A further addition to the school was made in 1982. The school closed some time after this and is now used as a Neighbourhood House.

## HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE

A Post Office was built in Kinglake in 1862 and was called the 'Mountain Rush Post Office' and was located on Mountain Creek at the head of the Yea River. It opened on 7 May 1862 and the first postmaster was J. Waterman. He was succeeded by W. Bowden on 1 October 1862, however, his tenure was also short-lived, and the Post Office closed on 28 January 1863.[7]

The next Post Office opened in 1883 by postmaster Edward Nicol Staff.[8] He was succeeded by Harry and Elizabeth Thomson who ran the Post Office from their home at 'The Oaks'. Local historian, Deidre Hawkins writes that Harry was appointed Postmaster. Before long Elizabeth took over as Postmistress and Harry became the mail contractor, riding his horse to Queenstown twice each week to collect mail. When 'The Oaks' changed hands in 1895 they moved to a new home, Aurelia Villa, built on the site of the present National Park Hotel, Kinglake. They continued to run the Post Office which was then located next to their new home. In a photograph of the Post Office building reproduced in the local history, Kinglake Pioneering Days, it appears the Post Office is attached, or at least located close, to the rear of 'Aurelia Villa'. This Thompson home became a guest home named 'Aurelia Villa'. In 1907 Harry Thompson applied for and was granted a wayside hotel licence so it appears the guest house's function was extended to become a hotel - it is unclear whether the actual house was physically extended. At around this time, Harry's son Frank married Annie Power, and the decision was made to hand over the running of the hotel to Frank and Annie. Harry and Elizabeth moved into a new home which they called 'La Mascotte' which was built beside the Post Office building which was at the rear of the house/hotel. Elizabeth was Postmistress until 1941 when her eldest daughter Daisy took over the position of postmistress, and she was followed by her youngest daughter, Mabel, who ran it until 1953. 'La Mascotte' was destroyed by fire in 1990. The Post Office was subsequently relocated to the Kinglake East Reserve beside the old Kinglake State School building.[9]

Sources:

[1] Deidre G. Hawkins, Middle Kinglake Primary School No. 3315: Centenary History 1898-1998, 1998, p. 5.

[2] Ibid, pp 5-7, and Deidre G Hawkins, Kinglake Primary School No. 2188: 1879-1979 A Centenary History, 1979, pp. 14-15.

[3] Hawkins, Kinglake Primary School op.cit., p. 20.

[4] Ibid, p. 21.

[5] Ibid, pp. 46-47.

[6] Ibid, p. 52.

[7] Deidre G. Hawkins (ed.), Kinglake Pioneering Days, n.d., p. 3.

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[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid, pp. 15-17.

[10] LE Burchall, Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940, for Historic Buildings Branch, 1989, pp viii, 37.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

3.3 Mail and Telegraph Services

9.1 Education in Victoria

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Kinglake Primary School No. 2188 is a single-storey weatherboard building with a transverse gable roof with exposed rafter ends and triangular brackets.

The south gable end is dominated by a bank of five triple-sash windows (six-over-six moveable sashes above a fixed single-pane). There is a rectangular louvered vent at the apex of the gable. At the north end is the original off-centre enclosed porch, next to a smaller bank of multi-light windows. There is a brick chimney on the west side.

Alterations include the following: The east elevation has a door at the south end, reached by a modern timber ramp. Above the door are a pair of large transom windows with pivoting glass. There is a bank of three transoms at the centre of the facade, one infilled to accommodate an air conditioning unit. The metal roof ventilators have been removed.

On the north end, the gabled entrance porch is now enclosed within later additions, but the roofline is still visible. There is a series of skillion-roofed extensions to the north side, and an enclosed passage to a hipped-roof block at the north-west corner.

A former shelter shed survives to the west of the schoolhouse. It is a small timber structure clad in weatherboards with a skillion roof, as was typical of shelter sheds. It has been converted into an office, so the large open doorway has been infilled with a standard glazed door and highlight, though the original doorway frame has been left intact. A small extension has also been added to its south side.

The former Kinglake Post Office is a tiny, single-room, gable-fronted weatherboard building with a corrugated iron clad roof. There is a door and window on the facade.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of

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the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

### NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Kinglake Post Office and the former Kinglake Primary School (State School No. 2188) at 6 McMahons Road, Kinglake.

The Post Office was built in c1895 and was originally located at the site of the National Park Hotel (28 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake, see separate citation), then know as Aurelia Villa. The Post Office and guesthouse were run by Harry and Elizabeth Thompson until 1941, and then their daughters until 1953. In the 1990s the Post Office was moved to its present site. It is a tiny, single-room, gable-fronted weatherboard building with a corrugated iron clad roof. There is a door and window on the facade.

The first Kinglake State School (No. 2188) on the present site opened in 1879. This building burnt down in 1926 and was replaced the following year by the present schoolhouse. The design provided by the Department of Education had first been used in Melton South (No. 3717) in 1922, though with some modifications in Kinglake. 180 schools were built in Victoria using this design, which was intended to serve 64 pupils. It has an off-centre enclosed gabled porch at one end. The District Architect responsible for adapting the plans for Kinglake was CH Coney and the builder was a Mr A White. There were a number of extensions made in the 1950s and 1980s, which are not significant. The former shelter shed, now converted to an office, contributes to an understanding of the site's former use as a school.

How is it significant?

The former Kinglake Post Office is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire. The former Kinglake Primary School is of local historic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the former Post Office is one of the earliest surviving public buildings in the Kinglake district and appears to be intact. It illustrates how tiny these early post offices were. It also has associations with the Thompson family, who ran the Post Office from 1895 to 1953 at its original site, next to the Aurelia Villa guesthouse. (RNE criteria B.2, H.1)

Historically, the former Kinglake Primary School demonstrates the development of the Kinglake community from the 1870s, when the first school building opened on this site. The present school building of 1927 is tangible evidence of the continuing vitality of the local community, and of their optimism for future growth. (RNE criterion A.4).

Socially, the former Kinglake Primary School still serves a public function, as a Neighbourhood House, and as such has been a centre of the community for over 90 years. (RNE criterion G.1)



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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

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**Name** National Park Hotel  
**Address** 28 Whittlesea - Kinglake Road KINGLAKE  
**Place Type** Hotel  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KINGLAKE

Originally part of the Eltham Shire, Kinglake (including Kinglake Central, Kinglake East and Kinglake West) were named after the British historian Alexander Kinglake (1809-91).[1] The name was chosen by John Lindsay Beale to honour the historian.[2] Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Alexander Kinglake was called to the Bar in 1837. Subsequently he devoted himself to politics, and wrote *History of the War in the Crimea* (1863-7) and *Eothen* (1844) in which he describes a journey made in 1834-5 through parts of the Ottoman Empire, the Holy Land and Egypt.[3] Beale, born in 1830, was the youngest son of Major Anthony and Katherine Rose Beale, Paymaster-General for the East India Company on the island of St Helena. The family sailed to Melbourne in 1839 and established a property on the Plenty River named St Helena after which the area of St Helena became known. Beale first took up land in the Kinglake district in the County of Anglesey in 1873. He was active in community affairs, was instrumental in the establishment of the school at Kinglake Central and is recognised as a pioneer of the district. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Kinglake district and was a member of the Eltham Shire Council from 1879-94, during which time he served two terms as Shire President.

Kinglake National Park, proclaimed in 1928, is one of Victoria's oldest national parks and the largest in the Melbourne area. It includes forests, fern gullies, walking tracks and viewpoints.

The Kinglake area, which was part of the North Riding of the Eltham Shire, was annexed to the Shire of Yea in October 1972. When Shire amalgamations were undertaken in 1994, Kinglake became part of the Murrindindi Shire. Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake East and Kinglake West are located on the Great Dividing Range at an altitude of 1,800 feet.

### HISTORY OF HOTEL

The first hotel on the site was built c.1895, and started life as the Thomson family home Aurelia Villa in which they also ran a post office. In 1907 Harry Thomson was granted a hotel licence and it was called the Kinglake Hotel. Harry Thomson's son, Frank Harris Thomson, with his wife Annie née Power, took over the running of the hotel from his father in 1914. The original building was destroyed during the 1926 bushfires. Harry and his family first erected a tin shed until the larger three-part complex of today was built from 1927 onwards. In addition to the main bar and lounges, the new Kinglake Hotel had a separate wing for the dining room and kitchen and another for ten guest bedrooms. It became a popular place to stay for weekends and holidays. Harry and Anne later sold the hotel and moved their house to the general store across the road. Since then the hotel has changed hands many times.[4]

Herb and Wilma Coller took over the hotel in the 1960s. They regraded the front car park to include steps up to the front door, and replaced the bottoms of the timber verandah columns of the main building with low brick piers.[7] They also began to use the name 'National Park Hotel' with a view to encouraging tourism.[5] In the 1980s the fibro cladding with a pressed metal dado of the main hotel and restaurant buildings was replaced with vertical cedar weatherboards. The original cladding is still visible on the east elevation of the accommodation building.[8]

The hotel has been the location of many gatherings and celebrations for the township and has hosted Christmas dinners, cricket club presentations, Fire Brigade meetings and other local social events. It was the departure point for the 'King of the Mountain' potato race and the 'Mountain Man' competition was held in the back paddocks. The Kinglake Park tennis team once used the sand court behind the kitchen and there was once a swimming pool on the site as well - both of which are now gone.[6] In 2007 the hotel celebrated 100 years since the first hotel licence was granted.

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## Sources:

- [1] Deidre Hawkins (ed.), *Kinglake Pioneering Days*, p. 1.
- [2] Les Blake quoted in Hawkins, *ibid*.
- [3] Alexander Kinglake, *Eothen*, Könemann Travel Classics, Hungary, 1977, dust jacket.
- [4] Deidre G. Hawkins (ed.), *Kinglake Pioneering Days*, n.d., pp. 16-17 and pp. 19-20.
- [5] *Ibid*, pp. 19-20 and p. 29.
- [6] *Mountain Monthly*, November 2007, p. 17.
- [7] Photos of the hotel building c1940 and c1960, provided by C Lovick & S McCulloch, 2008.
- [8] Pers. comm., C Lovick & S McCulloch, 03/10/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

- 5.3 Tourism in the 21st Century
- 8.1 Bushfires

## Description

### Physical Description

The National Park Hotel, built in 1927, is a complex of three buildings on a corner site. The main building, the hotel itself, is at the centre, with two buildings set back on either side of it. On the right-hand side is a former accommodation building and on the left is a restaurant building (Lawson's Retreat). All three have gable-front with verandahs that wrap around across the facades, and corrugated-iron clad roofs. There is a mature cypress tree next to the main building, and other mature exotic species around the restaurant building.

The hotel building is dominated by the very wide front gable. A rectangular louvered vent in the gable has a Japanese-inspired frame. Double entrance doors are at the centre of the facade, with banks of multi-paned windows on either side. The verandah is supported on simple timber posts with brick pier bases - the piers were added c1960.

The restaurant building, on the left-hand side, also has a broad front gable and Japanese-inspired gable vent. It retains the timber verandah posts in their original form.

Originally, the main hotel building and the restaurant building were clad in strapped fibro sheeting, with a weatherboard-look pressed metal dado. Both were reclad in narrow vertical cedar boards around 1960.

The third building housed hotel rooms. It is clad in the original pressed metal dado with fibro-concrete sheeting above. The front gable is fibro-clad with the same Japanese-inspired vent in the gable. The east side elevation is set under the verandah (with simple timber posts) and has a weatherboard dado below strapped fibro cladding, with multiple French

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doors into the individual rooms.

An unsympathetic flat-roofed brick extension was made to the right side of the hotel, at the front. It blocks the view of the accommodation building behind it.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider reducing the size of the 'Lawson's Restaurant' sign so it does not obscure the gable vent of the restaurant building.
2. Consider removing the unsympathetic bottle shop addition in the future.
3. If the hotel and restaurant buildings are to be reclad in the future, they should be returned to their original appearance: strapped cement sheeting above a dado.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

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5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Kinglake Hotel (now National Park Hotel), at 28 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake. The first hotel on the site was built c.1895, and started life as the Thomson family home Aurelia Villa in which they also ran a post office. In 1907 Harry Thomson was granted a hotel licence and it was called the Kinglake Hotel. Harry Thompson's son, Frank Harris Thomson, with his wife Annie née Power, took over the running of the hotel from his father in 1914. The original building was destroyed during the 1926 bushfires. Harry and his family first erected a tin shed until the larger three-building complex of today was built from 1927 onwards. Subsequent owners, Herb and Wilma Collier, took over the hotel in the 1960s and renamed it the National Park Hotel.

The three buildings of 1927 are the following: the central hotel, with a restaurant building and an accommodation building set back from it, one on each side. The hotel building is dominated by the very wide front gable. A rectangular louvered vent in the gable has a Japanese-inspired frame. The verandah is supported on simple timber posts with c1960 brick pier bases.

The restaurant building, on the left-hand side, also has a broad front gable and Japanese-inspired gable vent. The simple verandah posts retain their original form.

The third building housed hotel rooms. It is clad in weatherboards and fibro-concrete sheeting. The front gable is fibro-

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clad with the same Japanese-inspired vent in the gable. The east side elevation is set under the verandah (with simple timber posts) and has a weatherboard dado below strapped fibro cladding, with multiple French doors into the individual rooms.

The hotel and restaurant buildings originally had similar cladding to the accommodation block, but were reclad in cedar boards c1960.

There is a mature cypress in front of the bottle shop, and mature deciduous trees in front of the restaurant.

The brick extension on the east side of the hotel (the bottle shop) is not significant.

How is it significant?

The former Kinglake Hotel is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a hotel that has been operated in the same location for over a century, in the current buildings for over 80 years. Also for its associations with the tourism industry which was very important in the Kinglake area in the 20th century. And for its associations with the Thomson family, who ran the hotel from its inception until the mid-20th century. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, as a trio of rustically designed buildings set among mature exotic trees, in particular the column cypress in front of the Hotel and the deciduous trees in front of the Restaurant. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Cypress & mature exotic trees
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Kinglake West Uniting Church  
**Address** 1050 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road KINGLAKE WEST  
**Place Type** Church  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes



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**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Carpenter Gothic

**Maker / Builder** Burton, J & B

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KINGLAKE WEST

Kinglake (including Kinglake West, Central and East) were named after the British historian Alexander Kinglake (1809-91).[1] The name was chosen by John Lindsay Beale to honour the historian.[2] Beale, born 1830, was the youngest son of Major Anthony and Katherine Rose Beale, Paymaster-General for the East India Company on the island of St Helena. The family sailed to Melbourne in 1839 and established a property on the Plenty River named St Helena, after which the area of St Helena became known. Beale first took up land in the Kinglake district in the County of Anglesey in 1873. He was active in community affairs, was instrumental in the establishment of the school at Kinglake Central and is recognised as a pioneer of the district. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Kinglake district and was a member of the Eltham Shire Council from 1879-94, during which time he served two terms as Shire President.

Kinglake West was originally part of the former City of Whittlesea (prior to amalgamation in 1994) and was popularly known as 'Tommy's Hut'. The name derived from Tommy Gibson, a timber splitter, and his modest hut located near the corner of Flowerdale and Kinglake roads, from which Tommy would infamously supply illegal liquor. [3]

The area developed from the mid-1800s [4] with settlers coming from Whittlesea to the west. Local farmers and timber millers were known to transport their goods to the Whittlesea Railway station [5], which opened in 1889 [3]. Kinglake West Mechanics' Institute and Library was built in 1908 and established to encourage settlers to gather at the local hall. It became a focal point of the local community. The back room was devoted to the Library and people came from miles to attend, read books and socialise [4].

When municipal amalgamations took place in 1994, Kinglake West became part of the Shire of Murrindindi.

### HISTORY OF CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation purchased the lot on Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake West, in June 1925. At this date, the property comprised the western half of the current extent [6].

The Kinglake West Uniting Church was built in 1927 as the Kinglake West Presbyterian Church. It was constructed by John Burton and his son Bob, on land donated by Mr Dunstone. Prior to the building of this church, services had been held in two locations - the first at the Kinglake West Mechanics Institute, and also at the Kinglake Primary School. Early ministers travelled from Whittlesea on horseback to conduct services, sometimes staying overnight with the Owen family. A Sunday School room and kitchen were added in 1974, and in the 1980s the main entrance was changed to the side of the building. [7] In 1977, following the amalgamation of Presbyterian and Methodist churches, it became a Uniting Church. In September 1980, the land was officially transferred into the ownership of the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Australia) [6].

### Sources

[1] Deidre Hawkins (ed.), *Kinglake Pioneering Days*, p. 1.

[2] Les Blake quoted in Hawkins, *ibid.*

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[3] JW Payne (1975), *The Plenty, A centenary history of the Whittlesea Shire*, Kilmore [Vic], pp. 180-1.

[4] Context (2011), 'Murrindindi Shire Heritage Study, Volume 1: Thematic Environmental History', pp. 8, 71, 87

[5] Bev Johns, historian, personal communication 21 January 2014.

[6] Land Victoria, Certificate of Title Volume:5002, Folio:234.

[7] Deidre G. Hawkins (ed.) (undated), *Kinglake Pioneering Days*, p. 70.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

The Kinglake West Uniting Church is a simple Carpenter Gothic building with weatherboard cladding and a corrugated iron roof. The church has a gable front and a gable-fronted entry porch entered on the right-hand side. The main gable has a triangular louvered vent right at the apex and a timber pendant and cross brace (creating an inverted 'T') at the peak. The porch has a similar detail of a cross brace and three uprights in the gable.

The church is three bays long, with multi-paned lancet windows. There are three large metal ventilators on the left-hand slope of the roof, just below the ridgeline.

At the rear is a low fibro addition, which was built in 1974. It is entered via a large open verandah at the junction between church and addition, on the right-hand side, which is a new entrance created in the 1980s.

The church is in good condition. It is intact, apart from the rear additions.

There are mature exotic trees in adjacent properties which provide an attractive setting for the church, although the majority of plantings on the church land are large exotic shrubs. A mature *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar cedar) survives on the south west corner of the church. The location suggests that this is one of a pair of Deodar cedars planted on either side of the church in the interwar period. The extant tree has been unsympathetically pruned for power line clearance and has a reduced canopy.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

1. The fibro rear addition and new church entrance can be removed or altered without negative impact on the significance of the church.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Kinglake West Presbyterian Church (now Kinglake West Uniting Church), 1048 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake West, built in 1927 by John and Bob Burton on land donated by a Mr Dunstone. It is a gable-fronted weatherboard building with simple Carpenter Gothic detailing. The front gable and entrance porch have decorative cross bracing with three slats. The windows are multi-paned in a lancet form. There are large metal roof ventilators.

The later rear additions and side entrance porch are not significant.

The mature *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar cedar) at the south west corner of the church contributes to the historical setting of the church.

How is it significant?

The former Kinglake West Presbyterian Church is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of two of the earliest surviving churches in greater Kinglake. While St Peter's Church of England, Kinglake Central, is slightly earlier (1922), Kinglake Presbyterian Church is the more architecturally distinguished, with its Carpenter Gothic details. (RNE criteria D.2)

Socially, the Church is significant for its strong associations with the local community for its continuous church use since 1927 (RNE criterion G.1).

Aesthetically, as a picturesque example of a Carpenter Gothic church. The *Cedrus deodar* at the front of the church provides an appropriate setting to the facade, and enhances the simplicity and modest style of the church (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Cedrus deodara
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Fairview Park  
**Address** 5759 - 5764 Maroondah Highway KORIELLA  
**Place Type** FarmHouse  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF KORIELLA

Koriella is the site of a former railway station. The line from Cathkin reached Ainsworth's Stump in 1890 but was renamed Alexandra Road Station (and finally, Koriella Station). It remained the end of the branch line until 1909, when the line was extended to Alexandra proper. The settlement and station were renamed Lily in 1909 from the nearby Lily Gully. In 1910 it was renamed Rhodes after South African statesman, Cecil John Rhodes (1853-1902); and finally in 1916 it was renamed Koriella. Nigel Sinnott proposes the name may have been chosen by someone who had seen the word listed by Brough Smyth in his 'Aborigines of Australia', Volume 2, 1878, though this is impossible to verify. Sinnott also suggests that in Taungurong the name means the name for the Goulburn River which, allegedly, means cockatoo. Despite the history and dispute over the now defunct settlement's name, the railway station at Koriella closed in 1973. The extent of the description of the settlement in the Municipal Directory of 1974, Koriella was a 'Village with post and telegraph office.' [1] Today, Koriella is a name on the road only.

### HISTORY OF FAIRVIEW PARK

From the title deeds, it appears that Fairview Park homestead was built around 1922 or 1924 for Russell Hartley Blackburn, Farmer.

Frederick and Isabella Popple, who had settled originally at Yan Yean, as had many early pioneers, moved to Koriella where Frederick purchased 14 acres, 3 roods 39 perches of Allotment 78G in the Parish of Alexandra, County of Anglesey from John Alsop the Elder of Alexandra on 1 July 1884. On 4 May 1894 Crown Allotment 81A (17 acres 3 roods 17 perches) was transferred from George Beard to Frederick Popple. On 4 May 1894 these properties were mortgaged to the Union bank. The two properties were subsequently mortgaged in 1900, 1905, 1908, 1913 and 1916 to Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited. Frederick Popple died on 1 August 1920, probate was granted to John George McDonald and Arthur Ridd of Alexandra on 13 June 1921. In October 1922 the property was transferred to Russell Hartley Blackburn (Land Title 4632/271). A caveat was lodged against part of the land on 20 February 1924 (presumably for a mortgage, which may have been used to finance house construction). He also sold a small part of his land on 7 June 1924, which may also have been to raise funds for the house. The property remained in Blackburn's hands until 1962.

The property, Fairview Park, is currently spread across 5 separate titles. Farm buildings on the property include a creamery, and at the rear of the house the original wool shed is still extant, though now derelict. [2]

Sources:

[1] Victorian Municipal Directory 1974, p. 515.

[2] Personal conversation Ian Newman, 4/4/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2. SETTLING THE LAND

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Description

### Physical Description

Fairview Park borders the site of the former Koriella Railway Station. The homestead is set just north of the station site.

This a large and long weatherboard house with a sweeping CGI-clad (short sheet) gabled hipped roof which continues over the wrap-around verandah. The verandah is supported on timber posts with a simple criss-cross timber frieze, and the eaves have exposed rafters. The verandah posts have chamfers in the middle half, deeper at the top tapering away toward the bottom. The verandah roofing iron is stamped 'Lysaght Orb galvanised tinned'. There is simple timber balustrade between the verandah posts on the north (rear) side of the house - this section was once screened in. The brick chimneys are quite plain and of cream brick.

The front door is on the narrow west elevation, perpendicular to the road. It is glazed in geometric patterns with one leadlight panel. The doorway is between two tripartite box windows with simple corbels at the bottom. The upper sashes contain leadlights in geometric designs. There are two tiny boxed leadlights on the south elevation as well as a tripartite boxed window with two on-over-one sashes and a picture window between.

The overall form is of the classic Australian vernacular farmhouse of the 19th century, reinterpreted in the 1920s with very fine detailing. As such it is a very unusual and attractive house.

On the east elevation the verandah has been completely enclosed: with weatherboards at either corner and an expanse of screen wire at the centre. Apart from this enclosure, which appears fairly early, this house is remarkably intact. It is in fair to good condition, but may not be occupied.

There is a large exotic tree behind the house (an oak?) and a shed that is possibly the old woolshed. It is gable-fronted with skillion side wings. The gable itself is clad in unpainted weatherboards, below it the bush-pole frame is exposed with CGI cladding beneath. The woolshed is in poor condition, as it has been damaged by white ants. Reportedly there is a creamery on the site as well, but it was not viewed.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or



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- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

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3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Fairview Park, at 5759-5764 Maroondah Highway, Koriella. Russell Hartley Blackburn, Farmer, of Koriella Upper, purchased the property in 1922. In 1924 he took out a mortgage on the property and then sold a small portion of it, which may have been to raise money to construct the house.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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It a large and long weatherboard house with a sweeping CGI-clad (short sheet) gabled hipped roof which continues over the wrap-around verandah. The verandah is supported on timber posts with a simple criss-cross timber frieze, and the eaves have exposed rafters. It has box windows and geometric leadlights. Its design and fine detailing shows the involvement of a craftsman-builder or an architect.

There is a large exotic tree behind the house (an oak?) and a woolshed. It is gable-fronted with skillion side wings. The gable itself is clad in unpainted weatherboards, below it the bush-pole frame is exposed with CGI cladding beneath.

How is it significant?

Fairview Park is of local aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, as a very unusual architectural form blending the classic Australian vernacular farmhouse of the 19th century, reinterpreted in the 1920s with very fine detailing. The mature oak behind the house adds to the aesthetic value of the place. The woolshed adds to understanding of the development of the farm. (RNE criteria E.1, F.1, A.4)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature oak trees

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Woolshed

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Limestone Avenue of Honour  
**Address** Langs Road (at Limestone Road) LIMESTONE  
**Place Type** Tree groups - avenue  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended Heritage Protection**      **VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## **History and Historical Context**

### **HISTORY OF THE AVENUE**

An avenue of honour was planted at the corner of Limestone and Langs roads, Limestone in 1919 to commemorate the service of volunteers from the district who enlisted in the First World War (1914 - 1918). It was initiated by the Yea RSL Sub-Branch.

There were 12 oak trees in the original planting along both sides of the road, each dedicated to a local man or woman who served in the war. As at June 2008 there were 11 trees remaining. It is unknown what caused the loss of the tree.

Originally each of trees had an individual white cross with a name plaque attached. These were destroyed by bushfire in 1969. At this time the local community hall and church were also destroyed.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Individuals honoured by the avenue are: Brace, Robert Snr; Brace, Robert; Brace, Samuel; Lang, Archie; McKenzie, Viv; Sier, William; Turnbull, Robert; Williamson, Albert; Williamson, Arthur; Williamson, James; Williamson, Leslie; and Williamson, William. In more recent times the Yea RSL Sub-branch has erected a plaque on a rock at the beginning of the avenue naming the individuals.

Source: Avenues of Honour survey, University of Adelaide, questionnaire completed by Murrindindi Shire Council, 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

There are eleven mature oak trees (of the original twelve planted in 1919) in a double row of trees on either side of the north end of Langs Road where it meets Limestone Road. The trees are in good condition.

While the original plaques beneath each tree were destroyed in the 1969 bushfire, the site is now marked by an upright stone (granite) at the north end of the avenue, with a recent bronze plaque on it. The plaque reads:

'Avenue of Honour / Limestone - Langs Rd / This plaque was placed by the Yea RSL Sub-Branch in honour of the volunteers from this district who enlisted to defend their country 1914 to 1918'

Followed by a list of 11 men and one woman.

## Conservation Policy

### Tree Conservation Guidelines (General)

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it policy to:

1. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and weed management.
2. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.
3. Maintain the integrity of the rows by:
  - replacing trees 'like with like' species unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.
  - removing inappropriate or historically inaccurate species.
4. Ensure that any future development or changes in immediate environmental conditions adjacent to the trees does not

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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have a detrimental impact upon their integrity and condition. Investigate ways in which adjacent development could include or coordinate with recovery and improvement of the trees' integrity and condition.

5. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

An avenue of honour was planted at the corner of Limestone and Langs roads, Limestone in 1919 to commemorate the service of volunteers from the district who enlisted in the First World War (1914 - 1918). It was initiated by the Yea RSL Sub-Branch. There were 12 oak trees in the original planting along both sides of the road, each dedicated to a local man or woman who served in the war. As at June 2008 there were 11 trees remaining. Originally each of trees had an individual white cross with a name plaque attached. These were destroyed by bushfire in 1969. A new bronze plaque, recording the names of the 12 volunteers was recently installed on a stone at the north end of the avenue.

How is it significant?

The Limestone Avenue of Honour is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a memorial to the men and woman from the Limestone area who volunteered to serve in the First and World War. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Oak trees

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Crossways Country Inn  
**Address** 4 Woods Point Road MARYSVILLE  
**Place Type** Inn/Tavern  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF MARYSVILLE

With the discovery of gold at Enoch's Point in 1857 and subsequent discoveries at Woods Point and Jamieson, the population of the area is reported to have expanded rapidly and reached around 6,000 miners by 1861. Reliable roads to the gold mines were essential, and surveying teams worked through the district to create access tracks to the gold mining settlements, and then to Sale in Gippsland. In 1864 the recently appointed Assistant Commissioner of Roads and Bridges, Mr John Steavenson moved into the area to oversee the work of his surveyors. They chose a route over the Blacks' Spur. With his new bride Mary, Steavenson settled into the surveyors' camp, which was soon to become known as Marysville in honour of his wife.

Order and enterprise ensued after the completion of the improved access road in 1864. General stores, butchers, bakeries, hotels and a postal service sprang up. Marysville became a popular stop for miners and traders. Following the first land sales in the area, farming began in 1865. A Postmaster was also appointed around that time to handle the ever-increasing volume of mail.[1]

### HISTORY OF INN

In the decades before camping and caravanning or skiing holidays were as popular as they are today, guest houses or hotels were the usual style of accommodation. Enjoying the luxury of guest house accommodation in mountain resorts such as Marysville enabled tourists to enjoy activities such as fishing, walking and sightseeing. An additional benefit was the attraction of a homely environment where meals were prepared for guests, beds were made and honeymooners or families could enjoy the great outdoors and the company of other guests. By the 1920s Marysville had become one of the most popular honeymoon and resort towns within easy reach of Melbourne. The Crossways Country Inn was one of the traditional guesthouses which graced the wooded slopes around the town and boasted a range of modern facilities.

Crossways Country Inn was built in c.1920. It was named from the junction of roads that meet at this point, which is the main junction to the gold fields of Woods Point and Walhalla as well as the roads used by the logging trucks. It was run by two nurses, Miss Bolam and Miss McGowan, followed by Geoff Cuzens after his return from World War Two.[2] Influential politician, later Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, is said to have stayed at the Crossways during the 1920s. Publicity for the recent renovation claim it has recreated the nostalgic warmth and atmosphere of the past, while adding some modern touches and comforts.[3]

Sources:

[1]<http://www.marysvilletourism.com/history.htm>

[2]Mary Kenealy, *The High Way to Heaven: A Story of Marysville and District*, Roundabout Publishing, 2006, p. 85.

[3]<http://www.crosswaysmarysville.com.au/history.htm>

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

5.2 Guest-houses



## Description

### Physical Description

The Crossways Country Inn is a picturesque circa 1920 elevated, log building with a hipped roof clad in short-sheet corrugated iron. It has one-over-one sash windows. The earliest part of the inn was a gabled hipped roof section running east-west with the main elevation on Woods Point Road and a broken-back verandah facing Murchison Street (east end). The verandah is supported on log posts with a scalloped fascia. The inn was later extended with three wings on the south side: one continues the line of the hipped roof and verandah facing Murchison Street, though the verandah area is enclosed; and two gabled wings parallel to this one. There are also smaller gabled extensions running east-west from the eastern-most gabled wing. The extensions match the original inn, using log walls and short-sheet corrugated-iron roofing. The interior of the inn retains its c1920s high timber wainscotting inside.

There is also a row of tiny 'log cabins' behind the inn, with scalloped bargeboards in imitation of the inn's verandah fascia. They have aluminium windows that appear to be replacements.

The inn appears to be in generally good condition.

In 2009, the section of the south elevation of the inn beneath the verandah was opened up with folding glass doors.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Maintain the current (early) roofing iron.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

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- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Crossways Country Inn, 4 Woods Point Road, Marysville, built c1920, is a large rustic-looking log building with a dominant hipped roof clad in corrugated iron, which has been enlarged several times. It was initially run by two nurses, Miss Bolam and Miss McGowan. The guest cabins are contributory to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Crossways Country Inn is of local historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the traditional guesthouses in Marysville that sprang up in the 1920s when the town became one of the most popular honeymoon and resort towns within easy reach of Melbourne. Its rustic 'log cabin' form is in keeping with its location in a mountain resort. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Cabins
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Marysville War Memorial  
**Address** 1 Murchison Street MARYSVILLE  
**Place Type** War Memorial  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

When war broke out in 1914 Australia had been a federated Commonwealth for only 14 years. The new national government was eager to establish its reputation among the nations of the world. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the allied navies. The plan was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul), the capital of the Ottoman Empire and an ally of Germany. They landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war. Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives of capturing Constantinople and knocking Turkey out of the war, the Australian and New Zealand actions during the campaign bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy.

The creation of what became known as the 'Anzac legend' became an important part of the national identity of both nations. This shaped the ways they viewed both their past and future. The date, 25 April, was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916 and was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, a march through London, and a sports day in the Australian camp in Egypt. In London over 2,000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets. A London newspaper headline dubbed them "The knights of Gallipoli". Marches were held all over Australia in 1916. Wounded soldiers from Gallipoli attended the Sydney march in convoys of cars, attended by nurses. For the remaining years of the war, ANZAC Day was used as an occasion for patriotic rallies and recruiting campaigns, and parades of serving members of the AIF were held in most cities.

During the 1920s ANZAC Day became established as a national day of commemoration for the 60,000 Australians who died during the war. The first year in which all states observed some form of public holiday together on ANZAC Day was 1927. By the mid-1930s all the rituals we today associate with the day - dawn vigils, marches, memorial services, reunions, two-up games - were firmly established as part of ANZAC Day culture. With the coming of the Second World War, ANZAC Day was used to also commemorate the lives of Australians lost in that war. In subsequent years the meaning of the day has been further broadened to include Australians killed in all the military operations in which Australia has been involved.[1]

### HISTORY OF MEMORIAL

The Marysville War Memorial is a World War One monument erected by the Marysville Tourist Association c.1920. It has additional plaques for World War Two, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

[1] [http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/anzac\\_tradition.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/anzac_tradition.asp)

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.5 Commemorating

### Description

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Physical Description

The Marysville War Memorial is of rendered masonry with sand finish and a pyramidal top. The memorial is a World War One monument erected by the Marysville Tourist Association and also has additional plaques for World War Two, Korea and Vietnam.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in its future development or management:

1. Conserve the fabric of the memorial, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the removal of significant or contributory fabric unless it is only of part of the memorial and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the monument and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

4. Prevent adjacent development from overwhelming the key features or adversely affecting the integrity of the site as a clearly identifiable feature of the historical landscape.

5. Retain views of the memorial from the street.

### NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of places may have changed.

It is therefore desirable that the information contained in this citation should be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified

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professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Marysville War Memorial, in front of 1 Murchison Street, Marysville. It is of rendered masonry with sand finish and a pyramidal top. The memorial is a World War One monument erected by the Marysville Tourist Association c1920 and also has additional plaques for World War Two, Korea and Vietnam.

How is it significant?

The Marysville War Memorial is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a memorial to the men from the Marysville area who served as soldiers, and those who gave their lives during the First World War (and subsequent wars). (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Oak Avenue  
**Address** Murchison Street (between Lyell Street and river)  
MARYSVILLE  
**Place Type** Tree groups - avenue  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended** VHR - HI - PS Yes  
**Heritage Protection**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF MARYSVILLE

With the discovery of gold at Enoch's Point in 1857 and subsequent discoveries at Woods Point and Jamieson, the population of the area is reported to have expanded rapidly and reached around 6,000 miners by 1861. Reliable roads to the gold mines were essential, and surveying teams worked through the district to create access tracks, to the gold mining settlements, and then to Sale in Gippsland. In 1864 the recently appointed Assistant Commissioner of Roads and Bridges, Mr John Steavenson moved into the area to oversee the work of his surveyors. They chose a route over the Blacks' Spur and made a camp by the river. With his new bride Mary, Steavenson settled in to surveyors' camp, which soon became known as Marysville in honour of his wife. The river was named after Surveyor Steavenson. Order and enterprise ensued after the completion of the improved access road in 1864. General stores, butchers, bakeries, hotels and a postal service sprang up. Marysville became a popular stop for miners and traders and developed as a grazing district. Following the first land sales in the area, farming began in 1865. A Postmaster was also appointed around that time to handle the ever-increasing volume of mail.[1]

Farmers and graziers enjoyed the riches of the fertile mountain soils, and the district became known for its abundance. Homesteads were built along the main road, and many visitors passed through the area. Marysville then became a popular



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tourist destination and a Tourist and Progress Association was established in the 1920s. It promoted the district and attractions of Marysville, Narbethong and Buxton, referred to as 'The Triangle'.<sup>[2]</sup> Guesthouse accommodation for travellers became popular during the 1930s and has remained important to the tourist industry of Marysville.

## HISTORY OF OAKS

Sixteen oaks along Murchison Street are believed to have been planted by Thomas Barton to commemorate the births of his 16 children (by two wives). Thomas Barton opened the Marysville general store, at the end of Murchison Street near the river, and also took supplies to Wood's Point Groceries. <sup>[1]</sup> In 1911 Thomas Barton urged for the building of a local Church in Marysville, but died before it was finished in January 1912.<sup>[2]</sup>

The oaks included Pin Oaks and English Oaks. Other species of trees were also planted in the avenue early in the life of the town. These included elms, plane trees and a poplar.

The Black Saturday bushfire of February 2009 ravaged the town of Marysville, including the Murchison Street trees. While the majority of them survived and only had to be pruned or deadwooded, 10 mature trees had to be removed by May 2011. These included a Liquidamber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), two Plane Trees (*Platanus acerifolius*), a White Poplar (*Populus alba*), a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), two English Oaks (*Quercus robur*), a Lime or Linden Tree (*Tilia cordata*), and an Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*).<sup>[3]</sup>

Source:

[1] Kenealy, R., Community Workshop Place Nomination Form, 2005

[2] Mary Kenealy, *The High Way to Heaven*, p. 103.

[3] Chris Spencer, Consulting Arborist, ENSPEC Environment & Risk, 10 May 2011.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

- 7.1 Township development
- 9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

An avenue of mixed exotic trees lining Murchison Street, between Lyell Street and Steavensons River, in the Marysville town centre. The avenue comprises a number of mature oaks (x9), including Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and deciduous oak (*Quercus sp.*)<sup>[1]</sup>; other mature white poplar, elm and plane trees, as well as juvenile deciduous exotics interspersed, such as oaks and maples.

The mature oak trees may have formed part of an avenue planting of alternating species. However, over the years, it appears that as individual mature trees have been lost or removed, younger replacement trees have been inserted into the gaps. These replacement trees have included a variety of species, including the same oak species, but also maple (x1), plane (x1), mature white poplars (x2), and mature elm (x1) along Murchison Street.

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While the integrity of the planting has been reduced through the introduction of replacement trees of varying species, overall, the trees lining Murchison Street form a strong structural landscape element in the town centre. This is undoubtedly enhanced when the trees are in leaf in spring, summer and, in particular, autumn.

[1] This site was visited in mid-winter. Identification of the alternate oak species (with a lobed leaf and oblong to obovate deciduous leaf, 7.5 by 12cm long) could therefore not be confirmed.

## Previous Statement Significance

What is significant?

The avenue of mixed exotic trees lining Lyell Street (between Darwin and Murchison Streets), and Murchison Street (between Lyell Street and Steavensons River), in the Marysville town centre. The avenue comprises a number of large and mature oaks, including Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and deciduous oak (*Quercus* sp.)[1]; 10 oak trees along Lyell Street and 9 along Murchison Street; mature white poplars, an elm and plane tree, as well as juvenile deciduous exotics interspersed, such as oaks and maples.

The mature oak trees are reportedly remnants of an avenue of 16 mature oaks planted by Mr Barton, an early Marysville resident, to commemorate the births of his 16 children (by two wives).

While the integrity of the planting has been reduced through the introduction of replacement trees of varying species, overall, the trees lining Lyell and Murchison Streets form a strong structural landscape element in the town centre. This is undoubtedly enhanced when the trees are in leaf in spring, summer and, in particular, autumn.

How is it significant?

The avenues of trees lining Lyell Street and Murchison Street in the Marysville town centre have aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, the avenue of exotic trees lining Lyell Street (between Darwin and Murchison Streets) and Murchison Street (between Lyell Street and Steavensons River), in the Marysville town centre, is significant for its strong structural contribution to the landscape character and streetscape of the Marysville town centre. This is undoubtedly enhanced when the trees are in leaf in spring, summer and, in particular, autumn. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Physical Description

An avenue of mixed exotic trees lining Murchison Street, between Lyell Street and Steavensons River, in the Marysville town centre. The avenue comprises a number of mature oaks (x6), including Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), English Oak (*Quercus Robur*), and an Algerian Oak (*Quercus canariensis*). Other mature trees interspersed in the avenue include elm and plane trees, as well as juvenile deciduous exotics interspersed, such as oaks and maples.

The mature oak trees may have formed part of an avenue planting of alternating species. However, over the years, it appears that as individual mature trees have been lost or removed, younger replacement trees have been inserted into the gaps. These replacement trees have included a variety of species, including the same oak species, but also maple, plane, and a mature elm along Murchison Street.

While the integrity of the planting has been reduced through the introduction of replacement trees of varying species,

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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overall, the trees lining Murchison Street form a strong structural landscape element in the town centre.

The integrity of the planting was further reduced by the removal of 10 mature trees (including three oaks) which was necessitated by damage in the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009. This has left large gaps in the avenue, particularly on the north side of Murchison Street to the east of Pack Road, and to a lesser extent on the south side of the street, between Lyell Street and Pack Road.

## Conservation Policy

In order to conserve the heritage significance of the plantings, it is policy to:

1. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.
2. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.
3. Maintain the integrity of the plantings by:
  - replacing trees 'like with like' species unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.
  - removing inappropriate or historically inaccurate species.
4. Ensure that any future development or changes in immediate environmental conditions, adjacent to the trees does not have a detrimental impact upon the integrity and condition of the trees. Investigate ways in which adjacent development could include or coordinate with recovery and improvement of the trees' integrity and condition.
5. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The avenue of mixed exotic trees lining Lyell Street (between Darwin and Murchison Streets), and Murchison Street (between Lyell Street and Steavensons River), in the Marysville town centre. The avenue comprises a number of large and mature oaks, including Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), English Oak (*Quercus Robur*), and an Algerian Oak (*Quercus canariensis*), elm and plane trees, as well as juvenile deciduous exotics interspersed, such as oaks and maples.

The six mature oak trees are reportedly remnants of an avenue of 16 mature oaks planted by Thomas Barton, an early Marysville resident, to commemorate the births of his 16 children (by two wives).

While the integrity of the planting has been reduced through the introduction of replacement trees of varying species and the destruction of 10 of the mature trees (including three oaks) in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfire, overall, the trees lining Murchison Streets form a strong structural landscape element in the town centre.

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How is it significant?

The avenues of trees lining Lyell Street and Murchison Street in the Marysville town centre have historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a reminder of one of Marysville's early residents, Thomas Barton, as well as his two wives and 16 children. The oaks have increased significance following the 2009 Black Saturday bushfire, as they are one of only a handful of historic elements to survive in the town (RNE criteria H.1 & B.1)

Aesthetically, the avenue of exotic trees lining Murchison Street (between Lyell Street and Steavensons River), in the Marysville town centre, is significant for its strong structural contribution to the landscape character and streetscape of the Marysville town centre. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature oaks, elm and plane trees

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

**Name** Wilks Creek Bridge abutments  
**Address** 176 Marysville Road MARYSVILLE  
**Place Type** Road Bridge  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YARRA TRACK

With the discovery of gold at Enoch's Point in 1857 and subsequent discoveries at Woods Point and Jamieson, the population of the area is reported to have expanded rapidly and reached around 6,000 miners by 1861. Reliable roads to the gold mines were essential, and surveying teams worked through the district to create access tracks to the gold mining

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settlements and then to Sale in Gippsland. In 1864 the recently appointed Assistant Commissioner of Roads and Bridges, Mr John Steavenson moved into the area to oversee the work of his surveyors. They chose a route over the Blacks' Spur. With his new bride, Mary, Steavenson settled in to the surveyors' camp, which was soon to become known as Marysville in honour of his wife.

Order and enterprise ensued after the completion of the improved access road in 1864. General stores, butchers, bakeries, hotels and a postal service sprang up. Marysville became a popular stop for miners and traders. Following the first land sales in the area, farming began in 1865. A Postmaster was also appointed around that time to handle the ever-increasing volume of mail.[1]

The Victorian Gazetteer of 1865 described Marysville as a 'newly-formed postal township in the electoral district of Dalhousie. situated on the Yarra track to Wood's Point and on the Steavenson river. . The entire district is so densely timbered that no agriculture has been attempted.'[2] The township slowly established, and homesteads were built along the main road; many visitors passed through the area. Bailierre's Gazetteer also noted in 1865 that Marysville had one hotel which also served as a coach office. The population at the time was 200.[3] Marysville became a popular tourist destination, and a Tourist and Progress Association was established in the 1920s. It promoted the district and attractions of Marysville, Narbethong and Buxton - referred to as 'The Triangle'.[3] Guesthouse accommodation for travellers became popular during the 1930s and has remained important to the tourist industry of Marysville.

The Yarra Track was a significant breakthrough in communication between Melbourne and the north-east goldfields. It is documented in the pictorial history, *The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places*, compiled by local historian, Ann Thomas.[4] Surveyed by Reich, Guerin and Robley with government sponsorship, the route passed through Eltham and the Plenty watershed to follow the Yarra valley to Yarra Glen. The track then followed the Watts River to Healesville, crossing it at Fernshaw then ascending the Blacks' Spur to Narbethong and Marysville. Past Marysville, the Yarra Track route followed the main divide before reaching Matlock and Woods Point. Cobb & Co coaches, one of a small number of coach services established in the 19th century, first serviced the Victorian goldfields and quickly developed to become the most successful company of its kind. The coach company pioneered transport routes for delivering mail, gold and passengers across Victoria. Opening up the country via coach travel contributed greatly to social growth and the expansion of settlement across Victoria. Because of the presence of many rivers, creeks and streams in the Marysville area, bridges were vital to the transport system throughout the district. They developed according to the available technology and funds, often sought from the State Government.

## HISTORY OF BRIDGE

Commemorating the name of the key Public Works Department engineer, Clement Wilks, who supervised construction of the famous Yarra Track during the 1860s and 1870s, the Wilks Creek Bridge survives as material evidence of an expensive nineteenth-century construction project designed to link Melbourne with the bustling Woods Point goldfields. The Yarra Track was a favourite project of Wilks, who had earlier played a vital role in Central Goldfields road and bridge construction for the Central Roads Board, from Castlemaine and Ballarat bases.[5]

Construction and alterations to the bridge were as follows:[6]

.A bluestone abutment and timber strutted-stringer bridge was erected in the 1870s to designs by bridge engineer Clement Wilks. This included shaped sockets in the bluestone abutments to carry the struts, one to each of the 4 stringers at each abutment. This is a significant bridge for this rare surviving feature.

.In 1897 the timber superstructure was replaced with a simple round stringer and pile pier. This was carried out by the partnership of Monash and Anderson and followed typical timber bridge design practice of the period with four 12-16inch diameter "in the round" timber stringers on a 4-pile pier with crosshead, footplate and diagonal braces. The deck was carried on large cross beams.

David Moloney (of the National Trust's Bridges Committee) has located a Specification in the Monash archives (dated 2 July 1897, No. 69, Shire of Healesville) for 'Redecking Wilks Creek Bridge'. It specifies the complete replacement of the current decking with 5 x 8 inch timbers (messmate or stringybark), and removal and repair of the guard rails.

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.The deck was replaced and additional squared stringers were added in about 1940 when the bridge was repaired by the CRB. The surviving planks, kerbs and handrails probably all date from this period.  
.Further repairs were carried out involving intermediate small timber props some time after this, probably in 1970s.  
.A double Armco culvert on a new road alignment on a high earth embankment immediately upstream was constructed in 1970, replacing the old bridge.  
.There are plans to dismantle the timber elements of the bridge in 2008, leaving the bluestone abutments.

## Sources:

- [1] <http://www.marysvilletourism.com/history.htm>
- [2] Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1865, p. 240.
- [3] Ibid.
- [4] Ann Thomas, *The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places*, 1980.
- [5] Mary Kenealy, *The High Way to Heaven: A Story of Marysville and District*, Roundabout Publishing, 2006, p. 81.
- [6] Gary Vines, based on research by Don Chamber and site inspection, 15/04/08.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 3.1 Developing road networks and bridges

## Description

### Physical Description

2006:

The Wilks Creek Bridge consists of finely crafted bluestone wingwalls and bluestone abutments with shaped sockets for timber struts (constructed to take an earlier single-span strutted-stringer superstructure). The timber work in the present substructure consists of a central pier with four round piles and a (rare) square-timbered cap and simple cross braces. The timber superstructure was replaced c1897 with a simple round stringer and pile pier. In the mid-20th century the deck was replaced and additional squared stringers were added. The surviving planks, kerbs and handrails probably all date from this period, as well. When inspected in 2006, the bridge was in a state of collapse.

2008:

In early 2008 the bridge was found to be in a very unstable state and dismantling of the timber elements (after their documentation) was recommended. Dismantling of the timber elements of the bridge took place under the supervision of archaeologist Gary Vines, who also recorded the bridge elements. The bluestone abutments remain at the site.

2011:

Interpretive signage had been put up on the north side of the bridge abutments, explaining their history and significance.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Clear the woody vegetation both on the stonework of the abutments themselves and within a metre or so around them. This will allow the structure to be viewed, and prevent damage from root growth.
2. For public safety, provide an unobtrusive railing at the stone abutments, whose installation does not impact upon the historic fabric.
3. Make the site more accessible to passing motorists. This includes better sign-posting on the Marysville Road, and possibly creating a right-hand turn lane from the south-bound lane.
4. Improve visitor amenity at the site, for example, renew picnic facilities (new tables, rubbish bins), and a wider turning/parking area for cars if this does not impact the bridge or any significant trees.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Wilks Creek Bridge abutments, all that remains of the bridge at 176 Marysville Road, Marysville, which was dismantled in 2008 due to the very poor condition of the timber superstructure. The handcrafted bluestone masonry wingwalls and abutments, especially shaped to receive timber struts for an original strutted-stringer superstructure, remain on the site.

How is it significant?

The Wilks Creek Bridge is of local historical and scientific significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as its substantial bluestone substructure rates among the earliest of its kind surviving intact in Victoria, and as a rare surviving material relic of the 'Yarra Track', a monumentally-expensive nineteenth-century construction project designed to link Melbourne with the bustling Woods Point Goldfields (RNE criterion B.2, A.4). For its associations with Clement Wilks, the key Public Works Department engineer who supervised construction of the 'Yarra Track' during the 1860s and 1870s, and had earlier played a vital role in Central Goldfields road and bridge construction for the Central Roads Board, from Castlemaine and Ballarat bases (RNE criterion H.1).

Scientifically, for the evidence it provides of traditional Victorian colonial bridge construction (RNE criterion D.2).



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Balham Hill Homestead  
**Address** 1599 Whanregarwen Road MOLESWORTH  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF MOLESWORTH

The Parish of Molesworth in the County of Anglesey was named in 1855 by the government surveyor Thomas W Pinniger. The township of Molesworth is located on the Goulburn River. The origin of the name is still a matter of conjecture. Nigel Sinnott in *Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, writes that it was named after either Sir William Molesworth (1810-55) British MP and Colonial Secretary (1855) or Lieutenant James Molesworth who died in Malta in 1854. The Lieutenant was a member of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, Colonel Yea's regiment. He adds that a much less likely person the township was named after would be the Victorian Solicitor-General, Sir Robert Molesworth (1806-90). Harvey Blanks, author of *The Story of Yea*, proposes it was named after Lieutenant Molesworth, while local historians Jones and Jones, in *Molesworth 1824-1994*, prefer to believe it was named after Sir William Molesworth. The surname, according to Sinnott, is either from Molesworth, Cambridgeshire and is derived from the Old English Mulesword meaning enclosure, or Molesworth, Cheshire from the Old English molda, meaning top of a head or hill, and word, meaning enclosure. Notwithstanding the mystery of its name, it took some time to be generally accepted, as the town was initially referred to as Sloan's Punt. John Hannibal Sloan had started a ferry service across the Goulburn River in 1859, providing access from the west. The village was surveyed in 1864 by John Downey. Early settlers include the Ridds, McRaes, Clarkes, Scales, Dunn, and McAlpins.

### HISTORY OF BALHAM HILL

Balham Hill or Clarendon Run No. 40 in the Western Port District consisted of 14,720 acres carrying 40,000 sheep. The original area was estimated to be 23 square miles. It was located on the left bank of the Goulburn River, 6 miles east of Yea. The first squatter was Edward Cotton, from May 1842, though it was not licensed to him until 1845.[1, 2] On 1 July 1848 it was transferred to John G. Wright and Edward C. Bishop. It was Gazetted on 4 October 1848; on 4 Feb 1851 the land transferred to William Stone, Thomas Stone and Willoughby Pain; 16 March 1854 - Dr John E Walton and William Drayton Taylor; 1 Dec 1857 - John Ludlow Walton, Edward Wynne Walton and William Henry Walton; 17 April 1861 - H. Cox and C.S. Close; 1 April 1865 - Richard Goldsborough & Co, Hugh Parker, Brisco Ray, and Henry Pollard Palmer; 21 March 1866 - Richard Goldsborough & Hugh Parker.[1, 3]

The original homestead was built for Edward Cotton in 1842 or '43 using bricks made on the property.[4] A report on the request for a pre-emptive right of June 1854 refers to a brick home, woolshed, outhouses and stables. [5] Edward Cotton, the first squatter of Balham Hill, was born in 1803 Balham Hill, Clapham Common near London. Despite his ambitions, he failed as a pastoralist and sold Balham Hill in 1848. He died from drowning at Moorabbin in 1860, one a week after being suspended from his position as Registrar (Chief Clerk) of the County Court for 'extravagance and financial mismanagement'. [6]

In 1886 the property was sold by William Merry to John McCormack. He and his wife Johanna had five children, one of whom, Aloysius, died as an infant. The remaining children, Jane, Grace, Leo and Cyril grew up at Molesworth and attended Molesworth State School. In the early 1900s John McCormack rebuilt the homestead, retaining and incorporating into the new building some of Cotton's original homestead. The front rooms and hall were built for McCormack. The E-W passage is believed to be the front verandah of the original building, and there may have been many more rooms at the rear. During the McCormacks' time there was a circular drive at the front which was lost when road works altered the entrance.[7]

In 1930, following the death of John McCormack, the property was divided. Leo retained Balham Hill and married Zillah Maling. In 1942 Leo sold Balham Hill and moved to Melbourne. Cyril, who married Josephine Conlan in June 1930, took

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over a large area near Cottons Pinch and a home was built on this section. The property was named Alencon after a village in northern France.

An early large orchard on the east side of the house, which includes the establishment of a Mulberry tree, was still in existence in 1994. An early rose garden once occupied the west side.[8]

In the 1950s when the Coldhams owned the property; they changed the name to Anmer and in 1958 built the cottage at the rear of the house. Some time later, when Mary and Jack Joyce purchased the property, they renamed it Balham Hill, and dug out the cellar under the cottage.[9]

It is believed that the house originally had 17 rooms, but some of them were removed in the mid-20th century.[11]

Births, deaths and weddings have all taken place at Balham Hill. Notably, Clara Ridd was born there during the 1870 flood. It is thought Balham Hill provided accommodation to travellers en route to the north east.[10]

## Sources:

[1] Spreadbrorough & Anderson, Victorian Squatters, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, 1983, p. 150.

[2] Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 170.

[3] G P & N E Jones, Molesworth 1824-1994, Molesworth Local History Committee, 1994, pp. 5-9.

[4] Lloyd, B, 'Alexandra and District', 2006, p 9.

[5] Ibid, p. 7.

[6] Lewis, A., 'Edward Cotton, The Uncertain Cotton Brother', Victorian Historical Journal, September 2004, cited in <http://www.brightoncemetery.com/HistoricInterments/PreVictoria/cottone.htm>

[7] Jones, op.cit., p. 116-7.

[8] Ibid., p. 117.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Jones, op.cit., p. 45.

[11] Pers. comm, Rene Scott, 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Balham Hill Homestead sits on a substantial rise. The house faces north overlooking the Molesworth township. While there was once a front drive, at present the house is approached from the rear. There are a number of outbuildings behind the house. Going from north to south they are: a laundry drying room just behind the house; a modern sheet-metal garage behind which is a domed well; a 1958 weatherboard cottage of traditional form with a transverse gable roof and skillion verandahs front and back; a large modern farm shed; a large weatherboard stables; and a woolshed at the very top of the hill.

The house was built in two stages: 1842, and c1900 when all of part of the original brick homestead was incorporated into a larger, Victorian one. The current house is large, with a hipped roof (all internal valleys) and a roughly rectangular plan (a bit wider than it is deep). The facade of the house, which is north-facing, is clad in red face brick with an (overpainted) render band across it just above diamond-shaped motifs in cream brick (also overpainted). The front door is at the centre with a canted bay, with its own hipped roof, at the west end. There is a west-side wing, also in face brick with render bands, set back the depth of a single room. A skillion-roof verandah continues across the entire facade and around this west wing, as does the simple paired-bracket cornice. This elevation rests on a brick plinth.

The west side elevation appears to incorporate part of the 1840s house at the rear: a section of light-coloured brick, covered in render. Just behind this is a weatherboard section of the house, which appears to have been truncated.

The verandah posts have been replaced with simple squared posts, and the verandah floor boards are new. There are 20th-century rendered steps leading to the front door.

Just behind the house is a 19th-century domed well. It is constructed of rendered bricks (some of the render has come away, exposing the brick headers).

The stables are a large gabled building further up the hill. It might be the stable mentioned in the report of 1854 (with later alterations). The internal structure is of bush poles. The main entrance is on the north side (facing the back of the house). One of the double ledged entrance doors is missing, the other is in poor condition. This elevation is open at the top of the wall to provide ventilation for the livestock that were housed inside. A number of stalls survive inside. Most of the exterior of the stables is clad in modern corrugated iron, but hand-split weatherboards survive at the centre of the east gable elevation. There is also a small door to the hayloft here. Later lean-tos were added to the rear (south) and west sides of the stables. They have sawn timber framing.

The woolshed appears to be 20th-century in origin, judging by its regular form and steel windows. The interior was not, however, inspected, so there could be remains of an earlier woolshed inside.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## What is significant?

Clarendon Run (now called Balham Hill) Homestead at 1599 Whanregarwen Road, Molesworth. Clarendon Run, No. 40 in the Western Port District, was first held by squatter Edward Cotton, from May 1842, though it was not licensed to him until 1845. On 1 July 1848 it was transferred to John G. Wright and Edward C. Bishop. It was Gazetted on 4 October 1848; on 4 Feb 1851 the land transferred to William Stone, Thomas Stone and Willoughby Pain; 16 March 1854 - Dr John E Walton and William Drayton Taylor; followed by a number of other owners..

The original homestead was built for Edward Cotton in 1842 or '43 using bricks made on the property. A report on the request for a pre-emptive right of June 1854 refers to a brick home, woolshed, outhouses and stables.

In 1886 the property was sold by William Merry to John McCormack who in the early 1900s rebuilt the homestead, retaining and incorporating into the new building some of Cotton's original homestead. The front rooms and hall were built for McCormack. The E-W passage is believed to be the front verandah of the original building, and there may have been many more rooms at the rear. During the McCormacks' time there was a circular drive at the front which was lost when road works altered the entrance.

It is believed that the house originally had 17 rooms, but some of them were removed in the mid-20th century. In the 1950s the Coldhams owned the property; and they changed the name to Anmer and in 1958 built the cottage at the rear of the house.

The homestead sits on a substantial rise, facing north overlooking Molesworth township. The current house is large, with a hipped roof and a roughly rectangular plan. The facade is clad in red face brick with a render band across it just above diamond-shaped motifs in cream brick. The front door is at the centre with a canted bay, with its own hipped roof, at the west end. The west side elevation appears to incorporate part of the 1840s house at the rear: a section of light-coloured brick, covered in render. Just behind this is a weatherboard section of the house, which appears to have been truncated.

Just behind the house is a 19th-century domed well. It is constructed of rendered bricks.

The stables are a large gabled building with an internal bush-pole frame. One of the double ledged entrance doors is missing, the other is in poor condition. This elevation is open at the top of the wall to provide ventilation for livestock. A number of stalls survive inside. Most of the exterior of the stables is clad in modern corrugated iron, but hand-split weatherboards survive at the centre of the east gable elevation. Later lean-tos were added to the rear (south) and west sides of the stables.

The woolshed appears to date from the mid 20th century. The 1958 weatherboard cottage behind the house, the garage and large modern shed next to the cottage are not significant.

## How is it significant?

Clarendon Run (now called Balham Hill) is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

## Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the early squatting runs, with early physical remnants including the 1842 core of the homestead, and possibly the stables, as well as the dome brick well, the only one identified in the Shire. (RNE criteria B.2, A.4)

Aesthetically, as a grand turn-of-the-century brick house, as largely rebuilt by John McCormack, dramatically sited above Molesworth township. (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Well, stables
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Christ Church  
**Address** 4559 Goulburn Valley Highway MOLESWORTH  
**Place Type** ChurchChurchyard  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Carpenter Gothic

**Maker / Builder** Cleeland

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF MOLESWORTH

The Parish of Molesworth in the County of Anglesey was named in 1855 by the government surveyor Thomas W Pinniger. The township of Molesworth is located on the Goulburn River. The origin of the name is still a matter of conjecture. Nigel Sinnott in Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, writes that it was named after either Sir William Molesworth (1810-55) British MP and Colonial Secretary (1855) or Lieutenant James Molesworth who died in Malta in 1854. The Lieutenant was a member of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, Colonel Yea's regiment. He adds that a much less likely person the township was named after would be the Victorian Solicitor-General, Sir Robert Molesworth (1806-90). Harvey Blanks, author of The Story of Yea, proposes it was named after Lieutenant Molesworth, while local historians Jones and Jones, in Molesworth 1824-1994, prefer to believe it was named after Sir William Molesworth. The surname, according to Sinnott, is either from Molesworth, Cambridgeshire and is derived from the Old English Mulesword meaning enclosure, or Molesworth, Cheshire from the Old English molda, meaning top of a head or hill, and word, meaning enclosure. Notwithstanding the mystery of its name, it took some time to be generally accepted, as the town was initially referred to as Sloan's Punt. John Hannibal Sloan had started a ferry service across the Goulburn River in 1859, providing access from the west. The village was surveyed in 1864 by John Downey. Early settlers include the Ridds, McRaes, Clarkes, Scales, Dunn, and McAlpins.

### HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH

Established by the Church of England, Christ Church Molesworth was built in 1898-1899. The main builder was Mr Cleeland.[1]

The land was a gift of one of the founding members and local landowners, Charles Walter Ridd, who sold the land to the Church 'for the proverbial quid'. The Ridd house was located on the hill behind the Church. The first guardians of the church were Mr Johnson and Mr H McCann. The opening Dedication on 27 April 1899 was conducted by the Bishop of Melbourne, the Rt Reverend Field Flowers Goe. Music was provided by the St Luke's and Molesworth choirs accompanied by organist Miss Eastwood of Yea. Supper was provided by Mrs Carson, Mrs McCann, Miss Ridd, Mrs Smith and Mrs Wright.[2]

Services have always been conducted at the Molesworth church by the priest from Yea, who in the early days, travelled vast distances around the region by horse and jinker. Local folklore has it that parishioner Mrs Minnie Hood used to row a boat across the Goulburn River each Sunday to attend church.[3]

The church been flooded several times, prompting the building of a dais for the organ.[5] Notches on the wall indicate the level of 1934 flood which was extreme along the Goulburn River.[4]

On 26 April 1987 following a recent refurbishment, a Hallowing service was conducted by Archdeacon Alan Sapsford of Seymour, and a Liquidamber tree was planted by Mrs Betty Lipscombe, a descendant of Mr and Mrs Charles Walter Ridd.[5]

A stained glass window was installed in the sanctuary in 1988 and dedicated to parishioner Reg Scott.[6] All the glazing in the church has been replaced.[7] In 2007, a stained glass window, designed by Bruce Hutton of Almond Glassworks was installed.[8]

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Sources:

- [1] Jones, G P & N E, Molesworth 1824-1994, Molesworth Local History Committee, 1994, pp. 95-6.
- [2] Ibid., p. 96.
- [3] Ibid., pp. 95-7.
- [4] Ibid., p. 34.
- [5] Ibid., p. 97.
- [6] Ibid.
- [7] Personal conversation, Bruce Hutton, 06/02/08.
- [8] <http://almond-glass.com/pages/ecclesiastical.html> and Personal conversation with Bruce Hutton, 06/02/08

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

The Molesworth Anglican Church (Christ Church) is a small, simple gable-fronted weatherboard building with a gable-fronted porch at the centre of the facade. The porch has a straight pointed arch opening, through which the front door is visible. It is a double door, with a curved pointed arch. The doors are framed diagonal boards. The porch opening appears to be a later alteration, as it has no architrave.

The same form of a straight pointed arch is repeated in the louvered vent at the top of the gable and the three windows on each side elevation. There is a timber cross at the peak of the gable. The gable front and porch both have simple, unornamented bargeboards.

The side elevations each have three straight-pointed arched windows.

The church is in good condition.

The site of the church is surrounded by a pipe-rail fence supported by slender concrete posts, and is entered through a decorative mild-steel and wire-mesh gate. Within the fenced area are a number of mature exotic trees, such as a willow and sycamore.

## Conservation Policy

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Molesworth Anglican Church (Christ Church), constructed in 1898-99 primarily by builder Mr Cleeland, at 4559 Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth. It is a very simple, gable-fronted weatherboard building whose only ornament is lancet windows and front door. The site is bounded by an early pipe-rail and concrete-post fence and contains a number of mature trees, including a willow and sycamore.

How is it significant?

The Molesworth Anglican Church (Christ Church) is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the earliest (and sole) church in Molesworth (RNE criterion A.4).

Socially, the Church is significant as tangible evidence of its strong associations with the local community for its continuous church use since 1899. (RNE criterion G.1).

Aesthetically, as a picturesque Carpenter Gothic church set among mature deciduous trees within an early fence. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature exotic trees

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Fence and gate

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Molesworth Hall  
**Address** 4355 Goulburn Valley Highway MOLESWORTH  
**Place Type** Hall Town Hall  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF MOLESWORTH

The Parish of Molesworth in the County of Anglesey was named in 1855 by the government surveyor Thomas W Pinniger. The township of Molesworth is located on the Goulburn River. The origin of the name is still a matter of conjecture. Nigel Sinnott in *Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, writes that it was named after either Sir William Molesworth (1810-55) British MP and Colonial Secretary (1855) or Lieutenant James Molesworth who died in Malta in 1854. The Lieutenant was a member of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, Colonel Yea's regiment. He adds that a much less likely person the township was named after would be the Victorian Solicitor-General, Sir Robert Molesworth (1806-90). Harvey Blanks, author of *The Story of Yea*, proposes it was named after Lieutenant Molesworth, while local historians Jones and Jones, in *Molesworth 1824-1994*, prefer to believe it was named after Sir William Molesworth. The surname, according to Sinnott, is either from Molesworth, Cambridgeshire and is derived from the Old English Mulesword meaning enclosure, or Molesworth, Cheshire from the Old English molda, meaning top of a head or hill, and word, meaning enclosure. Notwithstanding the mystery of its name, it took some time to be generally accepted, as the town was initially referred to as Sloan's Punt. John Hannibal Sloan had started a ferry service across the Goulburn River in 1859, providing access from the west.[1] The village was surveyed in 1864 by John Downey. Early settlers include the Ridds, McRaes, Clarkes, Scales, Dunn, and McAlpins.[2]

### HISTORY OF HALL

The Molesworth Hall was built in 1902 at a cost of £158 on land donated by John McCormack. The money for the building was raised through a combination of subscriptions and a loan. Activities to pay off the loan were organised by local residents including John McCormack, Thomas Black, E T Carter, Charles Hamilton, John Hoban, Thomas M Hoban, Henry McCann and Charles Roberts.

Like many local communities, a local hall was a fundamental ingredient to maintaining a cohesive community, so the hall was built to accommodate 'public and social functions'.

The initial insurance policy was granted with the proviso 'that there shall be no theatrical or other performance with moveable or specially lighted scenery in the building' which, at the outset, must have limited their social activities.

Concerts, balls and other dances were the main events held in the Hall, including dances that were often held following concerts, races and picnics. Less common early events were euchre parties, a sheep raffle and several bazaars. Particularly in the early days these events were often with the purpose of raising funds to pay off the loan and to buy furniture and equipment. In 1908 a piano was purchased from L. Gresswell; though it was replaced by a new piano in 1925.[1]

In 1910 the Hall began to be used as a polling booth, and in 1911 movies began to be shown regularly and in the same year the so-called 'Man from Borneo' paid a visit to the Hall. School classes were conducted in the Hall in 1914 during the relocation of the Molesworth School, and by 1919 a public library was operating at the Hall. John McCormack and John Alexander Johnston were the first trustees and Harold Hood the first cleaner. In May 1919 a Committee was appointed to manage the Hall. Throughout the years, prominent families such as the Barbers, Joneses, Ridds, Smiths, McAlpins and Powells were trustees, organisers and supporters of functions at the hall. The first known librarian was W J Davies who was later replaced by C H Butler in 1919. In 1924 trustees Messrs J A Johnston and P Dunn retired and were replaced by Messrs J McAlpin and J D O'Callaghan, while Michael Mahoney became the caretaker.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In 1929 it was again used by the Education Department, and in 1932 Girl Guides began meeting there on Saturday afternoons. During the floods of 1934 it was used as shelter for residents whose homes had been flooded. It was also used for wedding receptions.[2]

During 1924-5 a double brick chimney with a copper and an open fire place was built in the Hall. In 1925 'additions and alterations' were carried out by J J Gray. In 1926 or soon after a Baltic pine ceiling lining was put in. In 1929 a motorbike and sidecar parked outside 'jumped into gear of its own accord and crashed into the front of the hall near the door', the repairs were still visible in 1994.

In 1931 an application was submitted to erect verandah posts at the front though they have never been added. In 1947-8 a new dance floor was constructed and the interior painted blue using a mixture of kalsomine and Rickett's Blue; in the same year the rear wall was extended. Upgraded toilets including a septic tank were constructed by 1978, and further renovations took place between 1978-1980 including aluminium windows, electric heaters, updating the kitchen, re-cladding the east wall, and relining in the supper room.[3]

Local groups such as the Cricket Club, Tennis Club, Hall Committee, Cycle Committee, Red Cross, School Committee, the Table Tennis Club and the Badminton Club have all utilized the Hall. It is still in use for such events as the Molesworth Easter Bazaar, after funerals, for private celebrations, as a polling place, etc.

Sources:

[1] Jones, G P & N E, 1994, Molesworth 1824-1994, Molesworth Local History Committee, pp. 85-6.

[2] Ibid., pp. 86-7.

[3] Ibid., pp. 87-8.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9. COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

## Description

### Physical Description

Molesworth Hall is a small gable-fronted timber building in a simplified Gothic Revival mode. The facade is clad in ashlar-look timber cladding. The facade has central double ledged doors beneath a semi-circular fanlight in-filled with decorative pressed metal. It is flanked by two sash windows. The front gable has a decoratively cut-out bargeboard and a curved bracket at the base of each bargeboard. There is a round, louvered vent at the peak of the gable.

Inside, the hall has an unusual hammer-beam ceiling and a vertical boarded dado.

The east side elevation has three windows. Between the last two is a ledged door. At the rear of the building is a skillion-roof addition (c1947). A shallow cream-brick toilet-block extension is appended to the rear half of the west side elevation. The sides and rear of the building are clad in wide Masonite boards and all the windows were replaced with aluminium sashes (all carried out 1978-80). The roof is clad in new Colourbond corrugated steel. Despite these changes, the building looks basically intact from the front.



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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An early photo (held by the shopkeeper, next door) shows a corner of the hall in the late 19th or early 20th century, with narrow weatherboard cladding to the side elevation, timber sash windows, and a much smaller skillion addition than today.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider removing the Masonite cladding to the sides and exposing the original weatherboards (or replacing them if already removed).
2. Consider replacing the aluminium windows with timber sash windows replicating the originals as seen in photos (at minimum, on the facade).

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Molesworth Hall, at 4355 Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth. It is a small gable-fronted timber building in simplified Gothic Revival mode, built in 1902. The rear and toilet additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Molesworth Hall is of local social, aesthetic and historical significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Socially, as a fundamental ingredient to maintaining a cohesive local community accommodating public and social functions to the present day. (RNE criterion G.1)

Aesthetically, as a prominently sited, picturesque Gothic Revival hall which is a landmark in Molesworth. (RNE criterion E.1)

Historically, for its associations with early Molesworth families, such as the McCormacks, and as a community hub that has hosted an extensive range of activities, from polling booth, temporary school, balls and numerous social clubs and committees. (RNE criteria H.1, G.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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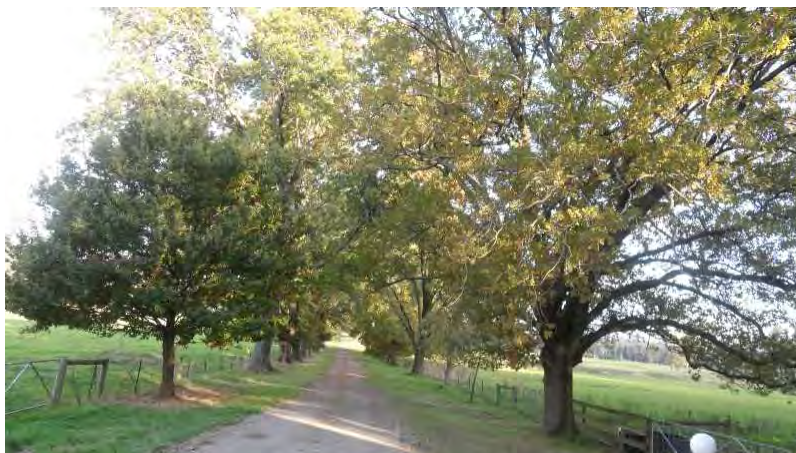
## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** St Fillan Farm  
**Address** 723 Maroondah Highway NARBETHONG  
**Place Type** Trees of social, historic or special significance  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR** Yes **HI - PS** Yes

**Designer / Architect**

Atyeo, Sam

**Architectural Style**

Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940)  
Georgian Revival

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF NARBETHONG

Narbethong is located at the foot of the Blacks' Spur on Fishers Creek. Part of the Yarra Track, the township of Narbethong was surveyed in 1865 near the rough timber shanty set up by Frederick Fisher as a horse-changing station. The Yarra Track was a significant breakthrough in communication between Melbourne and the north-east goldfields. It is documented in the pictorial history, *The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places*, compiled by local historian, Ann Thomas. Surveyed by Reich, Guerin and Robley with government sponsorship, the route passed through Eltham and the Plenty watershed to follow the Yarra Valley to Yarra Glen. The Track then followed the Watts River to Healesville, crossing at Fernshaw then ascending the Blacks' Spur to Narbethong and on to Marysville.[1] In *Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Nigel Sinnott writes that the pastoral run, Styx, covered Narbethong and St Fillan and land immediately south of the Charon run. The two runs were closely linked by their names. Charon, in Greek Kharon means 'the bright eyed one: the ferryman who rowed the shades of the dead across the Styx or Acheron River to the Underworld'. Styx was the goddess of the Underworld and also its main river, whose waters were fatal to life. The Acheron, or 'river of woe' was one of the rivers of the Underworld or kingdom of Hades. The spelling of the names of the licensees of the two pastoral runs, were, according to Billis & Kenyon, Bett and Mather. However, according to Wells, they were Batts and Matthew. Notwithstanding, it is clear they had classical educations to name the properties after characters named in Greek mythologies.[2]

### HISTORY

The first St Fillan farm and homestead were established in 1880 as a country home for Sir James Munro (1832-1908).[3] He built an elaborate English-style house. Sir James, like so many of the land Boomers of the 1880s, lost most of his money in the 1890s land crash. Munro was made famous for his questionable financial dealings during the 1880s which came to a head shortly after he became Premier of Victoria in 1890.[4] Sir James named the house and property after his birthplace in Scotland, Strathfillan - this name had links with an eighth-century Celtic saint.[5] The garden at St Fillan is believed to have been designed by, and many of the trees and shrubs supplied by, Ferdinand Von Mueller, the first director of the Royal Botanic Gardens.[6] Some of the Camellias were allegedly planted by Von Mueller himself.[7] Seven trees along the driveway and in the garden are currently listed on the National Trust Register: they are an *Acer rubrum*, *Laurus azorica*, *Abies normandiana*, *Cupressus lusitanica* var. *benthamii*, *Quercus cerris*, a *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and a *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Aurea'. [8] (Two others on the register, a *Thujaopsis dolabrata* and a *Picea mariana* were killed by the 2009 bushfires.)

St Fillan was sold to the Millers who had previously run Millers' Black Spur Inn, in 1903. They ran it as a guest house until 1937. Marion Miller, their daughter, was an Australian poet who wrote, amongst others, 'Where the Wattle Blooms'. This poem was included in the Victorian school readers used in every primary school from the 1930s to the 1950s. Marion also wrote for the Catholic newspaper *The Advocate*. [9] It is believed that from 1913 to 1931 the original homestead was also used as a post office. [10]

St Fillan has been very popular with Melbourne visitors who, in the nineteenth century, caught the train to Healesville and then travelled for a further three hours on the Cobb & Co coach to the gate of St Fillan: 'I remember how thrilled I was when I saw that great vehicle with six horses outside the railway station' wrote one guest at the turn of the nineteenth century. [11] A newspaper article 'Historic Home Sold: Built for Former Premier' reports the sale of St Fillan in 1936 to Edward Dyason, chairman of the Melbourne Stock Exchange. It claims that the property was used for some time for the breeding of horses and that it was later sold to Mrs J Miller, formerly of Woods Point. The house was used for 43 years as a guest house. [14] Sir James Munro's original house was dismantled in 1937 by Edward Dyason and he commissioned the artist Sam Atyeo (1911-1990) to design a new country house for himself and his family on top of the cellars of the original house. Sam Atyeo was a champion of the modern art movement in Melbourne. He studied architecture at the Melbourne Technical College and between 1927 and 1932 attended the National Gallery School.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Atyeo worked across a variety of media, including furniture and building design.[15] The result at St Fillan's was the spacious weatherboard family home, built in the style reminiscent of colonial America. Much of the original material was used in the construction. The outbuildings were kept and the gardens extended.[13]

The Dyasons sold St Fillan in 1945 and it passed through a succession of owners until Helen and Rex Goulding purchased it in 1967, attracted by the 73 hectares of wonderful, rich mountain soil. The beautiful wrought-iron gates to the property were intact and led into a long avenue of rare silver elms, English oaks and a bay tree. The garden was completely overgrown and the house, which had not been lived in for some time, was hidden by old trees and undergrowth. The house and garden were spared the bulldozer by Helen Goulding's father who was a builder and convinced the new owners to retain the property. In 1984 the homestead contained five bedrooms, dining room, lounge room, billiards room, library, two bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and a cellar. Other buildings on the property included a three bedroom manager's cottage, stables, machinery shed, shearing shed and hay shed.[14] The current owners maintain the house and garden in good condition. A small number of ancillary buildings have been recently constructed on the site for guest accommodation and farming purposes. Some new planting has also occurred, including a grove of birch trees.

The property was hit by the devastating Black Saturday bushfire in February 2009. The 1937 house was destroyed (but since replicated), and a number of trees outright killed or seriously damaged. At least ten mature specimen trees, and a group of Italian Cypresses had to be removed following the fires. Among them were two Cypresses, one Peppermint, one Douglas Fir, and one Bhutan Pine from the entrance drive. In the garden area, a Black Spruce, Bhutan Cypress, Holly Oak, Hiba Arbor-Vitea, Elm and six Italian Cypresses had to be removed.[16]

## Sources:

- [1] Ann Thomas, *The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places*.
- [2] Nigel Sinnott, *Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Areas of Victoria*, p. 114.
- [3] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p 20.
- [4] Mary Kenealy, *The High Way to Heaven: A Story of Marysville and District*, Roundabout Publishing, 2006, pp. 88 & 90; and Ann M Mitchell, 'Munro, James (1832 - 1908)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 5, Melbourne University Press, 1974, pp. 312-314.
- [5] 'Wowser's Narbethong retreat has many lives', *The Age*, unknown date.
- [6] *Melbourne Herald*, 9 March 1984, p. 47, 'Wowser's Narbethong' op.cit.
- [7] Kenealy, op. cit., p. 90.
- [8] National Trust File No. T11261-9.
- [9] Kenealy, op.cit., pp. 88-90.
- [10] *Melbourne Herald*, op.cit.
- [11] 'Wowser's Narbethong', op.cit.
- [12] *Argus*, 27 February 1936, p. 8.
- [13] 'Wowser's Narbethong', op.cit.

[14] Ibid.

[15] [www.artsearch.nga.gov.au](http://www.artsearch.nga.gov.au).

[16] Treelogic, 'Aboriginal Assessment and Report, St Fillan', 04/17/2009.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 5. TOURISM AND RECREATION

#### 5.2 Guest-houses

#### 8.1 Bushfires

## Description

### Physical Description

St Fillan Farm and Homestead was established in 1880. The property is entered from Maroondah Highway through an attractive cast iron gateway, and along a long driveway. The drive leads to a double-storey house, the third in the history of St Fillan. The first house, of the 1880s, was replaced in 1937 with an American Georgian Revival weatherboard house, designed by artist Sam Atyeo. This house was built over the cellars of the 1880s house. The 1937 house was destroyed in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, but a replica has been reconstructed in its place.

The long driveway is lined with a large *Quercus robur* (English Oak), *Q. cerris* (Turkey Oak), *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir), *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine), *Picea smithiana* (West Himalayan Spruce), *Ulmus minor* 'Variegata' (Variegated Smooth-leaved Elm) and *Populus alba* (White Poplar). Among the avenue planting is a rare *Laurus azorica* (Azores Laurel), (the only other known example is at Alton, Macedon Ranges), *Picea mariana* (Black Spruce), and uncommon *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple) and a *Pinus wallichiana* (Himalayan Pine) near the bridge that crosses Fishers Creek. There is another *Picea mariana* (Black Spruce) at Emerald Lake. While common in the northern hemisphere, across northern North America (Newfoundland) to Alaska, these two Black Spruce trees are the only known examples in Victoria. (NB: A third, near the St Fillan house site was killed by the 2009 bushfire.)

In addition to the fine stand of conifers, other plantings include *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca* (Blue Atlas Cedar), *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Californian Redwood), *Cupressus torulosa* (Himalayan Cypress), *Cupressus lusitanica* var. *benthamii* (Mexican Cypress), *Cedrus deodar* (Atlas Cedar), *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir), *Larix decidua* (European Larch), *Pinus nigra* var. *corsicana* (syn. *Pinus nigra* var. *maritima*), and a row of *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' (Japanese Cedar).

While conifers dominate the garden planting, other trees of interest include: *Acer rubrum*, *A. ?saccharum* (Maple), *Tilia x europaea*, *Parotia persica* (Persian Ironwood), *Cornus* sp. (Dogwood), *Arbutus? canariensis*, *Ulmus x hollandica* (Dutch Elm), *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Myrtle Beech), *Buxus sempervirens* (English Box) hedges, and rhododendron and camellia cultivars.

Adapted from the 1994 St Fillan Tree Survey, prepared by John Hawker, Horticulturist on 4 April 1994.

Nine trees at St. Fillan are listed on the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register of Significant Trees of Victoria.



## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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They were listed in 1994, as follows. Note that two were severely damaged by the 2009 bushfire and had to be removed (as noted below):

NT Ref: T11261

Name (common name): THUJOPSIS DOLABRATA (HIBA ARBOR-VITAE)

Location: St Fillan, in garden area

Condition: Destroyed by the 2009 bushfire and removed.

NT Ref: T11269

Name (common name): QUERCUS CERRIS (TURKEY OAK)

Location: St Fillan, along southern boundary of garden, near disused tennis court

Significance: Location or Context: historic garden or park; Outstanding Size: height x circumference x spread. A wide-spreading example making a dominant impact on the landscape. The tree has outstanding branch structure.

Measurements: Spread (m): 26.9; Girth (m): 3; Height (m): 27; Estimated Age (yrs): 100

Condition: Good

NT Ref: T11267

Name (common name): PICEA MARIANA (BLACK SPRUCE)

Location: St Fillan, in garden area on northern boundary

Condition: Severely damaged in 2009 bushfires and removed

NT Ref: T11268

Name (common name): LAURUS AZORICA (CANARY ISLAND BAY)

Location: St Fillan, along driveway about half-way on north side

Significance: Rare or Localised: 1-10 known specimens. A fine, wide-spreading tree distinguished by its large leaves and ovoid fruit. Part of the collection developed by Sir James Munro, owner of St Fillan in the 1880s.

Measurements: Spread (m): 13.2; Girth (m): 2; Height (m): 13; Estimated Age (yrs): 100

Condition: Good

NT Ref: T11266

Name (common name): CUPRESSUS LUSITANICA VAR. BENTHAMII (BENTHAM CYPRESS)

Location: St Fillan, south side of house

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Significance: Outstanding Size: height x circumference x spread. An outstanding example of this uncommon form, which has flatter branchlets, and has developed a very large trunk.

Measurements: Spread (m): 21.7; Girth (m): 5; Height (m): 29; Estimated Age (yrs): 100

Condition: Good

NT Ref: T11265

Name (common name): ABIES NORDMANNIANA (CAUCASIAN FIR)

Location: St Fillan, beside Fishers Creek, looking up driveway to left

Significance: Outstanding Example of Species. This almost perfect cone-shaped tree is a dominant feature in the landscape. It is the finest known example in cultivation despite being multi-trunked near the top.

Measurements: Spread (m): 10.7; Girth (m): 3; Height (m): 34; Estimated Age (yrs): 100

Condition: Prior to 2011, struck by lightning

NT Ref: T11262

Name (common name): ACER RUBRUM (RED MAPLE)

Location: St Fillan, east side of main house, beside Fishers Creek

Significance: Rare or Localised: 1-10 known specimens; Aesthetic Value. An impressive specimen making a significant contribution to the landscape. The tree produces a spectacular autumn display.

Measurements: Spread (m): 18; Girth (m): 4; Height (m): 24; Estimated Age (yrs): 100

Condition: Good

NT Ref: T11264

Name (common name): CHAMAECYPARIS LAWSONIANA (LAWSON CYPRESS)

Location: St Fillan, beside Fishers Creek, at end of driveway looking south

Significance: Outstanding Example of Species. The finest example of the species known in Victoria, it forms an impressive sight with its large upright form with foliage to ground level.

Measurements: Spread (m): 10.2; Girth (m): 3; Height (m): 28; Estimated Age (yrs): 90

Condition: Good

NT Ref: T11263

Name (common name): CHAMAECYPARIS LAWSONIANA 'AUREA' (GOLDEN LAWSON CYPRESS)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Location: St Fillan, beside Fishers Creek, next to the green at end of driveway

Significance: Outstanding Example of Species. The finest example of this cultivar known in Victoria, making a strong visual statement. The garden was planted out in the 1880s by Sir James Munro, Premier of Victoria 1890-92.

Measurements: Spread (m): 6.5; Girth (m): 1; Height (m): 19; Estimated Age (yrs): 90

Condition: Good

## Conservation Policy

In order to conserve the heritage significance of the plantings, it is policy to:

-Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.

-Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.

-Maintain the integrity of the plantings by:

-replacing trees 'like with like' species unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.

-removing inappropriate or historically inaccurate species.

-Ensure that any future development or changes in immediate environmental conditions, adjacent to the trees does not have a detrimental impact upon the integrity and condition of the trees. Investigate ways in which adjacent development could include or coordinate with recovery and improvement of the trees' integrity and condition.

-Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Fillan, Narbethong, is a late-nineteenth century property, with a homestead and garden enclosure reached by a long drive from the Maroondah Highway entrance. St Fillan was established in 1880 as a country home for Sir James Munro (1832-1908). He built an elaborate English-style house and established a garden. The original house was dismantled by Edward Dyason and a new house constructed in the American colonial style in 1937. It was designed by artist and champion of the modern art movement in Melbourne Sam Atyeo. The new house re-used many of the materials of the original house and incorporated its cellar. The gardens were extended. The Dyasons sold St Fillan in 1945 and it passed through a succession of owners until Helen and Rex Goulding purchased it in 1967. The 1937 house was destroyed in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfire, but was reconstructed. This new house is not of heritage significance.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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During the ownership of Sir James Munro, the garden at St Fillan is believed to have been designed by, and many of the trees and shrubs supplied by, Ferdinand Von Mueller, the first director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and who is known to have visited the neighbouring property, The Hermitage. Some of the Camellias were allegedly planted by Von Mueller himself. Seven trees along the driveway and in the garden enclosure are currently listed on the National Trust Register: they are an *Acer rubrum*, *Laurus azorica*, *Abies normandiana*, *Cupressus lusitanica* var. *benthamii*, *Quercus cerris*, a *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and a *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Aurea'. The drive was extended during the ownership of Edward Drayson.

How is it significant?

St Fillan, Narbethong is of local historic, aesthetic, and scientific (horticultural) significance to Murrindindi Shire, and potentially to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Historically, St Fillan, Narbethong is significant for its associations with Sir James Munro (Premier 1890-92), who purchased and established the property, which included an English style residence and garden enclosure, in the late 1880s. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

St Fillan, Narbethong, is of scientific (horticultural) significance for its impressive conifer collection. It includes conifers that are unusual and the largest known examples in cultivation in Victoria: a Red Maple (*Acer Rubrum*), the Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), and Bentham Cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica* var. *benthamii*). The fine, wide-spreading Canary Island Bay (*Laurus azorica*) on the north side of the driveway is also rare in cultivation in Victoria. The Golden Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Aurea') makes a strong visual statement at the end of the driveway, and forms part of an impressive collection of mature conifers that includes an *Abies normandiana*, *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*, and the *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. The form of the latter two trees is individually impressive. The *Quercus cerris* along the driveway, although not rare in Victoria, is a fine example of the species and makes a dominant impact on the garden. (RNE criterion B.1)

Aesthetically, St Fillan is also significant for its impressive collection of mature trees as a whole, within the garden enclosure and lining the long driveway from the Maroondah Highway entrance to the house, which make a significant contribution to the landscape of the historic garden and property. The long driveway in particular, makes a valuable contribution to the landscape visible from the public domain, lined with oaks, conifers, elms, poplars, and the rare *Laurus azorica*, noted above. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Catholic Church, former  
**Address** 5 Forbes Street & Glover Street STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Church  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS No**

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Carpenter Gothic

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.

### HISTORY OF CHURCH

Local historian of the Strath Creek area, Noreen Foster, writes that the Catholic Church procured a block of land in the township area of Strath Creek in 1887. The new church was built in 1888-9 and officially opened on 20 February 1889 by Father Farrelly from the Parish Priest of Kilmore, and Father Brady. Mass was usually celebrated on a week day in the morning. Early priests to serve at this church included Father Farrelly (1899), Father Heanie (1891) and Father Collins (1894). In 1894 a churchgoer, who has remained unnamed, commented on the scarcity of seats and those that were there were uncomfortable! It seems that at the same time, the church was in need of painting. Early parishioners involved in fundraising for renovations included Messrs Byrne, Cunningham, Diguim, Doherty, Dwyer, Forbes, Hilleear, Jackson, Lyne and Warnock.[1] It is not known when the church closed.

Source:

[1] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley: A view of Strath Creek from 1838*, 1985, p 71.

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.2 Religion

## Description

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Physical Description

The former Catholic church is a weatherboard building with a corrugated iron gable roof (retaining the original short sheets). The south side elevation faces the road, while the entry porch is on the south side (entrance on the north side of it). The side walls feature three 6-over-6 sash windows each. When viewed in 2006, there was a vestry at the rear of the south elevation, but it had been removed by 2008 (exposing the lining-board wall inside). There is a front enclosed porch with exposed rafter ends, which is a later addition (curved-profile weatherboards). It is currently used for storage on a private property.

The former church is in very poor condition and close to collapse.

## Conservation Policy

Record the building in archival photographs (to be lodged at the State Library of Victoria and the Murrindindi Library), and possibly measured drawings.

## Statement of Significance

The former Catholic Church at 5 Forbes Street, Strath Creek, does not meet the threshold for local significance, as it is no longer in use as a church and is in derelict condition, but is of local interest as a relatively early church and should be recorded for future reference.

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

**Internal Alteration Controls**

**Tree Controls**

**Fences & Outbuildings**

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

**Incorporated Plan**

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

## Other Recommendations

Record the building with archival photography, and by measured drawing if possible.



This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Chase Farm  
**Address** 55 Upper King Parrot Creek Road STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Farm  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.[1]

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.[2]

### HISTORY OF CHASE FARM

William and Elizabeth (née Simpson) Richards selected 100 acres of Allotment 55, part of Section 54A, Parish of Windham located on the King Parrot Creek. They named their property Red Hills and lived there with their four sons and three daughters.[3] Their son Ernest, who was 13 years of age when they arrived at Red Hills, married Bertha Rose (née Williams) at Kilmore in 1889 when Ernest was 27 and Rose was 19. They selected 320 acres adjoining his father's property, and named their selection Chase Farm. The property is believed to have been named after the farm at which Rose's mother had grown up in Wiltshire, England. In her history of Strath Creek, local historian Noreen Foster notes that at least one of their children were baptised under the mulberry tree planted at Chase Farm.[4] The Richards' gradually increased their acreage which reached 643 acres.

The Chase Farm property was purchased by the Tehan Brothers in 1943; the purchase included the homestead.[5]

Sources:

[1] Context, Murrindindi Heritage Study, Thematic Environmental History, 2006.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley*, 1985, pp. 3-6.

[4] Ibid., p. 20.

[5] Ibid., p. 45.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

## Description

### Physical Description

Chase Farm has a c1891 homestead, an orchard behind the house which includes a mature Mulberry bush, and a wattle-and-daub dairy. The house has been largely altered and reclad over the years. It was renovated by the current owners 18 years ago after falling into serious disrepair.

The dairy stands at the north-east side of the house. It is a very small gabled building with a ledged door on the south-west side (facing the house). There is a small, square window opening on the south-east end and two on the north-east side (all missing windows). Most of the whitewashed plaster inside has fallen off, exposing the horizontal branches supporting the mud filler. The roof beams are bush poles and there is no ceiling, but there are still nails on the beams indicating that there was once a fabric (Hessian or calico) ceiling. The floor is poured concrete with a raised pad for mounting the separator (an Interwar alteration). The roof is a separate structure from the walls, with wide overhanging eaves and hand-split weatherboards on the gable end.

The dairy was re-roofed about 18 years ago. A fibro-clad laundry was appended to the north-west end of the dairy at that time. It is a bit wider than the dairy and easily distinguishable as an addition. The concrete slab floor may be creating moisture problems, evidenced by the rotting of the bottom of the log frame.

The date of the dairy is unknown, but is probably about the same as the house: c1891. Wattle and daub buildings are the rarest sort of mud construction surviving in Victoria, though it was quite common in Sydney. In 1977, only three such buildings had been identified in Victoria (Miles Lewis, 'Victorian Primitive', 1977, p 20). At present there are three such buildings (or parts of buildings) on the Victorian Heritage Register (Hawthorn Bank, Alberton; Millbank, Bacchus March; Friedensruh, Doncaster), indicating that it is a rare building type. No other wattle and daub buildings were identified in Murrindindi Shire.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Investigate the potential moisture problems at the base of the dairy walls, where the posts are rotting.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Chase Farm at 55 Upper King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek. Ernest Richards and his wife, Bertha Rose (née Williams), married in 1889 and then selected 320 acres adjoining Ernest's father's property in Strath Creek. They named it Chase Farm, most likely after the farm at which Rose's mother had grown up in Wiltshire, England.

Chase Farm has a c1891 homestead, an orchard behind the house, and a wattle-and-daub dairy.

The dairy is a very small gabled building with a ledged door facing the house. There are window openings on the opposite side and the gable end. The roof is a separate structure from the walls, with wide overhanging eaves to protect the walls and hand-split weatherboards on the gable end. The roof beams are bush poles and there is no ceiling, but there are still nails on the beams indicating that there was once a fabric (Hessian or calico) ceiling. The floor is poured concrete with a raised pad for mounting the separator (an Interwar alteration). A fibro-clad laundry added to the north-west end of the dairy c1990 is not significant.

The house has been largely altered and reclad over the years. It was renovated by the current owners 18 years ago after falling into serious disrepair. While its integrity has been severely downgraded, it still provides a context for the dairy.

Behind the house is a small orchard, including a mulberry tree.

How is it significant?

Chase Farm is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire and potentially to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the wattle and daub dairy is a very rare surviving building type in Victoria. No others have been located in the shire. The house, dairy and orchard complex provide an illustration of later 19th-century selection in the area. (RNE criteria B.2, A.4)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Remnant orchard near house
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Dairy
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Flowerdale Estate  
**Address** 2261 - 2285 Broadford-Flowerdale Road STRATH  
CREEK  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Designer / Architect** Black, H

**Architectural Style** Pre-separation Colonial  
Vernacular 1836-50

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.

### HISTORY OF FLOWERDALE ESTATE

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations. The first squatters in the area, in 1838, included Captain Farquhar MacKenzie, a Scottish Highlander. He established a 10,000 acre sheep run called Flowerdale Station in association with his cousin Roderick MacKenzie, a former captain of the 34th Regiment. The original two room stone cottage took 3 years to build (still extant). The first part of the current homestead was built in 1842. The foundation stone is marked 'T & B 1842'.

In 1848 Flowerdale was sold to John Aitken. However, after his untimely drowning in the King Parrot Creek, the run was sold to Donald Ferguson in 1857. Ferguson bred fattened shorthorn cattle on the flats and merino sheep on the hills. He died in 1894. The brick wing of the house, thought to be the first addition to the homestead, was built in 1870 as the servants' quarters. Stables, also constructed around this time, were made with hand-made bricks. In 1903 the property was sold to Messrs Tyson and Cunningham who later sold to Mr Trescowthick in 1906.

In 1912 the property was sold to Alex Lane. A rammed earth section, Edwardian in style, was built for him in 1913 by architect Herbert Black. A note was found in a bottle under the boards of the extension. It read: 'This building was erected for W A Lane. Herbert Black - Architect, S Sutherland - Builder - May 30, 1913. Weather frosty and cold.' On the back of the note the author had written, to commemorate the current election: 'Great contest, Election, Liberal v. Labour'.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1927 further alterations were made and Flowerdale Estate passed to Mr Pearce and then to Mr Gardner in 1930. In the mid-1930s William Sargood owned the property before the Tehan family purchased the property in 1941. The Tehan family sold the property in 1987 to the ANZ Bank who restored and refurbished the property, adding accommodation and leisure facility buildings. The Estate was then used as a conference centre and executive retreat for senior management. It was purchased in 1999 by the Summit Conference Group and is now utilized as a conference venue.



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Source:

[1] Flowerdale Estate Retreat - A Brief History.

[2] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley*, 1985, pp. 3-6.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

Flowerdale Estate comprises an early Homestead and outbuildings plus conference centre facilities constructed in the 1990s. It currently serves as a conference centre and alpaca farm.

The Homestead was built in stages from 1838 to 1915 (with a 1927 renovation), which is visible in the varied roof forms. The current (1915) facade faces east, away from the road, looking out over King Parrot Creek and a mature oak at the centre of a circular drive. The Homestead began with a two-room stone cottage of 1838-41. It sits at the south-west corner of the Homestead and is linked to the verandah, otherwise it is freestanding. The cottage has a skillion-roof verandah on the north side which protects three windows and a doorway, all with heavy timber lintels and sills. Timber shingles survive under the corrugated iron of the verandah roof. The cottage has a rendered chimney with terracotta chimney pots.

Apart from the cottage, the rest of the Homestead is rendered with ruling to imitate ashlar. The second part of the Homestead to be built is of rendered stone in the north-east corner. A foundation stone is visible on the east elevation, marked 'T & B 1842'. This section is distinguishable by its high hipped roof, which would originally have been shingled. This section was extended westward c1870 with servants' quarters under a matching hipped roof. The 1842 and 1870 section of the Homestead has French doors (six upper panes, lower panel) to each room instead of windows. A skillion-roof verandah which is continuous with the roof wraps around this, and the rest of the house. It is supported on narrow chamfered posts with a scalloped timber frieze. The entire floor of the verandah has been replaced with new, polished timbers.

The house more than doubled in size with the addition in 1913 of a large, M-hip roofed section on the south side of the 1842 Homestead. It was built of rammed earth and continues the same verandah on its three sides (with the addition of a slatted balustrade on the east and south sides). The main entrance on the east elevation is marked with a small gabled parapet with an eyebrow-shaped louvered vent. This same parapet is repeated on the south side roof, and a more elaborated, three sided parapet marks the west entrance, as the junction between the 1870 and 1913 wings. Instead of pairs of French doors, each room has a high-waisted door (three vertical panels) with a leadlight at the top, as well as wide leaded sidelights that begin half way up the door and three transoms (over the door and the two sidelights). At the south-east corner of the house is a leadlight bay window. The west elevation of this wing has simple sash windows and high-waisted doors without sidelights (apart from the main entrance at the junction of the two wings).

On the west side of the house, across a courtyard, is the stables of c1870. It is a long building of handmade bricks with a (new) corrugated-metal hipped roof. On the west elevation is a dormer near the centre giving access to the hay loft, a

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rendered chimney at the north end and a ledged door in the south half. The main elevation, facing east, has double ledged doors at the south end, then two latticed windows, a single ledged door, and another latticed window at the north end. Three stalls survive inside the stables.

A tiny gabled meat house stands at the south end of the Homestead. It is clad in curved-profile weatherboards below with wire mesh above and may date from the 1920s. Next to it stands a brick shed, running east west, with a gabled roof. Its door appears to date from the 1920s, which may be the date of construction. There is also a large garage on the south side of the stables which has 1920s-style doors, but it may be a later addition (considering that all the new buildings constructed by ANZ on the site have copied details from the Homestead).

All buildings have been recently reroofed in corrugated metal. They are all in good condition, apart from the stables which are suffering from efflorescence and resultant brick decay on the east elevation.

ANZ created a conference centre after purchasing Flowerdale Estate in 1987. Apart from restoring the Homestead, they built four rendered accommodation blocks, which mimic details of the Homestead. Other recent additions are an undercover tennis court and recreation building on the south-east side of the site. Extensive landscaping with fieldstones was created as was a manmade lake on the north-west side of the house (it appear that a small boathouse was built at this time, mimicking the form of the meat store). A manger's house was also constructed on the far side of the lake. [Pers. comm., Sean Galpin, 2008]

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

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4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Flowerdale Estate, 2261-2285 Broadford-Flowerdale Road, Strath Creek. The first squatters in the area, in 1838, included Captain Farquhar MacKenzie, a Scottish Highlander. He established a 10,000 acre sheep run called Flowerdale Station in association with his cousin Roderick MacKenzie, a former captain of the 34th Regiment. The original two room stone cottage took 3 years to build (it now stands behind the homestead). The first part of the current homestead was built in 1842.

In 1848 Flowerdale was sold to John Aitken. However, after his untimely drowning in the King Parrot Creek, the run was sold to Donald Ferguson in 1857. Ferguson bred fattened shorthorn cattle on the flats and merino sheep on the hills. He died in 1894. In 1903 the property was sold to Messrs Tyson and Cunningham who later sold to Mr Trescowthick in 1906.

In 1912 the property was sold to Alex Lane. A rammed earth section, Edwardian in style, was built for him in 1913 by architect Herbert Black. In 1927 further alterations were made and Flowerdale Estate passed to Mr Pearce and then to Mr Gardner in 1930. In the mid-1930s William Sargood owned the property before the Tehan family purchased the property

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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in 1941. The Tehan family sold the property in 1987 to the ANZ Bank who restored and refurbished the property as a conference centre.

The Homestead's (1915) facade faces east, away from the road, looking out over King Parrot Creek and a mature oak at the centre of a circular drive. The Homestead began with a two-room stone cottage of 1838-41. It sits at the south-west corner of the Homestead and is linked to the verandah, otherwise it is freestanding. The cottage has a skillion-roof verandah on the north side which protects three windows and a doorway, all with heavy timber lintels and sills. Timber shingles survive under the corrugated iron of the verandah roof.

Apart from the cottage, the rest of the Homestead is rendered with ruling to imitate ashlar. The second part of the Homestead to be built is of rendered stone in the north-east corner. A foundation stone is visible on the east elevation, marked 'T & B 1842'. This section is distinguishable by its high hipped roof, which would originally have been shingled. This section was extended westward c1870 with servants' quarters under a matching hipped roof. A skillion-roof verandah which is continuous with the roof wraps around the entire house. It is supported on narrow chamfered posts with a timber frieze cut in a garland motif.

The house more than doubled in size with the addition in 1913 of a large, M-hip roofed section on the south side of the 1842 Homestead. It was built of rammed earth and continues the same verandah on its three sides. The main entrance on the east elevation is marked with a small gabled parapet with an eyebrow-shaped louvered vent. This same parapet is repeated on the south side roof, and a more elaborated, three sided parapet marks the west entrance, as the junction between the 1870 and 1913 wings. The 1913 section features Art Nouveau leadlights to the external entrance doors of each room.

On the west side of the house, across a courtyard, is the stables of c1870. It is a long building of handmade bricks with a (new) corrugated-metal hipped roof. Three stalls survive inside. A tiny gabled meat house stands at the south end of the Homestead. It is clad in curved-profile weatherboards below with wire mesh above and may date from the 1920s. Next to it stands a brick shed, running east west, with a gabled roof. Its door appears to date from the 1920s, which may be the date of construction.

The following features were constructed by ANZ after it purchased the property in 1987 (and are not significant): four rendered accommodation blocks, which mimic details of the Homestead; an undercover tennis court, and a recreation building on the south-east side of the site; extensive landscaping with fieldstones; and manger's house on the west side of the site.

How is it significant?

Flowerdale Estate is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the first squatter's runs in the Shire, evidenced by the 1838 stone cottage and the 1842 section of the Homestead, which are both very early for the Shire. Also for its associations with the first owners, squatters Captain Farquhar MacKenzie and Roderick MacKenzie, who ran sheep here, and with later owners such as the Tehan family, who amassed major holdings in Strath Creek in the 1940s to run sheep (including Kerrisdale Estate and Chase Farm - see individual citations). (RNE criteria B.2, A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, the sprawling Homestead and early outbuildings create an attractive complex overlooking the King Parrot Creek, set among mature trees. The Art Nouveau detailing of the 1913 wing, particularly the leadlights, add to the aesthetic value of the Homestead. (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature exotic trees around Homestead
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Stables, meat store
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Hume & Hovell Cairn  
**Address** 1204 King Parrot Creek Road STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Monument  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations. The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selection in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities. The current Murrindindi Shire was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires. The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford.

## HISTORY OF CAIRN

Memorials and monuments honour events and people and their contribution to the community. The Hume & Hovell Cairn, located at Strath Creek, commemorates the exploration of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales by Hamilton Hume[1] and William Hovell[2] who passed through the area between 1824-6. These explorers travelled through what is now the Murrindindi Shire in 1824-5. This cairn to Hume & Hovell was unveiled in 1926..

Sources:

[1]<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010527b.htm>

[2]<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010517b.htm>

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

- 1.3 Early Exploration
- 9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

The Hume & Hovell memorial cairn is a tall (approx 2.5 m) cement-rendered obelisk on a low cement base. A marble plaque embedded about half way up reads: 'Hume & Hovell Memorial, Strath Creek, 1824 - 1926'.

A photo held by the State Library of Victoria, of its unveiling, shows a much rougher cement finish, indicating that the cairn has been re-rendered at some point.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

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The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. If the external render needs to be replaced in the future, consult the c1926 photo of it held by the State Library of Victoria so that the original, rougher finish can be replicated.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in its future development or management:

1. Conserve the fabric of the cairn, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the removal of significant or contributory fabric unless it is only of part of the cairn and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the monument and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

4. Prevent adjacent development from overwhelming the key features or adversely affecting the integrity of the site as a clearly identifiable feature of the historical landscape.

5. Retain views of the cairn from the street.

### NOTE:

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It is therefore desirable that the information contained in this citation should be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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What is significant?

The Hume & Hovell memorial cairn at 1204 King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek. It is a cement-rendered obelisk on a low cement base. A marble plaque embedded about half way up reads: 'Hume & Hovell Memorial, Strath Creek, 1824 - 1926'.

How is it significant?

The Hume & Hovell memorial cairn is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with the exploration of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales by Hamilton Hume and William Hovell who passed through the area between 1824-6. Also for its associations with the local Strath Creek community in the 1920s which raised the money to construct the monument. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

No
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

No
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No
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**Incorporated Plan**

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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Kerrisdale Race Paddock & Sheepwash Lagoon  
**Address** 1105 King Parrot Creek Road STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Woolshed/Shearing ShedPastoralismLake/ Pond  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes  
**Heritage Protection**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.[1] Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. Kerrisdale or King Parrot Creek Station, Western Port District, No. 123 was originally 14,080 acres located on the Narrangearnong Creek, 12 miles west of Yea, with carrying capacity for 6,000 sheep. In June 1838 a license was taken out by Farquhar MacKenzie on behalf of John Murchison. The property transferred to James Dodgshun and William Austin then James Dodgshun,

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William Valentine Glover and William Edwards. The license was cancelled in July 1880 and it was let under a grazing license to J B Blackbourne.[2]

The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew.[3]

The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.[4]

### HISTORY OF KERRISDALE WATER RACE

The water race, dam and sheep wash lagoon are all located on land that was part of Kerrisdale Estate from the time it was established until the 1990s. The Kerrisdale Homestead and Woolshed are located on the opposite side of King Parrot Creek Road. It is not known if the water race had any connection to the mining activities in Strath Creek in the 1850s, or if it was purely for pastoral uses. It is known locally as 'Tehan's Race Paddock', after the Tehan family who owned the Kerrisdale (and Flowerdale) Estate from the 1940s.

John Murchison was born in Tasic, Ropshire, Scotland in 1799. He had fought in the Battle of Waterloo, married Mary Anne Roberts in Nova Scotia and arrived in New South Wales in c.1833. Prior to arriving in Victoria, he had a property 'Tarradale' in the Goulburn District, New South Wales.

Farquhar MacKenzie arrived in Sydney c.1832-4. The younger son of Captain Kenneth MacKenzie of Kerrisdale in Ross-Shire, Scotland, he was known as 'the younger of Gairlock'. MacKenzie was one of the first overlanders from New South Wales in 1838, in company with notable pastoralists Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell and Kent Hughes. Together these adventurers found runs on the Goulburn and its tributaries. That same year MacKenzie took a large run which he called 'Kerrisdale Station' for John Murchison, and acted as its overseer. MacKenzie married Martha Murchison, the daughter of John Murchison, in 1846. Murchison left Kerrisdale in 1868.

As the historian of Strath Creek, Noreen Forster writes, 'It is difficult to list all the owners of Kerrisdale Station over the years.' Between 1868 and 1871, the property was held in the name of James Dodgshun, merchant, of Melbourne, and J Dodgshun, William Valentine Glover and William Edwards. It seems Dodgshun stayed in Melbourne while Glover and Edwards lived on the property; therefore it is likely Kerrisdale was an investment property for Dodgshun. In 1880 the partnership was cancelled. However, Dodgshun retained ownership and in 1881, it was held jointly by Messrs James Dodgshun and Joseph Dodgshun, Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Glover remained at the station, and was promoted to Manager, holding the position until 1887 when he selected his own land.

William Glover died in 1888 and J Dodgshun and Company sold the property of 1,917 acres. At the Clearing Sale in April, stock included '1300 station bred wethers, 2 tooth to full mouth, 450 wethers bred NSW rising to 8 tooth, 500 station bred ewes mixed ages in lamb to merinos, 750 crossbred ewes 2 tooth to full mouth, most young in lamb to Lincolns, 100 mixed weaners' and more. Also included were 50 cows and 60 bullocks.[5]

Dodgshun and Company sold the property with stock and buildings to Robert Chamberlin who resided at Kerrisdale until

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it was leased to Richard Elworthy, grazier, until 1893 when Neil Bidstrip took over the lease and became the owner in 1897. His ownership was short-lived, as it was then sold to the Whitehead Brothers who built a butter factory. During the early part of the twentieth century, the property changed hands every few years and owners included a Mr Doyle (1906), the Honourable George Brookman of South Australia who purchased Kerrisdale in 1908 for £10 an acre; Frederick Wimpole, Mr Doulett, Mr Hans Irvine of Great Western, gentleman (1918-22), and in the mid-1920s, Shire Councillor, Stanley Mellor purchased and lived at Kerrisdale. In 1931 the owner was Dr Wawn, who, with his two sons, lived at Kerrisdale.

Again, this ownership was short-lived. In September 1933, Wawn Brothers Pty Ltd sold Kerrisdale Station by auction. At that time the property consisted of 5,169 acres freehold. Improvements were 'commodious' and included a brick homestead of 12 rooms including lounge, dining room, 2 bathrooms, electric light, and hot and cold water services. The property was sewered, and was described as 'prettily situated'. The property was surrounded by English and ornamental trees and shrubs. A well laid out garden and lawn, managers and married quarters, outbuildings, spacious woolshed, 6 stand machines, dip, motor garages, loose boxes, chaff and haysheds, sheep and cattle yards were described as part of the property.[5] The property was purchased by the Roberts family. No other information about this family is included in the entry on Kerrisdale in the local history.

The Tehan Brothers first leased Kerrisdale in March 1943; at this time it had a carrying capacity of 4,000 sheep and 200 head of cattle. Kerrisdale was purchased by the Tehan Brothers in 1945. It then comprised 5,170 acres, the shearing shed and huts. The Kerrisdale homestead was altered in 1967. Renovations included the demolition of the weatherboard kitchen and replacement with a brick building, the bathrooms were modernised and the house generally refurbished.[6] The Tehan family retained Kerrisdale until 1993. [7]

It appears that the water race was created to feed the sheepwash lagoon, and that its path was interrupted in recent times by the construction of the present house, so it now empties into a dam on the south side of the house, while the lagoon is just north of the house site.

Sources:

[1] Context, Murrindindi Heritage Study, Thematic Environmental History, 2006.

[2] Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 227; Spreadborough & Anderson, Victorian Squatters, p. 167.

[3] Murrindindi Heritage Study, op.cit.

[4] Noreen Foster, Whispers in the Valley, 1985, pp. 3-6.

[5] Ibid., p. 5.

[6] Ibid., p. 46.

[7] Land Title, Vol 9631 Fol 957.

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

4.1 Mining

## Description

### Physical Description

The property now called 'The Race' contains a long water race cut into the hillside and a naturally occurring lagoon once used as a sheepwash. The lagoon is just north-east of the current (modern) house. The race runs north, parallel to King Parrot Creek and then ends in a dam just south-west of the house. The current (modern) house stands between the dam at the end of the race and the sheepwash lagoon, which may indicate that the race may have originally fed the lagoon, but its path has been interrupted in recent times.

According to the present owners, there is an old orchard on the site of the original house (not viewed).

### Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Kerrisdale Water Race and Sheep-Wash Lagoon (also known as Tehan's Race Paddock), at 1105 King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek.

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie, respectively. Kerrisdale or King Parrot Creek Station, Western Port District, No. 123 was originally 14,080 acres, with carrying capacity for 6,000 sheep. In June 1838 a license was taken out by Farquhar MacKenzie on behalf of John Murchison. Murchison stayed at Kerrisdale until 1868. He was followed by numerous owners in fairly rapid succession, including James Dodgshun, merchant of Melbourne, 1868-88; the Honourable George Brookman of South Australia, 1908; Shire Councillor, Stanley Mellor in the mid-1920s, and the Tehan Brothers, 1945-93 (leased 1943-45). When the Tehans took over the property it had a carrying capacity of 4,000 sheep and 200 head of cattle. It then comprised 5,170 acres, including a shearing shed and shearers' quarters.

The property now called 'The Race' contains a long water race cut into the hillside and a naturally occurring lagoon once used as a sheepwash. The lagoon is just north-east of the current (modern) house. The race runs north, parallel to King Parrot Creek and then ends in a dam just south-west of the house. The Kerrisdale Homestead and Woolshed are located on the opposite side of King Parrot Creek Road. It is not known if the water race had any connection to the mining activities in Strath Creek in the 1850s, or if it was purely for pastoral uses.

How is it significant?

The Kerrisdale water race and sheep wash lagoon are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire (and along with the Kerrisdale Homestead and Woolshed complex are of potential State significance).

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the first squatter's runs in the Shire. For its associations with pioneer squatter John Murchison, who ran sheep here from 1838-68. Also for its later associations with the Tehan Brothers (1943-93), who were major 20th-century landholders in the area. The sizable scale of their grazing interests is illustrated by the massive woolshed and large-scale shearers' quarters behind it. The sheep wash lagoon and water race are additional elements used for these activities from the early days. (RNE criteria B.2, A.4, H.1)

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

## Other Recommendations

To be covered by the same HO as Kerrisdale Station and Woolshed complex

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Kerrisdale Station & Woolshed  
**Address** 852-880 King Parrot Creek Road STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Farm Shearers' Quarters Woolshed/Shearing Shed  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes



**Architectural Style**      Pre-separation Colonial  
Vernacular 1836-50

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.[1] Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. Kerrisdale or King Parrot Creek Station, Western Port District, No. 123 was originally 14,080 acres located on the Narrangearnong Creek, 12 miles west of Yea, with carrying capacity for 6,000 sheep. In June 1838 a license was taken out by Farquhar MacKenzie on behalf of John Murchison. The property transferred to James Dodgshun and William Austin then James Dodgshun, William Valentine Glover and William Edwards. The license was cancelled in July 1880 and it was let under a grazing license to J B Blackbourne.[2]

The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew.[3]

The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.[4]

### HISTORY OF KERRISDALE STATION

John Murchison was born in Tasic, Ropshire, Scotland in 1799. He had fought in the Battle of Waterloo, married Mary Anne Roberts in Nova Scotia and arrived in New South Wales in c.1833. Prior to arriving in Victoria, he had a property 'Tarradale' in the Goulburn District, New South Wales.

Farquhar MacKenzie arrived in Sydney c.1832-4. The younger son of Captain Kenneth MacKenzie of Kerrisdale in Ross-Shire, Scotland, he was known as 'the younger of Gairlock'. MacKenzie was one of the first overlanders from New South Wales in 1838, in company with notable pastoralists Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell and Kent Hughes. Together these adventurers found runs on the Goulburn and its tributaries. That same year MacKenzie took a large run which he called 'Kerrisdale Station' for John Murchison, and acted as its overseer. MacKenzie married Martha Murchison, the daughter of John Murchison, in 1846. Murchison left Kerrisdale in 1868.

As the historian of Strath Creek, Noreen Forster writes, 'It is difficult to list all the owners of Kerrisdale Station over the years.' Between 1868 and 1871, the property was held in the name of James Dodgshun, merchant, of Melbourne, and J Dodshun, William Valentine Glover and William Edwards. It seems Dodgshun stayed in Melbourne while Glover and Edwards lived on the property; therefore it is likely Kerrisdale was an investment property for Dodgshun. In 1880 the partnership was cancelled. However, Dodgshun retained ownership and in 1881, it was held jointly by Messrs James Dodgshun and Joseph Dodgshun, Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Glover remained at the station, and was promoted to

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Manager, holding the position until 1887 when he selected his own land.

William Glover died in 1888 and J Dodgshun and Company sold the property of 1,917 acres. At the Clearing Sale in April, stock included '1300 station bred wethers, 2 tooth to full mouth, 450 wethers bred NSW rising to 8 tooth, 500 station bred ewes mixed ages in lamb to merinos, 750 crossbred ewes 2 tooth to full mouth, most young in lamb to Lincolns, 100 mixed weaners' and more. Also included were 50 cows and 60 bullocks.[5]

Dodgshun and Company sold the property with stock and buildings to Robert Chamberlin who resided at Kerrisdale until it was leased to Richard Elworthy, grazier, until 1893 when Neil Bidstrip took over the lease and became the owner in 1897. His ownership was short-lived, as it was then sold to the Whitehead Brothers who built a butter factory. During the early part of the twentieth century, the property changed hands every few years and owners included a Mr Doyle (1906), the Honourable George Brookman of South Australia who purchased Kerrisdale in 1908 for £10 an acre; Frederick Wimpole, Mr Doulett, Mr Hans Irvine of Great Western, gentleman (1918-22), and in the mid-1920s, Shire Councillor, Stanley Mellor purchased and lived at Kerrisdale. In 1931 the owner was Dr Wawn, who, with his two sons, lived at Kerrisdale.

Again, this ownership was short-lived. In September 1933, Wawn Brothers Pty Ltd sold Kerrisdale Station by auction. At that time the property consisted of 5,169 acres freehold. Improvements were 'commodious' and included a brick homestead of 12 rooms including lounge, dining room, 2 bathrooms, electric light, and hot and cold water services. The property was sewerred, and was described as 'prettily situated'. The property was surrounded by English and ornamental trees and shrubs. A well laid out garden and lawn, managers and married quarters, outbuildings, spacious woolshed, 6 stand machines, dip, motor garages, loose boxes, chaff and haysheds, sheep and cattle yards were described as part of the property.[5] The property was purchased by the Roberts family. No other information about this family is included in the entry on Kerrisdale in the local history.

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From the physical appearance of the homestead, the first section appears to have been built c1840 for Farquhar MacKenzie and the Murchisons. The second section appears to have been built c1900-10, which means it could have been built for one of the following owners: the Whitehead Brothers, Mr Doyle or Mr Brookman. The 1920s section was probably built for Shire Councillor, Stanley Mellor.

Sources:

[1] Context, Murrindindi Heritage Study, Thematic Environmental History, 2006.

[2] Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 227; Spreadborough & Anderson, Victorian Squatters, p. 167.

[3] Murrindindi Heritage Study, op.cit.

[4] Noreen Foster, Whispers in the Valley, 1985, pp. 3-6.

[5] Ibid., p. 5.

[6] Ibid., p. 46.

[7] Land Title, Vol 9631 Fol 957.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

1.3 Early Exploration

2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

Kerrisdale Station is divided into two addresses: the Homestead and land at 852 King Parrot Creek Road, and the Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters on a small block at 880 King Parrot Creek Road.

The Homestead is reached via a private road running through a field which boasts an impressive avenue of mature plane trees. There are mature specimen elms (and possibly oaks on either side of the avenue), and a row of elms running south-east to north-west along from the front entrance to the Homestead site. The Homestead is set in a garden with mature trees mainly on the south side, and an Irish Strawberry at the front. One of the mature oaks in the garden is in poor condition.

The Homestead appears to have been constructed in four stages: the original stone Homestead of c1838 at the west corner of the present house, a larger c1900 addition next to it at the south corner, a c1920s wing with a gable-fronted bay at the east corner, and a 1960s brick kitchen at the north corner. Each section has a discrete, and unique, roof form, which makes the successive stages easily legible.

The c1838 Homestead has a high hipped roof which was probably originally shingled. There is a short rendered chimney at the centre of the roof. This section was constructed of masonry with very rough render and quoins at the corners and around the windows. It has two rooms, with two windows on the north-west side and one on the south-west side. The original doorway has been subsumed by the later additions. The quoins remain at what was the south corner of the Homestead, clearly delineated from the smooth, ruled render of the c1900 wing adjoining it. These two sections share a shallow-pitch skillion-roof verandah on slender chamfered posts. The fascia boards are cut in a low arch. The verandah has a simple slatted balustrade on the south-west and south-east sides where the ground slopes slightly.

The c1900 wing is larger than the original Homestead (about four rooms). It has a much lower hipped roof and two rendered chimneys. Going from the join with the original Homestead to the south corner, there is a sash window with timber architrave, a set of French doors with leadlights in the doors and transom, an entrance doors with a leadlight panel, sidelights and transom, and another set of French doors. All the leadlights are Art Nouveau inspired. The screen doors to these three doors appear to be early. Steps leading to the front door are sympathetic but recent. The verandah (with balustrade) continues around the south-east side of this wing, which has three sash windows.

The c1920s wing abuts the c1900 wing at the north-east side. The c1920s wing projects out to the south-east (its front wall is in line with the edge of the c1900 verandah). It has a high hipped roof with a brokenback verandah and a gable-fronted pavilion at the east corner. There is a rendered chimney near the front wall. The gable has imitation half-timbering and a curved window bay of casement windows with transoms. The entrance to this wing is on the left-hand side of the gable, under the verandah. It has leadlight sidelights and transom. To the left are two narrow casement windows with transoms. Most of the verandah is enclosed with wire screens above a simple dado. The north-east

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elevation of this wing has a half-timbered gabled pavilion at the centre with a chimney at the top and no windows. To the right is a door with a leadlight upper panel, single wide sidelight and double transom. This elevation does not have a verandah, so projecting roof rafter ends are visible.

The section believed to date from the 1920s has a high-pitched roof, which could indicate that this is, in fact, the second phase of the house which was extensively remodelled in the 1920s. Firm determination of the dates of the respective sections of the house would require interior inspection.

Slotted within the L-shaped configuration of the three early wings, at the north corner, is a painted brick kitchen wing of the 1960s and a c1990 hipped-roof 'pergola' whose details mimic the verandah of the c1838 and c1900 wings.

The entire house has been recently re-roofed in corrugated metal, with some transparent plexiglass panels in the verandah roofs above windows. Much of the verandah to the c1838 and c1900 house appears to have been reconstructed. The house is in very good condition.

Behind the Homestead, on the north side, is a timber dairy and meat store (now used as a chicken coop). The Dairy/milking shed is a weatherboard building of two distinct sections. The roof has exposed rafter ends and appears to date from the Interwar period. There is a long, single-storey gabled section, with a two-storey gabled section on the north-west side which projects halfway out. The two-storey section contains the hay loft, with a door on the north-west side to the loft. The milking bales were located below it - only chutes to bring feed down to cows in each bale survive. This section has curved corrugated-iron ridging and a concrete floor and wall footings. The south-east wall to the milking area is open, with a timber balustrade. The south-west part of the building appears to have been the dairy. It is separated from the milking area by a breezeway. There are three ledged doors to the dairy rooms in the breezeway. The meat store (also of Interwar provenance) is a small gabled building. The lower walls are weatherboard, with the upper third flywire. It has a ledged door on the south-east side. These two outbuildings are in good condition.

Fieldstone elements were added to the garden in the late 1980s, including a pergola and steps to the east entrance of the house. There is also a bluestone garden border at the south-east corner of the house not visible in 1985 photos (taken by John Collins, held at the State Library of Victoria). Picket fences with pointed timber posts are found on the south side of the Homestead site and at the entrance to the property. They are sympathetic in design, but appear to post-date 1985 (in comparison with the above photos).

New buildings on the Homestead site include a garage behind the house, a weatherboard shed on the west side of the Dairy, a pool house (with swimming pool), and the manager's residence on the west side of the site.

The Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters are situated on the south-west side of the entrance to Kerrisdale Homestead. Set well behind the large Woolshed, which is visible from the road, is a complex of three Shearers' Quarters buildings and a freestanding toilet.

The Woolshed is set behind a large area of timber sheep pens, much of which has collapsed. It is a large, rambling vernacular building with timber framing and various cladding materials, ranging from corrugated iron, to weatherboards and drop slabs. The main section of the Woolshed, at the north-east end has a double gabled front with a skillion roof section on the south-west side (the skillion roof is the same height as the gabled roofs, to create a sawtooth arrangement). Set back from the front and appended to the south-west side of the Woolshed are two long transverse gabled wings, both clad in corrugated iron, the second taller than the first. The taller section has bush-pole framing which is exposed at the end of the building. While the interior of the Woolshed was not inspected, much of the interior features appear to be intact, including livestock pens, seven shearing stands and the old timber wool press (as well as a modern one).[1]

The three Shearers' Quarters are gathered quite closely together with the small toilet behind them (c1920s weatherboard, with strapped fibro sheeting in the gable). The first build appear to be an L-shaped building in front of the toilet. The

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original hipped-roof section at the north-east end has a verandah on the north-east (facade) and south-east elevations. The verandah has a skillion roof and plain timber posts. The four-panelled front door is on the north-east elevation with small sash windows which have scrolled sash horns of the type common in the 19th century. The rear verandah to this section (on the south-west side) has been enclosed. There are two external brick chimneys, side by side, on the north-west elevation. A long hipped-roof extension was appended to the back of the building, with a continuation of the verandah from the south-east side. It was built in stages, indicated by a cover strip joining the weatherboards at the rear. This extension housed shearers' individual rooms: each has a ledged door and window beneath the verandah. The windows of this section have curved sash horns, suggesting an Interwar date.

Set in front of this wing is another block of shearers' rooms: a hipped roof building which is rectangular in plan. It originally had verandah on four sides, but two corners have been enclosed to create rooms. The weatherboards of the walls are curved in profile and the paired sash windows have curved horns, suggesting it was built in the Interwar period.

The third, and smallest, block of shearers' rooms is set between the other two. It has a gabled roof and weatherboard cladding. It may have been built as a portable building, as between each of the three rooms (each with their own ledged door in front and window at the back) there is a cover strip at the join. The windows have curved sash horns, indicating a possible Interwar date. The room at the south-west end has a brick mantelpiece inside and a sheet-iron chimney on the gable-end.

All of the Shearers' Quarters buildings are in poor condition and quite neglected, as is Woolshed to a lesser extent.

Source:

[1] Pers. comm., Ben Lever (farm manager), 2008.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. The garage, pool house and farm manager's house are not significant, nor are the fieldstone garden elements (pergola).
2. Consider finding a use for the Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters so they can be maintained.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

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- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

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The Kerrisdale Estate homestead and woolshed complex, at 852 and 880 King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek.

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. Kerrisdale or King Parrot Creek Station, Western Port District, No. 123 was originally 14,080 acres, with carrying capacity for 6,000 sheep. In June 1838 a license was taken out by Farquhar MacKenzie on behalf of John Murchison. Murchison left Kerrisdale in 1868. He was followed by numerous owners in fairly rapid succession, including James Dodgshun, merchant of Melbourne, 1868-88; the Honourable George Brookman of South Australia, 1908; Shire Councillor, Stanley Mellor in the mid-1920s, and the Tehan Brothers, 1945-93 (leased 1943-45). When the Tehans took over the property it had a carrying capacity of 4,000 sheep and 200 head of cattle. It then comprised 5,170 acres, including a shearing shed and shearers' quarters.

The Homestead is reached via a private road running through a field which boasts an impressive avenue of mature plane trees. There are mature specimen elms (and possibly oaks on either side of the avenue), and a row of elms running south-east to north-west along from the front entrance to the Homestead site. The Homestead is set in a garden with mature trees mainly on the south side, and an Irish Strawberry at the front. One of the mature oaks in the garden is in poor condition.

The Homestead appears to have been constructed in four stages: the original stone Homestead of c1838 at the west corner of the present house, a larger c1900 addition next to it at the south corner, a c1920s wing with a gable-fronted bay at the east corner, and a 1960s brick kitchen at the north corner. Each section has a discrete, and unique, roof form, which makes the successive stages easily legible.

The c1838 Homestead has a high hipped roof which was probably originally shingled. This section was constructed of masonry with very rough render and quoins at the corners and around the windows. The quoins remain at what was the south corner of the Homestead, clearly delineated from the smooth, ruled render of the c1900 wing adjoining it. These two sections share a shallow-pitch skillion-roof verandah on slender chamfered posts, and an arched timber frieze.

The c1900 wing is larger than the original Homestead (about four rooms). It has a much lower hipped roof and two rendered chimneys. It has a combination of entrance doors with sidelights and French doors, all of them having Art Nouveau leadlights.

The c1920s wing has a high hipped roof with a brokenback verandah and a gable-fronted pavilion at the east corner. The gable has imitation half-timbering and a curved window bay of casement windows with transoms.

Slotted within the L-shaped configuration of the three early wings, at the north corner, is a painted brick kitchen wing of the 1960s and a c1990 hipped-roof 'pergola' whose details mimic the verandah of the c1838 and c1900 wings. The kitchen and pergola are not significant.

Behind the Homestead, on the north side, are a timber dairy and meat store of interwar date.

The Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters are situated on the south-west side of the entrance to Kerrisdale Homestead. Set well behind the large Woolshed, which is visible from the road, is a complex of three Shearers' Quarters buildings and a freestanding toilet. The Woolshed is set behind a large area of timber sheep pens, much of which has collapsed. It is a large, rambling vernacular building with timber framing and various cladding materials, ranging from corrugated iron, to weatherboards and drop slabs. The three Shearers' Quarters are gathered quite closely together and date from the 19th century to the interwar period (or possibly to the start of the Tehan Brother's possession in the 1940s).

How is it significant?

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Kerrisdale Estate homestead and woolshed complex is of local historic, aesthetic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire and potentially to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as one of the first squatter's runs in the Shire, with the tangible evidence of this early phase seen in the c1838 rendered stone section of the homestead. For its associations with pioneer squatter John Murchison, who ran sheep here from 1838-68. Also for its later associations with the Tehan Brothers (1943-93), who were major 20th-century landholders in the area. The sizable scale of their grazing interests is illustrated by the massive woolshed and large-scale shearers' quarters behind it. (RNE criteria B.2, A.4, H.1)

Architecturally, for the homestead, whose successive stages of construction are clearly differentiated by their discrete roof forms, providing a clear illustration of successive architectural fashions over a century. (RNE criterion F.1)

Aesthetically, for the mature trees around the homestead site, including the plan tree avenue, the elms, and the garden, providing an attractive setting for the house. (RNE criteria A.3, E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

Yes Plane Tree avenue, elms, oaks, Irish Strawberry tree
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes 852 - dairy, meat store; 880 - woolshed, shearers' quarters
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Strath Creek Public Hall  
**Address** 4 Ferguson Street STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Hall Public  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Maker / Builder** Norton Brothers

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.

### HISTORY OF HALL

Built on land originally gazetted for a Mechanics' Institute Hall, the Public Hall at Strath Creek remains in community use. Early entertainment, school, church services and public meetings were originally held in the Good Templars Hall (now the Uniting Church), however, for many years there were complaints that the hall was too small for the range of activities it had to cater for, and in 1905 a public meeting, held at the home of Mr Lynes, to discuss the building of a public hall, was organised by Frank Keays.[1] Subscriptions of £288 as well as a loan of £100 were raised, Trustees appointed and a builder sought. The first trustees were George Forbes, Edward Green, C.C. Hilliear, Edward Lade, A.J. Richards, K. Yorston, and G. Thomas as chairman. A small donation from Broadford Shire Council, two grants from the Chief Secretary's Office of the Mechanics Institutes of £50, as well as local fundraising, which included the opening concert and Grand Ball, assisted with raising the money for building.[2]

The successful tenderers were the Norton Brothers, quoting £187 for the construction of the hall which was built in 1906. A concert and a ball were held to mark the opening of the hall on 26 September 1906. Dr (later Sir) Stanley Argyle, who had provided the trustees with much support, had intended to be part of the opening ceremonies. However, when he had to withdraw at the last minute, the Broadford Shire President, E Doherty, took his place and carried out the opening. Mr Halwell was master of ceremonies and Messrs Thomas and Green on the Ball Catering Committee organised the catering which was overseen by Messrs Cuthbert, Hilliear, Lade while Mr Yorston organised the concert program.[3] Soon after the opening, a committee of management, whose main focus was to have to organise 'entertainments and fund raising', was established.

The Hall was used for Progress Association and Farmers' League meeting, musical society, gospel meetings and euchre parties. The Hall was extended in 1914 to include supper and cloak rooms, with the plans again drawn up by Mr Musgrove. In 1917 the trustees erected of an Honour Board in the Hall for locals who served in World War One; it was paid for by subscription. In 1919 a subscription list paid for a post and wire netting fence around the hall, and Mr Green donated the trees for the posts. Permission for the addition of tennis courts to be added was granted in 1921. New trustees of the Hall Grounds and board of management of the Public Hall were appointed in 1925. Additionally, in 1925 Coleman

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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lamps and plant were installed in the Hall; a shelter shed on the sports ground in Mr Forbes' paddock was purchased from the tennis club, and fences were constructed around the outhouses. A World War Two Honour Board was erected in 1948. An electric light plant was installed in 1954 but sold in 1962 and a new floor was laid in 1962. Due to the increasing number of young families moving into the area, Health Centre facilities were set up in the Hall in the early 1970s. Aluminium cladding was added to the exterior in 1983.[4] The hall is still in frequent use and is well maintained by the local community.

Sources:

[1] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley: A view of Strath Creek from 1838*, 1985, pp. 78-81.

[2] *Inventory of Mechanics Institutes in Victoria*, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 1998, pp. 930-1.

[3] Pam Baragwanath, *If the Walls Could Speak*, p. 259.

[4] Foster, *op.cit.*, pp. 78-8.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9. COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

#### 9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

The Public Hall is a weatherboard building with corrugated iron gable roof, with two wings, roughly in a T-configuration. The main section, containing the hall, has a gable-front with a ledged double door at the centre. The side elevations have three one-over-one sash windows, plus another ledged door on the east elevation. The cross of the 'T' (the supper room addition of 1914), at the north end, has a lower gable roof. There are two entrances, one adjacent to the main hall, on the east side. The other is on the north (rear) elevation, next to an external corbelled brick chimney. This section also has one-over-one sash windows, one each on the east, west and north elevations.

The interior of the entire building has lining-board walls and ceilings. The World War I and II Honour Boards still adorn the hall.

The roof of the main section has been reclad in Colorbond. The entire building has been covered in aluminium cladding - in a weatherboard configuration on the walls, and vertical 'boards' in the gables. The building is in generally good condition (though the condition of the weatherboards could not be determined).

A planning permit was issued in 2010 to construct a CFA shed and apron on the site of the basketball courts, set well back from the hall on the north-east side of the reserve.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider removing the aluminium siding to prevent condensation problems (and then repair the exposed weatherboards).
2. Retain the Honour Boards at the Public Hall.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
  - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
  - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Strath Creek Public Hall, at 4 Ferguson Street, Strath Creek. The builder was the Norton Brothers, quoting £187 for the construction of the hall which was built in 1906. The first trustees were George Forbes, Edward Green, C.C. Hillier, Edward Lade, A.J. Richards, K. Yorston, and G. Thomas as chairman. The Hall was extended in 1914 to include supper and cloak rooms, with the plans again drawn up by Mr Musgrove.

The Public Hall is a weatherboard building with corrugated iron gable roof, with two wings, roughly in a T-configuration. The main section, containing the hall, has a gable-front with a ledged double door at the centre. The side elevations have three one-over-one sash windows, plus another ledged door on the east elevation. The cross of the 'T' (the supper room addition of 1914), at the north end, has a lower gable roof and external chimney.

How is it significant?

The Strath Creek Public Hall is of local social and historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Socially and historically, as a still-thriving centre of community life in Strath Creek since 1906 and as tangible evidence of the period of community formation in the township at the turn-of-the century. (RNE criteria A.4, G.1)

Historically, for its associations with families important in the early history of Strath Creek. (RNE criterion H.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Strathmore  
**Address** 179 Falls Road STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Cottage  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS No**

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations.[1] The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selection in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities. The current Murrindindi Shire was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires. The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford.[2]

### HISTORY OF STRATHMORE

The cabin, known as Strathmore, is a one-room structure with partially squared logs for walls, which was believed to have been built before 1880. Local historian, Noreen Foster, in *Whispers in the Valley*, states that this is the oldest surviving building in Strath Creek. Strathmore was the home of the selector, Michael Fitzgerald and his large family. After Fitzgerald constructed a larger house on the site, the cabin served as a smokehouse and shearer's quarters.[3]

Sources:

[1] Context, Murrindindi Heritage Study, Thematic Environmental History, 2006, p. 90.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley*, 1985, p. 1.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2. SETTLING THE LAND

## Description

### Physical Description



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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This tiny, one-room cabin was constructed with partially squared log for the walls, a bush-pole roof structure and split weatherboard gables. The logs are chinked with mud and sticks. The entrance and a mud-brick fireplace and mud and iron chimney were in the north gable end. The fireplace is gone - leaving the wall open. Nails and bolts were used in the construction - possibly forged on site.

The corrugated metal roof is recent. The bottom logs have rotted out and the log cabin has been propped up.

## Conservation Policy

Record the building in archival photographs (to be lodged at the State Library of Victoria and the Murrindindi Library), and possibly measured drawings.

## Statement of Significance

Strathmore is of local interest only, due to its derelict state, but it should be recorded as a rare surviving log hut, illustrating the living conditions of selectors when first developing their land, and possibly the earliest surviving building in the township of Strath Creek.

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	-
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	-
<b>Tree Controls</b>	-
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	-
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	-
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	-

## Other Recommendations

Record the log cabin by archival photography, and measured drawing if possible.

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Uniting Church  
**Address** 5 Fitzgerald Street STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** Church  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF STRATH CREEK

The King Parrot and Strath Creek districts were part of the former Shire of Broadford. They became part of the current Murrindindi Shire when it was created in 1994 as a result of the re-defining of Victorian shires.

Strath Creek, originally known as Queen Parrot Creek, first attracted squatters in 1838. The largest squatting runs were the Kerrisdale and Flowerdale Stations taken up by John Murchison and Farquhar MacKenzie respectively. The squatters were followed by gold prospectors. A similar pattern of goldmining to that of Yea emerged on the King Parrot and Strath Creek areas where substantial but short-lived alluvial rushes occurred during the 1850s when all of the creeks running north from Mount Disappointment were found to be auriferous. Quartz gold mining and ore processing, powered by water wheels, followed in 1859. A further deep lead was discovered on Strath Creek and mining commenced there in 1860. With news of gold discoveries across Victoria, prospectors arrived in districts and townships grew. The Strath Creek area was opened up to selectors in the 1870s and farms, from 70 - 200 acres, were selected by enthusiastic would-be farmers. As the township grew, the influx of families often meant an increased number of children which resulted in the establishment of schools and other services to the community. The townships developed as centres of mining communities and shopkeepers, blacksmiths and publicans, amongst others, arrived to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities.

### HISTORY OF UNITING CHURCH

Local historian, Noreen Foster writes in *Whispers in the Valley* that 'it is impossible to separate the story of the Good Templars' Hall from the different denominations that used it'. [1] The Good Templars were the focal point of all community activities in the early days of Strath Creek. This building was constructed by Arthur Forbes in 1880 as 'Our Future Hope Lodge No. 251', part of the Independent Order of the Good Templars. The building, measuring 26' x 15' cost £32/10 which included timber, shingles, windows, sashes and doors. It was used by the community for concert performances and other social events as well as for church services. Wesleyan Methodist services began in this building in 1884 on every alternate Sunday; the Church of England also commenced services here in 1884. The seats were constructed in 1887 by John Musgrove for a total cost of £6 each. The walnut organ was purchased in 1893, and the shingle roof covered with iron in 1894. The local lodge lapsed around 1900 and the building continued to be used for church services.

In 1902 a large illustrated Pulpit Bible was presented to the Church by Mrs Ferguson of Flowerdale Station before leaving the district. Church services were conducted by the Reverend Mr Toomath, the Church of England Minister from Yea in 1917, and shortly afterwards by the Reverend Mr Graham, Methodist Minister of Kilmore. The Grand Lodge sold the building to the Methodist Church in 1955. In 1957 the Methodist and Presbyterian churches became joint owners and the small room at the rear of the church was built in 1960. The entrance porch was also added in this same year. [2] The property now belongs to the Uniting Church of Australia.

On 9 November 1980 a centenary service was held to commemorate 100 years of worship at Strath Creek. In 1993, a commemorative service was held to celebrate the centenary of the walnut reed organ. In 1997 the roof and outside walls were painted and other repairs were carried out in 1998. Further renovations took place in 1999 when the porch and back rooms were painted and a new water tank stand constructed outside and new blinds installed. [3]

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In recent years locals have revived use of the church for regular services by taking turns to pay for a minister to come from Melbourne every second month. The congregation of about 20 souls is very committed to retaining the building as an active church.[4]

Sources:

[1] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley: A view of Strath Creek from 1838*, 1985, p. 70.

[2] *Strath Creek Uniting Church* compiled by Marjorie Lade.

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Pers. comm., Denise McKenzie, 2008.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.4 Institutions of mutual support & helping other people

9.2 Religion

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Our Future Hope Lodge No. 251, now the Strath Creek Uniting Church, is a tiny, austere weatherboard gabled building with a corrugated iron roof. It stands at the back of a large allotment, with the side elevation facing the road. Both side elevations have two six-over-six sash windows (which retain early glass). The square-edged weatherboards retain curved saw marks, as do the unpolished Stringy Bark floor boards inside.

At the south end is an enclosed gabled porch, with a ledged door facing the road. At the north end is a skillion-roof addition, with another ledged door, which contains a kitchen. Both date from the 1960s and have curve-profile weatherboard cladding. The doors leading from the porch and the kitchen into the hall are modern hollow sliding doors.

The interior of the 1880s building is a single room with painted lining-board walls and coved ceiling. There is a narrow tile rod which runs east-west at the base of the cove. Early interior furnishings include 9 timber pews (of 1887), and a Walnut reed organ made by W Bell & Co in Canada in 1893 (not viewed as it was out for repairs). There is also Gothic Revival pulpit, but it is not known if it has been linked to the church for long.

There is some rotting of weatherboard ends and the corner cover strap, especially at the south-west corner of the church. The weatherboards of the 1960s porch are also rotting. Reportedly the original stump foundations have seriously deteriorated, as well, but this was not inspected.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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1. The entry porch and skillion addition of the 1960s are not significant.
2. Any additional development on the site should leave clear views to the church from Fitzgerald Street.
3. Repairs made to rotted weatherboards should retain as much original material as possible by splicing in new timber of the same profile on where necessary.
4. Any changes made to the building fabric (especially if it is restumped) should be appropriately documented.
5. The early furnishings (timber pews, Walnut reed organ) should be retained in the church if possible.

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Our Future Hope Lodge No. 251 of the Independent Order of the Good Templars, now the Strath Creek Uniting Church, at 5 Fitzgerald Street, Strath Creek, built in 1880. It is a tiny and simple weatherboard gabled building with a corrugated-iron clad roof (which may cover the original timber shingles). The square-edged weatherboards retain curved saw marks, as do the unpolished Stringy Bark floor boards inside. The interior has lining-board clad walls and coved ceiling. Significant furnishings in the church include nine pews constructed locally in 1887, and an 1893 Walnut reed organ imported from Canada.

The enclosed front porch and rear skillion addition (the kitchen) added in the 1960s are not significant.

How is it significant?

The former Our Future Hope Lodge No. 251 is of local historic and social significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, it demonstrates the importance of friendly societies to localities founded in the 19th century to provide some of the essential services their communities lacked. Moreover, it is oldest public building in Strath Creek, which retains much of its original fabric, inside and out. (RNE criterion A.4).

Socially, for its strong and long-held associations with the local community for its continuous use since 1880 as a community venue, first as a Templars' lodge and later as a church. It has been the venue for significant events in the lives of community members, such as heritage commemorative services, baptisms, marriages, funerals and regular church services for over 100 years. In recent years the church congregation has continued to demonstrate its commitment to keeping the church in community use. (RNE criterion G.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** War Memorial  
**Address** 4 Ferguson Street STRATH CREEK  
**Place Type** War Memorial  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### CONTEXTUAL HISTORY



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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When war broke out in 1914 Australia had been a federated Commonwealth for only 14 years. The new national government was eager to establish its reputation among the nations of the world. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the allied navies. The plan was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul), the capital of the Ottoman Empire and an ally of Germany. They landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war. Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives of capturing Constantinople and knocking Turkey out of the war, the Australian and New Zealand actions during the campaign bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy.

The creation of what became known as the 'Anzac legend' became an important part of the national identity of both nations. This shaped the ways they viewed both their past and future. The date, 25 April, was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916 and was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, a march through London, and a sports day in the Australian camp in Egypt. In London over 2,000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets. A London newspaper headline dubbed them "The knights of Gallipoli". Marches were held all over Australia in 1916. Wounded soldiers from Gallipoli attended the Sydney march in convoys of cars, attended by nurses. For the remaining years of the war, ANZAC Day was used as an occasion for patriotic rallies and recruiting campaigns, and parades of serving members of the AIF were held in most cities.

During the 1920s ANZAC Day became established as a national day of commemoration for the 60,000 Australians who died during the war. The first year in which all states observed some form of public holiday together on ANZAC Day was 1927. By the mid-1930s all the rituals we today associate with the day - dawn vigils, marches, memorial services, reunions, two-up games - were firmly established as part of ANZAC Day culture. With the coming of the Second World War, ANZAC Day was used to also commemorate the lives of Australians lost in that war. In subsequent years the meaning of the day has been further broadened to include Australians killed in all the military operations in which Australia has been involved.[1]

## HISTORY OF MEMORIAL

Following the First World War, memorials became a common way of honouring those who volunteered. They were frequently given prominence in local communities, and a memorial was erected on the roadside reserve near the Public Hall by the people of Strath Creek. A War Memorial to commemorate the memory of local World War One soldiers was first proposed by E E Richards to the Hall trustees, in 1917. It was decided that it should be discussed at a public meeting. The meeting agreed to the proposal, and the Memorial was erected 1925. The building of the War Memorial was organised by the newly appointed trustees of the Hall: Messrs A H Burslem, M J Fitzgerald, Forbes, C C Hillear, E E Lade, A J Richards, and secretary/treasurer F Keays. From late 1951 to early 1952, a subscription list was formed to cover costs of works to the Memorial.[2]

Sources:

[1] [http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/anzac\\_tradition.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/anzac_tradition.asp)

[2] Noreen Foster, *Whispers in the Valley: A view of Strath Creek from 1838*, 1985, p. 80.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.5 Commemorating

## Description

### Physical Description

The War Memorial is a World War One granite obelisk memorial, with an engraving to World War Two added on the side. The World War One inscription is on a plaque attached to the front of the memorial and reads: 'Great European War 1914 - 1918. Erected as a tribute to the memory of our brave men who gave their lives for the honor of Australia and the cause of liberty. Lest we forget'. The memorial is on a concrete base and with a concrete post and pipe fence enclosing it.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in its future development or management:

1. Conserve the fabric of the memorial, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the removal of significant or contributory fabric unless it is only of part of the memorial and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the monument and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

4. Prevent adjacent development from overwhelming the key features or adversely affecting the integrity of the site as a clearly identifiable feature of the historical landscape.

5. Retain views of the memorial from the street.

NOTE:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of places may have changed.

It is therefore desirable that the information contained in this citation should be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Strath Creek War Memorial, at 4 Ferguson Street, Strath Creek. A War Memorial to commemorate the memory of local World War One soldiers was first proposed by E E Richards to the Hall trustees, in 1917. It was decided that it should be discussed at a public meeting. The meeting agreed to the proposal, and the Memorial was erected 1925. The building of the War Memorial was organised by the newly appointed trustees of the Hall: Messrs A H Burslem, M J Fitzgerald, Forbes, C C Hillear, E E Lade, A J Richards, and secretary/treasurer F Keays.

The memorial is a granite obelisk memorial, with an engraving to World War Two added on the side. The World War One inscription is on a plaque attached to the front of the memorial and reads: ' Great European War 1914 - 1918. Erected as a tribute to the memory of our brave men who gave their lives for the honor of Australia and the cause of liberty. Lest we forget'. The memorial is on a concrete base and with a concrete post and pipe fence enclosing it.

How is it significant?

The Strath Creek War Memorial is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a memorial to the men from the Strath Creek area who served as soldiers, and those who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars. (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Concrete-post fence

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Bunya Pines at Acheron Station site  
**Address** 85 Robertsons Road TAGGERTY  
**Place Type** Tree  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended** VHR - HI - PS Yes  
**Heritage Protection**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF TAGGERTY

The Taggerty pastoral run of 50,000 acres was located between the Acheron and Granton runs on the east side of the Acheron River and was licensed in the name of Mrs Elizabeth Rose Watson in 1846. It was registered as No. 183 and gazetted on 4 October 1848. Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes that the large area was granted because of the mountainous nature of the run which was 'ruggedly beautiful'. Taggerty was held in the name of James Watson or his wife, and with Donald Cameron until 1849, when the license transferred to Henry Johnson who retained it for 15 years. He erected a rough house on his pre-emptive right, later known as Roslyn. The Taggerty Aboriginal Station was established in the early 1860s, and in 1864 the Taggerty lease was auctioned and James Batchelor was the successful bidder. Batchelor built a slab hut 'in a picturesque situation' and brought his wife and children to their new home.

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Selection on the Upper Goulburn began in 1865 after the passing of J M Grant's Land Act. The first selections were 19 allotments in the Parish of Eildon, 24 in the Parish of Thornton and 59 in the Parish of Yarck. Local historian of the Alexandra area, Gerald W Noble, states that in Alexandra and surrounding areas, only about 150 applications for selections were received for almost as many blocks. Families were therefore able to build up considerable estates 'in the absence of any competition'. Some applications were refused and Noble cites the example of Peter Kerr who was refused land at Taggerty in 1876 because it had already been promised to someone else, and W J Nicholas was refused an application because he was not living on his first selection. Increased population in the area from mining was short-lived. However, Taggerty progressed and a general store was opened in 1891 as people turned to dairying. The butter factory, located on the banks of the Little River, was in operation until 1912, when many farmers turned to sheep raising.

### HISTORY OF ACHERON STATION

Once settlement began in the various regions of the Colony, townships and districts took their names from the nearest squatting stations or runs. Acheron Run (Number 76), originally 24,000 acres, in the settled district of Western Port, was gazetted on 4 October 1848, although it had been occupied since 1839. The first squatters were Ouseley Cockburn and Dr Dougald Fletcher with subsequent squatters including John Christie Aitken, 1849 and James Hope, 1866. Dr Robert Martin held the property, Acheron Run, from 1872 until his death in 1874 when the property was sold to politician James Goodall Francis in 1877. Donald McKenzie Brown and David Dobbie, 1880; then William Murray and Hugh M Strachan, 1882.[1] William Kennedy Cockburn together with the brothers Henry and Dougald Fletcher, claimed a large area of land around the Acheron and Rubicon Rivers, prior to the land's subdivision into the Acheron and Niagaroon runs.[2] Settlers in the Acheron area were forced to take shelter on higher land for six weeks during the 1870 floods and because of this, later selectors tended to choose the higher ground.[3]

Squatters made their mark on the landscape in a number of ways. Historian Tony Dingle, in *Settling*, writes that the tussocky and nutritious kangaroo grass, more like a field of corn than grass with its dark brown seeds waving in the wind and its rich green leaves, could not withstand the trampling of livestock and quickly died out. Introduced grasses and weeds from Van Diemen's Land took their place. In some places the introduced grasses began to dominate and made the plains look like English meadows. The ground was slowly eroded.[4]

Around their homesteads, and marking their home block, or pre-emptive right, it became the tradition to plant pine trees instead of or as well as fencing this land. The two Bunya Pines at the site of the Acheron Station may have been planted by the early squatters as an indication of their claim to and presence on this particular piece of land, in the latter part of the nineteenth century. They possibly date from before the 1870s, after the floods during that decade resulted in selectors tending to choose higher ground. Bunya Pines were also frequently used in mid to late nineteenth century gardens, often as substitutes for European landscape plants, as specimen or landmark plantings, emulating northern-hemisphere usage of conifers. [5]

#### Sources:

[1] R. V. Billis & A. S. Kenyon, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, Melbourne, 1932, p. 165; and Robert Spreadborough & Hugh Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, Melbourne, 1983, p. 149.

[2] Brian Lloyd, *Alexandra and District*, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 19.

[3] G. W. Noble, *The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra*, Acacia Press, 1969, p. 26.

[4] T Dingle, *Settling*, p. 37.

[5] R. Aitken & M. Looker, *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*, 2002, pp. 24, 55, 155-6.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

A pair of mature Bunya Bunya pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*), planted side by side, and located on the Acheron Station site. They are located on the low alluvial flats east of the Acheron River, between the river and Robertsons Road. They remain as formal structural elements to a garden and dwelling that are no longer extant, and possibly evidence of the activities of early squatters who, in marking their home block, or pre-emptive right, would often plant pine trees instead of or as well as fencing this land. One of the pair has lost its crown. The other tree appears to be in good condition.

## Conservation Policy

In order to conserve the heritage significance of the trees, it is policy to:

1. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.
2. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.
3. Maintain the integrity of the planting by:
  - replacing trees 'like with like' species (i.e. Bunya Pine, *Araucaria bidwillii*) unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.
  - removing inappropriate or historically inaccurate species.
4. Ensure that any future development or changes in immediate environmental conditions, adjacent to the trees does not have a detrimental impact upon the integrity and condition of the trees. Investigate ways in which adjacent development could include or coordinate with recovery and improvement of the trees' integrity and condition.
5. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The pair of Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*), on Acheron Run (Number 76), an area originally of 24,000 acres, in the settled district of Western Port. Although occupied since 1839, it was gazetted on 4 October 1848. It was occupied by

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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squatters between 1839 and 1872 when Dr Robert Martin held the property, Acheron Run, until his death in 1874 when the property was sold to politician James Goodall Francis in 1877. It had various owners in the 1880s.

The two Bunya Pines at the site of the Acheron Station may have been planted by the early squatters as an indication of their claim to and presence on this particular piece of land, or planted in association with the construction of a dwelling by later owners in the late nineteenth century. Bunya Pines were frequently used in mid to late nineteenth century gardens, often as substitutes for European landscape plants, as specimen or landmark plantings, emulating northern-hemisphere usage of conifers. One of the pair has lost its crown. The other tree appears to be in good condition.

How is it significant?

The pair of Bunya Pines at Acheron Station have local historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically the pair of Bunya Pines remain as formal structural elements to a garden and homestead that are no longer extant, and evidence of early settlement on the property by squatters or selectors, from around the mid to late nineteenth century. Bunya Pines were frequently used in mid to late nineteenth century gardens, often as substitutes for European landscape plants, as specimen or landmark plantings, and emulating northern-hemisphere usage of conifers, or by early squatters who, in marking their home block, or pre-emptive right, would often plant pine trees instead of or as well as fencing this land. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Bunya pines (2)

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Mundroola, former  
**Address** 3370 Maroondah Highway TAGGERTY  
**Place Type** Homestead building  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF TAGGERTY

The Taggerty pastoral run of 50,000 acres was located between the Acheron and Granton runs on the east side of the Acheron River and was licensed in the name of Mrs Elizabeth Rose Watson in 1846. It was registered as No. 183 and gazetted on 4 October 1848. Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes that the large area was granted because of the mountainous nature of the run which was 'ruggedly beautiful'. [1] Taggerty was held in the name of James Watson or his wife, and with Donald Cameron until 1849, when the license transferred to Henry Johnson who retained it for 15 years. He erected a rough house on his pre-emptive right, later known as Roslyn. The Taggerty Aboriginal Station was established in the early 1860s, and in 1864 the Taggerty lease was auctioned and James Batchelor was the successful bidder. Batchelor built a slab hut 'in a picturesque situation' and brought his wife and children to their new home. Selection on the Upper Goulburn began in 1865 after the passing of J M Grant's Land Act. The first selections were 19 allotments in the Parish of Eildon, 24 in the Parish of Thornton and 59 in the Parish of Yarck. [2] Local historian of the Alexandra area, Gerald W Noble, states that in Alexandra and surrounding areas, only about 150 applications for selections were received for almost as many blocks. Families were therefore able to build up considerable estates 'in the absence of any competition'. Some applications were refused and Noble cites the example of Peter Kerr who was refused land at Taggerty in 1876 because it had already been promised to someone else, and W J Nicholas was refused an application because he was not living on his first selection. [3] Increased population in the area from mining was short-lived. However, Taggerty progressed and a general store was opened in 1891 as people turned to dairying. The butter factory, located on the banks of the Little River, was in operation until 1912, when many farmers turned to sheep raising.

In 1918 the Forest Commission began operations in the district. A state school had opened in 1875 and the original building was in use until 1965. A movement to construct a Public Hall began in 1897, and a committee of local residents, including Arthur Lewis, Peter Kerr J B Coomb, William Maudouit, Hector Dick as well as Alex and John Wylie, was formed. They successfully constructed the Mechanics Institute and Free Library. A grand opening was held in April 1898. In 1974, the Victorian Municipal Directory described Taggerty as a dairying district on the Acheron River and the Maroondah Highway with a post and telegraph office, state school, public hall and boarding house. And, 'trout in the Acheron and Little rivers'. [4]

### HISTORY OF MUNDROOLA

The major landholder in the Acheron/Taggerty area was John Wylie (c.1827-1892) after whom Wylie's Hill is named. He first selected land in 1869 and accumulated thousands of acres with river frontage on both sides of the Acheron River, downstream from Taggerty, as well as numerous blocks within the township. This site was originally known as 'Mundroola' and is associated with Wylie. The homestead was built in three stages: the original is double brick colonial of the 1870s; in 1883 a Victorian residence was constructed; in c.1920 an extension onto the original double brick and interior decorative alterations. A 1930s circular silo is also located on the site. The site is bordered along the road by a mature cypress hedge and backs immediately onto the Acheron River. A row of mature Italian Cypresses, two mature elms, c.1870s, and Algerian Oak planted 1878 planted in memory of one of Wylie's daughters Frances, bitten by a snake. Laurie Morgan, equestrian Olympic Gold Medallist owned the property during the 1960s; Dr Rawlinson retired to Taggerty from Euroa has also owned the property. The house served as an Australian Youth Association holiday camp from 1974 until 2000. The property was vacant until sold in 2007. [5]

Sources:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- [1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 26.
- [2] G W Noble, The Red Gate: A History of Alexandra, Acacia Press, 1986, p. 23.
- [3] Ibid., pp. 25-6.
- [4] Victorian Municipal Directory, 1974, p. 516.
- [5] Personal conversation, Joy Burchell, 2006.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

- 2.2 Selection
- 5.3 Tourism in the 21st Century

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Mundroola Homestead is a weatherboard Victorian house of 1883 with an M-hip roof and a skillion verandah on three sides which retains its ornamental cast-iron valance to the front. Most of the verandah on the side elevations has been enclosed. The front door is flanked by three-sided window bays. The (overpainted) brick rear kitchen, of the 1870s, with 2-over-2 sash windows, is now surrounded on two sides by later additions.

The house was extended to the rear in the 1920s. This part of the house has box windows on small corbels. A cyclone-wire and post fence was erected on the south side of the house around this same time.

The house is in fair to poor condition and was vacant when inspected in 2006.

There is a c1930s circular silo on the site, as well as later buildings connected with its use, until 2000, as a holiday camp.

The site is bordered along the road by a mature cypress hedge and backs immediately onto the Acheron River. There is also a row of mature Italian Cypresses on site, two mature elms and a grand Algerian Oak.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider reinstating the original configuration of the verandah, by removing the enclosed areas and reinstating the cast-iron valance to these sections.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Mundroola (or Wylie Homestead) at 3370 Maroondah Highway, Taggerty. The site was selected in 1869 by John Wylie, who was a major landholder in the area.

It is an 1883 weatherboard Victorian house with an 1870s brick kitchen (and possibly the core of the house). It has an M-hip roof and a skillion verandah on three sides which retains its ornamental cast-iron valance to the front. The brick kitchen at the rear was surrounded on two sides by the large rear addition of the 1920s.

The house is surrounded by mature plantings, including a cypress hedge along the road, a row of Italian Cypresses, two elms and a large Algerian Oak of 1878. The Acheron River is only several metres behind the house.

There is also a circular silo near the house of c1930.

How is it significant?

The former Mundroola is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the homestead of selector and major landholder in the Acheron/Taggerty area, John Wylie (RNE criterion H.1). Also as a representative example of a large selector's house (RNE criterion A.4).

Aesthetically, as a fairly intact house of 1883 (with an 1870s kitchen), with evidence of later stages, situated in a very picturesque spot beside the Acheron River, sheltered by mature trees and hedges (RNE criterion E.1).

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Cypress hedge, Italian cypresses, Elms, Algerian Oak

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Silo

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Taggerty Hall  
**Address** 5 Taggerty-Thornton Road TAGGERTY  
**Place Type** Hall Town Hall  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF TAGGERTY

The Taggerty pastoral run of 50,000 acres was located between the Acheron and Granton runs on the east side of the Acheron River and was licensed in the name of Mrs Elizabeth Rose Watson in 1846. It was registered as No. 183 and gazetted on 4 October 1848. Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes that the large area was granted because of the mountainous nature of the run which was 'ruggedly beautiful'. Taggerty was held in the name of James Watson or his wife, and with Donald Cameron until 1849, when the license transferred to Henry Johnson who retained it for 15 years. He erected a rough house on his pre-emptive right, later known as Roslyn. The Taggerty Aboriginal Station was established in the early 1860s, and in 1864 the Taggerty lease was auctioned and James Batchelor was the successful bidder. Batchelor built a slab hut 'in a picturesque situation' and brought his wife and children to their new home. Selection on the Upper Goulburn began in 1865 after the passing of J M Grant's Land Act. The first selections were 19 allotments in the Parish of Eildon, 24 in the Parish of Thornton and 59 in the Parish of Yarck. Local historian of the Alexandra area, Gerald W Noble, states that in Alexandra and surrounding areas, only about 150 applications for selections were received for almost as many blocks. Families were therefore able to build up considerable estates 'in the absence of any competition'. Some applications were refused and Noble cites the example of Peter Kerr who was refused land at Taggerty in 1876 because it had already been promised to someone else, and W J Nicholas was refused an application because he was not living on his first selection. Increased population in the area from mining was short-lived. However, Taggerty progressed and a general store was opened in 1891 as people turned to dairying. The butter factory, located on the banks of the Little River, was in operation until 1912, when many farmers turned to sheep raising.

### HISTORY OF HALL

A public meeting to discuss the building of a local Hall was held in Taggerty on 16 February 1897; at this meeting a committee, consisting of Messrs J R Coombs, H W Dick, Arthur Lewis, Peter Kerr, W Maudouit and R Webb, was formed. Following the construction of the Hall, it was officially opened on 15 April 1898. The first Trustees of the Hall were elected on 9 July 1898 and consisted of Arthur Lewis, Peter Kerr and John Wylie. These men served until a second Board of Trustees, consisting of Charles Grover Emery, William John Hepburn and George Edward Moir, was elected in 1934.[1] Committee members over the years have included Alan Andrews, Ken Andrews, Elva Beatty, Harold Birtchnell, Pam Birtchnell, Patricia Edwards, Lorna Jones, Colin Kerr, Myrtle Kerr, Peter Kerr, P. W. Kerr, W. Lister, G. Mitchell, Tom Sharrock, Harold Tonkin, Eileen Walker, Fred Walker, R Ward, F F Webb, W West, Alex Younger and Margaret Younger.

Used over the years for balls, dances and concerts, library, meetings, Euchre parties, Kitchen teas, travelling picture shows, table tennis, badminton, gym classes, and less often for election speeches, Taggerty Hall has a rich history. Librarians have included Rita Lawlor, Ethel Walker and Alison Lister. In 1965, the supper room was used as an extra classroom for the nearby school.[2] The Skinner Shield Cricket began in 1913 and was won by Taggerty; World War One seems to have put an end to the competition and so the shield remained at Taggerty Hall, with 'Taggerty' the only team name on it. The shield is thought to have been donated by Robert Skinner.

Sometime in the 1920s an annexe was built on the stage as a changing room. In 1921 a subscription was taken up for an Honour Board, with P Kerr, George Moir, Mr Peck, Mr Williams and J Wylie being the major contributors. It was unveiled on 5 April 1922 by Cr John Wylie, along with a captured enemy machine gun. The machine gun was taken away by the Army during World War Two, leaving the brackets that had held it remaining on the wall opposite the Honour Board for many years.[3] At a public meeting on 13 March 1946 it was agreed that additions and alterations should be carried out. However, they appear not to have been done. By the 1950s a sports meeting and gymkhana were held on New Year's Day, with a ball being held in the evening. The supper room was lined in 1951 and shortly afterwards, the stage was removed from the main hall which allowed for greater dancing space.

The Hall has been used for Balls, CWA functions, Children's Fancy Dress Balls and Tennis Club functions. In 1961 white ant damage was repaired, a government grant was used to construct a toilet block. From the 1960s and through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the viability and longevity of the Taggerty Hall appeared to be in jeopardy. Notwithstanding, in April 1997, the Hall was incorporated as the Taggerty Hall Committee Incorporated and Brian Stevenson was elected as Chairperson. A history of the Taggerty Hall was published in 1998.[4]

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Sources:

- [1] Peter W, Kerr, 1998, Taggerty Hall Centenary 1898-1998, A History of the Hall, p. 3.
- [2] Ibid., pp. 8-13.
- [3] Ibid., pp. 12-14.
- [4] Ibid.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9. COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

## Description

### Physical Description

Taggerty Hall is a Victorian weatherboard, gable-fronted building with a corrugated galvanised iron roof. The facade gable has a rectangular vent at the apex and features a decorative finial and pendant. A lower transverse-gabled extension has been added to the rear left-hand side, in the 1920s. It has small, high-set windows and a door near the junction with the original section. The main building has sash windows, with five bays on the east elevation, three on the west. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the centre of the rear gabled elevation. The gabled open front porch was reconstructed recently.

It is in good condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Taggerty Hall, at 5 Taggerty-Thornton Road, Taggerty. A committee charged with building a public hall for Taggerty, with members Messrs J R Coombs, H W Dick, Arthur Lewis, Peter Kerr, W Maudouit and R Webb, was formed in February 1897. The hall was constructed and officially opened on 15 April 1898. Sometime in the 1920s an annexe was built on the stage as a changing room.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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It is a Victorian weatherboard, gable-fronted building with a corrugated galvanised iron roof. The facade gable has a rectangular vent at the apex and features a decorative finial and pendant. A lower transverse-gabled extension of the 1920s has been added to the rear left-hand side. The gabled open front porch was reconstructed recently

How is it significant?

Taggerty Hall is of local social and historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Socially, as a centre of community life in Taggerty since 1898. (RNE criterion G.1)

Historically, as the earliest surviving public building in the township and the venue for many important events and functions in the past, such as the library, school, clubs and social events. (RNE criterion A.4)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Taggerty House  
**Address** 2741 Maroondah Highway TAGGERTY  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF TAGGERTY

The Taggerty pastoral run of 50,000 acres was located between the Acheron and Granton runs on the east side of the Acheron River and was licensed in the name of Mrs Elizabeth Rose Watson in 1846. It was registered as No. 183 and gazetted on 4 October 1848. Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes that the large area was granted because of the mountainous nature of the run which was 'ruggedly beautiful'. Taggerty was held in the name of James Watson or his wife, and with Donald Cameron until 1849, when the license transferred to Henry Johnson who retained it for 15 years. He erected a rough house on his pre-emptive right, later known as Roslyn. The Taggerty Aboriginal Station was established in the early 1860s, and in 1864 the Taggerty lease was auctioned and James Batchelor was the successful bidder. Batchelor built a slab hut 'in a picturesque situation' and brought his wife and children to their new home. Selection on the Upper Goulburn began in 1865 after the passing of J M Grant's Land Act. The first selections were 19 allotments in the Parish of Eildon, 24 in the Parish of Thornton and 59 in the Parish of Yarck. Local historian of the Alexandra area, Gerald W Noble, states that in Alexandra and surrounding areas, only about 150 applications for selections were received for almost as many blocks. Families were therefore able to build up considerable estates 'in the absence of any competition'. Some applications were refused and Noble cites the example of Peter Kerr who was refused land at Taggerty in 1876 because it had already been promised to someone else, and W J Nicholas was refused an application because he was not living on his first selection. Increased population in the area from mining was short-lived. However, Taggerty progressed and a general store was opened in 1891 as people turned to dairying. The butter factory, located on the banks of the Little River, was in operation until 1912, when many farmers turned to sheep raising.

### HISTORY OF TAGGERTY HOUSE

The Taggerty pastoral run of 50,000 acres was located between the Acheron and Granton runs on the east side of the Acheron River and was licensed in the name of Mrs Elizabeth Rose Watson in 1846. It was registered as No. 183 and gazetted on 4 October 1848. Local historian, Brian Lloyd, writes that the large area was granted because of the mountainous nature of the run which was 'ruggedly beautiful'. [1] Taggerty was held in the name of James Watson or his wife, and with Donald Cameron until 1849, when the license transferred to Henry Johnson who retained it for 15 years. He erected a rough house on his pre-emptive right, later known as Roslyn. The Taggerty Aboriginal Station was established in the early 1860s, and in 1864 the Taggerty lease was auctioned and James Batchelor was the successful bidder. At the same auction, James purchased the rights to stations at Portland and Mount Martha.

Batchelor had come from England in 1853, when he was 21 years old. He married Mary Ann Beeson in 1859, and first settled on a farm in Heidelberg. They had ten children in all.

Batchelor built a slab hut 'in a picturesque situation' on the Taggerty Run and brought his wife and children to their new home in 1864, travelling through Marysville and then 'hacking a path through the bush'. [2]

A Crown Grant dated 27 March 1876 for 560 acres 1 rood and 20 perches was granted to Mary Ann Batchelor at a cost of £460, for allotments 12, 13, 21 and 25. The property was later mortgaged to the Australian Deposit and Mortgage Bank. A second title was for Crown Allotment 22 in the Parish of Taggerty (Land Title Nos. 881/070 and 7335/896 derived from 4276/197).

The original hut built by James Batchelor was replaced by Taggerty House, built as a standard six-room Victorian house. A photograph in Mary Keneally's history of Marysville, *The High Way to Heaven*, shows Taggerty House before additions. [3] The original hut reportedly became the cellar. [4]

The historian of St Thomas' Church, Buxton also writes that James Batchelor took up land from Narbethong to Acheron,

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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calling it Taggerty Station where he lived with his wife and ten children. The old family home had additions built on to it and became know as Taggerty House where four of the children lived after the death of their parents. Three of the sons were given farms in the Acheron Valley. The history of St Thomas', Buxton includes an early photograph of Taggerty House which bears the caption 'Taggerty House, home of the Batchelor family at time when Church was built [in 1895]'. [5] It was James Batchelor who donated that land on which St Thomas' was built.

Taggerty House was later run as a guesthouse by James' daughters, Louisa, Emily and Annie, after James' death in 1897.[6] It was mentioned in the 1905 RACV's 'Fifty Miles Around Melbourne'.[7] It appears to have been enlarged in the 1920s, presumably to accommodate more guests.

On 31 October 1914 Mary Ann Batchelor transferred the property to Ernest Batchelor, Joseph Batchelor and Christopher John Batchelor of Taggerty (Land Title 881/070). The next transaction on the estate was a Certificate of Title in the name of Henry Richard Batchelor, Anne Jane Batchelor and Emily B Batchelor (spinster) as tenants in common. The Certificate is dated 10 January 1920.

Anne Jane Batchelor died on 16 August 1948. Probate of her Will was granted to Henry Richard Batchelor of Taggerty House, on 27 October 1949 (Land Title 4786/462). The property was then transferred to Louisa, Emily and Henry Batchelor (Land Title 7335/896). The subsequent title certificate is missing, so the date that the Batchelor family finally sold Taggerty House is not known.

## Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District, Histec Publications, 2006, p. 26; Billis & Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, p. 187; Spreadborough & Anderson, Victorian Squatters, p. 167.

[2] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 26.

[3] Mary Kenealy, The High Way to Heaven, p. 24.

[4] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 26.

[5] Kenealy, op.cit., p. 24 and Church of Saint Thomas Buxton, 1995, pp.6-7.

[6] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 27.

[7] As reported by Joy Burchell, 2006.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

5.2 Guest-houses

## Description

### Physical Description

The Taggerty homestead was built as a standard six-room Victorian house with an M-hipped roof and two corbelled brick

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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chimneys (with a dog-tooth detail), facing east, toward the road. It is sited on a hill, which drops behind the house. Reportedly the 1864 slab hut was incorporated into the cellar, but its remains were not noted during the site inspection.

The Victorian house is now enveloped, on three sides, by c1920s guest house additions. There are shallow gable-fronted pavilions on either side of the facade. Between them is a contemporary verandah with exposed rafter ends. Beneath it is part of the Victorian facade: a nearly central doorway, with a four-panelled door with a transom between two one-over-one sash windows. The 1920s pavilions have casement windows (two square panes over a large pane) with Japanese-influenced architraves.

The same 'Japanese' architraves surround one-over-one sash windows on the north side elevation, which has been reclad in strapped fibro sheeting. Broad verandahs were also added (c1920s) to the north and south side elevations. The north one has exposed rafter ends and a simple criss-cross balustrade.

At the back of the south side elevation is another gabled addition, running north-south, which probably also dates from the 1920s. Due to the slope of the ground, its roof is the same height as the rest of the house, but it incorporates two stories. There is a tripartite casement window on the ground floor and double casement above. On the west side of this addition (at the rear of the house) is a skillion-roofed addition (roof sloping down to the west), with a gable-roofed addition abutting it (supported on bush stumps). Both of these additions have casement windows on the south elevation. On the north side of the skillion-roofed addition is a remnant fireplace and chimney (c1920s chimney) - the structure that it originally opened into is gone.

The rear (west) elevation of the Victorian part of the house appears to have had a verandah (now removed). A single one-over-one sash window survives, and there are two former openings (doors?) covered over with corrugated iron sheets. The foundation beneath the south side is brick, the rest of the building is on high stumps (visible as there is no cladding).

The building is in fair to good condition. Some weatherboards on the south half of the house have been replaced.

There are mature exotic trees in the front garden.

There were a number of outbuildings related to the farm, and later the house's function as a guesthouse, but these have all been demolished.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Taggerty House, at 2741 Maroondah Highway, Taggerty. The Taggerty Run was taken up by James Batchelor in 1864,

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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after which he built a slab hut to which he moved his family. In 1876 the family received the Crown Grant to the property, after which they built a six-room Victorian house, reportedly retaining the original hut in the cellar. Taggerty House was later run as a guesthouse by James' daughters, Louisa, Emily and Annie, after James' death in 1897. Large extensions were made to the sides and rear of the Victorian house, basically surrounding it, in the 1920s, to provide additional accommodation.

The Taggerty homestead was built as a standard six-room Victorian house with an M-hipped roof and two corbelled brick chimneys, facing east, toward the road. It is sited on a hill, which drops behind the house. The Victorian house is enveloped, on three sides, by c1920s guest house additions. There are shallow gable-fronted pavilions on either side of the facade. Between them is a contemporary verandah with exposed rafter ends. Beneath it is part of the Victorian facade: a nearly central doorway, with a four-panelled door with a transom between two one-over-one sash windows. The 1920s pavilions have casement windows (two square panes over a large pane) with Japanese-influenced architraves. At the back of the south side elevation is another gabled addition, running north-south, which probably also dates from the 1920s.

There are mature exotic trees in the front garden. There were a number of outbuildings related to the farm, and later the house's function as a guesthouse, but these have all been demolished.

How is it significant?

Taggerty House is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with selector James Batchelor and his family, who have been important in Taggerty since the 1860s. Also as an illustration of the changing role of the area, from a pastoral run to a tourist area, as shown by the 1920s extensions to the Victorian house. The development of the house, from a tiny hut, to a substantial Victorian house, and then early 20th-century additions are a tangible illustration of the changing fortunes of the Batchelor family, (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, as a picturesquely situated house in a garden of mature exotic trees. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature exotic trees in front garden

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

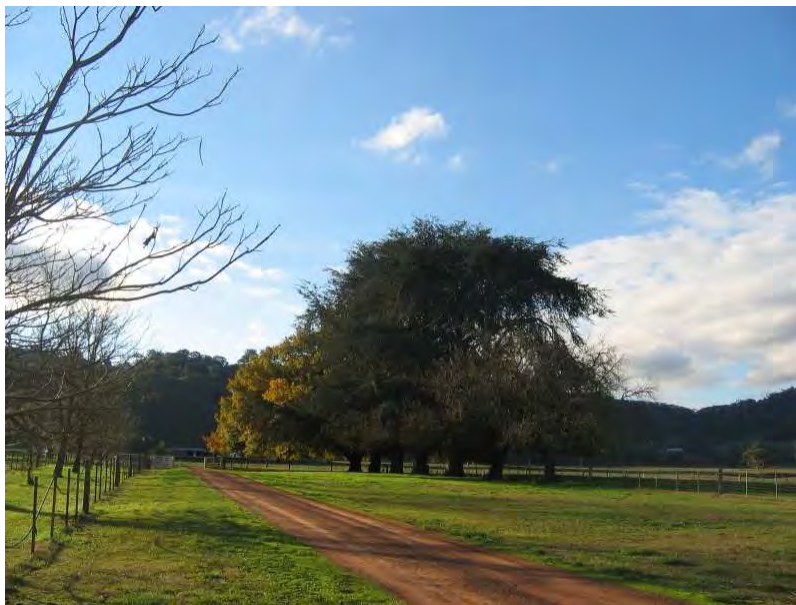
No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Blondell Park  
**Address** 696 Back Eildon Road THORNTON  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## HISTORY OF THORNTON

The Parish, township and pastoral run of Thornton date back to 1840. The Thornton Run, taken up in 1840 by Dr James Dickson, was originally known as Rubicon Creek. Dickson held the run briefly before it was transferred, from 1840-70, to John Christie Aitken. It was subdivided in 1865 into the Torbreck Run and the smaller Thornton Run was cancelled in 1877. It was gold that brought an influx of population into the Thornton area in the nineteenth century, and many remained to take up selections. Alluvial gold was first discovered at Yea in 1851 and in the Thornton, Snobs Creek and Acheron areas in 1854. Reef mining and quartz mining began in 1859. The Alexandra field was not discovered until 1866 when a quartz reef was accidentally found on the Mount Pleasant Run. Mining of the rich Alexandra reefs was soon augmented by alluvial workings in nearby gullies. Rapidly, deep lead and quartz reef mining led to the establishment of rough townships consisting of an assortment of stores and grog shops catering to 500 or so miners. The Murrindindi area experienced mining activity both directly and indirectly from 1851. The direct experience was due to the discovery and exploitation, mostly during the second half of the nineteenth century, of a scatter of goldfields throughout the region. Demand for the strategic mineral wolfram during the World Wars of the twentieth century also contributed to the study area's mining experience. The indirect effect of mining relates to the local economic importance of the routes that, passing through Murrindindi, provided access from Melbourne to the fabulously rich goldfields of Gaffney's Creek (1859), Woods Point (1861) and the Jordan (1862). The Parish is on the south side of the Goulburn River. The first Rubicon Hotel was built in 1868, and the Post Office, photographed in 1910, looks to be one of the earliest buildings in Thornton. In the late 1920s Thornton township became known simply as Thornton.

## HISTORY OF BLONDELL PARK

John O'Rourke, farmer, selected 356 acres, being Allotments 15, 16 and 17 in the Parish of Eildon, in 1864 (as cited in Lloyd) or 1865 (as his first semi-annual rent payment was made in Dec. 1865). He renewed his lease in 1868, and then applied for a Crown Grant to the three allotments, which was granted on 9 Feb. 1876.[5]

The present homestead, now known as Blondell Park is located in the south end of Allotment 16. It was originally named Breffni, then called Elouera from 1946 to 1998.[4] While there is no inventory of buildings in the selection files, Breffni is described as 'the original home property of John O'Rourke'. As John died in 1886, this means that the first (front) part of the present house was built between 1865 and 1886. Considering the dog-tooth detail of the chimneys, it probably dates from the mid-1870s, after John received the Crown Grant in 1876.

John Patrick O'Rourke and Bridget Aylward O'Rourke arrived in the colony from Ireland in 1849. Bridget inherited the property when John Patrick died in 1886, and her son John Aylward O'Rourke inherited it upon her death in 1902.[2]

It appears that John Aylward enlarged the house shortly after he inherited it. While the front part of the house appears to date from the 1870s, there is a rear extension of c1905. The details of the tripartite casement windows in this section are nearly identical to that of an addition of a similar age to a house at 66 Nihil Street, Alexandra. That house was owned 1898-1921 by George Bird, Carpenter and Builder (Land Title V2711 F161). It is quite possible that Bird was the builder both for the extension to his own house and to Breffni.

In 1919 the property transferred to Henry Thomas Nicholas, though he may have taken possession several years earlier. The property has remained in the hands of the Nicholas family to the present day.[1]

The Nicholas family were also early settlers in the area. Robert and Anna (nee Hannson) Nicholas arrived from Somerset in 1844. Robert Nicholas first held properties in the area with Henry Johnson: 1844-46 Oak Range, and Eglington Station 1858-59. He leased Mount Torbreck Station (part of Thornton Run), near Snobs Creek, 1860-71. They had seven children (eight, according to family sources), including Henry Thomas Nicholas, born in 1857.

Henry Nicholas married Margaret Nichol in 1887, who had been born on the future site of Eildon Weir. Her parents had

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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move to the area in the 1850s and were the first selectors on the Upper Goulburn. Henry and Margaret had eight children (nine, according to family sources) born between 1890 and 1905.[2] The family had previously resided in Jerusalem Creek.[4] They purchased Breffni from O'Rourke in 1919 and grazed about 3000 sheep and 70 cattle on the land.

They constructed a woolshed near the house in 1919, using timber from their dismantled Jerusalem Creek woolshed.[4]

Henry Nicholas died in 1940, Breffni passing to his son Leslie James. In 1929 Les had married Marion Arminall Pople, of Eildon. Les died in 1982.[3] While resident at Elouera, as they renamed it, Les and Marion made a number of changes. In 1947 Les replaced the front doors of the house and replaced the picket fence around the house with a wire mesh fence. Around 1948 several rooms at the back of the house were demolished and a new kitchen was built on the footprint of half the previous kitchen. In 1952 Les largely rebuilt the woolshed.[4]

The house now known as Blondell Park.

## Sources:

[1] Land Titles Vol. 3095 Folio 873, & Vol. 7434 Fol. 792. Note: Family sources state that the Nicholas family took possession of the property in 1917.

[2] Lloyd, 'Alexandra and District', p 327-28, 324.

[3] Op cit, pp 143, 323-325.

[4] Pers. comm., Laurie Nicholas, 2008.

[5] PROV VPRS 629/P0 Unit 59, File 11022.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 4. UTILISING NATURAL RESOURCES

## Description

### Physical Description

Blondell Park is a late 19th-century house (c1870s) with a grandly decorated c1905 addition at the rear. It is set in a garden with mature trees (mostly upright conifers), reached via a driveway lined, on the east side, with 3 oak trees (*Quercus* sp.), 2 conifers (*Cedrus deodar?*), and 1 Mulberry tree (*Morus* sp). There is an orchard at rear of house, contained stone fruit trees in a wire enclosure (including peach trees).

The front of the house is a block-fronted weatherboard Victorian (c1870s) with a verandah on three sides. The verandah has a low curved hipped roof supported on chamfered timber posts with simple timber brackets. The eaves have a cornice with paired timber brackets. There are four corbelled brick chimneys with a dog-tooth detail on the M-hipped roof. The front door, at the centre of the facade, is set into a tall reveal, lined with weatherboards. As the front doors themselves have been replaced (in 1947), this reveal may indicate the original size of the door, complete with sidelights and transom. On either side of the doorway is a one-over-one sash window with sash sidelights and three transoms. The bottom of the window architraves rests on small timber corbels.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The house was enlarged in the early 20th century with a large rear wing (partially removed in 1948). Two gable-fronted bays are part of this extension: one at the middle of the east side elevation and the other at the rear of the west side elevation. While the windows on the 19th-century (front) section of these two elevations are one-over-one sashes (mostly single, one pair), the windows of the two gabled bays are tripartite sash windows with coloured-glass transoms. These windows are framed with a shallow hood at the top resting of four long, narrow corbels, and there are four small corbels at the bottom, as well. It is very similar in detail to the window on a house at 66 Nihil Street, Alexandra (see separate citation).

Behind the gabled bay on the east side of the house is the current kitchen. It has a simple external brick chimney. The kitchen, of 1947-8, is in the same location as half the original kitchen. The 7th bedroom, cellar, rear landing and rear half of the original kitchen were demolished at this time.

The interior of the house is very grand and impressively intact (especially the c1905 wing). Intact decorative details include stained lining-board dados in the central hallway in a herringbone pattern, and a similar pattern of stained lining boards on the ceilings of the two parlours (the rooms with the tripartite windows). The ceilings also have large, shallow cast-metal ceiling centres with incised details. The parlour on the east side has an Art Nouveau-inspired plaster cornice which is believed to retain its original paint scheme intact. The hallway also has an original skylight, clad in (painted) lining boards. Most rooms retain fireplace mantels, but the inserts have been replaced with gas heaters. Reportedly all of the walls were originally clad in lining boards with a Hessian and wallpaper overlay, but this was replaced in nearly all the rooms with plaster c1948.[1]

Alterations to the house include: replacement of the front door in 1947 with glazed double doors, removal of two bedrooms and the kitchen at the rear of the house in c1948, conversion of another bedroom to a bathroom at that time, and construction of the new kitchen, and a recent re-roofing of the house, scullery and verandah (in the same configuration as before), and replacement of the verandah-floor timbers.

The original picket fence was replaced in 1948 with a cyclone wire fence and two Japanese-influenced gateways. A section of it survives on the east side of the house. It is in fair to poor condition. The rest of the fence around the house was replaced by the present owner with a sympathetic timber picket fence.

Note that the two mature walnut trees behind the house are in poor condition.

The woolshed to the north-west of the Homestead was constructed in 1919 and upgraded in 1950.[1] It is a simple gable-roofed, weatherboard structure.

There is a modern carport and CGI sheds behind the house. Neither of these structures is significant.

Source:

[1] Pers. comm., Laurie Nicholas, 2008.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Consider retaining the original interior finishes and details intact (especially, leave lining board dados and ceilings

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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unpainted, leave original colour scheme on cornice in east-side parlour exposed, retain fireplace mantles, hallway skylight).

## CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Breffni, called Elouera 1946-98, now known as Blondell Park, at 696 Back Eildon Road, Thornton. The house was constructed in three stages: c1876, c1905 and 1947-8. The first owners were the O'Rourke family. John Patrick O'Rourke, who emigrated from Ireland in 1849, was a grazier in the Thornton area from around 1864. He selected the site of Breffni (Allotments 15-17) in 1864 or '65. He received a Crown Grant to the land in 1875 and it appears that he built the present house shortly afterward.

After John O'Rourke died in 1886, the property passed to his wife, Bridget Aylward O'Rourke, and then to his stepson, John Aylward O'Rourke, upon her death in 1902. Shortly after this time the house was enlarged with a grand rear wing of about five rooms.

Henry Thomas Nicholas (1857-1940) purchased Breffni from Bernard O'Rourke in 1919. His father, Robert Nicholas, had arrived in the colony in 1844, and had held (or jointly held) grazing runs in the area from 1844 (including Oak Range, Eglington Station and Torbreck Station). The Nicholas family grazed sheep and cattle on the property, and constructed a woolshed in 1919 using timber from the woolshed on their Jerusalem Creek property. After Henry Thomas died in 1940, his son Leslie James inherited it. He soon remodelled the rear of the house, removing one bedroom, and reducing the size of the kitchen by half. He also upgraded the woolshed in 1950. The house is still in the Nicholas family.

The front of Breffni is a block-fronted weatherboard Victorian with a verandah on three sides. The verandah has a low curved hipped roof supported on chamfered timber posts with simple timber brackets. The eaves have a cornice with paired timber brackets. There are four corbelled brick chimneys with a dog-tooth detail on the M-hipped roof. On either side of the doorway is a one-over-one sash window with sash sidelights and three transoms. The bottom of the window architraves rests on small timber corbels.

The house was enlarged in the early 20th century with a large rear wing: Two gable-fronted bays survive, one on either side of the house. The windows of the two gabled bays are tripartite sash windows with coloured-glass transoms. These windows are framed with a shallow hood at the top resting on four long, narrow corbels, and there are four small corbels at the bottom, as well. The interior of the c1905 wing is very grand and impressively intact. Decorative details include stained lining-board dados in the central hallway in a herringbone pattern, and a similar pattern of stained lining boards on the ceilings of the two parlours (the rooms with the tripartite windows). The ceilings also have large, shallow metal ceiling centres with incised details. The parlour on the east side has an Art Nouveau-inspired plaster cornice which is believed to retain its original paint scheme intact. The hallway also has an original skylight, clad in (painted) lining boards. Most rooms retain fireplace mantels, but the inserts have been replaced with gas heaters.

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Behind the gabled bay on the east side of the house is the current kitchen, built in 1948. It has a simple external brick chimney.

The house is set in a garden with mature trees (mostly upright conifers), reached via a driveway lined, on the east side, with: 3 oak trees (*Quercus* sp.), 2 conifers (*Cedrus deodar?*), and 1 Mulberry tree (*Morus* sp). There is an orchard at rear of house, contained stone fruit trees in a wire enclosure (including peach trees). There is a sympathetic new picket fence on the north (front) and west sides of the house. Two Japanese-inspired gateways and a section of a wire and timber fence (on the east side of the house) of 1947 survive, but are in poor condition.

How is it significant?

Breffni (now Blondell Park) is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its links to two early families in the area who were major landholders: the O'Rourkes who built and later extended the house, and the Nicholas family, who has owned it since 1919. (RNE criteria H.1, A.4)

Aesthetically, as a substantial late 19th-century rural homestead with even grander additions of c1905, set in gardens with mature exotic trees and an orchard, and reached via a drive lined with mature oaks and conifers. (RNE criteria D.2, E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

Yes Entrance avenue, orchard, mature exotic trees in garden
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

No
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Eildon Park, former  
**Address** 1701 Goulburn Valley Highway THORNTON  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style**

Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular



## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF THORNTON

The Parish, township and pastoral run of Thornton date back to 1840. The Thornton Run, taken up in 1840 by Dr James Dickson, was originally known as Rubicon Creek. Dickson held the run briefly before it was transferred, from 1840-70, to John Christie Aitken. It was subdivided in 1865 into the Torbreck Run and the smaller Thornton Run which was cancelled in 1877. It was gold that brought an influx of population into the Thornton area in the nineteenth century, and many remained to take up selections. Alluvial gold was first discovered at Yea in 1851 and in the Thornton, Snobs Creek and Acheron areas in 1854. Reef mining and quartz mining began in 1859. The Alexandra field was not discovered until 1866 when a quartz reef was accidentally found on the Mount Pleasant Run. Mining of the rich Alexandra reefs was soon augmented by alluvial workings in nearby gullies. Rapidly, deep lead and quartz reef mining led to the establishment of rough townships consisting of an assortment of stores and grog shops catering to 500 or so miners. The Murrindindi Shire as it exists today experienced mining activity both directly and indirectly from 1851.

The direct experience was due to the discovery and exploitation, mostly during the second half of the nineteenth century, of a scatter of goldfields throughout the region. Demand for the strategic mineral wolfram during the World Wars of the twentieth century also contributed to the study area's mining experience.

The indirect effect of mining relates to the local economic importance of the routes that, passing through Murrindindi, provided access from Melbourne to the fabulously rich goldfields of Gaffney's Creek (1859), Woods Point (1861) and the Jordan (1862). The Parish is on the south side of the Goulburn River.

### HISTORY OF KNOWLES HOUSE

Local historian, Brian Lloyd writes that William Knowles, born in Blackburn, Lancashire, arrived in Australia in 1852. His trade was as a blacksmith and wheelwright. He married Jane McLelland who had arrived in Melbourne from England in 1855. William's younger brother, John, arrived in Australia in 1854 and together they opened the Big River Hotel and store at Enoch's Point. He quickly became involved in mining and sold the hotel licence to John Vickers in 1865. William moved closer to Alexandra where he selected land at Thornton and built 'The Branch'. Knowles operated a punt over the Goulburn River until the bridge, known as the Eildon Bridge, was completed in 1873. Knowles requested and was granted a number of Crown Grants of land in the Parishes of Eildon from June 1872 to 1889.

In 1872 he built a large house known as 'Eildon Park' on the Goulburn River, and ran it as a hotel for two years. The house, now referred to as the Knowles House had 12 rooms, stables and blacksmith's shop, were built with local stone.[1] The present owners have a copy of an early photo that shows 'Eildon Park' in the days it was a hotel.

The property at 1701 Goulburn Valley Highway originally consisted of 587 acres 1 rood 7 perches of Crown Allotments 26, 27A, 28 and part of 26A, 28, 29 and part of a former government road (Land Title Vol. 3027/Fol. 327). William Knowles died on 18 June 1903 and probate was granted to William Henry Knowles on 25 July 1903.[2]

James Clark, Gentleman, of Ellesmere, Sutherland Road, Canterbury, purchased the property on 10 December 1904. When James Clark died on 4 November 1942, probate was granted to Trustees Executors, Annie Bertha Clark, widow, and Jack Moran Clark, grazier, of 'Eildon Park' on 6 March 1944. The Trustees and Jack Moran Clark became the joint surviving proprietors on 21 December 1954 following the death of Annie Bertha Clark. Part of the property was excised on 16 March 1955 and a new title created (Land Title 8189/800). The property was known as 'Eildon Park' when owned by Jack Moran Clark (Land Title 8649/689).

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Sources:

[1] Brian Lloyd, Alexandra and District incorporating The Red Gate by Gerald Noble, Histec Publications and Murrindindi Heritage Register, 2006, pp. 209-10.

[2] Crown Grants 529/703 (19 June 1872); 1129/741 (19 December 1889) and 1129/741A (22 August 1889); 1278/485 (12 December 1889); 1906/142 (26 January 1887); 2212/228 (22 August 1889); 2405/948 (3 September 1891).

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.2 Selection

3. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

## Description

### Physical Description

The Eildon Park homestead is an altered 1872 stone building, rendered with quoins, and has a hip, corrugated galvanised iron roof. There are multi-light sash windows. There is a central front door, leading to the hallway, as well as a second door to its left. This leads to a room with a cellar in the floor, probably used for storing food and drink when it was a hotel.

The house was remodelled in the 1920s with a new verandah and roof form (gabled hip). An extension was made to the rear of the house c1970, enlarging it by about a third. The details of the windows and roof were copied in this addition, making it difficult to distinguish from the earlier part of the house. In 2008 a large laundry was under construction at the south-west corner of the house. While it also imitates the 19th-century details, it is easier to distinguish as it is a projecting wing.

The former stable building is constructed of fieldstone, and has a corrugated galvanised iron, gable roof, under which palings survive. The roof beams are bush poles. The top of the gable has a winch (for loading hay), and the door and window openings have heavy timber lintels. Inside, one stable box survives, as does cobbled paving.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Keep the stables weathertight.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the

significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Eildon Park, including the stable and homestead, at 1701 Goulburn Valley Highway, Thornton. William Knowles, born in Blackburn, Lancashire, arrived in Australia in 1852. His trade was as a blacksmith and wheelwright. He married Jane McLelland who had arrived in Melbourne from England in 1855. William's younger brother, John, arrived in Australia in 1854 and together they opened the Big River Hotel and store at Enoch's Point. He quickly became involved in mining and sold the hotel licence to John Vickers in 1865. Knowles operated a punt over the Goulburn River until the bridge, known as the Eildon Bridge, was completed in 1873. In 1872 he built a large house known as 'Eildon Park' on the Goulburn River, with local stone, and stables. He ran it as a hotel for two years.

The house (former hotel) of 1872 is built of rendered stone with multi-light sash windows. There is a central front door, leading to the hallway, as well as a second door to its left. This leads to a room with a cellar in the floor, probably used for storing food and drink when it was a hotel. The house was remodelled in the 1920s with a new verandah and roof form (gabled hip), which completely changed its appearance. There are also rear extensions of the 1970s and 2008, which imitate the detailing of the original.

The former stable building is constructed of fieldstone, and has a corrugated galvanised iron, gable roof, under which palings survive. The roof beams are thin bush poles. The top of the gable has a winch (for loading hay), and the door and window openings have heavy timber lintels. Inside, one stable box survives, as does cobbled paving.

While the 1870s form of the former hotel has been compromised, it provides important context for the very intact stable building.

How is it significant?

The Eildon Park house (former hotel) and stables are of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as a rare surviving complex of an early hotel and stables (which are very intact). Also for its associations with William Knowles, who was an early resident of the district and an energetic entrepreneur, who had business ventures ranging from hotels to river punts. (RNE criteria B.2, H.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Stable
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Thornton State School No 1371  
**Address** 9 Back Eildon Road THORNTON  
**Place Type** School - State (public)  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF THORNTON

The Parish, township and pastoral run of Thornton date back to 1840. The Thornton Run, taken up in 1840 by Dr James Dickson, was originally known as Rubicon Creek. Dickson held the run briefly before it was transferred, from 1840-70, to John Christie Aitken. It was subdivided in 1865 into the Torbreck Run and the smaller Thornton Run was cancelled in 1877. It was gold that brought an influx of population into the Thornton area in the nineteenth century, and many remained to take up selections. Alluvial gold was first discovered at Yea in 1851 and in the Thornton, Snobs Creek and Acheron areas in 1854. Reef mining and quartz mining began in 1859. The Alexandra field was not discovered until 1866 when a quartz reef was accidentally found on the Mount Pleasant Run. Mining of the rich Alexandra reefs was soon augmented by alluvial workings in nearby gullies. Rapidly, deep lead and quartz reef mining led to the establishment of rough townships consisting of an assortment of stores and grog shops catering to 500 or so miners. The Murrindindi area experienced mining activity both directly and indirectly from 1851. The direct experience was due to the discovery and exploitation, mostly during the second half of the nineteenth century, of a scatter of goldfields throughout the region. Demand for the strategic mineral wolfram during the World Wars of the twentieth century also contributed to the study area's mining experience. The indirect effect of mining relates to the local economic importance of the routes that, passing through Murrindindi, provided access from Melbourne to the fabulously rich goldfields of Gaffney's Creek (1859), Woods Point (1861) and the Jordan (1862). The Parish is on the south side of the Goulburn River. The first Rubicon Hotel was built in 1868, and the Post Office, photographed in 1910, looks to be one of the earliest buildings in Thornton. In the late 1920s Thornton township became known simply as Thornton.

### HISTORY OF SCHOOL

The first Thornton Primary School was opened on 12 November 1870. This was a one-roomed schoolhouse which doubled as accommodation for the teacher. Les Blake, in *Vision and Realisation*, writes that, because of Goulburn River floods, the school was moved to higher land between Eildon and Alexandra. The school became State School No. 1371 on 1 January 1874 under Head Teacher Phillip Lennon.

In 1902 a new one-room schoolhouse was built for Thornton by the Public Works Department. The architect was JB Cohen and the contract was let in April 1902. The resultant classroom measured 22 by 16 feet (about 6.7 x 4.9 metres), and was intended to serve up to 35 children. The design notes include: no infant gallery, a 32-degree roof pitch, brackets under gables, a 2-foot gable overhang, and six windows.[4]

Blake writes that the School Committee, on 23 May 1917, decided that the Department of Education should be asked to increase the size of the school. He also records that in 1923 the building was shifted to its present position and a new room added. In 1923 the Committee also erected a shelter for horses and, in 1928, a shelter and dressing shed at the Goulburn River. In 1931 a severe outbreak of whooping cough depleted attendances. Improvements in later years included the erection of tables, forms and swings in the grounds and the acquisition of a piano. In 1946 there was a move to have a Consolidated School established in the Alexandra district. The Thornton State School Committee decided that the existing pattern of school organisation in the locality should remain. Blake reports that from 1953 to 1960 the documented activities of the Thornton School were few.[1] That the current site is the second location for this school is confirmed by the historian of the School, Leonie Taylor, who also records that it was moved to its current location.[2] Between 1960 and 1962 a water supply was installed, with the water drawn from a well by pump.[3]

Sources:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- [1] Les Blake, *Vision and Realisation*, Vol. 3, Education Department of Victoria, 1973, pp. 661-2.
- [2] Leonie Taylor, conversation March 2008.
- [3] Blake, *op.cit.*
- [4] LE Burchell, 'Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940', for Historic Buildings Branch, 1989, p 2.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 9.1 Education in Victoria

## Description

### Physical Description

The Thornton schoolhouse is a two-room weatherboard building with a corrugated iron roof built in two phases. The smaller room, now on the west side, was constructed in 1902 and moved to the present site in 1923. At that time a much larger room was added on the east side and decorative flourishes added to integrate the two building phases.

The north side of the building features the large gable-fronted section on the left side (1923), and the smaller gable-fronted section is set back on the right side (1902). The building is entered via a small gable-fronted covered porch on the right side of the 1902 section. There is a single window to the porch and a pair of six-over-six sash windows on the elevation. These windows are set beneath a small verandah roof which spans between the entry porch and the 1923 section. It has a simple curved timber frieze and blade-like brackets. The north elevation of the 1923 section has three high-set six-pane hopper windows. There are another three such windows on the east elevation. Both the 1923 and 1902 sections have decorative cross-bracing in the gables, supported on triangular brackets and a rectangular louvered vent at the apex.

The south elevation has the same decorative cross-bracing in the gables, and again the 1902 section is set back behind the larger 1923 section. Both have banks of six-over-six sash windows with three-pane transoms - three such windows on the 1902 section and four on the 1923 section. The 1902 windows are taller and narrower.

There is a shelter shed to the north of the schoolhouse, which may date from the 1920s. It is a small weatherboard building with a gabled hipped roof (clad in corrugated iron) and double doors (replaced with modern gates) facing the schoolyard. There is an old bell, reportedly from the former Union Bank (now ANZ) in Alexandra, on a modern metal stand next to the shelter shed.

Also on the south side of the site is a mature oak, planted on Arbour Day, 1923, according to a plaque.

In comparison with other schoolhouses in Murrindindi Shire, this is the earliest one identified (the 1902 section). It is also very intact, with not post-1923 changes noted. Its significance is also increased because it still functions as a school. The other earliest still-active schools in the Shire have all been altered, among them: Kinglake West School No 3255 of 1922 has been subsumed in later extensions and given a brick veneer; Middle Kinglake School No 3315 of 1922 is now used as a toilet block, with changes to windows and doors and the enclosure of the recessed corner porch.



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## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
  - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
  - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Thornton Primary School, formerly State School No 1371, at 9 Back Eildon Road, Thornton. The first Thornton Primary School was opened on 12 November 1870. This was a one-roomed schoolhouse which doubled as accommodation for the teacher. In 1902 it was replaced by another one-room schoolhouse, designed by Public Works Department architect JB Cohen. The classroom, measuring 6.7 x 4.9 metres, was intended to serve up to 35 children. It is a gable-fronted building with a 32-degree pitched roof, and decorative cross-bracing in the gables, supported on triangular brackets and a rectangular louvered vent at the apex. At the front (north elevation) it has a tiny enclosed porch, and a six-over-six windows. The rear (south) elevation has a bank of three six-over-six sash windows with three-pane transoms.

The School Committee, on 23 May 1917, requested that the Department of Education increase the size of the school. In response, in 1923 the 1902 schoolhouse was moved to its present location and a second, larger, school room built on to it. The 1923 schoolroom imitated the details of the 1902 school, such as the cross-bracing in the gables and triangular brackets at the eaves. On the north and east elevations it has three high-set six-pane hopper windows. On the south elevation, there is a bank of four six-over-six sash windows with three-pane transoms, which are shorter and wider than those on the 1902 section. On the north side, the 1923 classroom was integrated with the earlier building by the addition of a verandah roof in front of the 1902 section, with blade-shaped timber brackets.

An oak tree was planted on the new school grounds on the 1923 Arbour Day. A shelter shed, with a gabled hipped roof, facing the schoolyard appears to have been built shortly after.

How is it significant?

Thornton Primary School is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the 1902 schoolhouse is one of the earliest still in use as a school in the Shire. For the commemoration of important community events, such as the oak tree planted on Arbour Day in 1923. (RNE criterion B.2)

Socially, for its links with the community as a local school for over a century. (RNE criterion G.1)

Aesthetically, as a very intact building, unaltered on the exterior, dating from 1902 and 1923, set in attractive school grounds with mature trees. (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature oak
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	Yes Shelter Shed
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** CRYPTOMERIA JAPONICA ELEGANS at Toolangi State School  
**Address** 1756 Healesville-Kinglake Road TOOLANGI  
**Place Type** Tree  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended** VHR - HI - PS Yes  
**Heritage Protection**

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF TOOLANGI

The area that is now Toolangi was first settled in the 1860s by paling splitters and then timber-getters, attracted by the dense timber. The name, Toolangi, is an Aboriginal word meaning 'tall trees'. It is not known precisely when this name came into usage, but a photo from the early 1890s shows the 'Toolangi Post Office'.

Land selection began in 1886 with Crown grants on a 40-year lease.

In 1895 the first visitor accommodation, the Queen's Head Inn, and the Toolangi School opened. Journalist and poet CJ

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Dennis, Toolangi's most famous resident, settled there in 1908 (until his death in 1938). In the early 20th-century, Toolangi became a tourist destination, with a number of guesthouses to serve them. *Table Talk Magazine* referred to Toolangi as a 'noted tourist resort' in 1923. [4]

## HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL & TREE

The first Toolangi State School No. 3237 building was constructed in 1895 on the present site, purchased by the Education Department. It opened on 12 July 1895. In 1907 a larger building, erected on the site by locals, was leased to the Department. This structure served as a school and public hall for 34 years. Parts of the original building were converted to a shelter shed which was still in use when L J Blake researched his history of the Education Department of Victoria, *Vision & Realisation* (published in 1973).

In 1941 the main building of the present school was erected and the earlier building removed to another site in the township where it was used as a public hall. In 1964 a further room was added to the new school.[1] The 1941 building was designed to house 50 desks (for 100 pupils). An identical school had been built the year before in Keilor (No. 1578). [2]

It is not known exactly when the *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' was planted, but based on an estimate of its age by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) it may have been around the 1920s.[3]

Sources:

[1] Les Blake, *Vision & Realisation* Volume 3, p. 406.

[2] LE Burchell, *Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940*, for Historic Buildings Branch, 1989, pp viii, 49.

[3] National Trust of Australia (Victoria), *Register of Significant Trees* (NT File T11734).

[4] DSE, 'The Township of Toolangi', nd, pp 1-3 ([www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au), accessed 13/04/2011).

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.1 Education in Victoria

## Description

### Physical Description

The *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' at the Toolangi State School No. 3237 stands to the east of the current school building and is visible from the car park adjacent to the school grounds (west). The tree is estimated to be around 90 years in age.

In 1990, when assessed by the National Trust of Victoria, its dimensions were as follows:

- Spread (m): 4.2

- Girth (m): 1

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- Height (m): 18

- Estimated Age (yrs): 70

The estimate age of the tree by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) at 70 years in 1990, dates the tree to being planted around the 1920s. It is logical to assume that the spread, girth and height have increased in the 28 years since the National Trust assessment. The tree is in good condition.

## Conservation Policy

In order to conserve the heritage significance of the tree, it is policy to:

1. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.
2. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.
3. Maintain the integrity of the plantings by:
  - replacing trees 'like with like' species unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.
  - removing inappropriate or historically inaccurate species.
4. Ensure that any future development or changes in immediate environmental conditions, adjacent to the trees does not have a detrimental impact upon the integrity and condition of the trees. Investigate ways in which adjacent development could include or coordinate with recovery and improvement of the trees' integrity and condition.
5. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' at the Toolangi State School No. 3237, located to the east of the school building. The site's use as a school dates from 1895, although the present day school building dates from 1941. The tree is estimated to be around 90 years in age. It appears to be in good condition.

How is it significant?

The *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' at the Toolangi State School No. 3237 has local horticultural and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Horticulturally, the *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' is significant as an outstanding example of this species, and is recognised as such by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). This unusual cultivar has developed an uncommon narrow columnar form. (RNE criterion B.1)

Aesthetically, the *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' is significant for its landmark value, as a prominent feature in the school grounds. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes <i>Cryptomeria Japonica</i> 'Elegans'
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Singing Gardens at Arden  
**Address** 1694 Kinglake-Healesville Road TOOLANGI  
**Place Type** Garden ResidentialPlanting exotic  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF TOOLANGI

The area that is now Toolangi was first settled in the 1860s by paling splitters and then timber-getters, attracted by the dense timber. The name, Toolangi, is an Aboriginal word meaning 'tall trees'. It is not known precisely when this name came into usage, but a photo from the early 1890s shows the 'Toolangi Post Office'.

Land selection began in 1886 with Crown grants on a 40-year lease.

In 1895 the first visitor accommodation, the Queen's Head Inn, and the Toolangi School opened. Journalist and poet C J Dennis, Toolangi's most famous resident, settled there in 1908 (until his death in 1938). In the early 20th-century, Toolangi became a tourist destination, with a number of guesthouses to serve them. *Table Talk Magazine* referred to Toolangi as a 'noted tourist resort' in 1923. [2]

### HISTORY OF ARDEN

The Singing Garden, or 'Arden', is the name of the property formerly owned and established by Australian poet C J Dennis (1876-1938). Arden is located 15 km east of Kinglake in Toolangi, on the Kinglake-Healesville Road. Dennis lived at Toolangi from 1908 until his death in 1938. While at Toolangi, Dennis published his first collection of poetry in 1913, *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* (1915), *The Moods of Ginger Mick* (1916) and *The Glugs of Gosh* (1917). On the proceeds from *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* he built the house which he called Arden after the forest in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Dennis married Olive Harriet Herron, daughter of John Herron in 1917. She was the author, under the pseudonym 'Margaret Herron', who wrote the autobiographical *Down the Years* in 1953. In 1922 Dennis joined the staff of the Herald and thence divided his time between Melbourne and Toolangi.

Dennis's last book, *The Singing Garden* (1935), was inspired by his garden at Toolangi. The house burned down in the 1960s although the garden he created with his wife remains. The gardens now cover 1.5 ha and feature rhododendrons and exotic trees including a copper beech planted by English Poet Laureate, John Masefield, who visited Dennis during the State's centenary celebrations of 1934-5. This event prompted the composition of 'The Tree', from *The Singing Garden Anthology*.

The Singing Garden at Arden was destroyed by fire in the 1960s, but many of the original trees remain, and sections of the garden have been restored. They are currently open to the public, with tearooms established by the present owners. The gardens retain many of their original plantings.

Sources:

[1] 'Dennis, Clarence Michael James (1876-1938)' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 8, Melbourne University Press, 1981, pp. 286-7.

[2] DSE, 'The Township of Toolangi', nd, pp 1-3 ([www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au), accessed 13/04/2011)

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## 7.1 Township development

### Description

#### Physical Description

The Singing Gardens at Arden are located on the north side of the Kinglake-Healesville Road. The property slopes down from the road towards the Yea River. The garden is enclosed by towering mountain ash on its west and north boundaries and, along the east boundary, mature Douglas-fir trees. The upper slopes of the garden comprise a woodland of exotic and Australian trees and shrubberies of mature rhododendron, with meandering pathways and a serpentine driveway curving from the entrance to the house and tearooms. The house and tearooms are oriented to look across the open sloping lawn, peppered with small copses and specimen trees, towards a formal pond and treed valley of the Yea River just beyond. A visitor car park for is located to the west of the tearooms.

The gardens feature many exotic trees including purple beech, silver birch, liquidamber, conifers, maples, claret ash, hazelnut, Monterey cypress, sycamore, and oak trees. Other plantings include mature rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, tree ferns, bamboo, and ivy. Many of the plantings and the garden's layout date from the period of ownership by C J Dennis, who owned Arden from 1915-1938 and laid out the garden with his wife and English gardener Mr Chivers.[1] Features include the paths and driveway curving from the entrance to the house, a White Oak, *Thujopsis dolabrata* (2), *Acer palmatum dissectum horizontalis*, the tree ferns and rhododendrons in the front garden, a pair of English Box and a Silver Birch adjacent to the house, the bamboo surrounding the pond, and the pond itself.

The *Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea* (Purple or Copper Beech) was also planted during the Dennis period. It is listed on the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register of Significant Trees for its historical value. It was planted by visiting dignitary John Masfield, poet laureate, on 13 November 1934. Masfield was a friend of the notable Australian poet, C J Dennis.[2]

Measurements:

Spread (m): 19.5

Girth (m): 2

Height (m): 18

Estimated Age (yrs): 80

Condition: Good

A small clearing in the southeast corner of the garden contains a stone memorial cairn with the inscription:

"'ARDEN' / In this house / C. J. Dennis / 1876-1938 / Poet / lived and wrote / The Sentimental Bloke / Erected by / Meet Your Writers / Organization / 1952'

Beneath a large Copper Beech at the edge of the lawn to the north of the house is another plaque commemorating the centenary of Dennis' birth in 1876:

"'In the singin' land, the clean land / washed again with dew,'" / This plaque was unveiled by / His Excellency / The Honourable Sir Henry Winneke / K.C.M.G., O.B.E., St. J., Q.C., Governor of Victoria / on 5th September 1967. / To

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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commemorate the centenary of the / birth of C.J. Dennis born 7th Sept. 1876.'

A new house was constructed on the site of Dennis's original cottage, which burned down in 1965. The pair of English Box shrubs adjacent to the current house (south side) originally framed the entrance to the original house. The Silver Birch (in poor condition) on the northwest corner of the house was also an original planting.

A gardener's cottage was constructed around a similar time to the house on the west side of the open lawn, on the site of a former tennis court.

A commercial tearoom has also been constructed to the west of the original house site.

While the original house was lost to fire and the garden includes a number of replacement trees (some consistent with the original Dennis palette of species and others not), overall it has retained a relatively high good degree of integrity. Some of the mature trees are in poor condition, mostly due to age. Others, such as the Monterey Cypress, are failing structurally due to climatic unsuitability.

[1] Pers. comm., current owners, 17 June 2008.

[2] National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register of Significant Trees, file reference number: T11733

## Conservation Policy

In order to conserve the heritage significance of the plantings, it is policy to:

1. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.
2. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.
3. Maintain the integrity of the plantings by:
  - replacing trees 'like with like' species unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.
  - removing inappropriate or historically inaccurate species.
4. Ensure that any future development or changes in immediate environmental conditions, adjacent to the trees does not have a detrimental impact upon the integrity and condition of the trees. Investigate ways in which adjacent development could include or coordinate with recovery and improvement of the trees' integrity and condition.
5. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The Singing Garden, or 'Arden', the property formerly owned and established by Australian poet C J Dennis (1876-1938). It is located at 1694 Kinglake-Healesville Road, Toolangi. Dennis lived at Toolangi from 1908 until his death in 1938. While at Toolangi, Dennis published his first collection of poetry in 1913, *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* (1915), *The Moods of Ginger Mick* (1916) and *The Glugs of Gosh* (1917). On the proceeds from *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* he built the house, which he called Arden after the forest in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Dennis's last book, *The Singing Garden* (1935), was inspired by his garden at Toolangi.

The gardens feature many mature exotic and Australian trees including Many of the plantings and the garden's layout date from the period of ownership by C J Dennis, who owned Arden from 1915-1938 and laid out the garden with his wife and English gardener Mr Chivers.[1] Features include the paths and driveway curving from the entrance to the house, a White Oak, *Thujopsis dolabrata* (2), *Acer palmatum dissectum horizontalis*, the tree ferns and rhododendrons in the front garden, a pair of English Box and a Silver Birch adjacent to the house, the bamboo surrounding the pond, and the pond itself. Other mature plantings, such as silver birch, liquidambar, conifers, maples, claret ash, hazelnut, Monterey cypress, sycamore, oak, mountain ash and Tasmanian blue gum, rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, tree ferns, bamboo, and ivy, contribute to the historic character of the garden.

The *Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea* (Purple or Copper Beech) was also planted during the Dennis period. It is listed on the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register of Significant Trees for its historical value. It was planted by visiting dignitary John Masefield, poet laureate, on 13 November 1934. Masefield was a friend of the notable Australian poet, C J Dennis.[2]

While the original house was lost to fire and the garden includes a number of replacement trees (some consistent with the original Dennis palette of species and others not), overall it has retained a relatively high good degree of integrity. Some of the mature trees are in poor condition, mostly due to age. Others, such as the Monterey Cypress, are failing structurally due to climatic unsuitability.

How is it significant?

'Arden', 'The Singing Garden' of CJ Dennis, on the Kinglake-Healesville Road in Toolangi, is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Arden is significant for its association with Australian poet C J Dennis (1876-1938). While at Arden, Dennis wrote and published his first collection of poetry in 1913, *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* (1915), *The Moods of Ginger Mick* (1916) and *The Glugs of Gosh* (1917). He is said to have built the house (no longer extant) from the proceeds of *The Sentimental Bloke*. Dennis also wrote *The Singing Garden* (1935) at Arden. The garden, pathways, driveway, and pond were laid out and established during the Dennis period (1908-1938) (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, Arden is significant for its impressive collection of mature trees and relatively intact original layout, which were established by CJ Dennis, his wife and garden between 1908 and Dennis death in 1938. Mature plantings of White Oak, *Thujopsis dolabrata* (2), *Acer palmatum dissectum horizontalis*, the tree ferns and rhododendrons in the front garden, a pair of English Box and the Silver Birch adjacent to the house, the bamboo surrounding the pond, make an important contribution to the landscape of the historic garden and property, with other mature plantings, such as silver birch, liquidambar, conifers, maples, claret ash, hazelnut, Monterey cypress, sycamore, oak, mountain ash and Tasmanian blue gum, rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, tree ferns, bamboo, and ivy. (RNE criterion E.1)

Historically, the *Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea* (Purple or Copper Beech) is significant for its association with visiting dignitary friend of the notable Australian poet, C J Dennis John Masefield, poet laureate, who planted the tree on 13

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November 1934. (RNE criterion H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature exotic trees
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Niagaroon Station Woolshed  
**Address** 4799 - 4849 Maroondah Hwy, corner Whanregarwen Rd WHANREGARWEN  
**Place Type** Woolshed/Shearing Shed  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF WHANREGARWEN

The Parish of Whanregarwen was named after the pastoral run Whanregarwan (or Wanregnan). The original run No. 61, of 25,600 acres, was established in 1842. It was also called Cunninghame's Station after Archibald Cunninghame, licensee 1842-55. Nigel Sinnott in, *Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Areas of Victoria*, writes that Wanregnan is Aboriginal for 'the place of the lagoon'.<sup>[1]</sup> The run was subdivided in 1864 into Whanregarwen (cancelled 1870) and Riversdale No. 2 where the lease passed to Hugh Glass; in 1869 to John Badcock of Collins Street West, Melbourne; in 1871 to Samuel Henry Cohen and it was forfeited in 1872.<sup>[2]</sup>

Hugh Glass (1817-71), squatter, merchant and speculator, held licenses for many pastoral runs across Victoria.<sup>[3]</sup> In this area he held Whanregarwen and Niagaroon stations.

### HISTORY OF WOOLSHED

The Niagaroon squatter's run (No 132) is located just south of what is now the town of Alexandra, in the Shire of Murrindindi. It originally covered an area of 16,000 acres and was intended to support 100 cattle and 4,000 sheep. It was first taken up by Ousely Cockburn and Dr Dugald Fletcher in 1839. The Cockburn family held it until 1845, when John Aitken took it over (Lloyd: 26). The run was gazetted on 4 October 1848, at which time it passed to Henry Matson. On 17 October 1850, Henry Moor and Hugh Glass took over the run. By 1856 or 1860 Glass was in sole control.

On 25 July 1864 the Niagaroon run was subdivided into two: Niagaroon and Riversdale No 1. Niagaroon Woolshed is located within the present Riversdale, so presumably it was on part of the land subdivided for Riversdale No 1. Owners of Riversdale No 1 were: Hugh Glass, then Thomas Baillie from 8 April 1868, Robert Bruce Ronald and James Macbain from 7 May 1868 until 9 Feb 1872, then Thomas Murray of Alexandra from 7 March 1873, and Colin Ross of Acheron from 22 May 1876 to 28 Sept. 1881 (Spreadborough & Anderson: 177, 182).

In the twentieth century, William and Daisy Weeks bought Riversdale in 1934 and ran it as a dairy farm. It is still owned by their grandson, Ian Weeks (born there in 1938).

### Hugh Glass

Hugh Glass, an influential financier and politician in early Victoria, controlled a number of squatter's runs in the Alexandra area in the 1850s and '60s and held the license to many others (Lloyd: 14). These included Niagaroon and the neighbouring Whanregarwen runs. Glass took control of the original 16,000-acre Niagaroon run in 1850 with Henry Moor, an English solicitor and Melbourne's second mayor (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, V2: 251-2). Moor returned permanently to England in 1854, and by 1860 Glass was the sole holder of Niagaroon. He subdivided the property into Niagaroon and Riversdale No 1 in 1864. This indicates that Niagaroon Woolshed was built prior to 1864, when the land it stands on was transferred to Riversdale No 1. Glass continued to hold the reduced Niagaroon run until 19 Oct 1867, and Riversdale No 1 until 8 April 1868 (Spreadborough: 177, 182).

Hugh Glass emigrated from Ireland to Victoria in 1840 and began farming on Merri Creek. In the 1850s he built the grand Flemington House on the Maribyrnong River in Melbourne. Glass is described as having 'a career without parallel amongst nineteenth-century Australian financiers and pastoralists'. He saw himself primarily as a squatter, with his



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holdings at their peak in the early 1860s. By 1862 he was said to be the richest man in the Colony of Victoria. He also had a great deal of political influence and was very well connected (Australian Dictionary of Biography, V4: 254-5).

By the mid-1860s, Glass owned 35,000 acres of land over 20 runs, primarily in Victoria. The droughts of 1865-6 and 1868-9 exposed some poor choices in land acquisitions, and in 1869 his business empire collapsed, being turned over to trustees (Australian Dictionary of Biography, V4: 255). This downfall roughly corresponds with the sale of Niagaroon and Riversdale No 1, in 1867 and 1868.

## Melbourne General Post Office

A post office was erected for Melbourne on the south-east corner of Elizabeth and Little Bourke streets in 1841. It was an eight-roomed cottage for the postmaster fronted by a lobby and offices facing Bourke Street (Wixted: 300). As Melbourne and its population grew, so did the amount of mail passing through the GPO and the tiny building was soon overwhelmed. For this reason corrugated iron extensions were built in either 1852 or 1853. The contractor for the extension was WC Cornish, the 'biggest building contractor' of the 1850s, who was also responsible for the Old Melbourne Gaol and the Melbourne-Bendigo Railway (Lewis, 1995: 54).

According to Miles Lewis, the 1852/3 extension was designed by Colonial Architect Henry Ginn, who was responsible for the design of all government buildings until he resigned in 1853. Ginn is also known to have imported dozens of pre-fabricated cast-iron buildings in 1852 and 1853. This was due to the scarcity of labour following the gold rushes of 1851. Buildings documented as imported by Ginn at the time include The Walmsley House, Royal Park, Melbourne of 1854, manufactured by the Walmsley company in London (VHR H 1946), and a cottage in Inverleigh of 1852, manufactured by John Walker of Milwal (VHR H0880). Considering that the extensions to the GPO of 1852/3 were clad in corrugated iron, which was still imported from England at the time, and that Henry Ginn was responsible for its design, it is highly probable that this was another prefabricated building.

A connection between the GPO and Niagaroon Woolshed was first investigated due to a story passed down to the Weeks family that the woolshed had been 'built out of the old Melbourne Post Office' (Ian Weeks, pers. comm., 2006). This, coupled with the roofing material - 1850s 5-inch corrugated iron sheets marked with a system of numbering for a prefabricated structure - led to consultation with Prof Miles Lewis, who has done extensive study of Victoria's early prefabricated buildings. He noted that the single consignee initial ('V') found within a diamond was uncommon, as there were usually three letters for a person's name (eg, JAG for consignee JA Gregory at Barwon Bank). The only obvious answer is that the consignee 'V' was the Colony of Victoria. The 'V' is followed by a number, which was the bundle number. The remaining numbers (A1/151, etc) seem to be connected with assembly of the components.

It would be worthwhile to compare the consignee 'V' and other numbering seen at Niagaroon Woolshed with the markings on other prefabricated buildings ordered by Henry Ginn. While the Walmsley House sheets have been painted on the inside and have no brands or other marks, the Inverleigh cottage may retain some numbering.

The question remains of how the corrugated iron sheets made their way from the early GPO to the Alexandra district. The early GPO was gradually replaced from 1859 by the present building. A street scene of c1860 shows the start of construction on the Bourke Street frontage of the new building, while parts of the early post office remained on Little Bourke Street.

When the early GPO was dismantled to make way for the present building, it is quite probable that an imported material such as corrugated iron would have been salvaged for reuse. At this same time, Hugh Glass took sole possession of the Niagaroon run and this may have served as an impetus for improvements - either construction of a new woolshed with a CGI roof, or replacing the roofing of an existing woolshed.

How would Glass have come into possession of corrugated iron cladding from the GPO? A direct connection has not

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been established, but Glass certainly had numerous contacts in State and local government, including his contemporaneous partnership with former town clerk of Melbourne, JC King.

Of course, it is possible that the corrugated iron roofing of Niagaroon Woolshed comes from another prefabricated building of the 1850s, for example, the Victorian government auctioned off a number of the 36 prefabricated iron houses ordered from John Walker in 1852 (HO880). Nonetheless, the origins of the corrugated iron sheets is of scientific interest, as only a handful of such buildings survive in Victoria. Moreover, the corresponding points between the story passed down to the Weeks family about the woolshed's origins, the fact that the corrugated iron sheets are clearly from an 1850s prefabricated building, that the 1852/3 extension of the GPO is known to have been clad in corrugated iron, and its architect, Henry Ginn, is known for importing a large number of prefabricated iron buildings to Victoria at that same time, makes the GPO story a 'quite promising' one (to quote Miles Lewis), and one worth further investigation.

Sources:

[1] Nigel Sinnott, *Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Areas of Victoria*, p. 165.

[2] Billis & Kenyon, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, p. 194.

[3] J E Senyard, 'Glass, Hugh (1817-71)' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 4*, Melbourne University Press, 1972, pp. 254-5.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

2.1 Pastoral occupation in the Shires of Yea and Alexandra

## Description

### Physical Description

The Niagaroon Woolshed is a gabled structure with a skillion 'verandah' on three sides, creating a broken-back roofline. The roof and 'verandah' are clad with corrugated iron sheets. The internal structure comprises Box bush pole uprights and sawn roof members. The original batten floor survives under the east and south 'verandah'. The east, north and south elevations are open, while the west elevation is clad in a combination of unpainted weatherboards and corrugated iron.

The roofing iron is 5-inch with a 1-inch rise, indicating that it dates from the 1850s. Each sheet is branded with a different number (or numbers), indicating that the sheets were intended to be part of a pre-fabricated structure. The consignee is indicated by a 'V' in a diamond preceding the bundle number in the consignment. Numbers preceded by an 'A1' (eg, A1 [over] 151) were related to instructions for the assembly of the components.

A number of changes have been made to the woolshed over the years, though the alterations are for the most part readily apparent. These include the addition of guy wires to tie the structure together horizontally, and reinforcing members added to the roof structure. The present owner, Ian Weeks, has seen a painting showing a tower at the west end that accommodated the wool press. This has been removed.

The owner has made regular repairs to the woolshed over the years, but is now finding it hard to keep up with damages. The most recent was a large tree branch falling on the south-side 'verandah' roof in February 2006, causing it to collapse in one spot.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Comparison

Very briefly, Niagaroon Woolshed can be compared with two classes of buildings: prefabricated iron buildings of the 1850s and early woolsheds.

There are about 13 prefabricated iron buildings of the 1850s on the VHR, most of them noted as rare surviving examples of a type of building which appeared en masse in Victoria during the Gold Rush era, due to the population influx paired with a shortage of labour. Only one is noted in the statement of significance as having been designed and/or ordered from Britain by Colonial Architect Henry Ginn (Walmsely House, H1946), though several others may have been connected to him as well (eg, Prefabricated Iron Cottage, Inverleigh (H0880); Prefabricated Building, Keilor, H1971 - used by the police, as was Walmsley House).

If the roofing iron of Niagaroon Woolshed is indeed from the 1852/3 Melbourne GPO extension, then it is part of one of the few prefabricated buildings designed/ordered by Henry Ginn. It also differs significantly in that it was a large public building extension instead of a simple and standardised cottage like the above three buildings (though used for public purposes). In comparison with the other prefabricated 1850s iron buildings, however, there is the drawback that the original building has been disassembled, leaving only salvaged parts. This fact diminishes its scientific value.

In comparison with other early woolsheds, Niagaroon Woolshed is one of two early woolsheds that served the district. The second one is Kanumbra Woolshed in Kanumbra. It was located on the Millers Pond run, held by James and William Bon from 1860 to 1874. The woolshed was built during their tenure (Lloyd: 24), so it is probably about the same age as Niagaroon Woolshed. It has a bush pole structure with weatherboard cladding to the upper storey and a nave and aisle plan. At present it is in only fair condition.

There are a total of 21 woolsheds on the VHR - four listed individually and the rest as part of homestead complexes. Of those listed individually, three are of bluestone, one of brick and two are architect designed. In all, six woolsheds are built of stone (and some even architect-designed) and one of brick. Two of the earliest woolsheds (1840s) are of slab construction, and another two (from the 1840s and '50s) are described as 'timber'. The material of the remaining 10 is not indicated in the online Statements of Significance. Of the 21 woolsheds, three date from the 1840s, five from the 1850s, five from the 1860s, four from the 1870s and '80s, and the dates of four are not given.

Niagaroon Woolshed is definitely of regional significance, along with the Kanumbra Woolshed. Whether it is of State significance depends on whether it is a rare surviving type of construction of its age, and whether it has links to the old Melbourne GPO.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

- Seek heritage funding to stabilise the woolshed.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the

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significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Niagaroon Station Woolshed, 4799-4849 Maroondah Highway, Whanregarwen, a c1860 timber structure supported by bush poles, with a broken-back roof clad in 1850s 5-inch corrugated iron originally intended for a pre-fabricated building.

How is it significant?

Niagaroon Station Woolshed is of local historic and scientific significance to Murrindindi Shire and potentially to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with Hugh Glass, an influential financier and politician in early Victoria, and the pastoral settlement of Victoria (RNE criteria H.1, A.4).

Scientifically, as the roofing iron can shed light on prefabricated iron buildings imported from Britain in the 1850s, and possibly on the form and construction of the 1852/3 Melbourne GPO extension (RNE criteria C.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Woolshed

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Chaff House  
**Address** 87 Yarck Road YARCK  
**Place Type** Silo  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YARCK

The explorers Hamilton Hume (1797-1873) and William Hilton Hovell (1786-1875) travelled together in 1824 on an exploratory expedition from New South Wales to Corio Bay near present-day Geelong and are believed to have travelled through the site of the future township of Yarck in 1824. A settlement on Spring Creek was proposed in an article in the *Alexandra Times* in October 1868. The area was surveyed into large agricultural allotments by John Downey in May the following year, and blocks were gradually taken up by selectors beginning from 1877. The name Yarck is Aboriginal in origin, possibly deriving from words meaning either 'swamp grass', 'long river' or 'magic'. [1] It is believed miners had originally occupied land where the township is now located. [2]

The infrastructure of a small country town had begun to evolve by the early 1880s. As Downey had surveyed the area into allotments rather than a formal township, development proceeded along the Cathkin-Mansfield Road as land owners gradually subdivided their land. Postal directories list 27 residents by 1884-85, mostly farmers, but also included a schoolteacher and hotel keeper.[3] It actually took several decades after the initial survey for the town's name to be confirmed as Yarck. In the late 1880s there were two settlements in the area using that name, one being the current town of that name, and another along Spring Creek Road, about 3km north-east of Fawcett.[4] It would seem the opening of the Yarck Railway Station in 1890 confirmed the current town's use of the name.[5]

Construction of the railway line prompted the surveying of the township of Yarck, with a series of small blocks being laid out on the east and west sides of the station including along the Cathkin-Mansfield Road (now the Maroondah Highway), and also north-west of Yarck Road and the Maroondah Highway.[6] By 1891-92 town residents included the proprietor of Yarck Hotel, Mrs Elizabeth Goodear, storekeepers Haack Fritz and Robert T Smith, bootmaker John Collins and a blacksmith, Frederick Brombam. A butter factory was opened by Abe Gough and Courtney Ware in 1895, though it was closed in 1898 after being acquired by the Yea Dairy Company.[7]

The Yarck Fire Brigade was formed on 29 January, 1902.[8] The first school, originally built as rural school No. 69 was then called Home Creek and was opened on 1 September 1870. It was replaced by State School No. 1331 which opened on 18 January 1874. The School's name was changed from Home Creek to Yarck in August 1903.[9] By 1915 Directories list nearly 50 residents in the town, including storekeepers Arch. Balding and Percy B Chapman, blacksmith John M Halligan and baker William T Williams. There was a post office, Roman Catholic Church, race club, public hall, National Bank, Methodist church, state school and athletics club.[10] Electricity was installed in the township in the year of the Melbourne Olympics, 1956. Through the twentieth century the town has retained its rural character, and not undergone substantial major development. A significant event was the closure of the Yarck Railway Station in 1978 and the removal of the railway track and other associated infrastructure.[11]

### HISTORY OF CHAFF HOUSE

On 23 December 1880, John Goodear applied for and was granted the first of many Crown Grants over land on the east side of Yarck (Land title 1237/243). Later Grants included those to Mary Elizabeth Goodear, 25 September 1883, and John Byron Goodear, 7 June 1894, 19 May 1898 and 5 February 1901.

The Crown Grant dated 19 May 1898 encompassed Crown Allotments 15B and 15D, Parish of Yarck. Allotment 15D, on the east side of Yarck Road, is where the chaff house stands today.

In August 1908, John Goodear's extensive holdings of over 484 acres were transferred to Elizabeth Victoria Goodear,

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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presumably his wife. Among the land transferred was Crown Allotment 15D. They also included large blocks of land (Allot. 15A, 16A & 20B) fronting onto what is now Maroondah Highway, and land on either side of Yarck Road. Elizabeth Goodear took out a series of six mortgages over the property between 1908 and 1919 (Land Title Vol. 3289 Fol. 626).

The Goodears were early Yarck residents. Mrs Goodear ran the Yarck Hotel down by the Home Creek. Mr Goodear was the vice-president of the Yarck Tennis Club in 1907 when new tennis courts were opened. [12]

In 1932 the 484 acres was sold to William Free, a farmer of Gobur (presumably part of the family Frees Road, Gobur, was named after). He held the land until his death in 1952, and it was sold on by his heirs shortly afterward in 1955 (Land Title Vol 5821 Fol 121).

The Chaff House has been used as a grain silo and appears to date from the early 20th century (c1920s), so it may have been built for the Goodear family.

## Sources:

- [1] Nigel Sinnot, Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria, Published by the Friends of the Alexandra Library, 2003, p. 170.
- [2] Pat McGuigan, The History of Kanumbra, n.p.
- [3] Wises Post Office Directory, 1884-5.
- [4] Sinnot, op.cit., p. 170.
- [5] Harvey Blanks, The Story of Yea, The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 2001, p. 289.
- [6] Parish Plan for Township of Yarck, Y 84(7).
- [7] Lloyd, op.cit., p. 158.
- [8] Ibid., p 247.
- [9] Vision and Realisation, p. 659.
- [10] Sands and McDougall Directory, 1915.
- [11] Blanks, op.cit., p. 289.
- [12] Lloyd, op.cit., pp 228, 40.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

### 2. SETTLING THE LAND

## Description

### Physical Description

The chaff house sits alone on a field, facing the road. It has an external bush-pole frame with internal corrugated iron cladding. The transverse gable roof is also clad in corrugated iron. The side of the chaff house facing the road is open, apart from four bush-pole uprights. It appears to have been built in the early 20th century (c1920s).

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

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- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

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- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

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3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Chaff House at 87 Yarck Road, Yarck. It has an external bush-pole frame with internal corrugated iron cladding. The transverse gable roof is also clad in corrugated iron. The side of the chaff house facing the road is open, apart from four bush-pole uprights. It appears to have been built in the early 20th century (c1920s).

The land it sits upon was owned by the Goodear family from 1898 to 1932. The Goodears were prominent early Yarck residents. Elizabeth Goodear ran the Yarck Hotel.

From 1932 it was owned by William Free.

How is it significant?

The Chaff House is of local architectural and historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, for its unusual form with external bush-pole framing. (RNE criterion B.2)

Historically, for its associations with the Goodear family, which had large land holdings around Yarck, and ran the Yarck Hotel. (RNE criterion H.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Chaff House

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Belvoir  
**Address** 9 Whatton Place YEA  
**Place Type** HouseGarden Residential  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Italianate

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson.[1] By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[2]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.[3]

### HISTORY OF BELVOIR

The original Certificate of Title for the property at 9 Whatton Place was held in the name of Eaton Stannard Purcell of Yea, Storekeeper, (Vol. 1564/Folio 604) dated 7 May 1884. While the township of Yea prospered throughout the 1870s and 1880s, the local council was unable to attract a doctor to live permanently in the town. Resident dissatisfaction reached a peak in 1882, and, although Council was willing to guarantee a minimum income of £150 per annum for any qualified doctor prepared to reside in the town, it was not until September 1884 that a Dr Lock took up residence in the township at 9 Whatton Place.[4]

Purcell retained the property until it transferred to Thomas Robert Davies, Grazier of Broadford in February 1907 who retained it until September 1912. In February 1921, the property was transferred to the Commissioner of Taxes.

Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 26.

[2] *Ibid.*, p.185.

[3] *Municipal Directories 1900*.

[4] Blanks, *op.cit.*, p 192.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

Belvoir is an elegant rendered Italianate house set in a garden with many mature shrubs and exotic trees (mainly deciduous). It has an M-hipped roof with a projecting front gable. There is a skillion front verandah in front of the hipped section. The verandah is supported on chamfered posts, which are missing their capitals, and has a delicate cast-iron frieze. The projecting gable has a timber finial and cross-bracing at the apex, below which is a canted bay. The bay has three segmentally arched windows with label moulds and a rendered string course at the bottom of the moulds. The windows are one-over-one sashes. Beneath the verandah is a single window and the front door.

At the rear of the house are gabled weatherboard extensions, the newest of which project to the west side of the house and are slightly visible from the front. They could not be inspected closely, as the property was locked up when visited in 2008.

There is a new picket fence and lych gate along the front boundary of the property. The roof has recently been reclad in Colorbond.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Belvoir is an elegant rendered Italianate house set in a garden with many mature shrubs and exotic trees (mainly deciduous). It has an M-hipped roof with a projecting front gable. There is a skillion front verandah in front of the hipped section. The verandah is supported on chamfered posts, which are missing their capitals, and has a delicate cast-iron frieze. The projecting gable has a timber finial and cross-bracing at the apex, below which is a canted bay. The bay has three segmentally arched windows with label moulds and a rendered string course at the bottom of the moulds. The windows are one-over-one sashes. Beneath the verandah is a single window and the front door. At the rear of the house are gabled weatherboard extensions, the newest of which project to the west side of the house and are slightly visible from the front.

How is it significant?

Belvoir is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the residence of the first doctor to reside in Yea. As an indication of its relative isolation, the Town Council had tried unsuccessfully to attract a permanent doctor since the 1870s. Also for its associations with the town's first doctor, Dr Lock, and with Eaton Purcell. ES Purcell had operated a general store in Yea from the 1860s and the family was prominent in the town. He replaced his original building with the Yea General Store at 20 High Street in 1887 (HO4). (RNE criteria A.4, H.1)

Aesthetically, as a very refined Victorian house in a mature garden setting. (RNE criterion E.1)

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes Mature exotic trees
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Camilla Cottage  
**Address** 140 High Street YEA  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS No**



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Vernacular

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson.[1] By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[2]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.[3]

### HISTORY OF COTTAGE

While the Crown Grant for this property was only made in 1890, it is believed to be one of Yea's earliest homes, and appears to date from the 1870s (chimneys of handmade bricks, gabled cottage at front, detached kitchen at rear), before the property was made freehold.[5] The details of a pre-1890s lease have not, however, been discovered.

William Job Fisk, contractor of Yea, purchased 3 roods 37 perches of Allotment 3, Section 47 of the Township of Yea for £20 on 31 October 1890 (Land Title Vol. 2327/215). This was a Crown Grant. The property was then mortgaged to Eaton Stannard Purcell from 25 April 1893 and was transferred to Purcell on 16 June 1897.

It was purchased by Catherine McLeish of Yea and Eliza McLeish of Strath Creek, married women (Land Title Vol. 4510/826) on 17 November 1921. Subsequent owners have included Henry George and Ivy Alma Clements, Francis Stuart Duff and Elizabeth Whitehead. The house was named Camilla Cottage by the current owner.

Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 26.

[2] *Ibid.*, p.185.

[3] *Municipal Directories 1900*.

[4] <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080653b.htm>

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[5] Pers. comm., Ian Newman, 2006.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

Camilla Cottage is a small weatherboard house. The front section has a transverse gable roof clad and a simple skillion front verandah. The facade has a central door flanked by six-over-six sash windows. It has an external brick chimney on the east gable end which has been shortened. The bricks appear to be handmade.

There is a skillion extension at the rear of the house. It is linked via an open passage behind to the kitchen building. The kitchen has a gabled roof and weatherboard cladding, but is lower in height than the main house. It has a plain, wide external chimney on the east gable end.

The house and kitchen are in fair to good condition. The entire building has been reroofed with Colorbond steel. A hole has been cut in the east wall of the main house to accommodate an air conditioning unit.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition,

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

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## Statement of Significance

A building and termite inspection of this house in 2011 has found that it is riddled with termites and structurally unsound. For this reason it is no longer recommended for the Heritage Overlay, but should be recorded for future reference.

What is significant?

Camilla Cottage at 140 High Street, Yea. It is a small weatherboard house. The front section has a transverse gable roof clad and a simple skillion front verandah. The facade has a central door flanked by six-over-six sash windows. It has an external chimney made of handmade bricks. At the rear is a detached kitchen (now linked to the house via an open passageway). It has a gabled roof and weatherboard cladding, and is lower in height than the main house. It has a plain, wide external chimney on the east gable end.

While the Crown Grant for this property was only made in 1890, it is believed to be one of Yea's earliest homes, and appears to date from the 1870s (chimneys of handmade bricks, gabled cottage at front, detached kitchen at rear), and may

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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have been built on a Miner's Right. The 1890 Crown Grant was made to William Job Fisk, a contractor, who held it until 1893.

How is it significant?

Camilla Cottage is of local historic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as an early surviving house in Yea of c1870s illustrating the initial phase of the township's development. (RNE criteria B.2, A.4)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

-

**Internal Alteration Controls**

-

**Tree Controls**

-

**Fences & Outbuildings**

-

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

-

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

-

## Other Recommendations

the place should be recorded prior to demolition or extensive alteration.

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Cloney Grange  
**Address** 5784 Goulburn Valley Highway YEA  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## History and Historical Context

### CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson.[1] By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[2]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.[3]

### HISTORY

The land on which the farmhouse at 5784 Goulburn Valley Highway was built was first purchased for £13-16-3 by Richard Albert Wall, Secretary of Yea on 13 January 1916 (Land Title Vol. 4193 Folio 455). The property which consists of one acre one rood and twenty perches of Crown Allotment 5, Section 47 in the Township of Yea and Parish of Yea. The Victorian cottage, however, appears to have been around the turn of the century or earlier, presumably on a leasehold. Wall died on 21 April 1942 and probate was granted to Herbert William Wall, postmaster, and John Cullen, a lieutenant in the Australian Military Forces on 6 October 1942.

The property was transferred to Francis (Frank) Victor Slevin on 10 October 1942 and mortgaged to the Commercial Bank on the same day. Francis Slevin died on 21 July 1972 and probate was granted to Monica Slevin, widow and Denis Patrick Slevin on 4 February 1974. On 20 December 1983, Denis Patrick Slevin became the sole surviving proprietor of the property, Land Title Vol. 9615 Folio 185, part of Crown Allotment 5, Section 47. In 1985 additional land, part of Crown Allotment 22, Section 1 of the Township of Yea and Parish of Yea, was included in the Title.

Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 26.

[2] *Ibid.*, p.185.

[3] Municipal Directories 1900.

### Relevant Historical Australian Themes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

## 2. SETTLING THE LAND

### Description

#### Physical Description

Cloney Grange is located just outside the western boundary of Yea township, in a rural setting.

There is a hipped-roof Victorian timber house with a low hipped verandah at the front. The front verandah posts have been replaced and any valance removed. The facade imitates ashlar blocks with corner quoins, while the side walls are weatherboard. There is a cornice of timber brackets with cricket-bat mouldings. The central four-panel door has a transom. On either side is a sash window with engaged 'columns' and sidelights. There are two rendered chimneys with elaborate mouldings at the top, symmetrically placed. There is a single window on each elevation of this front part of the house, both with original two-over-two sashes.

At the very rear of the house is a transverse gabled section with a later link to the hipped-roof section of the house. It is also clad in weatherboards and may have been the original detached kitchen, or else the first house on the site. At the rear is a skillion-roof verandah and two chimneys. One is a corbelled 19th-century chimney, the other a simple c1920s or '30s brick chimney. The windows of this section were replaced around the time that this second chimney was added: They are quite small, louvered, and two wrap around a corner.

The house is in good condition (at the front) and fair condition at the rear.

There are two mature trees (elms?) flanking the entry to the front drive on Goulburn Valley Highway.

There are no outbuildings, apart from a modern garage.

### Conservation Policy

#### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Cloney Grange homestead at 5784 Goulburn Valley Highway, Yea. It is located just outside the western boundary of Yea township, in a rural setting. The homestead is a hipped-roof Victorian timber house with a low hipped verandah at the front. The facade imitates ashlar blocks with corner quoins, while the side walls are weatherboard. There is a cornice of



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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timber brackets with cricket-bat mouldings. The central four-panel door has a transom. On either side is a sash window with engaged 'columns' and sidelights. There are two rendered chimneys with elaborate mouldings at the top, symmetrically placed. There is a single window on each elevation of this front part of the house, both with original two-over-two sashes. At the very rear of the house is a transverse gabled section with a later link to the hipped-roof section of the house. It is also clad in weatherboards and may have been the original detached kitchen. It has two chimneys: one is a corbelled 19th-century chimney, the other a simple c1920s or '30s brick chimney. There are two mature trees (elms?) flanking the entry to the front drive.

The construction date of the homestead is not known, as the first known owner of the house site, G McKenzie, acquired it in 1915, while the house was built c1900 at the very latest.

How is it significant?

Cloney Grange is of local architectural and aesthetic significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, as a representative example of a late Victorian house which retains its detached kitchen. (RNE criterion D.2)

Aesthetically, as an attractively sited house, on a rise overlooking the Yea River, framed by two massive elms. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No
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**Internal Alteration Controls**

No
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**Tree Controls**

Yes Mature elms to front drive
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**Fences & Outbuildings**

No
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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes
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**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No
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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Duke of Clarence Masonic Lodge No 172  
**Address** 120b High Street YEA  
**Place Type** Hall Masonic  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Free Classical

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

### HISTORY OF MASONIC LODGE

Freemasonry was brought to Victoria in 1840, and was a powerful and influential force in society, particularly through a number of Lord Mayors and Victorian Governors, who were prominent Masons [1]. While Freemasonry has a strong element of secret ritual and mutual support amongst its all male membership, it also focuses on community service.

The red brick Duke of Clarence Masonic Lodge No. 172 was constructed in 1914-15 and a plaque on the building reads:

This stone was laid by J Curthew Sanders Eso JP, one of the founders of the Duke of Clarence Lodge No. 172 VC, Yea, May 1915.

Prominent Worshipful Masters have included local merchants and tradesmen such as a tailor, a hatter and a men's mercer, James Alfred Wild. Other prominent Masons have included pharmacist James Taite and watchmaker, jeweller and optician Charles Murray Begg, railway worker and storekeeper David Olney, and timber merchant and ironmonger Thomas Watson Connell.[2]

Sources:

[1] Encyclopedia of Melbourne, 2005:291

[2] Harvey Blanks, The Story of Yea, Hawthorn Press, 1973, pp. 220-4.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.4 Institutions of mutual support & helping other people

## Description

### Physical Description

The Duke of Clarence Lodge is a red brick building with a decorative raised parapet on the facade partially concealing the gabled hipped roof (clad in corrugated sheet metal with metal ventilators). There is a slender brick chimney on the west slope of the roof with a corbelled top. The facade and side elevation (on Nolan Street) are articulated by moulded-brick pilasters with rendered capitals. High-set hopper windows (two on the facade, three on Nolan Street) have plain rendered lintels and sills and are set within slightly recessed rectangles.

Apart from the three hopper windows on the front half of the Nolan-Street elevation, there is a ledged timber door with rendered lintel and transom window reached by replacement concrete steps, a double-sash window (at normal height), a ledged timber door to which entrance steps have been removed, and a small, skillion roofed room at the very rear (north elevation) with a ledged timber door.

The use of the building for Masonic purposes is reflected in design aspects that are typical of Masonic temples such as the small high-set windows in both sections (which prevent outsiders from seeing into the buildings and reflect the secretive aspect of Masonic tradition).

Apart from removal of one set of steps, and replacement of those to the main entrance with concrete, the building is intact. It is in good condition, the only problems noted being rusting of the roofing iron and deteriorating mortar to the base of the building.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Leave brick unpainted.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
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9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The Duke of Clarence Masonic Lodge No. 172, constructed in 1915, at 120A High Street, Yea. It is a red brick building with a decorative raised rendered parapet on the facade, and brick pilasters articulating both the facade and Nolan Street side elevation.

How is it significant?

The Duke of Clarence Masonic Lodge No. 172, is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Historically, Duke of Clarence Masonic Lodge No. 172, built 1915 demonstrates the strength of the Masonic movement in Victoria in the early 20th century (RNE criterion A.4). Use of the building for Masonic purposes is reflected in design aspects such as the high-set windows for privacy (RNE criterion D.2).

The Duke of Clarence Lodge also has social significance as the spiritual home of the Masonic community in Yea and district for over 90 years. (RNE criterion G.1)

Aesthetically, for its interesting facade with a decorative cement render parapet which makes it a landmark at this end of High Street. (RNE criterion E.1)

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** House  
**Address** 134 High Street YEA  
**Place Type** House  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Domestic Queen Anne

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson.[1] By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[2]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. In 1900, the Victorian Municipal Directory described Yea as a 'Municipal township with telegraph station, post, money-order, savings bank and revenue offices, on Yea river and 75 miles (79 by rail) N.E. of Melbourne. Four hotels, agencies of three insurance companies, branch of one bank, State school, three churches, court-house, police camp, twelve creameries and butter factory.' [3] By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and major bushfires. [4]

## HISTORY OF HOUSE

A Crown Grant was issued to Catherine McDowell of Yea on 20 March 1876 for Crown Allotment 3 in Section 1 (Land Title 861/191), Parish of Yea, County of Anglesea. Frederick Johnson, contractor of Yea was the second owner of this property from April 1888 until it transferred to Bridget Leach and George Leach of King Parrott Creek.

Catherine McKenzie then purchased the property on 4 February 1916 and it is likely the house was built at this time. She may have been related to the Right Reverend John McKenzie, who opened the new Scots' Church on Station Street, Yea, in 1923.

The property transferred to Ellen Anderson of 'Glenside' in December 1937 who retained 134 High Street until the title transferred to the Minister of Crown Administrators in 1957.

## Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 26.

[2] Blanks, *Op.cit.*, p.185.

[3] *Municipal Directories 1900*.

[4] <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080653b.htm>

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

7.1 Township development

## Description

### Physical Description

This is a transitional Queen Anne weatherboard house with a corrugated iron gabled hip roof, with gable-fronted bays on the facade and east side elevation. The verandah roof has a broke-back profile and decorative timber frieze. The front gabled bay features slightly projecting tripartite casement windows with leadlight transoms. The gable above is half timbered with a Japanese-style framed ventilator. The front door, beneath the verandah, has a leadlight transom and sidelights. The two chimneys are of corbelled brick.

On the west side of the house is a small, gable-fronted weatherboard garage. It is unornamented and appears to be later



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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than the house.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

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2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

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Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house at 134 High Street, Yea. It is a transitional Queen Anne weatherboard house with a corrugated iron gabled hip roof, with gable-fronted bays on the facade and east side elevation. The verandah roof has a broke-back profile and decorative timber frieze. The front gabled bay features slightly projecting tripartite casement windows with leadlight transoms. The gable above is half timbered with a Japanese-style framed ventilator. The front door, beneath the verandah, has a leadlight transom and sidelights. The two chimneys are of corbelled brick.

On the west side of the house is a small, gable-fronted weatherboard garage. It is unornamented and appears to be later than the house.

The house was built c1916 for Catherine McKenzie.

How is it significant?

The house is of local architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, as a highly intact and decorative late Queen Anne house. (RNE criterion D.2)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

No

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Old Yea Cemetery  
**Address** Allot. 6C, Section A Moyle Street YEA  
**Place Type** Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L





**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**

**VHR - HI - PS Yes**

## **History and Historical Context**

### **CONTEXTUAL HISTORY & HISTORY OF YEA**

Early cemeteries, memorials to the lives of the early settlers, were established in country towns by the end of the 19th century. Pioneering life, while adventurous, was often short lived, and many people died young as life and work on the land could be dangerous; life could be cut short through timber cutting and mining accidents, bushfires and floods. In the late nineteenth century, it was common for women to die in childbirth and for children to die of childhood diseases. Cemeteries, though essential, were not always a first priority for towns, and in the earliest days of settlement, family members may have been buried on their properties.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson.[1] By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.[2]

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.[3]

## HISTORY OF CEMETERY

While the Old Cemetery is now a popular tourist attraction, and forms part of a tourist walk around Yea, the history books are silent on the subject of its establishment, though the township plan of 1855 shows a 'Cemetery Street' leading in the direction of the site.[5]

The earliest headstones record burials from the 1860s. It has been documented that in 1945 Sir John Gellibrand, soldier and farmer, was buried at the Yea Old Cemetery.[4] The cemetery is no longer in use for burials and has been replaced by the 'Lawn Cemetery' in Meadows Road.

Sources:

[1] Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 26.

[2] Blanks, *op.cit.*, p.185.

[3] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yea,\\_Victoria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yea,_Victoria)

[4] Sir John Gellibrand, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080653b.htm>

[5] PROV VPRS 8168 Historic Plans Collection, Sale 184, 'Plan of the Township of Yea on the Muddy Creek', Thos. Pinniger, Asst Surveyor, Nov. 11, 1855.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.5 Commemorating

7.1 Township development

## Description

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Physical Description

The Old Yea Cemetery is situated on an undeveloped hillside, just out of town. The layout is informal. While the earliest interments recorded on the stones are from the 1860s, the memorials themselves appear likely to date from later in the 19th century. Many of the early graves face the traditional east (toward the morning sun). The majority of the memorials date from late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Many have cast-iron enclosures and marble headstones. There are many children's graves here, for example, see the Oliver family, below.

Some notable/early memorials include:

- Hume family (pink granite memorial with Angel with outstretched wing) - Alexander Robert Hume died 6/10/1890, Jane Hume (wife) 21/3/1903 and John Hume (son) died 22/12/1862 aged 1 month.
- Ruth Nixon died 21/3/1867 (erected by husband Nathan Davis)
- Williamson (draped urn), John 18/6/1915, Annie Williamson 6/7/1892
- Purvis family (obelisk with urn) - John Clifford 20/2/1918 (77 years), Norman (son) 19/10/1914 (16 years), Lt W.C. Purvis 24 Batt. A.I.F., Killed in action Passenchedale 12/10/1917 (31 years), Ellen Purvis 15/7/1944
- Knights family (wire fence, oak tree), Charles Knights ('who fell asleep') 6/5/1909, Maud Mary 21/12/1869 (4 months), Mary Ann 11/9/1934
- Unmarked grave site with timber posts and wire
- Oliver family - Maria Mary 2/11/1879 (aged 36 years), also their children Charlotte 18/10/1869 (14 months), Louise 5/1/1871 (8 months), William 26/2/1874 (7 years 3 months), Frances Mabel 10/2/1862 (6 months)
- McKay - Georgina (wife of D. McKay) 19/3/1869 and 'youngest son George accidentally killed at Yea School on 25 March 1878 aged 9 years, Murdoch McKay 1/6/1866 aged 35 years.
- John Robert McTurk Gibson 18/3/1869

Many of the graves are suffering from general decay and a lack of maintenance typical to cemeteries of this age which are no longer in use. For example, some of the stone borders around graves have moved, cast-iron fences are rusting and some have missing parts, and gravestones are tilted. There does not appear to be any vandalism of the cemetery.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - CEMETERIES

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Under section 43.01-2 of the Murrumbidgee Shire Planning Scheme, no permit is required for interments, burials and erection of monuments, re-use of graves, burial of cremated remains and exhumation of remains in accordance with the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003.
2. The essential elements and character of the cemetery should be protected through a maintenance program which

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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recognises its overall significance and that of individual elements. This includes the layout, mature plantings, and graves.

3. Stabilisation and protection of the nineteenth century graves should be undertaken as a priority.

4. Conservation works should be undertaken by workers skilled in the repair and conservation of historic cemeteries.

In order to conserve the heritage significance of significant trees:

5. Undertake regular maintenance including monitoring condition, pruning, pest and disease and roadside weed management.

6. Undertake incidental replacement of individual dead, dying or dangerous specimens and develop a strategy for major cyclical replacement. When trees are replaced the process should be documented (photographs and written record before, during & after) for future record.

7. Maintain the integrity of the perimeter planting by replacing trees 'like with like' species (e.g., Monterey Cypress with *Cupressus macrocarpa*) unless an alternative planting scheme has been devised in accordance with an approved management plan.

8. Manage surrounding vegetation and landscape to maintain the integrity and condition of the tree/s. Remove weed vegetation species.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Old Yea Cemetery in Moyle Street, Yea. It is situated on an undeveloped hillside and has an informal layout. The earliest internments recorded on the stones date from the 1860s (though the memorials appear to be of later vintage). The majority of the memorials date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Many have cast-iron enclosures and marble headstones.

How is it significant?

The Old Yea Cemetery is of local historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for the early history of the district recorded in its headstones as well as demonstrating the art of the stone mason in the memorials. (RNE criterion A.4)



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Rossmoor Private Hospital (former)  
**Address** 11 Raglan Street YEA  
**Place Type** Hospital  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

### HISTORY OF FORMER HOSPITAL

The township of Yea prospered throughout the 1870s and 1880s, however, the local council was unable to attract a doctor to live permanently in the town. Resident dissatisfaction reached a peak in 1882, and, although Council was willing to guarantee a minimum income of £150 per annum for any qualified doctor prepared to reside in the town, residents had to make do with weekly visit from doctors from Alexandra or Seymour. It was not until September 1884 that a Dr Lock took up residence in the township.[1] However, a local hospital was not established in Yea for another twenty years.

Rossmoor Private Hospital was established in 1904 by Sister Mary Stewart Drysdale, daughter of William Drysdale and Mary Waters Downie.[2] Details of the architect or builder of the Raglan Street property are not known.

The first notice advertising the new private hospital appeared in the Yea Chronicle on 5 May 1904. Miss Drysdale advertised that 'Rossmoor' was a 'medical, surgical, maternity' private hospital. An editorial in the same newspaper pointed to the fact that the hospital was located on the slope of the hill, was well built up and commanded an extensive view of the country 'and of that scenery for which Yea is so justly noted.'[3] The writer also noted the fact that the entrance door opened outwards instead of inwards as is usual in a dwelling house. This was in accordance with the Board of Public Health in regard to private hospitals. A lengthy description of the building draws attention to the spacious hall, and the operating theatre 'fitted with all the appurtenances necessary for the surgeon', highlighting a skylight with a southerly aspect for 'the best light to be obtained'.[4]

Miss Drysdale sold the hospital and the building in 1914 to Sister Jayes who had 15 years of experience, in Melbourne and Kerang, at the time of purchase.[5] She retained it during the First World War and the 1919 Spanish Influenza Pandemic. A tent hospital was established, via the Board of Health, at Rossmoor Hospital, which gave the local authorities greater involvement in and control over the types of treatment given at the hospital. That is, the hospital broadened from medical, surgical and maternity to include infectious diseases. Isolation wards were trialled at this hospital to deal with the increasing problem of outbreaks of diphtheria and typhoid, caused by poor sanitation in the town.

May 1927 saw a further change of management, when Sister Jayes sold the business to Sister Slade quickly who incorporated electric heating at the private hospital. Renovations appear to have been overdue, as the Health Committee

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of the Board of Health recommended the construction and installation of two stores, one bath, one bath heater and a new room with bathing facilities. Sister Slade's stay was brief, for in June 1928, ownership changed again and Sister Jessie and Mr Angus McKenzie took over Rossmoor.

Public pressure began to agitate for the building of a bush nursing centre, with trained nurses, in Yea, in 1928. Rossmoor argued against the need for a bush nursing centre which would mean they would have to close their midwifery section.

After 24 successful years and stable management, in October 1928, tragedy struck Rossmoor Private Hospital. On 18 October 1928, Olive Drysdale, the sister of the first owner, Sister Mary Drysdale, died of septicaemia. The following day, another patient was transferred to Melbourne hospital with the same symptoms of septicaemia. She died three days later.[6]

Letters to the Yea Chronicle by the McKenzies in December 1928, assured the residents of Yea that the hospital had been fumigated and was free from infection and that patients could be admitted. Even so, Rossmoor did not recover from this tragedy. Another private hospital, Fernleigh, established in 1906 by Dr Wilkinson, one of the three doctors then practising in Yea, proved too competitive, or its owner, Dr Wilkinson, too persuasive. Rossmoor ceased operation in October 1932. Notices in the Yea Chronicle in January and February 1933 advertised a clearance sale for the site.[7]

Following the closure of the private hospital, the building became a private residence. It was first purchased by Mrs McLeod, who resided there until the early 1960s. It then passed to PD Quinlan and served as the family home until about 1965, after which it was rented out until 1989. During the Quinlans' residence, a skillion verandah was added to the rear elevation. The rear part of the site was levelled and the isolation wards, detached kitchen, amenities and washhouse that stood behind the former hospital were all demolished.[8]

## Sources:

[1]Harvey Blanks, *The Story of Yea*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1973, p. 192. NB: Blanks refers to the hospital as 'Rossmore' but press articles of the time consistently call it 'Rossmoor' and this is the name is painted on the leadlights around the front door.

[2]H C Gordon, *Yea, Its Discovery and Development, 1825 to 1920*, np, nd, p. 72.

[3]'Miss Drysdale's Private Hospital' in *Yea Chronicle*, Thursday 5 May 1904, p. 6.

[4]Ibid.

[5] *Yea Chronicle*, 19 March 1914.

[6] *Yea Chronicle*, 5 November 1928.

[7] *Yea Chronicle*, 5/1/33 and 2/2/33.

[8]Personal comment, John Quinlan, 2014.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

9.4 Institutions of mutual support & helping other people

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Rossmore Private Hospital is large c1904 weatherboard building with a corrugated galvanised iron, gabled hip roof. Round metal ventilators project from the roof, indicating a former public use, and there are three corbelled brick chimneys (a fourth was removed to make way for a bathroom). A large verandah with an M-hip roof and simple timber

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brackets stretches across the Raglan Street elevation. The Pellissier Street elevation has two windows: a one-over-one sash window and a typical tall Edwardian casement window with transoms. Above the casement window is a skylight, flush with the roof. This may be the original 'southerly' skylight to the operating theatre.

Alterations include the addition of a simple skillion verandah to the rear elevation, c1965. Reportedly early images show a large flight of steps leading to the front verandah, since removed.

The property is surrounded by chain mesh fence which is in poor condition. A matching pedestrian gate to the rear of the building is of a type popular in the 1920s. It reportedly replaced the original timber picket fence seen in early images of the hospital. A dilapidated small timber outbuilding is at the rear.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

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7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Rossmoor Private Hospital, 11 Raglan Street, Yea, purpose built c1904 for a Miss Drysdale, which operated until 1932. It is a large weatherboard building with extensive verandahs providing westerly views from the hill.

How is it significant?

The former Rossmoor Private Hospital is of local historic significance to the Shire of Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, as the first hospital established in Yea, which was designed to meet the Board of Public Health standards of the day (RNE criterion A.4).

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** St Lukes Anglican Church, Hall & Rectory  
**Address** 1-5 Pelissier Street YEA **Significance Level** Local  
**Place Type** ChurchChurch Pipe OrganChurch  
HallPresbytery/Rectory/ Vicarage/Manse  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS Yes  
**Designer / Architect** Purchas, Albert, Williams, Louis R  
**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
Gothic Revival, Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940), Mid-Twentieth Century (1940-60) Austerity

## History and Historical Context



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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## HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the Yea district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

## HISTORY OF ST LUKE'S

Fundraising to build Yea's first Anglican church began in 1862. From beginning to end, it appears that the women of the district took responsibility for this task, led by sisters Miss Flora de Burgh and Mrs WL Ker of Killingworth Station (also referred to as 'Kerr' in some sources). In all, they raised 600 pounds for construction and another 200 pounds for furnishings, which was matched pound for pound by the Victorian Government. Other items of furniture were donated by the Purcell family, who provided a font, lectern, lamps, prayer desk, carpeting and fencing.[1]

A rendered brick church was built on the Church of England Reserve on Pelissier Street, between Lyons Street and The Parade. The designer of this early English Gothic building appears to be architect Albert Purchas, who placed a tender notice in January 1868 for 'erecting part of Yea church'. [2] Blanks (1973) notes that the foundation stone was laid by Mrs WL Ker on 10 March 1868, and the church officially opened in October of that same year.

This date range appears to confirm that Purchas was the sole designer of this stage of St Luke's Church. The indication that only 'part' of the church was to be erected may be in reference to the fact that only a nave was constructed at the time. It was described as 'half-finished' in 1884.[3]

The first baptism to take place at St Luke's was that of Alice Maude Wade of Yea on 1 May 1881, and the first wedding - of Mary Ann Chaplain and Charles George Knights - on 11 October 1881.[1]

## ARCHITECT ARTHUR PURCHAS

Albert Purchas, architect and civil engineer, moved to Melbourne from the West of England in 1851, at the age of 26. In his role as engineer he laid out many of Melbourne's streets, including St Kilda Road. He practiced solo as an architect upon his arrival, creating the layout for the Melbourne General Cemetery in 1853. He later became a member of the Boroondara General Cemetery Trust (1864-1909). Much of the landscaping, gate lodge and entrance gates there were to his design.

From about 1857 he practiced with Charles Swyer [sic!] as Purchas & Swyer, their surviving work includes the nave of Christ Church, Glenlyon Road, Brunswick, of 1857; the former Bank of Australasia (now ANZ), Malop Street,

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Geelong, of 1859-60; Holy Trinity Church, Arundel Street, Benalla, of 1860; and the Imperial Hotel, Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, of 1861.

By the mid-1860s Purchas was again in sole practice. His surviving designs include St George the Martyr Church and Hall, Hobson Street, Queenscliff, of 1863 and 1870, respectively; St George's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, St Kilda, of 1866; and the National Bank, Victoria Street, Abbotsford, of 1886.

Purchas was vice-president of the Victorian Institute of Architects for many years, and elected its president in 1887. He died in 1909, at the age of 84, at his residence 'Fernhill', Kew. His son, Guyon Purchas, was also a distinguished architect, known particularly for his work at 'Purrumbete', near Camperdown, in 1901.

A chancel and vestry were added to St Luke's Church in 1885. The builders were Messrs Lister & Co of Seymour. The architect of the extensions is not known, but contemporary press accounts report that his plans were not followed as they were considered too elaborate and large, and would have cost 1,200 pounds. Instead, a revised version cost just 420 pounds. It was completed in June 1885. Local press criticised the revised design of the chancel as 'poor', 'too late in style for the rest of the building', and too small.[4]

Next a rectory was constructed in 1892, at a site about a kilometre away from the church. It was a timber building with verandahs on four sides. The designer was John Lewis, and the builder, George Fraser of Hazel Glen.[5a] Due its inconvenient location, the rectory was sold in 1942, with plans to build a new one next to the church as soon as possible. To this end, architect Louis Williams was asked to prepare designs for a brick-veneer rectory on the sloping site. A building permit was finally granted in 1947, but construction did not go ahead, most likely for financial reasons. In the interim, successive priests lived in private Yea houses (including Belvoir and Yirrababa).[5b] In the end, a new rectory was built next to the church at 5 Pelissier Street in 1959, its construction financed by a mortgage on the southern half of the church reserve.[5c] It is not known if it was built in accordance with Williams' design.

By 1907, when the 50 year anniversary of the parish was celebrated, it was noted that there was an urgent need for a parish hall. Plans were halted by World War I, but fundraising had begun in earnest by 1919, when the Parish Hall Building Fund contained 218 pounds. The first donation, of 27 pounds, had been a bequest of Mr FG Purcell.[6]

By August 1924 architect Louis Williams had been engaged to design the new parish hall. The specifications called for a bio-cabin on the facade (for showing movies), Wunderlich's Special Ventilating Ridge on the iron roof, and Cabot's Creosote Stain on the external weatherboards. Inside, the timber dado was given an oil stain, and the walls above painted with white Calcimine.[7]

In February 1925 there were press reports that the hall was under construction, at a total cost of 1,200 pounds. In total, the hall and furnishings cost 1,400 pounds, 400 pounds of which had been raised by the Ladies' Guild. The parish hall was officially opened in June 1925 by Bishop Armstrong of Wangaratta.[8]

Blanks (1973) reports that the parish hall was 'renovated and extensive alterations and repairs made in 1961, when the stage was removed'.

### ARCHITECT LOUIS R WILLIAMS

The following outline of Louis Williams' career is drawn from J Trimble's article 'Louis R. Williams: A Lifetime of Contribution':

'Louis Williams practised architecture in Melbourne from 1912 until his retirement in 1976, during which time he designed more than 130 churches. Born in Hobart in 1890, Williams developed a keen interest in the old colonial churches of Tasmania. Because of his interest in churches, Williams finished his articles in Launceston under the

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supervision of Alexander North, a respected ecclesiastical architect. In 1912 he joined North's firm as a junior partner and they moved to Melbourne. Among their first commissions in Melbourne were Trinity College Chapel at the University of Melbourne, and St. Peter's parish hall, Eastern Hill.

'By 1921, Alexander North had retired and Williams established his own practice. Williams designed churches for a number of different denominations, but his commissions were mainly for Anglican churches.

'Williams believed the Gothic to be mandatory in church design, but rejected the reproduction of established styles and sought instead, to use the idea of the Gothic, and Gothic motifs, in a manner appropriate to the particular requirements of each commission. The early churches also contain some splendid open timber roofs after the traditional medieval manner. Williams's churches were inevitably built in brick. Williams introduced clinker bricks into local ecclesiastical architecture in 1925. At that time clinker bricks were maligned as a reject from the kiln.

'The architect's humanism is apparent in his attention to the ladder [gradation] of sizes in the small scale of such details as doors, steps, materials, ceiling heights and levels of sills and dados. The well-crafted quality of his churches is also evident in the care given to fine finish in the details of brickwork and in timber furnishings.

'His integration of contemporary with traditional methods of construction, his interpretation of form, and the evolution of his own style illustrate Williams's capacity for innovation [in contrast to his conservative image]. The reproduction of established styles was rejected in favour of a more imaginative and personal approach.' [9]

Louis Williams was 'regarded the most significant architect in the history of the Wangaratta diocese' and designed seven other important churches for it. [10] He practiced until the 1960s.

Architect Louis Williams was involved with St Luke's Church again in 1943. He was asked to inspect the old church, which was suffering from settlement and rising damp. He also designed a timber baptismal font cover (manufactured by Hadwen & Haugton, Specialists in Church Furniture, Malvern), and recommended that the pews be 'improved by having the ornamental tops [crosses] cut off' (this was not done). During the 1940s, Rev Webb-Ware also hoped to replace the old church with a new one, designed by Williams, but the parish could not afford both a new rectory and new church.[11]

Happily, the 1868 church survived and today is noted for its stained glass windows and memorials both inside and outside the building. In 1982 the church acquired a small pipe organ, built by the Positive Organ Company of London. It was built by Thomas Casson, founder of the company, in the late 19th century, and was his so-called Opus 168. It has a single manual (44 notes, FF to C) and no pedals as the organist had to pump the treadles to provide the wind. It has a combination tracker and pneumatic action, and 132 pipes divided into four ranks. It is not known precisely when the organ was brought to Australia, but it was installed at the Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne (demolished 1967), in the late 19th century. In 1917 it was sold to St James' Church, Thornbury, where it remained until 1969. At that time it was installed at The Organ Centre in Caulfield by Bill Glasson. In 1975 it was sold to John Maidment and installed at his home, prior to being moved to St Luke's.[12]

### SOURCES:

[1] H Blanks, *Storey of Yea*, 1973, pp 179-181.

[2] *Argus*, 04/01/1868, p 3.

[3] *Alexandra and Yea Standard*, 10/10/1884, p 2.

[4] *Alexandra and Yea Standard*, 10/10/1884, p 2; 12/06/1885, p 2; 19/06/1885, p 2.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[5a] *Yea Chronicle*, 28/04/1892, p 2.

[5b] State Library of Victoria: Louis Williams Manuscript Collection, Acc. No. 10990, Boxes 12 & 47.

[5c] Blanks, op cit, p 181. Land Victoria, Certificate of Title, Vol 8219 Fol 373.

[6] *Yea Chronicle*, 22/05/1919, p 3.

[7] State Library of Victoria: Louis Williams Manuscript Collection, Acc. No. 10990, Box 93.

[8] *Argus*, 07/02/1925, p 22; 23/06/1925, p 6.

[9] Judith Trimble, 'Louis R. Williams: A Lifetime of Contribution', in 'Victorian Historical Journal', May-Aug 1982, Vol 53, Nos. 2 & 3, pp 152-158.

[10] Lloyd, 'Alexandra and District', Histec Publications, Brighton East, 2006, pp 97-8.

[11] State Library of Victoria: Louis R Williams, 'Collection of architectural drawings mostly churches and some schools for the Church of England', Acc. No. LTAD 82; Louis Williams Manuscript Collection, Acc. No. 10990, Boxes 12 & 93.

[12] *Encyclopaedia of Australian Theatre Organs*, <http://www.theatreorgans.com/southerncross/Victoria/Tivolimelb.htm>, accessed 30/03/2011. The website cites articles Vox, TOSA (Vic), Melbourne, July 1970, p 3, and *The Organ Voice*, Organ Society of Queensland Inc, Brisbane, Dec 1991, p 18.

## Description

### Physical Description

St Luke's Church of England, of 1868, is a rendered brick building of three bays in length, with a chancel (entrance porch) on the side and vestry at the rear added in 1885. The parapeted gable front of the church is dominated by a tripartite lancet window beneath a label mould. At the peak of the apex is a triangular louvered vent. The corners of building and the chancel are marked with stepped buttresses.

The roof is clad in short-sheets of corrugated iron, which appear to be early (1920s or earlier). The roof is ventilated via two gabled vents on either slope.

The windows on the side elevations are divided by low buttresses. The stained glass windows have a trefoil head which is inset into a lancet window recess. The windows all have label moulds above them. Inside, the church retains early timber pews and a variety of memorial stained glass windows.

Along Lyons Street is a chain-link fence with concrete posts and timber rails. Judging by the small size of the chain-link mesh, it appears to date from the late 'teens or early 1920s. Behind the church is a simple steel belltower, in a tepee form, of unknown date.

Beside the church, on the west, uphill side, is the timber Parish Hall of 1924-25. The hall is a long building with a gable facing Pellisier Street. Below that gable is a skillion-roof section which may have been the bio-box. There is a second, transverse gable near the rear of the hall which marks the entrance.

The hall is clad in shiplap-profile weatherboards. The roof is clad in short-sheet corrugated iron, which appears to be original. The building is very plain, with decorative accents limited to triangular eaves brackets and gable vents. Doors are all ledged, and the windows are casements with an arched inner frame below highlights. The arched form of these windows suggests they may have been replaced at some point.

The Rectory of 1959 is situated further up the hill, next to the hall. It is a cream brick dwelling with a tiled hip roof. It is

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situated quite high off the ground and the sloping site allows a built-in garage at the basement level. Above the garage is a long balcony with a mild-steel railing. Behind it is an external chimney, which provided one of the few visual accents to this very austere house.

At the front is the original fence of cream brick with mild-steel panels. The driveway retains a two-track configuration which was popular in the postwar period.

## Previous Statement Significance

### National Trust of Australia (Victoria):

Church Statement of Significance: A cement-faced Gothic church of three bays designed by Albert Purchas and opened in 1868, with the addition of a sanctuary and vestry in 1907. There is a small pipe organ built by the Positive Organ Company, London, c.1900, acquired in 1982.

Organ Statement of Significance: The organ in St Luke's Church was built circa 1900 by the Positive Organ Company, London. The organs of this firm, founded by Thomas Casson, were built to a number of standardised designs allowing for the simulation of pedal and solo effects from a single-manual instrument. The St Luke's organ was in St James's Anglican Church, Thornbury between 1917 and 1969, but its early history remains unknown.

Following two subsequent moves, it was installed at Yea in 1982. This organ is a rare and unaltered example of an early Positive Organ (opus 168) notable for the excellence of its voicing and the ingenuity of its design.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. If any works are planned for the exterior of the Parish Hall, the original 1924 Louis Williams plans should be located at the State Library of Victoria to inform any alterations.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

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- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

## NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Luke's Anglican Church, to the extent of the nave built in 1868 to a design by architect Albert Purchas and the chancel and vestry added in 1885. In addition, the Parish Hall, constructed 1924-25 to a design by architect Louis Williams. The Rectory, of 1959, is a contributory element of the church complex.

How is it significant?

The St Luke's Church complex is of local historic, aesthetic, architectural and social significance to the Shire of

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Murrindindi.

Why is it significant?

Historically, St Luke's Church was the first church to be erected in Yea. Along with the two other church-related buildings in the complex - the Parish Hall and Rectory - it illustrates the continued activity and growth of the Anglican community in the Yea district. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the Church is a local landmark on a prominent corner site. It is enhanced by a well-tended garden and trees and surrounded by an interwar-era fence. (Criterion E)

Architecturally, the complex illustrates the changing architectural styles favoured by the Anglican Church - from Gothic Revival, through Craftsman Bungalow, to post-war cream-brick austerity - over nearly 100 years. In addition, the Church and Parish Hall were designed by noted architects, Purchas and Williams. Louis Williams, in particular, had an on-going relationship with the Wangaratta Diocese and the parish priests in Yea, which stretched from the early 1920s to the late 1940s. (Criteria D & H)

Socially, the complex has been the centre of Anglican life in the Yea district since the 1860s. (Criterion G)

## Recommendations 2011

**External Paint Controls**

No

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes Chain-link fence

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

Yes

**Incorporated Plan**

-

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

## Other Recommendations

Extend extent of HO listing to 1-5 Pellisier Street, encompassing the church, hall and rectory

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** Yea Dairy Company building, former  
**Address** 13 Rattray Street YEA  
**Place Type** Commercial Office/Building  
**Citation Date** 2011  
**Assessment by** Context P/L



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**Recommended** VHR Yes HI - PS Yes  
**Heritage Protection**

**Architectural Style** Federation/Edwardian Period  
(1902-c.1918) Arts and Crafts

## History and Historical Context

### HISTORY OF YEA

The first settlers in the district were overlanders from New South Wales. They arrived in 1837 and 1838, and included Peter Snodgrass, James Campbell, Farquhar McKenzie, John Murchison, Colonel White and Dr Dickson. By 1839, settlements and farms dotted the area along the Goulburn River. The township was surveyed and laid out in 1855 and was known as Muddy Creek until 1878 when it was formally renamed Yea after Colonel Lacy Yea who was killed in the Crimean War.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1859 and a number of smaller mining settlements came into existence at this time. Yea expanded and grew as a town with the influx of hopeful prospectors. The Church of England erected Christ Church in 1868 when the population of Yea was 250.

When the gold ran out, farming and timber-getting became the main occupations. The Yea sawmilling industry reached its peak between 1907 and 1915. The railway had arrived in 1883, with an extension to Molesworth in 1889, chiefly for

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**Yea Dairy Company building, former**  
**Hermes No 29503** **Place Citation Report**

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# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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timber transport to Melbourne. Yea became a popular tourist destination in the 1890s, with trout being released into King Parrot Creek to attract recreational anglers. A Post Office was built in 1890, followed by a Grandstand and a Butter factory in 1891. By 1911 the town's population had increased to 1,126 and has remained relatively stable, despite two severe floods in 1934 and 1973 and a major bushfire in 1969.

## HISTORY OF DAIRY

The Yea and Mansfield Dairy Company Ltd formed as a co-operative in 1891 and began operations in 1892 in 'temporary' premises consisting of a wooden building, remaining there until 1905.[1]

The original board of directors consisted of Messrs J McCormick, E McCristal, E S Purcell, John Quinlan, J C Sanders, T S Scale and W Wilson; Mr Daniel McLeish served as the first Chairman. Managers included Mr Christensen and John Bett; Engineers included Henry 'Harry' Robert Smith.[2]

Initially the Company built creameries throughout the Shire, and the farmers brought their milk to the creameries where the cream was separated from the milk, then the Company collected the cream and brought it to the Yea factory where it was turned into butter. Before long the local farms all had their own hand separators and the company then collected the cream direct from the farmers, making the creameries redundant.[3]

The present brick building was built in 1905 and the Yea Dairy Company operated at this site until it closed in 1993. The building was considered a rare example of a continuously operating dairy business in Victoria at the time.[4]

Sources:

[1] H C Gordon, 'Yea, Its Discovery and Development, 1825 to 1920', p. 40.

[2] Harvey Blanks, The Story of Yea, Hawthorn Press, 1973, pp. 185-7.

[3] Ibid., p. 229-30.

[4] Gordon, op.cit., pp. 85-86.

[5] Ibid., p. 86.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Themes from the Murrindindi Thematic Environmental History, 2006:

4.3 Dairying

## Description

### Physical Description

This large red double brick building consists of a two storey section with a half cellar on the northern end of the building with an attached three storey section which has an ornamental brick parapet reminiscent of an European castle. Attached at the southern end of the three storey building is a long single storey brick section which has been somewhat altered with a new verandah and newer windows. New windows have also been placed into the ground floor of the three storey section. The brickwork is of excellent quality with all doors, windows and delivery points highlighted with rounded brick

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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corners and topped with a double brick arch with rounded bricks set under the arch to complement the wall corners.

The building is a carefully detailed prominent industrial building with unusual styling reminiscent of an European castle. The use of parapets, rare in an industrial building and its siting on a small rise on the outskirts of Yea, add to this impression. One of only two such elaborate buildings built during this period, both the Yea building and the Euroa Butter Factory are architecturally significant for the level of design and the workmanship of the building, unusual in an industrial building erected at such an early phase of the industry while the financial outcome of such a high level of investment was still in doubt.

The building is in good condition.

## Conservation Policy

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - SPECIFIC

The following specific conservation guidelines apply to this property:

1. Do not paint external brick.

### CONSERVATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation guidelines, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition or removal of significant fabric unless the demolition or removal is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or

- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or

- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

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5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or revealing the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
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## Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Yea Dairy Company building, constructed in 1905, on Rattray Street, Yea. The Yea and Mansfield Dairy Company Ltd formed as a co-operative in 1891 and began operations in 1892 in 'temporary' premises consisting of a wooden building, remaining there until 1905, when they built the present brick building.

It is a large red brick building consists of a two storey section with a half cellar on the northern end of the building with an attached three storey section which has an ornamental brick parapet reminiscent of an European castle.

How is it significant?

The former Yea Dairy Company building is of local historic and architectural significance to Murrindindi Shire and potential State significance.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its importance in building and sustaining the dairy industry, so important in this area, from 1892 (RNE criterion A.4).

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Architecturally, as a carefully detailed prominent industrial building with unusual styling reminiscent of an European castle, including the use of parapets, rare in this kind of building. Its siting on a hill on the outskirts of Yea making it a local landmark. (RNE criterion F.1).

## Recommendations 2011

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	Yes
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Murrindindi Shire HO Permit Exemptions 2011
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No