

Rural Ararat Heritage Study
Volume 3
Heritage Place and Precinct Citations



Prepared for Ararat Rural City Council

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History in the Making

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1.0 Rural Ararat Heritage Study Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Rural Ararat Heritage Study was commissioned by the Ararat Rural City Council in two stages between 2011 and 2016. The study area for the heritage study was that area of the municipality of Ararat Rural City not included in the 1994 City of Ararat Heritage Study.

Dr Robyn Ballinger of History in the Making was commissioned as the lead consultant for both stages of the Study. Project team members were Samanatha Westbrooke, Heritage Architect, Tom Henty, photographer and fieldworker, and Eleanor Hambleton, who undertook data entry.

A steering committee was established to guide the study.

1.2 Project objectives

The objectives of the Rural Ararat Heritage Study Stage 1 were to:

- prepare a Thematic Environmental History of post-contact settlement and development of the study area;
- identify all post-contact places of potential cultural significance in the study area; and
- estimate the resources required to appropriately research, document and assess those post-contact places of potential cultural significance that were considered worthy of future conservation and to complete Stage 2 of the project.

The objectives of the Rural Ararat Heritage Study Stage 2 were to:

- assess and document the places of post-contact cultural significance identified as being worthy of future conservation in Stage 1 of the project;
- enter this information into the HERMES database to be provided to the client;
- review and finalise the Thematic Environmental History; and
- make recommendations for the conservation of the municipality's cultural heritage.

1.3 Assessment of cultural significance

The values used in the identification and assessment of places of cultural significance were historic, scientific, aesthetic, social and spiritual values as articulated in the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*. Detailed assessment for heritage places in the study area was developed against key themes articulated in the Thematic Environmental History and the HERCON criteria. Thresholds applied included 'State Significance' and 'Local Significance'.

1.4 Community consultation

Community consultation formed an integral part of the Heritage Study, with consultants facilitating and attending community meetings; working with local historical societies; organising fieldtrips with residents to identify places of heritage interest; inviting feedback on the Thematic Environmental History from community members; seeking input into priority places for assessment in Stage 2; and incorporating community feedback on place and precinct citations into the Study. The community engagement program was vital to documenting the municipality's unique history and heritage.

1.5 Study results

1.5.1 Individual places

The following table provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations for the 103 individual places assessed in Stage 2.

Recommendation	Number of places
Recommended for inclusion in the Ararat Planning Scheme	103 places
Recommended that assessment documentation for places already in the Heritage Overlay be incorporated in the Ararat Planning Scheme	2 places
Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory	5 places

1.5.2 Heritage precincts

A total of 3 heritage precincts in Willaura were identified, assessed and documented in Stage 2 and recommended for the Heritage Overlay.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Adoption of the Rural Ararat Heritage Study

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council adopt the Rural Ararat Heritage Study.

1.6.2 Statutory protection

It is recommended that the individual places identified, assessed and documented in the Rural Ararat Heritage Study be included in or nominated for the following statutory registers:

- 103 places (outside of heritage precincts) recommended for inclusion in the Planning Scheme.
- 5 places recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

It is recommended that assessment documentation for 2 places already in the Heritage Overlay of the Planning Scheme be adopted.

It is recommended that the 3 precincts identified, assessed and documented in Willaura be included in the Planning Scheme.

It is recommended that an amendment to the Planning Scheme that makes changes and/or additions to the Heritage Overlay to incorporate the recommended places and precincts, as well as assessment documentation provided for places already in the Heritage Overlay, be prepared and implemented as soon as practicable.

It is recommended that the specific heritage policies and objectives detailed for the recommended heritage precincts (Heritage Overlay Areas) be implemented by Ararat Rural City Council.

1.6.3 Public awareness program

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council consider ways to promote the rich and diverse heritage values of the municipality.

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council consider ways to provide assistance and advice to property owners affected by the amendment to the Planning Scheme.

1.6.4 *Heritage Strategy*

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council prepare a four-year Heritage Strategy as per Heritage Victoria's information guide titled *Local Government Heritage Strategies*.

1.6.5 *Further work*

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council:

- reviews the 8 historical archaeological sites identified in the Heritage Study;
- reviews the places already listed in the Heritage Overlay of the Ararat Planning Scheme to ensure they have the required level of documentation; and
- continues the process of assessment according to the priority place lists provided in Stage 1.

1.7 *Study format*

The Rural Ararat Heritage Study comprises four volumes, introduced by the Executive Summary:

- Volume 1 Key Findings and Recommendations;
- Volume 2 Heritage Precinct Policies;
- Volume 3 Heritage Place and Precinct Citations. This volume is divided into three sections: Section 1 - Citations for places recommended for the Planning Scheme; Section 2 - Citations for places already on the Planning Scheme; and Section 3 - Citations for Heritage Precincts; and
- Volume 4 the Thematic Environmental History.

2.0 Introduction to Heritage Place and Precinct Citations Report

The Heritage Place and Precincts Citations report is divided into three sections:

- Section 1 – Citations for places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme, including places recommended for the Victorian Heritage Register and Victorian Heritage Inventory;
- Section 2 - Citations for places already on the Ararat Planning Scheme; and
- Section 3 – Citations for Heritage Precincts.

2.1 Section 1 – Citations for places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme, including places recommended for the Victorian Heritage Inventory

The table below provides an index by township/district to Section 1. (HO=Heritage Overlay; VHI=Victorian Heritage Inventory)

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Buangor Railway Station and Railway House	Railway Reserve Buangor Road and 19 Buangor Road	Buangor	HO	1
Former Buangor Public Hall	52 Challicum Road	Buangor	HO	10
'Yerabin' Farm Homestead and Canary Island Palms	388 Charleycombe Road	Buangor	HO	16
'Buangor Park' Farm Complex	25 Dip Road	Buangor	HO & VHI	23
Bluestone Ford Over Charleycombe Creek	Dip Road	Buangor	HO	33
Buangor Store Complex	19 Main Street	Buangor	HO	40
'Challicum South' Farm Complex and Cypress Tree Avenue	199 Webbs Road	Buangor	HO	46
Avenue of Honour	Western Highway	Buangor	HO	55
Road Bridge over Denicull Creek	Denicull Creek-Moyston Road	Cathcart	HO	61
Cathcart Cemetery	Phillips Flat Road	Cathcart	HO	64
'Callemondah' Farm Complex and Cypress Trees	327 Tatyoon North Road	Dobie	HO	72
'Kooringa' Farm Complex	342 Tattyoon North Road	Dobie	HO	80
Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church, Bell, Memorial Gates and Trees	20 Green Street	Elmhurst	HO	90

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Tree Avenues	Hotel Street and High Street	Elmhurst	HO	97
Elmhurst Mechanics' Institute	34 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	103
Elmhurst Store, Residence, Outbuildings and Oak Tree	66 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	110
Former CBC Bank and Residence	71 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	116
J. Strain Butcher Store	76 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	122
'Fintry' Farm Outbuildings Complex	1554 Back Bolac Road	Lake Bolac	HO	128
Former Lake Boloke Station	1979 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO & VHI	139
Lake Bolac General Store, Bulk Store and Pepper Trees	2124 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO	152
Lake Bolac Hotel, Stables and Elm Tree	2127 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO	160
Bluestone Residence	2151 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO	170
Scots Uniting Church, Sunday School Hall, Fence, Gate and Stone Pine	139 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	178
Bluestone Residence	149 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	187
Bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith	161 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	195
Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, War Memorials and Pepper Trees	172 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	203
Bluestone Residence	199 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	212
Former Lake Bolac State School No. 854, Teacher's Residence and Kurrajong and Pepper Trees	205-211 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	220
Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains	South Beach Road	Lake Bolac	HO & VHI	229
Former Lake Bolac Flax Mill Shed	Frontage Street	Lake Bolac	HO	229

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Avenue of Honour	Mortlake-Ararat Road	Maroona	HO	239
Maroona Railway Complex	Railway Reserve, Mortlake-Ararat Road	Maroona	HO	245
Former Maroona Railway Station Master's House	7344 Mortlake-Ararat Road	Maroona	HO	245
Former Minirera Post Office, Store and Associated Residence	1-5 George Street	Minirera	HO	254
Minirera Railway Complex	George Street	Minirera	HO	262
Mount Cole Reservoir	Reservoir Road	Mount Cole	HO	271
Avenue of Honour	Ararat-Halls Gap Road	Moyston	HO	276
Moyston Hall and War Memorial	12 Brooke Street	Moyston	HO	283
Residence and Former Store	18 Brooke Street	Moyston	HO	292
'Stonehurst' Farmhouse	19 Decker Road	Moyston	HO	299
Moyston Cemetery	15 Moyston Cemetery Road	Moyston	HO	306
Moyston Christ Church and Pines	14 Moyston-Dunkeld Road	Moyston	HO	314
Barton Station Shearing Shed	531 Moyston-Dunkeld Road	Moyston	HO	322
Former Moyston Reservoir	Old Moyston Reservoir Road	Moyston	HO	329
Former Moyston Presbyterian Church	14 Presbyterian Church Road	Moyston	HO	336
Stone outbuildings	864 Rocky Point Road	Moyston	HO	343
'Mt Hamilton' Farm Outbuildings Complex	Woorndoo-Streatham Road	Nerrin Nerrin	HO	351
Former Nerrin Nerrin Public Hall	Woorndoo-Streatham Road	Nerrin Nerrin	HO	360
'Springfield Hill' Farm Complex and Hedge	172 Rhymney Road	Norval	HO	367
Dare's Culvert Over Unnamed Creek	Salvation Gully Road	Norval	HO	375
Spring Lead Cemetery	Spring Lead Road	Norval	HO	379
'St Day's' Residence	3285 Ararat-Halls Gap Road	Pomonal	HO	387

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
'Fernside' Residence	Librarian Road	Pomonal	HO	394
Tobacco Kiln	163 Springwood Hill Road	Pomonal	HO	401
Tobacco Kiln	3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road	Pomonal	HO	401
'Adair' Residence	220 Cherry Tree Road	Pomonal	HO	408
Tunnel and Pumphouse Remains, Stawell Water Supply System	Tunnel Road	Pomonal	HO & VHI	415
Oak Trees	639 Tunnel Road	Pomonal	HO	419
Pura Pura Public Hall	Darlington-Carranballac Road	Pura Pura	HO	425
Pura Pura Railway Station, Pines and Sugar Gums	Nerrin Nerrin-Pura Pura Road	Pura Pura	HO	433
Stone Wine Cellar	857 Moyston-Great Western Road	Rhymney	HO	442
Brick Farmhouse and Canary Island Palm	Pentland Creek Road	Rhymney	HO	450
Stone Residence	149 Pentland Creek Road	Rhymney	HO	458
Brick Farmhouse and Hedge	69 Pentland Creek Road	Rhymney	HO	465
Rocky Point Hall and Pines	730 Moyston-Rocky Point Road	Rocky Point	HO	473
Former Inn and Pines	6869 Mortlake-Ararat Road	Rossbridge	HO	480
Streatham Memorial Hall	30 Campbell Street	Streatham	HO	486
Former Streatham State School No. 844 Teacher's Residence	31 Campbell Street	Streatham	HO	494
St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church	50 Campbell Street	Streatham	HO	501
'Bowmont' Farm Complex and Canary Island Palms	1331 Helendoite Road	Tatyoan	HO	509
'Yeronga' Residence, Garage and Trees	900 Helendoite Road	Tatyoan	HO	517
Avenue of Honour	Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	523
Tatyoan Railway Station Complex	Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	529
Water Tower	Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	537

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Tatyoan Hall	2712 Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	543
Water Tank	Travellers Rest Reserve on Fiery Creek, Mount William Road	Tatyoan	HO	549
Warrak Recreation Reserve	1245 Buangor-Ben Nevis Road	Warrak	HO	557
Warrak Hall and War Memorial	1673 Warrak Road	Warrak	HO	564
Warrak Uniting Church	1688 Warrak Road	Warrak	HO	571
Former Warrak State School No. 834 and Former Tatyoan State School No. 1812	1663 Warrak Road	Warrak	HO	577
Langi Ghiran Reservoir	Reservoir Track	Warrak	HO	271
Westmere Hall, War Memorial and Gates	914 Glenelg Highway	Westmere	HO	584
St Johns Anglican Church	916 Glenelg Highway	Westmere	HO	592
Westmere Railway Station Complex	Holdsworth Lane	Westmere	HO	599
Former Westmere State School No. 3833 and Teacher's Residence	18-28 School Road	Westmere	HO	608
Former St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Sunday School Hall, Fence and Pines	38 School Road	Westmere	HO	616
Cast Iron Milepost	Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road	Wickliffe	HO	623
'Berrambool' Farm Complex	1009 Wickliffe-Chatsworth Road	Wickliffe	HO & VHI	631
Residence	27 Frith Street	Wickliffe	HO	643
Bluestone Bridge Remains Over Hopkins River	Glenelg Highway	Wickliffe	HO	650
Western Hotel and Bluestone Stables	62 Walker Street	Wickliffe	HO	657
Residence	18 Walker Street	Wickliffe	HO	664
Former Store	34 Walker Street	Wickliffe	HO	671
St Patricks Catholic Church	24-26 Ayrey Street	Willaura	HO	678

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
'Wongalee' Residence, Pines and Canary Island Palm	334 Back Bolac Road	Willaura	HO	688
Edgarley Bridge over Hopkins River	Delacombe Way	Willaura	HO	698
Willaura District Hospital, Gates and Trees	21 Delacombe Way	Willaura	HO	707
Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion and Oak Tree	7 Delacombe Way	Willaura	HO	718
'Yooranalee' Farm Complex and Oaks	831 Edgarley Estate Road	Willaura	HO	728
Willaura Memorial Hall	Main Street	Willaura	HO	740
Willaura Post Office	84 Main Street	Willaura	HO	750
Former Bluestone Hotel	718 Maroona-Glenhompson Road	Willaura	HO	760
Willaura Uniting Church	6 Warranooke Street	Willaura	HO	768
Willaura Railway Station Complex	Wickliffe-Willaura Road	Willaura	HO	779
Former Yalla Y Poora State School No. 4756	1922 Yalla Y Poora Road	Yalla Y Poora	HO	791

2.2 Section 2 – Citations for places already on the Ararat Planning Scheme

The table below provides an index by township/district to Section 2.

HO no.	Place name	Address	Tship/dist	Section 2 page no.
HO136	Yarram Park	2994 Moyston-Dunkeld Road	Willaura	1
HO128	Willaura Railway Station Complex	Wickliffe-Willaura Road	Willaura	10

2.3 Section 3 – Citations for Heritage Precincts recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme

The table below provides an index to Section 3.

Precinct name	Precinct Address	Section 3 page no.
Willaura Anglican Church Heritage Precinct	14-20 Delacombe Way, Willaura	1
Willaura Main Street Residential Heritage Precinct	96-110 Main Street, Willaura	14
Willaura Town Centre Heritage Precinct	40-78 Main Street and 49-65 Main Street, Willaura	30



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Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Buangor Railway Station and Railway House		
Address	Railway Reserve Buangor Road BUANGOR 19 Buangor Road BUANGOR	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Station Building, Railway Residence/Quarters		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Mount Cole run incorporated what was to become the Buangor township and district. Taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell, it comprised 48,000 acres, and was subdivided into Eurambeen and Buangor runs in later years.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district, with the Buangor pre-emptive right becoming 'Buangor Park'.

A wayside inn, Mac's Hotel, also used as a stop by Cobb and Co coaches to transport travellers between the goldfields of Ballarat, Ararat and Pleasant Creek, was built ca. 1861 on the track that passed near Colin Campbell's home station at Buangor.[6] Mac's Hotel became the nucleus of the first Buangor settlement.[7] A police camp was reserved at Buangor in 1861.[8]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Buangor district.

Bluestone coach and livery stables, used for a coach station and the first district hall, were built opposite Mac's Hotel in 1863-64.[10] A post office opened in 1863. Buangor township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1865, and was described in that year as a postal village with a [district] population of about 200 and a hotel called Mac's and a Royal Mail coach office.[11] Horse races were held from the 1860s.

Further selection of farms was undertaken in the Buangor district under the 1869 *Land Act*. A hall opened in 1870 and Buangor Rural School No. 122 opened in 1872. In 1871, the township had a population of 37.[12]

In 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat, but it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[13] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line, with a station at Buangor, subsequently opened in 1875. Two sawmills operated at Buangor making redgum sleepers for the construction of the Beaufort section of the railway line.[14] The opening of the line brought a significant period of development to Buangor. A Catholic church was built in 1875 and a new brick school, Buangor State School No. 2072, opened in 1878. By 1884, the township comprised a store, two hotels, blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, wheelwright, corn dealer, carrier, public hall, two churches, railway station with attached residence, state school and residence, and a police station.[15]

An Anglican church opened in 1888. At the beginning of 1900 the township of Buangor consisted of the Railway Hotel, a blacksmith, butcher, corn dealer, and five timber merchants. Macs Hotel, one of the earliest buildings in the township was burnt to the ground in 1900. Other known businesses in town around this time were a general store, boot repairs, post

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office, bakery and green grocer. The town also had a police station, three churches, primary school, railway station, weighbridge, sale yards, loading yards and goods sheds.[16] Black's Bridge opened in 1901. By 1901, the population of Buangor was 100.[17]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One, with wool reaching high prices in the 1920s.

With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[20]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until 1869 that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[21] The Pink Line was approved in 1871 with the passing of the *Railway Bill* in September of that year.

In December 1873, the tender of Vallins, Quayle and Blackie was accepted for £53,075 3s. 9d. for the fourteen miles of railway line from Buangor to Ararat.[22] The section from Buangor to Ararat opened on 7 April 1875.

Tenders were invited for the erection of a verandah and booking office at Buangor Station in August 1877.[23] In 1900, Buangor handled 3,242 passenger journeys; this had increased to 5,330 journeys in 1920. The Buangor Post Office was located at the railway station from 1895 to 1908.[24]

By 1910, the station complex consisted of a station building with verandah, signal bay, a passenger platform, waiting

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room, goods shed and platform, ganger's shed, and stockyards.[25]

In 1891, the Victoria Railways abolished all gates on railway lines, unless they were actually in a town. This left the department with hundreds of three-room gatehouses. Some of these were relocated and converted into Victoria Railways departmental residences. In some cases this involved adding an additional room or rooms. In other cases, two gatehouses were placed front to front, joined by a roof to form a passageway, resulting in a six-room house.[26]

At Buangor, by 1910 a separate dwelling had been provided for the stationmaster, with the assistant stationmaster accommodated in staff quarters at the railway station. The departmental residence (Number 1693) was made up of two former gatehouses joined together. In addition, two sheds, two tanks, an external washhouse, and a picket fence facing Buangor Road, were built on the site. In 1920-21, another former gatehouse was moved to land next to the stationmaster's house for use by the assistant stationmaster.[27]

The Buangor Railway Station and assistant stationmaster's residence were destroyed by fire in April 1925.

In 1926, a plan for a new station was produced. The plan was based on a current standard design, and was intended to be constructed of concrete blocks. The building included a general waiting room, booking hall, and a large station office including parcels office and signal box. A ladies waiting room with a toilet enclosure completed the building. Although approved in November 1927, the plan was abandoned and instead a surplus station from Pittong on the Skipton railway line was relocated to Buangor. It was of a simple design, with a ladies toilet area, ladies waiting room, general waiting room, small station office and separate signal box.[28]

The new railway station opened in 1928 and a new signal bay was provided on 21 August 1929.[29] At the same time, the assistant stationmaster's house was replaced by a Class 3 concrete block house (since demolished).[30]

Buangor Railway Station was important in providing transport for agricultural goods produced in the district. In 1930, the main agricultural industries were sheep raising (mainly for wool), cereal growing and orcharding, with 985 bales and 41 bags of wool; 3500 bags of oats; and dunnage poles for wheat stacks consigned at the station.[31]

In 1960, it was proposed that the stationmaster's dwelling be replaced by a prefabricated house (DR 1204) located at Elmhurst and built by Stawell Timber industries in the 1950s.[32] This did not eventuate however.

In 1980, the Buangor railway complex consisted of a ladies' waiting area, general waiting area, ticket lobby and office with an attached signal box. There was a goods shed opposite the station building with an outside loading platform, detached toilets, lamp room and the remains of a van goods shed.[33]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down.

The Buangor Railway Station was closed to passenger traffic on 5 October 1982,[34] with it being completely shut with the closure of the Ballarat-Ararat line following the opening of the standard gauge line via the Western Plains Line in 1995.[35]

Passenger services on the Ballarat-Ararat line resumed in 2004, however the Buangor Railway Station, comprising the 1928-29 station office and the signal box, remains closed. The stationmaster's house, in operation by 1910, is today used as a private residence.

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[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] *Ibid.*, 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.

[15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.

[16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.

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- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.
- [20] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.
- [21] Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide*, 4-5.
- [22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 153.
- [23] *The Argus*, 18 August 1877, in Miles Lewis and Terry Sawyer, *Australian Architectural Index* (Miles Lewis, 2013 [cited 10 September 2013]); available from <http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html>.
- [24] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 287-88.
- [25] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.
- [26] From research undertaken by Ibid.
- [27] From research undertaken by Ibid.
- [28] From research undertaken by Ibid.
- [29] *Weekly Notices*, 1 April 1925; information provided by Andrew Ward.
- [30] From research undertaken by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.
- [31] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 288.
- [32] From research undertaken by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.
- [33] Information supplied by Andrew Ward.
- [34] Information provided by Andrew Ward.
- [35] From research undertaken by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

Description

Physical Description

Evidence of the Buangor Railway Station consists of a weatherboard station building and associated platform on the Railway Reserve and a weatherboard Railway House located at 19 Buangor Road, Buangor.

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The Station building is a timber framed building with weatherboard wall cladding and a corrugated galvanised iron roof. The building consists of two gable roofed wings running perpendicular to each other. One wing runs parallel to the railway line and the other wing at one end runs perpendicular to the railway line and projects out onto the platform. The projecting wing has windows across the front and to the sides indicating that this was a signal bay. The only entry door is on the platform side of the wing running parallel to the line. This wing also has a timber framed double hung window on the platform side, end elevation and rear. The window to the end elevation has a timber ledge at window sill height indicating that it would have been the ticket window. There is a brick chimney on the rear elevation of the building, to the ticket office. The building appears to be substantially intact but is in poor condition.

The platform has a concrete retaining wall with a timber ledge to the platform.

The Railway House is a timber framed, weatherboard clad building. It is a distinctive design made up of a series of gable wings, which were formerly two gatehouses that were joined together to form the residence. There are two gable wings to the front running perpendicular to the street with a recessed entry in between. These two gable wings extend to the rear and are dissected by a single gable wing running parallel to the street and projecting out either side. This gives the building a cruciform shaped plan. There is a skillion roofed verandah across the two front gables and the two rear gables. There are two brick chimneys with corbelling located between the two front and rear gables. The gable ends contain a small triangular vent at the apex. The roof is clad in corrugated iron and the eaves are wide. There is an exaggerated bargeboard at the end of each gable end. These bargeboards appear to have originally had curved ends. The lacework brackets to the front verandah posts are not an original detail.

Physical Condition

The Buangor Railway Station building was in poor condition in November 2013.

The railway residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Buangor Railway Station and associated platform located on the Buangor Railway Reserve and Railway Station Residence located at 19 Buangor Road, Buangor. The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Buangor Railway Station and Railway Station Residence are of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Buangor Railway Station, platform and Railway Station Residence are of historical significance as evidence of the Ballarat to Ararat railway line, which opened in 1875 and provided important transport for the wheat and wool industry in the district. The original station building at Buangor burnt down in 1925 and a surplus station from Pittong on the Skipton railway line was relocated to Buangor and opened in 1928. The pre 1910 Railway Residence is of historical significance for its demonstration of the 1891 action by the Victorian Railways to abolish all gates on railway lines, unless they were actually in a town. This left the department with hundreds of three-room gatehouses. Some of these were relocated and converted into Victoria Railways departmental residences. The departmental residence (Number 1693) at Buangor was

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made up of two former gatehouses joined together and is a rare surviving example of this type of Railway Residence. (Criteria A & B)

The Buangor Railway Station building and platform is aesthetically significant as an evocative reminder of the once important rail network in the area and as an indicator that Buangor and surrounding district was once more populous and productive. The Railway Residence is of aesthetic significance as a substantially intact Victorian Railways residence constructed from surplus gatehouses. The unusual form of the building with its twin gable roofs is indicative of its construction of recycled buildings. (Criterion B)

Recommendations 2015

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





Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Buangor Public Hall	
Address	52 Challicum Road BUANGOR	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Mount Cole run incorporated what was to become the Buangor township and district. Taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell, it comprised 48,000 acres, and was subdivided into Eurambeen and Buangor runs in later years.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district, with the Buangor pre-emptive right becoming 'Buangor Park'.

A wayside inn, Mac's Hotel, also used as a stop by Cobb and Co coaches to transport travellers between the goldfields of Ballarat, Ararat and Pleasant Creek, was built ca. 1861 on the track that passed near Colin Campbell's home station at Buangor.[6] Mac's Hotel became the nucleus of the first Buangor settlement.[7] A police camp was reserved at Buangor in 1861.[8]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Buangor district.

Bluestone coach and livery stables, used for a coach station and the first district hall, were built opposite Mac's Hotel in 1863-64.[10] A post office opened in 1863. Buangor township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1865, and was described in that year as a postal village with a [district] population of about 200 and a hotel called Mac's and a Royal Mail coach office.[11] Horse races were held from the 1860s.

Further selection of farms was undertaken in the Buangor district under the 1869 *Land Act*. A hall opened in 1870 and Buangor Rural School No. 122 opened in 1872. In 1871, the township had a population of 37.[12]

In 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat, but it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[13] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line, with a station at Buangor, subsequently opened in 1875. Two sawmills operated at Buangor making redgum sleepers for the construction of the Beaufort section of the railway line.[14] The opening of the line brought a significant period of development to Buangor. A Catholic church was built in 1875 and a new brick school, Buangor State School No. 2072, opened in 1878. By 1884, the township comprised a store, two hotels, blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, wheelwright, corn dealer, carrier, public hall, two churches, railway station with attached residence, state school and residence, and a police station.[15]

An Anglican church opened in 1888. At the beginning of 1900 the township of Buangor consisted of the Railway Hotel, a blacksmith, butcher, corn dealer, and five timber merchants. Macs Hotel, one of the earliest buildings in the township was burnt to the ground in 1900. Other known businesses in town around this time were a general store, boot repairs, post office, bakery and green grocer. The town also had a police station, three churches, primary school, railway station,

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

weighbridge, sale yards, loading yards and goods sheds.[16] Black's Bridge opened in 1901. By 1901, the population of Buangor was 100.[17]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One, with wool reaching high prices in the 1920s.

With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:[20]

A hall, 40 feet by 15 feet, opened at Buangor in November 1870. As well as a venue for social gatherings, it served as a church, and for six years from 1872 to 1878, as a school with an enrolment of approximately 100 students.

By the early 1900s, the hall was inadequate for the Buangor community's needs. A new hall was designed by William Chaffer, architect of Ararat, in November 1903. The walls were made of wood and the roof of iron. The building comprised a hall 25 feet by 40 feet; a stage 18 feet by 30 feet; and two anterooms, one for use as a library. The plans noted that there were not enough funds to line the internal walls and ceiling.[21]

In May 1904, the Buangor Public Hall committee called for tenders for the new hall. A building contract was subsequently awarded to F. Doherty of Ballarat for a sum of £160. Fundraising activities were organised to raise the money required for the hall, which was completed by July 1904.

Repairs to the hall were required by 1915. The dance floor was replaced in 1925 and a porch, 12 feet by 15 feet, was added in 1932.

In 1952, a contract for £1,450 was granted to Roy Speechley to extend and renovate the hall building. Renovations were undertaken to the stage, kitchen and ladies room. In addition, a new supper room, 24 feet by 15 feet, was added to the southwest end of the building. A porch was also constructed on the north wall of the building at this time. The alterations and additions were completed by 1954. A new toilet block and dressing rooms were built in 1975.[22]

The hall was used by the Buangor community as a library and for a variety of events, including elections, farewells and welcomes to local servicemen and women, card games, dances, meetings, school activities and kitchen teas.

The Buangor Public Hall is currently privately owned and used as a residence.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions

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only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] *Ibid.*, 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.

[15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.

[16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

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[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.

[20] Most of this information has been referenced from Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 363-64.

[21] PROV, Public Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/313.

[22] PROV, Public Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/313.

Description

Physical Description

The Buangor Hall is a timber framed building with weatherboard wall cladding and a corrugated iron clad roof. The building consists of gable roofed wings in an L shaped plan. A gable wing at the north end runs east west and a longer gable wing to the rear of this on the south side runs north south. Windows to the wing running north south are timber framed and double hung and there is timber buttressing between these windows.

The wing running east west at the northern end of the building has central double doors to its front gable end and a skillion porch across the front. It also has a rectangular timber louvre vent in the gable end and a turned finial to the apex of the gable. This wing also has timber framed double hung windows. There are metal vents to the roof ridge of the wing running north south.

The later section of the hall appears to be an extension of the north south wing at the south end. Windows to the south end of this wing contain a later style of windows from ca.1950.

Physical Condition

The former hall was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Buangor Public Hall located at 52 Challicum Road, Buangor. The location and original form, materials and details of the 1904 hall and 1950s additions are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Buangor Public Hall is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Buangor Public Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the expanding farming community around Buangor in the early twentieth century and the stimulus that the opening of the Ballarat to Ararat railway line in 1875 provided to settlement in the area. This hall was constructed in 1904 and replaced an earlier hall, which had proven

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inadequate for the expanding community. The additions undertaken in the 1950s demonstrate the post World War Two economic boom. (Criterion A)

The former Buangor Public Hall is aesthetically significant as an example of an architect designed hall from the early twentieth century. Original features of note include the gable roofed form, weatherboard cladding, timber framed double hung windows and the timber buttressing. (Criterion D)

The Buangor Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since its construction in 1904. The hall was used by the Buangor community as a library and for a variety of events, including elections, farewells and welcomes to local servicemen and women, card games, dances, meetings, school activities and kitchen teas. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Yerabin Homestead and Canary Island Palms		
Address	388 Charleycombe Road BUANGOR	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Farm		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

Architectural Style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Arts and Crafts

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

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Further selection of farms was undertaken in the Buangor district under the 1869 *Land Act*. A hall opened in 1870 and Buangor Rural School No. 122 opened in 1872. In 1871, the township had a population of 37.[12]

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An Anglican church opened in 1888. At the beginning of 1900 the township of Buangor consisted of the Railway Hotel, a blacksmith, butcher, corn dealer, and five timber merchants. Macs Hotel, one of the earliest buildings in the township was

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

burnt to the ground in 1900. Other known businesses in town around this time were a general store, boot repairs, post office, bakery and green grocer. The town also had a police station, three churches, primary school, railway station, weighbridge, sale yards, loading yards and goods sheds.[16] Black's Bridge opened in 1901. By 1901, the population of Buangor was 100.[17]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One, with wool reaching high prices in the 1920s.

With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:

The land on which 'Yerabin' stands was taken up by William Pickford under the 1865 *Land Act* and was owned by him by 1874.

Siblings John, Mary Anne and William Pickford, and their spouses, had arrived in Victoria from South Barrow, Somerset, in 1853. The Pickfords were employed by C. P. Pynsent of Wonwondah near Horsham for twelve months. William and his wife Ann (nee Bowden) took up mining at Back Creek in 1855 and, by 1868, were farming at Beaufort. Between 1855 and 1873, they had six children; by the latter year the Pickford family were living at Buangor. William Pickford died in 1885 and was buried at the Buangor Cemetery.[20]

The Pickford family lived on the Buangor property, named 'Ashburton', in two residences: a six room weatherboard building with shingle roof; and a three room mud brick building with shingle roof,[21] until 1888 when Ann Pickford, and her sons William George and Silas Samuel Pickford purchased Buangor Park.

When Ann Pickford died in 1890, she willed 'Ashburton' to her son, Silas Samuel Pickford. Silas Pickford married Elizabeth Jane Pearson in 1894 and the couple lived at 'Ashburton', with their four children born in the ensuing years: Arthur, Mary, Alice and Henrietta. During this period, the Pickfords added a brick federation front to the original timber residence, behind which stood the original mud brick building, used as a dairy and woolshed. The Pickfords used the 'Ashburton' property to raise sheep and grow wool.[22]

Harry Hooke, his wife Olave, and two small sons, arrived in Buangor from Gisborne in 1919. The Hooke family lived across the road in a cottage for two years until they purchased 'Ashburton' in 1921, renaming the property 'Yerabin' after an Aboriginal name for the swallows that nested under the eaves of the verandah. Three daughters were born in the ensuing years.[23]

In 1926, Harry Hooke commenced a stud of Dorset-horn sheep, which he conducted for the next 50 years, and also

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

judged the breed at agricultural shows. Olave Hooke, nee Anderson, was an artist of the Heidelberg school and taught painting and drawing before she was married. Their daughter, Elizabeth, helped her father with the property after sons John and Brian joined the Air Force during World War Two.[24]

'Yerabin' remained in the Hooke family until 1986, when Peter van Dugtren purchased the house block. The adjacent land was still owned and farmed by the Hooke family in the mid 1990s.[25]

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] *Ibid.*, 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.

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- [15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.
- [16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.
- [20] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 397-400.
- [21] Ann Pickford's Probate, 14 July 1890. PROV VPRS 28/P2/288.
- [22] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 357-59.
- [23] Ibid.
- [24] Ibid.
- [25] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

Yerabin Homestead is a substantially Arts and Crafts style red brick residence that incorporates an earlier weatherboard residence at the rear. The brick section has a dominant and expansive roof form which is a series of hips with gable roofed bays extending out of the low lying hipped verandah. The verandah encircles the house and has square timber posts with tall triangular brackets either side forming tall V at the top of the posts. The square brick chimneys dot the roof scape and have a projecting brick capping and projecting brick motifs towards the top at the centre of each side. The gable ends have deep eaves, half timbering and latticed vents at the top. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The larger gable ends also have shingles below the latticed vent. The windows are timber framed and double hung with divided upper sashes.

There are two Canary Island palms at the front of the Homestead.

Physical Condition

The homestead was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

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Yerabin Homestead, located at 388 Charleycombe Road, Buangor. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the brick and weatherboard homestead and the two Canary Island Palms are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Yerabin Homestead, Buangor is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Yerabin Homestead is of historic significance as an important farming property in the Buangor district demonstrating the successful wool growing industry in the area. The property is important for its associations with the Pickford and Hooke families. The Pickford lived on the Buangor property, originally named 'Ashburton', in two residences: a six room weatherboard building with shingle roof; and a three room mud brick building with shingle roof, until 1888 when Ann Pickford, and her sons William George and Silas Samuel Pickford purchased Buangor Park. When Ann Pickford died in 1890, she willed 'Ashburton' to her son, Silas Samuel Pickford. Silas Pickford married Elizabeth Jane Pearson in 1894 and the couple lived at 'Ashburton', with their four children born in the ensuing years. During this period, the Pickfords added a brick federation front to the original timber residence, behind which stood the original mud brick building, used as a dairy and woolshed. The Pickfords used the 'Ashburton' property to raise sheep and grow wool. Harry Hooke, with his wife Olave purchased 'Ashburton' in 1921 and renamed the property 'Yerabin'. In 1926, Harry Hooke commenced a stud of Dorset-horn sheep, which he conducted for the next 50 years, and also judged the breed at agricultural shows. The Arts and Crafts addition to the front of the homestead evidences the success of the wool growing industry in the area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Criteria A & H)

Yerabin Homestead is of aesthetic significance as an excellent intact example of the Arts and Crafts style. Features of particular note include the expansive and dominant roof form with its square brick chimneys, decorated gable ends and deep verandahs with timber posts and triangular timber brackets. The Canary Island Palms are prominent features located at the top of the entrance driveway. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes two Canary Island palms

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Buangor Park Farm Complex	
Address	25 Dip Road BUANGOR	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI Yes PS Yes
Heritage Protection

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Mount Cole run incorporated what was to become the Buangor township and district. Taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell, it comprised 48,000 acres, and was subdivided into Eurambeen and Buangor runs in later years.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district, with the Buangor pre-emptive right becoming 'Buangor Park'.

A wayside inn, Mac's Hotel, also used as a stop by Cobb and Co coaches to transport travellers between the goldfields of Ballarat, Ararat and Pleasant Creek, was built ca. 1861 on the track that passed near Colin Campbell's home station at Buangor.[6] Mac's Hotel became the nucleus of the first Buangor settlement.[7] A police camp was reserved at Buangor in 1861.[8]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Buangor district.

Bluestone coach and livery stables, used for a coach station and the first district hall, were built opposite Mac's Hotel in 1863-64.[10] A post office opened in 1863. Buangor township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1865, and was described in that year as a postal village with a [district] population of about 200 and a hotel called Mac's and a Royal Mail coach office.[11] Horse races were held from the 1860s.

Further selection of farms was undertaken in the Buangor district under the 1869 *Land Act*. A hall opened in 1870 and Buangor Rural School No. 122 opened in 1872. In 1871, the township had a population of 37.[12]

In 1862 the Ararat council requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat, but it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[13] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line, with a station at Buangor, subsequently opened in 1875. Two sawmills operated at Buangor making redgum sleepers for the construction of the Beaufort section of the railway line.[14] The opening of the line brought a significant period of development to Buangor. A Catholic church was built in 1875 and a new brick school, Buangor State School No. 2072, opened in 1878. By 1884, the township comprised a store, two hotels, blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, wheelwright, corn dealer, carrier, public hall, two churches, railway station with attached residence, state school and residence, and a police station.[15]

An Anglican church opened in 1888. At the beginning of 1900 the township of Buangor consisted of the Railway Hotel, a blacksmith, butcher, corn dealer, and five timber merchants. Macs Hotel, one of the earliest buildings in the township was burnt to the ground in 1900. Other known businesses in town around this time were a general store, boot repairs, post

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office, bakery and green grocer. The town also had a police station, three churches, primary school, railway station, weighbridge, sale yards, loading yards and goods sheds.[16] Black's Bridge opened in 1901. By 1901, the population of Buangor was 100.[17]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One, with wool reaching high prices in the 1920s.

With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:

Squatters in the Port Phillip District (later Victoria) took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) to graze mainly sheep from 1837. In the same year, in an effort to control illegal pastoral expansion, Governor Richard Bourke introduced the *Crown Lands Occupation Act*, which disallowed depasturing of lands beyond the 'limits of location' (defined by the Nineteen Counties centered around Sydney) unless they were taken up under an annual lease or licence costing £10. In addition, the Act imposed penalties for the illegal occupation of land. Squatter licenses, however, were not granted until July 1838 when the first full-time Commissioner of Crown Lands was appointed.

Squatters, Scotsmen Alexander and Colin Campbell, claimed the Mount Cole run on Prakninjerin (Fiery) Creek in March 1840. The Mount Cole homestead was built on Fiery Creek, and by 1842, three outstations had been established on the run: one to the southwest of the homestead on Fiery Creek where the Shirley township was later surveyed; another to the north at the junction of Dairymaid and Middle creeks; and the third situated on Charleycombe (Challicum) Creek about one kilometre south of what was to become the Buangor home station. The brothers grazed cattle in the early years, and later took up sheep breeding and wool production.[20] Because of the major settlement of Scots in the Buangor district, Presbyterian church services were established at Mount Cole station in the 1840s. Rev. A. Adam lived with the Campbell family until a manse was built at Beaufort. Church of England services were also held at the station.[21]

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Phillip District into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of the promised fourteen-year leases, in the Colony of Victoria yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation.

Mount Cole run was subdivided in 1849 into Buangor run, 26,000 acres, taken over by Colin Campbell; and Eurambeen run, 22,000 acres, taken over by George and Francis Beggs. Colin Campbell subsequently purchased the pre-emptive right of 640 acres on the Buangor run in 1855. An 1855 plan of the pre-emptive right shows the Buangor station (including a homestead and outbuildings), extensive infrastructure for wool growing, including sheep yards, a men's hut,

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and wool shed, two dams and a waterhole on Charleycombe (Challicum) Creek.[22]

In 1851, Colin Campbell married Frances Elliot McWhirter, who had studied medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Campbells appointed David Clarke manager of the Buangor run, and spent most of their time in Melbourne. Colin Campbell was elected to the Legislative Council in 1854, and to the Legislative Assembly in 1859. The Campbells took up permanent residence on the Buangor run in the latter year.[23]

The Aboriginal Reserve system for the Port Phillip District was legislated in 1859, and the reserve and rationing system for Aboriginal people was established in June 1860. By 1863, seven reserves and 23 camping places and ration depots were in place. In the country areas of the Colony of Victoria, 39 Honorary Correspondents managed 23 depots on behalf of the Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines, including depot stations at Nareeb Nareeb station near Wickliffe, at Buangor and at Ararat. The scheme provided an overseer in these locations to assist the Aboriginal population with supplies and with any other problems that arose. The depot on the Buangor run, overseen by Colin Campbell, operated for two years between 1864 and 1866. The position was not filled again following Campbell's resignation. [24]

In 1877, Colin Campbell was ordained vicar of the Church of England in Ballan and left Buangor.[25] John Matheson, and then Henry Miller, took over the run in that year.[26]

The cemetery on the Buangor run records those who lived there during its occupation by the Campbell family. The private cemetery contains the burials of John Ellis, who died in 1860 aged 63 years; Catherine Gorrie, who died in 1864 aged 56 years; Esther Merritt, who died in 1861 aged 16 months; James Gorrie, who died in 1870 aged 65 years; and Lestock Theophilus Campbell, who died in 1862 aged two months. Other likely burials are: Margaret Elizabeth Campbell, who died in 1865 aged one day; Elizabeth (?) Campbell, stillborn in 1866; Jane Dunn, who died in 1867 aged 5 weeks; and David William Campbell, who died in 1868 aged 42 years.[27] An Aboriginal man was befriended by Colin Campbell on the Mount Cole run and worked on the station and tracked sheep when they were lost. Named Jacky, the man later returned to his clan and married, but after a fight at a public house he died at Buangor, next to the Mount Cole home station. He too is buried at Buangor Park in a small enclosure with other members of the Campbell family.[28]

Siblings John, Mary Anne and William Pickford, and their spouses arrived in Victoria from South Barrow, Somerset, in 1853. The Pickfords were employed by C. P. Pynsent of Wonwondah near Horsham for twelve months. William and his wife Ann (nee Bowden) took up mining at Back Creek in 1855 and, by 1868, were farming at Beaufort. Between 1855 and 1873, they had six children; by the latter year the Pickford family were living at Buangor. William Pickford died in 1885 and was buried at the Buangor Cemetery.[29]

Ann Pickford and her sons, William George Pickford and Silas Pickford, purchased the Buangor run in 1888 and renamed it Buangor Park. In 1890, the property comprised 77 acres with a ten-roomed dwelling house (part stone, part slab, and part weatherboard) with an iron roof. Outbuildings included: a detached kitchen; meat house; stone dairy with an iron roof; seven-stall stable made of slabs with a shingle roof; weatherboard barn; slab chaff house, and a 40 year old slab woolshed with a shingle and bark roof.[30]

Ann Pickford died on 7 April 1890. It is believed that William George Pickford inherited Buangor Pak on his mother's death in 1890. He married Eliza Jane King in 1893 and made plans to build a new residence at the property. An undated drawing for a red brick residence for W. G. Pickford designed by architects E. Stephenson and Son of Melbourne evidences the grandeur of the homestead that was to be built for William and Eliza Pickford. The residence comprised six bedrooms, a drawing room, dining room, office, bathroom, kitchen and pantry.[31] This is the residence that is in existence today.

John King Pickford, son of William George and Eliza Jane Pickford, inherited Buangor Park (717 acres with brick dwelling and outbuildings) in 1924 after both his parents died in that year. John Pickford operated the property in

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partnership with his brother, Robert William Pickford, to breed fine and superfine merino sheep. The Buangor Park brand was well recognised on the sale floor and held a number of records for wool sales.[32]

John Pickford was involved in many areas of public and community life, serving as a councillor with the Ararat Shire for 23 years from 1949, and as president of the shire in 1952, 1964 and 1968. John Pickford died on 25 December 1978 and is buried at the Buangor Cemetery.[33]

Today, Buangor Park continues to be used to breed merino sheep and to grow wool. It is believed that the structures on the property may include remains of an early shepherd's hut, part of the bluestone homestead constructed for Colin Campbell and his family in the 1850s and 1860s, cemetery headstones dating from the 1860s, the red brick residence built for the Pickford family from the 1890s, and outbuildings of varied dates. An archaeological survey in 1999 of Buangor Park listed eleven historical sites, including the remains of the original homestead, hut sites, a bridge abutment, dams, sheep yards, cemetery, woolshed, sheep dip and a possible dairy.[34]

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] Ibid., 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

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- [13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.
- [14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.
- [15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.
- [16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.
- [20] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 12-21.
- [21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 47.
- [22] Buangor Pre-emptive Right Plan, B/24, 1855.
- [23] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 21-30.
- [24] Long, A., and I. D. Clark, 'Victorian Honorary Correspondent Supply Depots: A Preliminary Historical and Archaeological Investigation. Report to Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.' 1999, cited in Annie Noble, Helen Kiddell, and Vincent Clark, "Western Highway Duplication: Burrumbeet To Stawell, City of Ballarat, Pyrenees Shire, Ararat Rural City and Northern Grampians Shire Council. Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Report for Vicroads." Vic Roads, October 2008, 15.
- [25] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 40.
- [26] Spreadborough and Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters*, 89.
- [27] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 428.
- [28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 35.
- [29] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 397-400.
- [30] Ann Pickford's Probate, 14 July 1890. PROV VPRS 28/P2/288.
- [31] W. G. Pickford, "Buangor Park Records, Ca. 1889-Ca. 1978." Manuscripts MS 12611 Box 344311: State Library of Victoria.
- [32] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 397-400.

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[33] Ibid.

[34] Long, A., and I. D. Clark, 'Victorian Honorary Correspondent Supply Depots: A Preliminary Historical and Archaeological Investigation. Report to Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.' 1999, cited in Noble, Kiddell, and Clark, "Western Highway Duplication: Burrumbeet To Stawell, City of Ballarat, Pyrenees Shire, Ararat Rural City and Northern Grampians Shire Council. Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Report for Vicroads." 15.

Description

Physical Description

Buangor Park comprises a red brick homestead constructed in the early 1890s as well as earlier buildings, including remnants of the original 1850s bluestone homestead, two timber huts, cemetery and shearing shed.

The red brick homestead is a late Victorian style residence with a series of hipped roofs. The main section of the building has an m-shaped hipped roof with a projecting hipped wing. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron, which has been painted red. There is a hip roofed bay window to the projecting wing and another hipped bay to the other side of the front elevation with the recessed front entry door in the centre. The front door has side panels with a window in the upper section and highlight windows. The bay windows contain a central wide double hung window and a narrow double hung window either side. The red brick chimneys are stepped with a wide projecting cornice at the top. There is a return verandah to the front and sides of the homestead with a hipped convex curved roof and iron posts with capitals. The verandah is on a bluestone base. There are render bands to the exterior at sill and mid wall level. There are also render bands around the tops and sides of the windows connecting in with the upper render wall bands. There is a render cornice below the eaves with evenly spaced paired brackets. To the rear of the residence is a long hipped wing built in the same style and with the same detailing as the front section. Therefore, if a later addition, it was an early addition. The front section of the homestead appears substantially intact but there have been alterations to openings at the rear of the dwelling, including replacement of original windows.

The remnants of what is believed to be the original 1850s homestead comprises a long rectangular building with a single gable roof that ends in a gable at one end and a hip at the other. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. Two thirds of the building is constructed of coursed bluestone rubble and the remaining third with the gable end has plastered brickwork with an exposed brick wall at the end. There is evidence of two windows either side of a central door on the bluestone section and remnants of a skillion roofed verandah. There is a central door to the brick section. Photographs from the State Library of Victoria John Collins collection suggest that there was a skillion roofed, weatherboard clad addition to the rear of the bluestone section and corrugated iron skillion additions to the brick section.

There are two huts side by side, which were possibly shearers' quarters. They are both timber framed and have gable roofs. One is clad in vertical timber with louvre windows and the other is clad in weatherboards with timber framed double hung windows with multi panes. There is a red brick chimney to one end of the horizontally clad building and a cream brick chimney at one end of the side wall to the vertically timber clad building.

The shearing shed is a timber framed, corrugated iron clad building with a gable wing at one end and a series of saw tooth roofs adjacent to this.

The cemetery contains at least two sandstone headstones.

Physical Condition

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The red brick homestead and corrugated iron shearing shed were in good condition in November 2013.

The two timber huts were in fair condition and the former bluestone and brick homestead was in poor condition and more like a ruin in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Buangor Park, located at 25 Dip Road, Buangor. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- . Red brick 1890s Homestead
- . Shearing Shed
- . Bluestone and brick 1850s Homestead
- . Weatherboard Hut
- . Vertical timber clad Hut
- . Cemetery

The location, original form, details and materials of the above features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Buangor Park is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Buangor Park is of historic significance as an early pastoral run, which was originally part of the Mount Cole run and contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. The property is important for its associations with the Campbell family who established the Buangor run and the Pickford family who took over the run in the 1880s and operated the property as a successful merino stud up until the 1970s. Squatters, Scotsmen Alexander and Colin Campbell, claimed the Mount Cole run in March 1840. When the Mount Cole run was subdivided in 1849 the Buangor run was taken over by Colin Campbell. Colin Campbell was elected to the Legislative Council in 1854, and to the Legislative Assembly in 1859. Ann Pickford and her sons, William George Pickford and Silas Pickford, purchased the Buangor run in 1888 and renamed it Buangor Park. It is believed that William George Pickford inherited Buangor Park on his mother's death in 1890. He married Eliza Jane King in 1893 and built a new residence at the property. William served as president of the Ararat Shire, and his son, John Pickford, was involved in many areas of public and community life, serving as a councillor with the Ararat Shire for 23 years from 1949, and as president of the shire in 1952, 1964 and 1968. The Homestead and collection of farm buildings demonstrates the constituents and operation of a farm complex from the 1840s to the 1950s period. The property is also of historical significance for its operation as an Aboriginal ration depot set up under the Aboriginal Reserve system, which was legislated in 1859. The depot on the Buangor run, overseen by Colin Campbell, operated for two years between 1864 and 1866. (Criteria A & H)

Buangor Park is of aesthetic significance as a collection of features demonstrating the two main periods of development of a pastoral run. There are remnants of the 1850s establishment of the run including the former bluestone homestead

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with additions and a cemetery with burials dating from the 1860s. The early homestead is a rare surviving example of a vernacular building dating from the 1850s. The red brick homestead, designed by architects E. Stephenson and Son of Melbourne, is of aesthetic significance as a substantially intact late Victorian villa demonstrating key features of the style and period. These features include the series of hipped roof forms, render banding to the walls, bay windows, timber framed double hung windows, cornice and brackets to the eaves and brick chimneys with wide projecting cornices. (Criteria B & D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes Shearing Shed, Bluestone and brick 1850s Homestead, Weatherboard Hut, Vertical timber clad hut, cemetery
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bluestone Ford Over Charleycombe Creek	
Address	Dip Road (over Charleycombe Creek) BUANGOR	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Other - Transport - Road	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Mount Cole run incorporated what was to become the Buangor township and district. Taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell, it comprised 48,000 acres, and was subdivided into Eurambeen and Buangor runs in later years.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district, with the Buangor pre-emptive right becoming 'Buangor Park'.

A wayside inn, Mac's Hotel, also used as a stop by Cobb and Co coaches to transport travellers between the goldfields of Ballarat, Ararat and Pleasant Creek, was built ca. 1861 on the track that passed near Colin Campbell's home station at Buangor.[6] Mac's Hotel became the nucleus of the first Buangor settlement.[7] A police camp was reserved at Buangor in 1861.[8]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Buangor district.

Bluestone coach and livery stables, used for a coach station and the first district hall, were built opposite Mac's Hotel in 1863-64.[10] A post office opened in 1863. Buangor township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1865, and was described in that year as a postal village with a [district] population of about 200 and a hotel called Mac's and a Royal Mail coach office.[11] Horse races were held from the 1860s.

Further selection of farms was undertaken in the Buangor district under the 1869 *Land Act*. A hall opened in 1870 and Buangor Rural School No. 122 opened in 1872. In 1871, the township had a population of 37.[12]

In 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat, but it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[13] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line, with a station at Buangor, subsequently opened in 1875. Two sawmills operated at Buangor making redgum sleepers for the construction of the Beaufort section of the railway line.[14] The opening of the line brought a significant period of development to Buangor. A Catholic church was built in 1875 and a new brick school, Buangor State School No. 2072, opened in 1878. By 1884, the township comprised a store, two hotels, blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, wheelwright, corn dealer, carrier, public hall, two churches, railway station with attached residence, state school and residence, and a police station.[15]

An Anglican church opened in 1888. At the beginning of 1900 the township of Buangor consisted of the Railway Hotel, a blacksmith, butcher, corn dealer, and five timber merchants. Macs Hotel, one of the earliest buildings in the township was burnt to the ground in 1900. Other known businesses in town around this time were a general store, boot repairs, post office, bakery and green grocer. The town also had a police station, three churches, primary school, railway station,

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weighbridge, sale yards, loading yards and goods sheds.[16] Black's Bridge opened in 1901. By 1901, the population of Buangor was 100.[17]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One, with wool reaching high prices in the 1920s.

With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:

Squatters in the Port Phillip District (later Victoria) took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) to graze mainly sheep from 1837. In the same year, in an effort to control illegal pastoral expansion, Governor Richard Bourke introduced the *Crown Lands Occupation Act*, which disallowed depasturing of lands beyond the 'limits of location' (defined by the Nineteen Counties centered around Sydney) unless they were taken up under an annual lease or licence costing £10. In addition, the Act imposed penalties for the illegal occupation of land. Squatter licenses, however, were not granted until July 1838 when the first full-time Commissioner of Crown Lands was appointed.

Squatters, Scotsmen Alexander and Colin Campbell, claimed the Mount Cole run on Prakninjerin (Fiery) Creek in March 1840. The Mount Cole homestead was built on Fiery Creek and three outstations were also established on the run: one to the southwest of the homestead on Fiery Creek where the Shirley township was later surveyed; another to the north at the junction of Dairymaid and Middle creeks; and the third situated on Charleycombe Creek about one kilometre south of what was to become the Buangor home station. The brothers grazed cattle in the early years, and later took up sheep breeding and wool production.[20]

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Philip District into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of the promised fourteen-year leases, in the Colony of Victoria yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation.

Mount Cole run was subdivided in 1849 into Buangor run, 26,000 acres, taken over by Colin Campbell; and Eurambeen run, 22,000 acres, taken over by George and Francis Beggs. Colin Campbell subsequently purchased the pre-emptive right of 640 acres on the Buangor run in 1855. In 1851, Colin Campbell married Frances Elliot McWhirter, who had studied medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Campbells appointed David Clarke manager of the Buangor run, and spent most of their time in Melbourne. Colin Campbell was elected to the Legislative Council in 1854, and to the Legislative Assembly in 1859. The Campbells took up permanent residence on the Buangor run in the latter year.[21] In 1877, Colin Campbell was ordained vicar of the Church of England in Ballan.[22] John Matheson, and then Henry Miller, took over

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the run in that year.[23]

Siblings John, Mary Anne and William Pickford, and their spouses arrived in Victoria from South Barrow, Somerset, in 1853. The Pickfords were employed by C. P. Pynsent of Wonwondah near Horsham for twelve months. William and his wife Ann (nee Bowden) took up mining at Back Creek in 1855 and, by 1868, were farming at Beaufort. Between 1855 and 1873, they had six children; by the latter year the Pickford family were living at Buangor. William Pickford died in 1885 and was buried at the Buangor Cemetery. Ann Pickford and her sons, William George Pickford and Silas Pickford, purchased the Buangor run in 1888 and renamed it Buangor Park. Ann Pickford died on 7 April 1890.

John King Pickford, son of William George and Eliza Jane Pickford, inherited Buangor Park (717 acres with brick dwelling and outbuildings) in 1924 after both his parents died in that year. John Pickford operated the property in partnership with his brother, Robert William Pickford, to breed fine and superfine merino sheep. The Buangor Park brand was well recognised on the sale floor and held a number of records for wool sales.[24]

A sheep wash, or dip, was established in a waterhole on Charleycombe Creek near one of the Mount Cole outstations by the Campbell brothers in the 1840s and was used to wash sheep before shearing.[25] By 1855, by which time Colin Campbell had taken over this section of the run and called it Buangor, extensive infrastructure for wool growing had been established near the site, including sheep yards, a men's hut, and wool shed.[26]

A track, today's Dip Road, ran on the west side of the sheep dip, crossing Charleycombe Creek, where a ford was established. The ford facilitated the crossing of the creek and enabled livestock to be driven to the sheep dip and to be moved to Ballarat via the Ballarat Road at Buangor. Known by 1891 as 'Pickford's Dip', the ford was described as 'perilous to traps'.[27]

It is not known when the ford was lined with bluestone pitches, but their installation is likely to date from the 1860s when the responsibility for roads in the area was handed over to the Ararat Road District, gazetted on 27 August 1861, and later the Ararat Shire, declared on 8 March 1864.

The dip in the waterhole on Charleycombe Creek was also used by other sheep farmers in the district and was a popular fishing place.[28] It is likely that the dip was used until the 1920s, when it became common practice in Australia to dip sheep into a solution containing arsenic and sulphur to kill lice, scab, blowflies and ticks.

The bluestone pitch ford remains in use today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] Ibid., 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.

[15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.

[16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.

[20] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 12-21.

[21] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 21-30.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 40.

[23] Spreadborough and Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters*, 89.

[24] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 397-400.

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[25] Ibid., 21.

[26] Ibid., 22.

[27] Buangor Pre-emptive Right Plan, B/24, 1855.

[28] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 21.

Description

Physical Description

The ford is located on Dip Road, which is a gravel road that crosses over Charleycombe Creek. The ford is defined by its lining in coursed bluestone pitchers. The ford is approximately five metres wide and 18 metres long, extending the same length either side of the creek.

A sheep wash was originally located in a pool on Charleycombe Creek to the east of the ford, but no evidence of this dip survives.

Physical Condition

The bluestone ford was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Bluestone Ford over Charleycombe Creek on Dip Road, Buangor. The location and original materials, form, extent, stone jointing method and appearance are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Bluestone Ford over Charleycombe Creek on Dip Road, Buangor is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Bluestone Ford over Charleycombe Creek at Buangor is historically significant as evidence of early sheep farming activity in the area related initially to the Mt Cole run and later, the Buangor run. A sheep wash, or dip, was established in a waterhole on Charleycombe Creek near one of the Mount Cole outstations by the Campbell brothers in the 1840s and was used to wash sheep before shearing. By 1855, by which time Colin Campbell had taken over this section of the run and called it Buangor, extensive infrastructure for wool growing had been established near the site. A track, today's Dip Road, ran on the west side of the sheep dip, crossing Charleycombe Creek, where the ford was established. The ford facilitated the crossing of the creek and enabled livestock to be driven to the sheep dip and to be moved to Ballarat via the Ballarat Road at Buangor. Known by 1891 as 'Pickford's Dip', the ford was described as 'perilous to traps'. It is not known when the ford was lined with bluestone pitchers, but their installation is likely to date from the 1860s when the responsibility for roads in the area was handed over to the Ararat Road District, which was gazetted in 1861, later the Ararat Shire, declared on 8 March 1864. The ford is therefore an early and rare surviving example of road infrastructure.

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(Criteria A & B)

The Bluestone Ford over Charleycombe Creek at Buangor is aesthetically significant for its illustration of early road construction methods. The formation of the ford, its extent and method of construction, including the scale of the bluestones, coursework and jointing method are important in demonstrating early road construction methods no longer practiced. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

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



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Buangor Store Complex	
Address	19 Main Street BUANGOR	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Shop,Residence,Post Office	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

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In 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat, but it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[13] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line, with a station at Buangor, subsequently opened in 1875. Two sawmills operated at Buangor making redgum sleepers for the construction of the Beaufort section of the railway line.[14] The opening of the line brought a significant period of development to Buangor. A Catholic church was built in 1875 and a new brick school, Buangor State School No. 2072, opened in 1878. By 1884, the township comprised a store, two hotels, blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, wheelwright, corn dealer, carrier, public hall, two churches, railway station with attached residence, state school and residence, and a police station.[15]

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With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:

The buildings at 19 Main Road Buangor comprise the former general store, post office and bank.

A post office was first established in Buangor on 25 May 1863, likely as part of Mac's Hotel and store. From 1895 to 1908, the post office was located at the Buangor Railway Station. In the latter year, the post office was moved to a residence at the rear of the Buangor (Railway) Hotel. The post office, and accompanying Savings Bank, was transferred ca.1920 to a building attached to the south of Wotherspoon's general store.[20]

The general store was opened in March 1903 as a branch of the Beaufort firm of J. R. Wotherspoon and Co., and served as 'drapers, grocers and general providers'. Emily Hornsby was postmistress and telephonist at the post office (and, for a period of time, manager of the general store) in the 1920s and 1930s, and lived in the residence behind the post office during this period.[21]

The weatherboard building on the same allotment to the north of the former general store and post office was owned by Henry Heywood, the local blacksmith, who may have conducted his smithing business from a building situated behind the former store and post office. This building is now used as a shed, with the original timber shingles still in evidence under the iron roof. When J. R. Wotherspoon purchased the land ca.1903, he used the blacksmith's residence as part of the store from which to sell drapery.[22]

The Buangor General Store and Post Office closed in 1994. The buildings are privately owned and are used as a residence and sheds.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment,

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1990).

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] Ibid., 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.

[15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.

[16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[20] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 282-23.

[21] Ibid.

[22] Cossens, Don, property owner. Personal Communication, 2 June 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The Buangor Store Complex consists of a store, attached post office and residence, and the former blacksmiths residence.

The store with the attached post office and residence was used as a general store, post office and bank. There are three wings to the building. A central gable roofed wing, which runs perpendicular to the street contains the shop. It has a shop window with a divided highlight window and a single timber, half glazed door. There is a skillion roofed verandah over the footpath with square timber posts. On the north side of the shop is a skillion roofed storage wing which is clad in vertical orientated corrugated iron sheets. There is a single vertical timber lined door to the front elevation. This storage wing, like the shop, is built up to the street line. On the south side of the shop is the post office and residence, which is set back from the street line and has a skillion roofed verandah (with a convex curve) to the front. The verandah has square timber posts and a shallow timber fretwork frieze. It has a front gable roofed wing (the post office) running parallel with the street and another gable roofed wing (the residence) on the same alignment directly behind this. The front elevation of the post office retains its original central front door and timber framed double hung window either side. The shop, residence and post office are weatherboard clad and all roofs are corrugated galvanised iron that has been painted red.

The former blacksmiths residence is located to the north of the store complex and is further set back from the street. It has a gable roof to the front running parallel with the street and a skillion wing to the rear. It is a timber framed and weatherboard clad building. There are two brick chimneys one to the south end of the gable wing and another on the south end of the skillion wing. The front elevation contains its original four-panel timber door and multi pane timber framed double hung windows either side. There is no verandah to the front but the concrete floor to the front suggests the building originally had a front verandah. The roof is clad in corrugated iron sheets which have also been painted red. There is a hairpin wire fence to the front of the former residence. This is unlikely to be original but appears to be an early fence.

The former store and attached post office and residence were in good condition in November 2013.

The former blacksmith's cottage was in poor condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Buangor Store Complex located at 19 Main Road, Buangor. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the former store and attached residence and the former blacksmiths residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Buangor Store Complex located at 19 Main Road, Buangor is of local historic, aesthetic and social

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significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Buangor Store Complex is historically significant for its long association with commercial activities in Buangor. The general store was opened in March 1903 as a branch of the Beaufort firm of J. R. Wotherspoon and Co., and served as 'drapers, grocers and general providers'. The post office, and accompanying Savings Bank, was transferred ca.1920 to a building attached to the south of Wotherspoon's general store. The weatherboard building on the same allotment to the north of the former general store and post office was owned by Henry Heywood, the local blacksmith, who may have conducted his smithing business from a building situated behind the former store and post office. When J. R. Wotherspoon purchased the land ca.1903, he used the blacksmith's residence as part of the store from which to sell drapery. The commercial complex, which closed in 1994, demonstrates the once busy township of Buangor. (Criteria A & B)

The former store is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of an early 20th century rural store with an attached post office and residence. The store retains its original simple gable roofed form, skillion roofed verandah over the footpath, skillion storage room to the side, large timber framed shop front window and half glazed entry door. The post office and residence building retains its symmetrical front face with original timber framed door and windows and front verandah with timber frieze. The blacksmith's residence, although it has lost its original front verandah, demonstrates its early date of construction in its simplicity and retention of the original form, brick chimneys, weatherboard cladding, front door and multi paned double hung windows to the front. (Criterion D)

The former Store Complex is socially significant as the centre of commercial activities in Buangor through its use over time as a general store, post office and bank. It was also a social gathering place for locals and other residents of the district from ca.1903 up to 1994. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Challicum South Farm Complex and Cypress Tree Avenue	
Address	199 Webbs Road BUANGOR	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No **HI** No **PS** No
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Challicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogan was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogan, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogan in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogan area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogan settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier

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settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poorra, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poorra Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poorra settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:

In 1928, Challicum East estate, originally part of the Challicum run, the property of Misses M. and D. Ryan, was purchased by Messrs Ritchie and Bastin of Hamilton.[24] Ritchie and Bastin divided the property with Bastin naming his portion 'Challicum South' and using the land to grow wool. A plumber by trade, Hector Ernest Bastin had joined the army on 17 August 1914 as a sergeant. Promoted to major, Bastin was stationed in Krithia, Turkey, during World War One and was in the Australian Army Reserve from 1924.

It is thought that Hector built the first part of the residence at Challicum South after he married Laurice Lawrence in 1930. In 1932, during the economic depression of the 1930s, Hector applied for financial support under the *Unemployed Occupiers and Farmers Relief Act* to keep the farm, 3,800 acres, in operation.[25]

Hector Bastin was a founding member and president of Ararat Legacy, a member of the Ararat Agricultural Show Council and Agricultural Society and was president of the Ararat branch of the Grazier's Association. He was also active in the Church of England affairs.[26]

During World War Two Bastin became a Lieutenant Colonel, serving in Egypt, Gallipoli, and France. He was awarded the MC and was then commissioned into the Indian Army. In India he had commanded the Viceroy's bodyguard of the Bengal Lancers and served as a staff officer.[27]

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Laurice Bastin died in 1951, and Hector married Sybil Milliar in 1952.

Over the period of his residence at 'Challicum South' from 1928 until his death in 1959, after which the property was purchased by Franz Morgan, Bastin made a number of extensions to the original residence. The homestead was constructed in a U shape surrounding an outdoor courtyard. The west wing was constructed in the 1930s, the north wing in the 1940s, and the east wing in the 1950s.[28] Bastin also built an extensive collection of outbuildings, including a generator room, greenhouse, glasshouse, fuel store, general store, single man's cottage, manager's residence, shearing and wool shed, pump shed and stables.

The property remains in the ownership of the Morgan family.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

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[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[21] *Ibid.*, 31.

[22] *Ibid.*, 88.

[23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[24] *The Argus*, 1 May 1928, 6.

[25] *The Argus*, 4 August 1932, 1.

[26] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here : A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 323.

[27] Cameron Hazelhurst, *Ten Journeys to Cameron's Farm: An Australian Tragedy* (Canberra: ANU E Press The Australian National University, 2013).

[28] Personal communication with property owner, 2 December 2013.

Description

Physical Description

The Farm Complex comprises a Homestead, Manager's Residence, Potting Shed, Single Man's Residence, Greenhouse, Shearing Shed, Stables, Fuel Store and Machinery Shed.

The Homestead, which is built of a combination of cream brick and stone has been constructed over three main stages between the 1930s and the 1950s. The floor plan is a U shape, which surrounds a rear courtyard. The west wing was constructed in the 1930s, the north (front) wing in the 1940s, and the east wing in the 1950s. The 1930s west wing and

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the 1940s north wing have hipped roofs and the 1950s wing has a gable roof. There is an entrance portico on the front of the residence constructed as part of the 1940s wing.

The Manager's Residence is substantially of timber construction but also has a cream brick wing on one side. The main timber framed section of the house has a central gable roof and a skillion side wing. The other side has the cream brick skillion wing. The walls are clad in horizontal weatherboards to window sill height and strapped cement sheet above this. There is a cream brick chimney projecting from the roof. The windows are wide, timber framed and double hung. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. At one end is a long room with a skillion roof. The walls are entirely clad in horizontal weatherboards.

The Single Man's Residence is a simple rectangular plan building with cream brick walls and a hipped roof. There is a wide skillion section to one side of the house and a single square chimney on the other side. The windows are timber framed.

The Machinery Shed is a timber framed building with a long skillion roof. The building is open along one long side and divided into bays by the evenly spaced supporting posts with timber strut bracing to the tops. The walls and roof are clad in corrugated galvanised iron.

The Shearing Shed is a timber framed, corrugated iron clad building. The main section has a central gable with a skillion wing either side. There are skylights to the central gable roof and timber framed openings to the side and end elevations. One side also contains a wide barn door. At the north end centrally placed on the gable end is a low pitched gable roofed wing, which is the same width as the central gable wing of the main section. There is also a tall gable roofed wing to the southwest corner of the building, projecting west. It has evenly spaced louvre windows on the side walls. The north wing and southwest wing appear to be later additions and are also clad in corrugated galvanised iron to the roof and walls.

The four-bay Stables is a timber framed building clad in corrugated iron with a rectangular floor plan and hipped roof.

The Fuel Store is a timber framed building with a rectangular floor plan and hipped roof. The roof has boxed timber eaves and the walls are clad in horizontal weatherboards. The building has a vertically clad timber barn door to the front elevation along with a six pane timber framed window. There are two elevated metal tanks on one side of the building.

The Potting Shed is a square planned building with a gable roof and cream brick walls. There are two timber framed double hung windows on the end elevation. The gable end is clad in cement sheet.

The Greenhouse is a cream brick building with a gable roof. The gable ends are clad in cement sheet. There is a central half glazed door at one end with rectangular windows around the upper section of the door. There are multi pane timber framed windows commencing mid way up the wall to the side and end elevations.

An avenue of cypress trees lines both sides of the entrance driveway leading up to the homestead.

Physical Condition

Homestead, Single Man's Residence - good condition November 2013

Manager's Residence, Fuel Store - poor condition November 2013

Stables, Potting Shed, Greenhouse and Shearing shed - fair condition November 2013

Statement of Significance

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What is significant?

Challicum South Farm Complex, located at 199 Webb Road, Ballyrogan. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- . Homestead
- . Manager's Residence
- . Potting Shed
- . Single Man's Residence
- . Greenhouse
- . Shearing Shed
- . Stables
- . Fuel Store
- . Machinery Shed
- . Cypress Avenue in entrance driveway

The location and original form, materials and details of above elements are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Challicum South Farm Complex, Ballyrogan is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Challicum South Farm Complex is of historic significance as an example of a wool growing farm established in the 1930s, which was originally part of the Challicum East Estate. The farmhouse and associated outbuildings are significant for their associations with Hector Ernest Bastin who established the property in 1928 and operated the farm through the economic depression and up until his death in 1959. Hector Bastin served in both world wars and was awarded the MC in World War Two. He was a founding member and president of Ararat Legacy, a member of the Ararat Agricultural Show Council and Agricultural Society, and was president of the Ararat branch of the Grazier's Association. The Homestead and collection of farm buildings demonstrates the constituents and operation of a farm complex from the 1930s to the 1950s period. (Criteria A & H)

Challicum South Farm Complex is of aesthetic significance as a substantially intact and cohesive example of a farm complex established in the 1930s. It demonstrates the key features and layout of a farm complex established in the 1930s and developed up to the 1950s. The collection of buildings is united by their modest form and detailing, use of materials, style and period of construction. Key features that unite the buildings are the use of cream brick and corrugated galvanised iron, timber framed openings, pitched roofs with wide eaves and simple detailing. The Homestead is of aesthetic significance for its clear representation of the stages of development and expansion at the farm from establishment in the 1930s to expansion periods in the 1940s and 1950s. Each of the contributory buildings is of aesthetic

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significance as a representative example of its building type, constructed ca.1940. The avenue of cypress trees lining the long entrance driveway contributes to the significance of the place and is an intact example of the common practice of lining the entrance to farm properties with trees. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Driveway Avenue of Cypress trees

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Manager's Residence, Single Man's Residence, Fuel Store, Potting Shed, Greenhouse and Shearing Shed

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Avenue of Honour	
Address	Western Highway BUANGOR	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Avenue of Honour	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Buangor is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 22 September on Fiery Creek, southwest of today's Buangor, and crossed Middle Creek on 23 September. Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn near Buangor.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Mount Cole run incorporated what was to become the Buangor township and district. Taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell, it comprised 48,000 acres, and was subdivided into Eurambeen and Buangor runs in later years.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district, with the Buangor pre-emptive right becoming 'Buangor Park'.

A wayside inn, Mac's Hotel, also used as a stop by Cobb and Co coaches to transport travellers between the goldfields of Ballarat, Ararat and Pleasant Creek, was built ca. 1861 on the track that passed near Colin Campbell's home station at Buangor.[6] Mac's Hotel became the nucleus of the first Buangor settlement.[7] A police camp was reserved at Buangor in 1861.[8]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Buangor district.

Bluestone coach and livery stables, used for a coach station and the first district hall, were built opposite Mac's Hotel in 1863-64.[10] A post office opened in 1863. Buangor township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1865, and was described in that year as a postal village with a [district] population of about 200 and a hotel called Mac's and a Royal Mail coach office.[11] Horse races were held from the 1860s.

Further selection of farms was undertaken in the Buangor district under the 1869 *Land Act*. A hall opened in 1870 and Buangor Rural School No. 122 opened in 1872. In 1871, the township had a population of 37.[12]

In 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat, but it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[13] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line, with a station at Buangor, subsequently opened in 1875. Two sawmills operated at Buangor making redgum sleepers for the construction of the Beaufort section of the railway line.[14] The opening of the line brought a significant period of development to Buangor. A Catholic church was built in 1875 and a new brick school, Buangor State School No. 2072, opened in 1878. By 1884, the township comprised a store, two hotels, blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, wheelwright, corn dealer, carrier, public hall, two churches, railway station with attached residence, state school and residence, and a police station.[15]

An Anglican church opened in 1888. At the beginning of 1900 the township of Buangor consisted of the Railway Hotel, a blacksmith, butcher, corn dealer, and five timber merchants. Macs Hotel, one of the earliest buildings in the township was burnt to the ground in 1900. Other known businesses in town around this time were a general store, boot repairs, post office, bakery and green grocer. The town also had a police station, three churches, primary school, railway station,

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weighbridge, sale yards, loading yards and goods sheds.[16] Black's Bridge opened in 1901. By 1901, the population of Buangor was 100.[17]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One, with wool reaching high prices in the 1920s.

With good seasons and the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, the introduction of 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), wool production increased in the Buangor district.[18]

Buangor Railway Station closed in 1981.

A recreation reserve with pavilion, tennis courts, football oval and cricket pitch, was established in 1986. The Buangor Hall was sold in 1992.[19]

The Challicum Hills Wind Farm was established by Pacific Hydro at Buangor in 2003 and operates 35 wind turbines.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. At the 2011 census, Buangor had a population of 248. Buangor primary school remains open, but the town no longer has a hotel or post office. Mount Cole Wineworks operates a cellar door from a former store and garage building.

Place history:

Like other war memorials across the Australian landscape, Avenues of Honour were planted to commemorate the sacrifice and service made by local volunteers during World War One. By 1918, the high casualty rate in Australia from World War One of 64.93%, the highest of all allied forces, meant that every Australian was related to or was closely associated with someone who had been killed. The planting of memorial trees by town residents acted as a personal focus of remembrance for a grieving community. From 1917 to 1921, Victorians planted at least 128 avenues, with trees mostly of European origin. Although avenues exist in other states of Australia, they were most popular in Victoria.[20] An Avenue of Honour, consisting of 50 trees, was planted in Buangor in 1918.

On 18 May 1918, the *Riponshire Advocate* reported that:

The avenue of honor to be planted in Buangor in recognition of the brave lads who enlisted from the district was commenced on Saturday, 4th inst., when Cr. W. G. Pickford (president of the movement) mustered a number of local residents and made a practical start by preparing the ground for the English elms and silver poplar trees that are to be planted. The avenue is to be planted along the main Ballarat road, commencing at a point east of Hanlon's Railway hotel, then extending west towards Ararat. About fifty trees are to be planted, each soldier leaving the district to have a tree planted in his honor.[21]

By July 1918, it was reported that:

This little community has sent no less than forty-five boys to fight for civilisation and justice, and in years to come an imposing avenue will keep their memory alive. The necessary holes have been sunk for fifty trees and very substantial tree guards, four feet square, have been made with six by four sawn posts, three by two rails, and forty pickets to each guard. Elms and silver poplars are to be planted, and this work is to be completed at once.[22]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Approximately thirty English elms, golden elms and silver poplars evidence the Avenue of Honour today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[7] Tim Allender and Des Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts* (Ararat, Vic.: T. Allender & D. Brennan, 1996), 40.

[8] *Ibid.*, 271.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 51.

[11] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 45.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 14.

[15] Allender and Brennan, *Coaches Called Here: A History of Buangor and Surrounding Districts*, 58-9.

[16] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[17] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 62.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 86.

[20] *Avenues of Honour Education and Celebration Program*. National Trust, 2014. Available <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic>. Accessed 22 April 2014. Janine Haddow, "Avenues of Honour: A Victorian Cultural Landscape," *Landscape Australia*, no. 3 (1988).

[21] 'Buangor Avenue of Honor.' *Riponshire Advocate*, 18 May 1918, 2.

[22] 'Buangor.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 4 July 1918, 3.

Description

Physical Description

The Buangor Avenue of Honour comprises approximately 30 English elms, golden elms and silver poplars extending along both sides of the Western Highway at the centre of the township.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Buangor Avenue of Honour consisting of approximately 30 English elms, golden elms and silver poplars on both sides of the Western Highway, at the centre of Buangor.

How is it significant?

The Buangor Avenue of Honour is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Buangor Avenue of Honour is of historical significance for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War One and the methods used to commemorate the event. Planted in 1918, the Avenue of Honour is a representative example of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War One commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual, regardless of rank, was equally recognised for their service. Approximately 50 trees were planted for each of the community members of Bunagor who served in the war. (Criterion A)

The Buangor Avenue of Honour is of aesthetic significance as a commemorative planting, which marks the centre of the township of Buangor. The Avenue is of aesthetic significance as a landmark indicating the existence of a once more populous township. (Criterion D)

The Buangor Avenue of Honour is of social significance for its relationship with the Bunagor community as a memorial

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to those from the town who served in World War One and as a commemorative focus for the community since 1918.
(Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 30 English elms, golden elms and silver poplars

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Road Bridge over Denicull Creek	
Address	Denicull Creek-Moyston Road CATHCART	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Road Bridge	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Designer / Architect	Monash, Sir John

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:[1]

In the first decade of the twentieth century large pastoral properties in the Ararat Shire were broken up for closer settlement, changing the landscape, as the *Ararat Advertiser* put it, 'from sheep walk to thriving agricultural settlement'. [1] With closer settlement came the need for new roads, and bridges to carry the roads over the Shire's flood-prone streams. The young Shire Engineer, Robert Speed, was aware of the advantages of reinforced concrete. He had experimented with new technology himself, building a bridge with a steel girder cased in concrete. [2] It is likely that Speed opened negotiations with the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co after the spring flood of 1909. In November he asked for a quote for two new bridges to replace timber bridges washed away by floodwaters. He told the Company that he was satisfied that a Monier structure was the best. The Company submitted designs for the two bridges, and for two others that were required, offering a package price of £1268. Although he did not need to sell the

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idea of reinforced concrete to Speed, Monash did need to convince the Ararat Shire Council that it was worth spending a bit more - 'only one fifth more than timber' - to have a 'permanent structure, proof against fire flood and decay'. Speed recommended Monash's designs to his council and the firm was contracted to build four reinforced concrete girder bridges.[3]

The Company gained the confidence of Council and established a good working relationship with Speed. Several more reinforced concrete bridges were commissioned by the council over the next few years, and by the mid 1930s the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co had built 18 bridges in the Shire of Ararat. They were all small bridges of no more than three spans, situated on country roads where they provided a vital transport link for farmers taking their produce to the railway. Of these eighteen, only four positively identified examples were known to be still standing in 1998. The four bridges, as a collection, are useful in demonstrating the development of bridge design over a few years from 1910 to 1913, particularly showing the change from having the middle part of the girder unreinforced to providing shear reinforcing in the full span of the girder.

Lesley Alves gratefully acknowledges the assistance of John McKenzie, former Ararat Shire Engineer, in researching these bridges.

1. *Ararat Advertiser*, 22 March 1910.
2. Speed showed Lynch a sketch of the bridge, Lynch to Monash, 22 January 1910, Company records Box 68 File 761.
3. Correspondence 18 November 1909 to 7 January 1910, Company records.

Place history:[2]

The Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co. was the only tenderer for the two bridges at Cathcart Road and Jackson's Creek. Tenders for both were accepted in December 1911, Cathcart Bridge being for £312. After work commenced, difficulties with the site necessitated alterations to the design, and the length of two wing walls was increased. The bridges were completed in March 1911. Because it was in poor repair and on a bad road alignment, Jackson's bridge was replaced in 1994, however Cathcart Bridge remains in use. [3]

[1] All historical information is directly cited from Lesley Alves, *T-Girder Bridges, Part 1 Bridges in the Shire of Ararat* (1998 [cited 5 October 2013]); available from <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~aholgate/jm/girdertexts/gdrtext1.html#ararat>.

[2] This information is directly cited from Ibid.

[3] Company records, Box 82, File 862. Information supplied by John McKenzie.

Description

Physical Description

This is a small reinforced concrete bridge built by John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Construction Co. The bridge has a single 6.1 metre clear span of 4 girders. It is 4.27 metres wide, and on a skew. The middle part of the girder is unreinforced against shear. The abutments are the column-and-wall type. One of the wing walls is very long at 10.4 metres. The original iron hand railing has been removed.

Physical Condition

The bridge was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Road Bridge over Denicull Creek on the Denicull Creek-Moysten Road, Cathcart. The location, form, and surviving original materials and details are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Road Bridge over Denicull Creek at Cathcart is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Road Bridge over Denicull Creek at Cathcart is historically significant as a rare surviving example of a road bridge constructed by the John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co. in the early twentieth century. Completed in 1911, it is one of only four remaining of 18 such bridges built in the Shire of Ararat, and is a reminder of the shire engineer's willingness to try new technology. (Criteria A & B)

The Road Bridge over Denicull Creek at Cathcart is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact, typical example of a small reinforced concrete bridges built in country Victoria by John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co. in the early twentieth century. The bridge demonstrates key attributes of the company's road bridge design of the time including the concrete girder construction with concrete column and wall abutments. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No
No
No
No
No
-
No

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Cathcart Cemetery	
Address	Phillips Flat Road CATHCART	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Cathcart-Rocky Point district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'. Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836.

As in other parts of Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) from 1837 in the area

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to graze mainly sheep.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

The Cathcart-Rocky Point district was incorporated in the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[4] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[5] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's.[6] Joel Tompkins' Lone Star and James Rapkins' tent on Three Flags Hill were the first stores on the Mount Ararat field,[7] where, in 1855, there were over 3,000 people living.[8]

In 1856, the Cathcart township was surveyed on the Mount Ararat goldfield on the Ararat-Wickliffe Road where it crossed Dennicull Creek. However part of the township survey was located on Burrumbeep run's pre-emptive right (640 acres - one square mile - purchased around the homestead site). As a consequence, the official township of Cathcart was never subdivided or proclaimed, and the actual settlement moved upstream on Dennicull Creek to where the watercourse crossed Phillips Flat Road. In May 1857, Cathcart miners rushed to a newly discovered alluvial lead at Canton Lead (Ararat), resulting in a marked decline in population in the district.[9] A post office was established at Cathcart in 1856 and a Church of England school operated from 1858.[10] In 1861, Cathcart's population numbered only 200[11] by which time it was also referred to as 'Old Ararat'. The district of Rocky Point was established when farmers purchased land on Lexington run from the Crown in 1855; one of these farmers was Cornishman George Coad who bought 400 acres in 1857.[12]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[13] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licences were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[14] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the district of Cathcart and Rocky Point.

By 1864 in the Ararat Mining District, twenty large deep lead gold claims had been taken up: four at Cathcart, six at Opossum Gully, five at Ararat, and five at Armstrong's diggings.[15] At the same time, a few hundred diggers were mining at Rocky Point.[16] In 1866, a cemetery site was reserved at Cathcart.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[17] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under

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annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[18] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[19] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Cathcart and Rocky Point districts.

In 1871, Cathcart township had a population of 228.[20] Cathcart Common School was established in 1871 and Cathcart State School No. 1119 opened in 1872.

During the revival of the early 1880s in the Ararat Division, one of the most significant deep lead goldmines was the Heather Bell Company at Burrumbeep.[21] By 1891, Cathcart's population was only 83.[22] Rocky Point State School No. 3417 opened in 1902.

By 1905, the Cathcart Proprietary (Denicull Creek) was the only mine working to any scale in the Ararat Division. By 1913, the Cathcart Gold Mines had mined 75,126 ounces of gold. In the same year, Cathcart Central and the New Langi Logan Company were in operation. Between 1909 and 1915, the Cathcart Company's mines included the Cathcart North, British Queen, Cathcart Victory, Cathcart Central, New Langi Logan, Langi Logan Extended, Langi Logan North, Langi Logan West, Great Langi Logan and Upper Langi Logan.[23]

A public recreation reserve at Rocky Point was gazetted in 1914. The Cathcart Hall and Rocky Point Hall were in use by the end of 1914. Rocky Point State School closed in 1927 and Cathcart State School closed in 1950.[24]

A new wave of development commenced in Cathcart during the 1970s when several new residences were built on small Crown allotments and a new generation of local families began farming. The tennis courts were rebuilt in 1981 and the old galvanised iron 'hall' was restored as a tennis pavilion. In 1989, a toilet block was constructed at the recreation area. A new picnic shelter was built and a plaque unveiled in 1985 to commemorate the pioneers of Cathcart.[25]

Today, grape growing and winemaking occur in the Cathcart district. The Cathcart Recreation Reserve functions at the community's centre.

Place history:

Burials in the early days of the gold diggings in the Colony of Victoria occurred anywhere and everywhere. Burial grounds took on the informal names of gold mining localities well before the landscape was officially mapped or named. Hastily dug shallow graves were excavated in ground which had little auriferous value and were often unmarked, or signified by a single sandstone or timber headstone hewn out of materials found on site; some were etched with a cross. Later, markers were more elaborate, and those that could afford to had a message carved to commemorate the deceased.

In the late 1850s, in a time when disease was thought to be spread by foul odours or 'miasmas', early goldfields cemeteries near settlements were closed, and formal (gazetted) cemeteries were established away from populations. One such place was the three-acre site gazetted for a cemetery at Cathcart (Burrumbeep) on 30 August 1866.

Little is known about the Cathcart Cemetery. The earliest existing burials date from the 1880s, however some graves are unmarked and are likely to predate this era. The cemetery contains graves of families who have had a long association with the Cathcart community, including early white settler families such as the Borbridges, the McDonalds, and the Reids.

An important memorial in the Cathcart Cemetery commemorates Sergeant John McNally, who was the first member of

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Victoria Police to be murdered in the line of duty when he was killed at the Mount Ararat goldfields on 16 October, 1856. Whilst trying to arrest a suspect over a string of armed robberies an associate of the suspect intervened and fired his shotgun, killing Sergeant McNally and seriously injuring his partner, Constable John Moore. The two offenders then made their escape. Seven days later, the pair were arrested near Amherst and charged with the murder of McNally. One of the offenders was hanged in 1857 and the other received a sentence of fifteen years hard labour. A plaque, erected by the Victoria Police Department in 1974, marks the approximate location of McNally's grave site.[26] This burial suggests that bodies were interred prior to official gazettal of cemetery site in 1866.

Cathcart Cemetery continues to be used today.[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[4] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[5] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[6] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 72.

[8] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 15.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 78.

[10] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 88.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 15.

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 103.

[13] Ibid., 104.

[14] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [15] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.
- [16] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 17.
- [17] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 253.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.
- [19] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [20] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 88.
- [21] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.
- [22] *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 88.
- [23] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage."
- [24] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 124.
- [25] Ibid., 87.
- [26] 'Sergeant John McNally', Monument Australia, 2010-14. Available <http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/people/crime/display/30743-sergeant-john-mcnally>. Accessed 25 July 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The Cathcart cemetery has a square plan and contains marked grave sites in clusters laid out in a grid like plan with unmade paths between the rows. The central section of the cemetery is clear of trees but there is a cluster of trees in the south west corner and specimen plantings on either side of the entry on the east side. The cemetery contains some early marked graves with sandstone headstones as well as more recent graves with polished marble headstones. Some of the early graves also include cast iron fence surrounds. The earliest headstones date from the 1880 however there are likely to be earlier unmarked burials. A feature of the cemetery is a memorial erected to commemorate Sergeant John McNally, who was the first member of Victoria Police to be murdered in the line of duty when he was killed at the Mount Ararat goldfields on 16 October, 1856. A plaque, erected by the Victoria Police Department in 1974, marks the approximate location of McNally's grave site.

Entry to the cemetery is on the east side. The entry comprises timber picket double gates for vehicular entry and an adjacent single timber picket gate for pedestrian entry.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Physical Condition

The cemetery is in good condition and well maintained as it is still in use.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Cathcart Cemetery located on Phillips Flat Road, Cathcart.

The location and original form, materials and details of the entry gates, specimen plantings on the eastern boundary and grave sites within the fenced boundary are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Cathcart Cemetery located on Phillips Flat Road, Cathcart is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Cathcart Cemetery is historically significant for its association with the early settlement and development of the Cathcart district. The cemetery was gazetted in 1866 however there are earlier burials on the site including that of Sergeant John McNally, who was the first member of Victoria Police to be murdered in the line of duty when he was killed at the Mount Ararat goldfields on 16 October, 1856. The cemetery is of historical significance for its association with the early history of the Victorian Police force. The cemetery is a rare reminder of the gold history of the area. The cemetery is of historical significance as one of the only features indicating that the settlement of Cathcart once existed in this area. (Criteria A, B & H)

Cathcart Cemetery is aesthetically significant as a representative example of a rural cemetery established in the mid-1800s on the gold fields. It provides examples of late Victorian headstones and cast iron cemetery surrounds. The timber picket entry gates and specimen plantings either side of the entry contribute to the aesthetic significance of the place. (Criterion E)

Cathcart Cemetery is of social significance as an important commemorative site valued by the Cathcart district community. The erection of a memorial to Sergeant John McNally demonstrates the importance of his murder, in the line of duty, to the Victoria Police. (Criterion G)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes specimen trees on the eastern boundary

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Yes, entry timber picket gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Callemondah Farm Complex and Cypress Trees		
Address	327 Tatyoon North Road DOBIE	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Farm		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogon and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogan was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogan, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogan in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogan area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogan settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support

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The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poorra settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:

The land on which the 'Callemondah' farm complex is built, Allotment 6, Section 14 of the Parish of Gorrinn, was first owned freehold by William and J. King, who took up the land, 117 acres, under the 1865 *Land Act*.

The King family settled in the Tatyoon district in the 1870s, with mention made of their farm being harvested with a reaper and binder in 1877.[24] The family came to own a number of allotments in the Parishes of Ballyrogan, Gorrinn, Helendoite and Colvinsby.

Robert King, and his wife Elizabeth, and two sons, Robert and Richard, lived at 'Callemondah', Jacksons Creek, Dobie, where Robert senior established a merino sheep stud ca.1908. Robert purchased a number of rams and ewes from Carngham, Victoria. Only Carngham rams were used until 1920 when a Tasmanian ram was obtained.[25] The stud was taken over in 1934 by Richard Wilson King, Robert's son, who moved the stud to his 'Bowmont' property. The King family continue to operate the sheep and cattle stud from 'Bowmont' today.

The growing of fine merino wool at 'Callemondah' was continued by Robert King junior after his father's death in 1934. The wool had particular success in championships in the interwar and post World War Two years. In 1950, Callemondah wool made 351d. per pound - 1d. short of the world record. An Australian record price of 212d. per pound was paid for a bale of Callemondah Merino fleece wool at Geelong sales in 1956.[26]

It is believed that 'Callemondah' was sold by the King family in the 1980s.

'Callemondah', 936-acres, was sold again in 2012. The homestead and associated outbuildings evidence the long farming

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connection the King family has had with the Dobie district.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

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- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.
- [19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.
- [21] Ibid., 31.
- [22] Ibid., 88.
- [23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [24] Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 80.
- [25] 'Stud Details', The Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders Ltd, Drysdale, 2014. Available <http://www.merinos.com.au/flockReg/details.asp?flockID=MV2032>. Accessed 7 May 2014. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 132.
- [26] 'New Wool Price Record, 290d. At Geelong.' *The Advertiser*, 17 November 1950, 3; and 'RECORD WOOL PRICE AT GEELONG.' *The Canberra Times*, 14 November 1956, 3.

Description

Physical Description

The farm complex consists of a red brick farmhouse and associated sheds to the south of the house. Two of these sheds are associated with the pre 1930s operation of the property and contribute to the early history of the site. There is a wire mesh fence with concrete posts to the front of the property, which could be an Inter-War feature, and cypress trees to the front, behind the fence line. The farmhouse is set back from the road with a circular driveway directly in front of the residence.

The red brick farmhouse appears to combine two main architectural styles, most likely indicating two main phases of construction. It is an expansive residence with a main gable roof running perpendicular to the road. To the rear there is a gable wing extending out to the south, which runs parallel to the road. This gable wing appears to have been extended as a later change and has brick and concrete pillars supporting the gable verandah on this side. The porch to this wing forms the main entry to the residence and appears to date from the Inter-War period. This may indicate that changes were made to the house around 1934 when Robert King junior took over the property.

The house has an unusual roof form at the front (facing the road) with the main gable roof extending on both sides to form a verandah and gables projecting out over the front verandah with the outside skillion of each gable extending to form the side verandah. The cast iron columns and iron lacework to the surrounding verandah appear to be reproduction Victorian features and not an early feature of the building. The gable ends to the front elevation have horizontal timber boarding and a rendered rough stucco finish below this. The main gable end also contains a central large rectangular vent

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with projecting exaggerated timber louvres. This feature is indicative of the Arts and Crafts style. The chimneys to the residence are also distinctive with a rendered rough stucco band to the base and a wide, tapered cornice to the top. These are more likely to be an Edwardian feature.

There are tripartite windows to the front elevation, which are a Victorian or Edwardian style feature and could indicate a ca.1900 construction date for the original house. There is a single double hung window to the centre of the front elevation and the brickwork around this window indicates that this centre window is a later change. It is likely that the front door was originally located on this elevation. The entry to the residence is now via a gable wing to the rear and south side of the house. The features of the house appear to indicate that the original dwelling was constructed ca.1900 and changes were made to the building in the Inter-War period including substantial changes to the roof configuration and main entrance.

One of the early sheds has a similar roof form to the unusual gables at the front of the farmhouse, that is - a gable roof with an extended skillion on one side only. The gable roof of the shed runs parallel with the road and there are timber finials at the apex at either end. This shed is clad in corrugated galvanised iron.

The other early shed is the shearing shed, located further south of the house and close to the road frontage. It also has a gable roof that runs parallel to the road and a skillion side wing. There is a narrower gable wing to the rear of the building also. The building is substantially clad in corrugated galvanised iron (vertically laid), but the skillion section is partially constructed of red brick. The roof is also clad in corrugated galvanised iron and contains roof lights. The front end elevation of the main wing contains large timber double doors.

Physical Condition

The farmhouse and corrugated iron clad out building were in good condition in November 2013.

The shearing shed was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Callemondah Farm Complex, located at 327 Tatyoon North Road, Dobie. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the red brick farmhouse, corrugated iron clad shed, brick and corrugated iron clad shearing shed, front fence and cypress trees are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Callemondah Farm Complex, Dobie is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Callemondah Farm Complex is of historic significance as an early 20th century farm complex associated with the early settlement and the wool industry in the Dobie district. Originally built for Robert King prior to 1908, and taken over by Robert King junior in 1934, the property gained significant success in its production of merino wool in the Inter War and post World War Two periods. The farmhouse and associated outbuildings evidence the long farming connection the King family has had with the district. (Criteria A & H)

Callemondah Farm Complex is of aesthetic significance for the unusually configured farmhouse, which expresses a

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combination of architectural styles. The core of the residence demonstrates the Edwardian style with its brick and stucco chimneys with wide cornicing and timber framed tripartite double hung windows, while changes made in the Inter War period are demonstrated by the unusual gable roof forms to the front and the side porch entry to the rear. The corrugated iron clad outbuilding and brick and corrugated iron shearing shed are of aesthetic significance as intact examples of their building types dating from the early 20th century. The front fence dating from the Inter-War period and the cypress trees to the house frontage contribute to the significant setting around the residence. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Cypress trees to house frontage

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front fence and two outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

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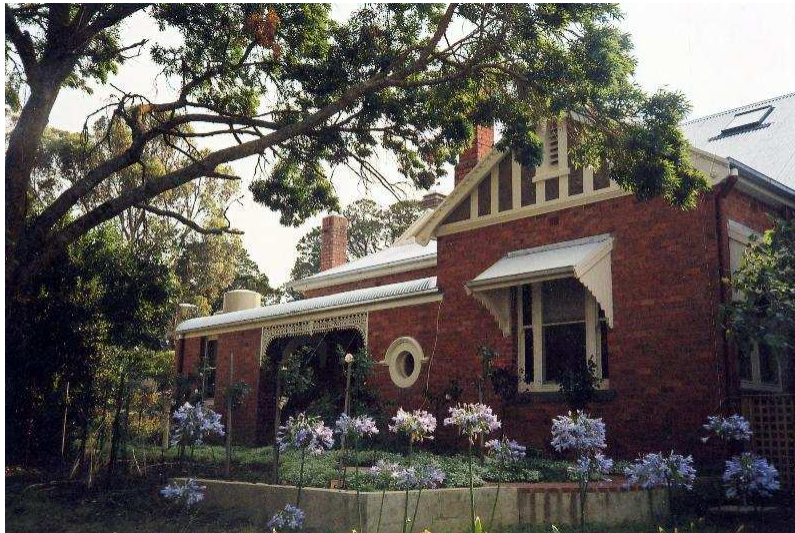




Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Kooringa Farm Complex	
Address	342 Tatyoon North Road DOBIE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	
Designer / Architect	Irwin, Jas.

History and Historical Context

Contextual history

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan, Dobie and Yalla-y-Poora districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

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The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Challicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, a series of legislated Land Acts aimed to free up land from the hold of the squatters. The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. Allotments were subsequently taken up in the district of Ballyrogan and Dobie. Because the majority of selectors were dummies, the 1862 Act practically completed the alienation of the public land of the western plains by squatters.[9]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[10] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[11].

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The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan, Dobie and Yalla-y-Poorra districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[25]

Place history:[26]

Crown Allotment 1 Section 14 of the Parish of Gorrinn, 61 acres, was taken up by William Lewis under the 1862 *Land Act*. [27] William and his son Thomas, and Thomas's wife Esther, had earlier migrated from County Caven in Ireland. William built a bluestone dwelling on the block and lived there for a time. The bluestone from this dwelling was later used for the foundation of the tennis court at 'Kooringa' in the 1920s.

Allotments 103A and 103B of the Parish of Colvinsby, 80 acres, were taken up by Thomas Lewis under the 1862 *Land Act*. Thomas built a dwelling and lived there with his wife Esther and three children, William, Esther and Sarah. A mud and stone wall and part of the chimney of this dwelling still stand on the block today.

Over the years, the Lewis family came to acquire Crown Allotment 2 of Section 14, containing an area of approximately 141 acres, and Crown Allotments 4, 5 and 6 of Section 13, containing an area of approximately 345 acres.

The property was used for the wool growing. The earliest record of wool sold from the property is a receipt from O'Brien Bros, Barkly Street, Ararat, dated 23 October 1886 when Thomas Lewis sold four bales of fleece wool, two bales of

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lamb's wool, and one bale of locks for a total price of £94 1s. 5d.

At some stage the family constructed a timber cottage called 'Roseville' on 60 acres of the eastern portion of Allotment 5, Section 14, Parish of Gorrinn. Thomas and his family moved there from Colvinsby and continued to live there until Thomas built 'Kooringa' ca.1900 and established an extensive garden on the same block, about 20 metres to the east of 'Roseville' cottage. It is believed the residence, with brick front rooms, a weatherboard skillion rear section, and detached kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and outside toilet was designed by an architect as evidenced by existing drawings signed 'GCP'. A sheep shed was built at the same time.[28]

In 1905 when Thomas's son, William, married Maria Hinchliffe of 'Cornhill', Langi Logan, they made their home in 'Roseville' cottage along side 'Kooringa'. They lived there with their five children, Bertha, Thomas, Archibald, Dorothy and Mary, until they moved into 'Kooringa' around 1916, after Thomas died. William and Maria continued to live in 'Kooringa' until 1937 when they retired to Ararat. During this period, a brick extension to the rear of the house, incorporating a kitchen, bathroom and laundry, was constructed and finished by ca. 1922. The substantial addition was designed by James Irwin, architect of Ararat, and built by W. B. Radley. Garages were constructed ca. 1920.[29]

Kooringa superfine wool stud was founded in 1935 by Thomas Lewis, Wiliam's son, after the purchase of Yalla Y Poora and Langi Kal Kal cast-for-age stud ewes and Merryville stud rams. Merryville stud rams were regularly bought thereafter. He also established a superfine poll stud. Thomas was a successful exhibitor at Victorian sheep shows for over 60 years. The sheep stud had particular success in championships in the interwar years.[30] A sheep show shed was built in 1946 by Eric Leeke to house the sheep shown by Tom Lewis.[31]

Thomas Lewis married Jean Louttit from Donald in 1937 and they made their home in 'Kooringa'. In 1940 Jean died in childbirth when Barbara was born. Thomas later married Elizabeth Sutton, known as Dulcie, and they lived at 'Kooringa' with their four children: Barbara, Heather, Marion and Stuart. Thomas and Elizabeth lived at 'Kooringa' for the rest of their lives. Elizabeth died in 1999 and Thomas died in 2001

In the 1930s, 'Roseville' cottage was relocated to the farmyard, west of 'Kooringa', where it became two buildings, the tool shed and the shearers' hut. Both buildings have recently been restored and remain useful sheds on the property.

Thomas Lewis's son, Stuart, died in 1991 after which the bulk of the property was divided up by his widow and her family as trustees for their two children, and is now leased or share farmed.

Over the years the property grew to approximately 4000 acres and in the 1950s Thomas built two weatherboard workman's cottages west of the farm yard, on the same block as 'Kooringa'. The property has been used over the years for breeding sheep and cattle and for cropping oats, oaten hay, clover and clover hay. The major income has always been from sheep.

The 'Kooringa' residence, on the house block of 60 acres, continues to be lived in by the Lewis family. Heather Reid, Thomas Lewis's daughter, and her family bought it and a further 100 acres from Thomas's estate in 2002. In 2004, a first floor addition of three rooms and bathroom, designed by Sydney architect Gerald Morcombe, was added to the residence by Ararat builder, George Smart. The new roof gables followed the original structure but did away with the north-south valley.[32]

'Kooringa' has been owned continuously by members of the Lewis family, who are involved in ongoing restoration of the property, since the 1860s and has been associated with sheep farming and wool since that time. 'Kooringa' today is used to produce ultra fine merino wool.

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[9] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 252.

[10] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[12] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[13] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[15] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[18] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[22] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[23] Ibid., 31.

[24] Ibid., 88.

[25] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[26] This information has been kindly provided by 'Kooringa' owner, Heather Reid.

[27] Gorrinn Parish Plan and Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 76..

[28] Information provided by Heather Reid, owner.

[29] Information provided by Heather Reid, owner.

[30] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 132.

[31] Information provided by Heather Reid, owner.

[32] Information provided by Heather Reid, owner.

Description

Physical Description

The Kooringa Farm Complex comprises the stone remains of the 1860s dwelling, tool shed and shearers' hut both constructed from the nineteenth century Roseville cottage, Kooringa homestead constructed ca.1900-22, corrugated iron clad sheep shed, toilet building, sheep show shed, 1920s garage building, entrance gates and homestead garden with specimen trees including cypresses and palms.

Remnants of the 1862 cottage comprise a mud and stone wall and part of a chimney.

The homestead has been added to over time. The earliest section constructed ca.1900 comprises a red brick wing of four rooms with a main hipped roof, corner verandah with a convex profile roof and diagonal gable projecting wings at each end of the verandah. There is an iron lacework frieze to the verandah and decorative timber fretwork to the projecting gable wings. There are wide red brick chimneys with brick cornicing. The windows to the earliest wing are timber framed and double hung with tripartite windows to the front of the gable wings.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Other components of the early building included, a weatherboard skillion rear section, and detached kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and outside toilet. Architectural drawings of this early homestead survive and are signed 'GCP'.

Additions in the 1920s comprise additional hipped and gabled wings to the rear. In 2004 a first floor addition with three rooms and a bathroom was constructed. These additions included the insertion of the half timbered dormer windows into the main roof form.

The tool shed and shearers' hut have been formed out of the two wings that made up Roseville cottage and are weatherboard clad with gable roofs clad in corrugated iron. The front gable roofed wing forms the shearers hut and has a central door with a multi-pane timber framed double hung window either side. The tool shed has a lower and wider gable roof. It has a single door at one gable end and small timber framed fixed pane windows.

The outside toilet is a small single roomed building, big enough to fit a toilet (and one person) only. It is timber framed with a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron with weatherboard cladding.

The 1920s garage building is a long timber framed with a gable roof running north-south. The rear of the building has vertical timber cladding and there is a skillion roofed wing to the rear with double timber doors on the north elevation. The skillion wing walls are partially clad in corrugated iron sheet cladding and partially vertical timber cladding. The end walls of the building are corrugated iron. The front of the building is divided into five and a half bays. The two south end bays are open, the next three bays have double vertical clad timber doors and the northern most half bay has front cladding of corrugated iron.

The early sheep shed ca. 1900 (constructed at the same time as the original homestead) is timber framed and clad in corrugated galvanised iron to the roof and walls. It has a gable roof and vertically clad timber double doors on two elevations. There are also wide single vertically clad timber doors on the same elevations as the double doors.

The 1946 sheep show shed was specifically built for Tom Lewis to show sheep. It is a timber framed building with corrugated iron wall and roof cladding. It has a gable roof with side gutters but no eaves. One end wall contains a central recycled timber door with a fence either side and the other end wall contains a recycled timber door on one side and a low release chute on the other.

The front gates on Tatyoon North Road comprise car entry with pillars either side, and a wrought iron pedestrian gate with a pillar either side, sharing the centre pillar with the driveway entry. The first section of the driveway is like a bridge with woven wire panels either side.

The fence along Logans Road is a low fence with a glazed brown brick base and short cream brick pillars and woven wire panels in between.

The homestead garden has large cypress trees to the boundary along both roads and specimen planting around the house including palms.

Physical Condition

The tool shed, shearers' hut, Kooringa homestead, toilet, sheep sheds, farm shed and entrance gates were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Kooringa Farm Complex, located at 342 Tatyoon North Road, Dobie. The mud, brick and stone remains of the 1860s dwelling and the original form, materials and detailing of the tool shed and shearers hut (constructed from the nineteenth century Roseville cottage), Kooringa homestead constructed ca. 1900-1922, ca. 1900 corrugated iron clad sheep shed, 1946 sheep show shed, outside toilet building, garage building, entrance gates and homestead garden with specimen trees including cypresses and palms, contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Kooringa Farm Complex, Dobie is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Kooringa Farm Complex is of historic significance as an example of a wool-growing farm complex established in the 1860s and associated with early settlement and the wool industry in the Dobie district. Kooringa has been owned continuously by members of the Lewis family and associated with sheep farming and wool since the 1860s when Thomas Lewis took up the land under the 1862 *Land Act*. Thomas and his family originally lived in a mud and stone dwelling on the property, then later moved into a weatherboard cottage called Roseville until Kooringa was built ca.1900. In 1905, when Thomas's son, William, married Maria Hinchliffe, they made their home in the 'Roseville' cottage along side 'Kooringa'. William and Maria lived there with their five children until they moved into 'Kooringa' around 1916 after Thomas died. William's son, Thomas, founded a superfine merino wool stud in 1935 and he was a successful exhibitor at Victorian sheep shows for over 60 years. The 1946 sheep show shed demonstrates the exhibition side of the farming business during this period. The sheep stud had particular success in championships in the interwar years. The complex of buildings dating from the 1860s to the mid-twentieth century evidences the long and important farming connection the Lewis family has had with the district. (Criteria A & H)

Kooringa Farm Complex is of aesthetic significance for containing visual evidence of the progressive series of dwellings that demonstrate the occupation of the property since the 1860s to the interwar years. These include the mud, brick and stone remains of the 1860s dwelling, the tool shed and shearers' hut both constructed from the nineteenth century Roseville cottage, and Kooringa homestead constructed ca.1900 with substantial additions in the 1920s. The brick homestead constructed ca.1900 is of aesthetic significance as an example of an architect designed Edwardian homestead demonstrating key features of early twentieth century residential design, including the diagonal axis, brick chimneys with corncicing, corner verandah with convex roof, and cast iron frieze and tripartite timber framed double hung windows. Additions by Ararat architect, James Irwin, in the 1920s comprise hipped and gabled wings to the rear. The ca. 1900 corrugated iron clad sheep shed is an intact example of a typical simple sheep shed retaining its original timber lined single and double doors. The sheep show shed is an unusual building type demonstrating the use of the property as a sheep stud. The garage building and outside toilet provide a reminder of the appearance of the early complex of buildings. The entrance gates and established garden with specimen trees contribute to the grandeur of the property and provide a visual reference to the Lewis family's success in the wool industry. (Criteria D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No
No
Yes specimen trees in garden including cypresses and palms
Yes entrance gates, sheep shed, tool shed, shearers' hut, sheep show shed, toilet building and garage building.
Yes
-
No

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting, Bell, Memorial Gates and Trees	
Address	20 Green Street ELMHURST	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR Yes HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	
Designer / Architect	Irwin, Jas.

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of

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Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted

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in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:[21]

A site for a Presbyterian church at Elmhurst was reserved in 1864 and the foundation stone of the Church of St Mark was subsequently laid in November 1878 by Dr Williamson, the son of Charles Williamson of the Decameron run in Elmhurst, who had donated the land on which the church was built.

The church was built by the Skellett brothers of Glenpatrick with bricks made from clay excavated from Wise's property in Elmhurst between what is now Wise Street and the Wimmera River. The cost of the building was £420, which was funded by public subscription, the total amount raised being £470 2s. which, when all expenses were paid, left a debt in November 1880 of £8 12s. 5d. Under an agreement reached in December 1880, both the Episcopalians (now Anglican) and Presbyterian congregations owned equal, undivided shares in the building.

The first services of worship were held in 1879. On 23 May, Reverend J. Kirkwood, Presbyterian minister at Avoca, conducted the morning service. At 3.00 pm, Reverend Canon Homan of Ararat gave his address. Both services were well

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attended. The next day, in spite of heavy rain, many people attended a concert, followed by tea. Finally, a meeting was held to arrange regular services. Each denomination then held a fortnightly service but most people attended each Sunday.

In 1911, the Church of England, as it was then known, offered to sell its share to the Presbyterians, retaining the right to use the church. The original committee members of the church, which became known as the Combined Church, were registered as owners.

In 1912 it was formally agreed that each congregation should have equal shares. The two surviving tenants in 1912, James Wise and William Webster, consented to John Wise, Samuel Dyer, Donald Macdonald and Frederick Neal being added to the trustees. The transfer of property was accepted on 7 June 1913.

The chancel and new vestry, designed by architect James Irwin, were added to the building by E. W. Bulte in 1913 at a cost of £250 and the memorial leadlight window, commemorating Charles and Elizabeth Williamson, was reset in the back wall of the chancel. A carpet was laid in 1913 and Gloria lights installed. Previously, lighting had been from kerosene lamps. In the 1930s, a window to commemorate Donald and Kenneth Macdonald was installed.

In 1959, Jocelyn Macdonald, John Harold Darbyshire and Ross Smith were registered as joint proprietors for the Presbyterian Church, it having been discovered there were no proprietors surviving. It was not until the formation of the Uniting Church in 1977, that the Church of England insisted that the land titles be held by them. Kathleen Wise was made a proprietor, temporarily, so the Church of England share could be transferred to the Diocese of St Arnaud, now incorporated in the Diocese of Bendigo. By 1981 the property was owned in equal shares by both the Anglican and Uniting Churches.

Entrance gates, as a memorial to James and John Wise and gifted by their families, were built in 1965.

A centenary service for the church was held on 13 May 1979, with more than 200 attending. Father Allan Ussinge and Reverend Neville Roberts conducted the service, during which the Bishop of Bendigo renamed the church, while the chairman of the Grampians Presbytery Reverend Allan Collins, being unable to attend, sent greetings. Descendants of the original proprietors (committee as they were called in 1879) were present.

The name, The Church Of St Mark, suggested by J. G. Kaye, was chosen after four years of discussion. It was unanimously decided by the considerable number of both congregations present, that the full name of the church should always be used and that it should never be referred to as St Mark's.

Services continue to be conducted today in the church.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[4] Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.:

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Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.? The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] *Ibid.*, 24, 45.

[20] *Ibid.*, 24, 34.

[21] Information from *Elmhurst Community News*, September-November 2004, 1-2.

Description

Physical Description

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The building is well set back from the street with a central path leading from the front gate. Either side of the entry is a pencil pine and there are two elms at the rear of the building. This is a small red brick church with a gable roofed central nave, shallow front porch and rear vestry, all running perpendicular to the street. The centrally placed entry porch has double pointed arch timber ledged and braced doors with front corner buttressing on an angle. The gable end of the nave is plain with the exception of an ocular vent with a trefoil opening. The nave has two bays divided by stepped buttressing and there is diagonal stepped buttressing at each of the four corners. Each bay contains a Gothic arched window with painted render voussoirs. The rear western bay also contains a single rectangular ledged and braced timber door. The vestry at the rear is narrower than the nave and has a lower gable roof. The east side wall contains a smaller (smaller than the nave) Gothic arch window and end corner buttressing on the diagonal. This buttressing is of a smaller scale than the nave buttressing. On the western side of the vestry is a flat roofed room with a single ledged and braced door in the front elevation and a pointed arch window in the side elevation. The building contains two memorial windows, one leadlight window in the chancel dedicated to Charles and Elizabeth Williamson, and a 1930s window to commemorate Donald and Kenneth Macdonald.

The church bell, at the front of the church, was made by Albion Foundry, J W Norwood, Castlemaine.

At the front of the site are wrought iron double gates with a brick pillar and woven wire fence either side. The brick pillars either side of the gate are topped with an elaborate metal finial, an unusual feature. A plaque on the gates states 'In memory of James Wise and John Wise Foundation members of this church 1872. These gates preserved by their families February 1965'.

Physical Condition

The church, bell and gates were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church located at 20 Green Street, Elmhurst. The location and original form, materials and details of the 1878 church with 1913 additions, church bell and Memorial Gates are integral to the significance of the place. The two pencil pines at the front of the church and two elms to the rear also contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church located at 20 Green Street, Elmhurst is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early development period of the town of Elmhurst. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings. The complex of buildings is important for demonstrating the early settlement in the town from the 1850s when Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings. Sawmilling activity from the 1860s brought more people to the area. Originally constructed in 1878, the church is of historical significance as a rare example of a church with a combined ownership of the Presbyterian and Anglican congregations who shared the

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use of the church and undertook services on alternate fortnights. Interestingly, most of the two congregations attended weekly anyway. (Criteria A & B)

The Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church is aesthetically significant as an intact and well-accomplished example of a small Victorian brick church. The church building is well proportioned and has a complex form created by its brick buttressing. Other features of note include the Gothic arch windows and trefoil opening in the front gable end. The front wrought iron memorial gates with the brick pillars with metal finials, pencil pines and two elms compliment the building and demonstrate the value the building has to the local community (Criteria D & E)

Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1878 with connections to both the Presbyterian and Anglican congregations of the district. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 2 x pencil pines, 2 x elms

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front memorial gates and fence

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Tree Avenues		
Address	High Street ELMHURST Hotel Street ELMHURST	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Tree groups - avenue ,Avenue of Honour		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

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Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:

Like other war memorials across the Australian landscape, Avenues of Honour were planted to commemorate the sacrifice and service made by local volunteers during World War One. By 1918, the high casualty rate in Australia from World War One of 64.93%, the highest of all allied forces, meant that every Australian was related to or was closely associated with someone who had been killed. The planting of memorial trees by town residents acted as a personal focus of remembrance for a grieving community. From 1917 to 1921, Victorians planted at least 128 avenues, with trees mostly of European origin. Although avenues exist in other states of Australia, they were most popular in Victoria.[21] By the time of the Second World War avenues of honour had declined in popularity as a means commemoration.

It is believed that the existing pine trees on the western approach to the town of Elmhurst (in High Street and Hotel Street) were planted as an Avenue of Honour.[22] This is supported by the fact that in 1918, residents of the Elmhurst district wrote to the Ararat Shire council telling it of their decision to plant an avenue of trees in honour of local soldiers.[23]

Earlier, in 1915, the Elmhurst Progress Association was granted permission from the Ararat Shire Council to take over the management and care of the ornamental trees in the main street of Elmhurst[24] and further tree planting in High

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Street was undertaken by the Progress Association in 1916.[25] The plane, pine, oak, cypress and elm trees that grow in High Street today are likely to date from this period.

Approximately trees in the Avenue of Honour in Hotel Street were damaged by a storm in 2014 and were removed. [1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[4] Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.: The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

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[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.

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[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] Ibid., 24, 45.

[20] Ibid., 24, 34.

[21] *Avenues of Honour Education and Celebration Program*. National Trust, 2014. Available <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic>. Accessed 22 April 2014. Janine Haddow, "Avenues of Honour: A Victorian Cultural Landscape," *Landscape Australia*, no. 3 (1988).

[22] 'Elmhurst Avenue of Honour', Heritage Inventory in Victorian Heritage Database, Heritage Victoria, 2014.

[23] "ARARAT SHIRE COUNCIL." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 5 September 1918, 2.

[24] "ARARAT SHIRE COUNCIL." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 8 July 1915, 3.

[25] "ELMHURST." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 1 August 1916, 2. "ELMHURST." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 4 July 1916, 2.

Description

Physical Description

The tree avenues in Elmhurst consist of a pine tree avenue on the western entrance to Elmhurst in High Street and Hotel Street. There are 27 pine trees in High Street and approximately 12 of the original 17 pine trees left in Hotel Street.

Approximately nine pine trees in Hotel Street were damaged by a storm in 2014 and were removed.

Pines, cypress, planes, elms and oaks on both sides of High Street between Hotel Street and Degraes Street also form an avenue of trees.

Physical Condition

The tree avenues were in good condition November 2014.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The two Elmhurst Tree Avenues consisting of an Avenue of Honour of pine trees on both sides of High Street and Hotel Street, at the western entry to Elmhurst, and the avenue of pines, cypress, planes, elms and oaks on both sides of High Street between Hotel Street and Degraes Street.

How is it significant?

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The Elmhurst Tree Avenues are of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Elmhurst Avenue of Honour is of historical significance for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War One and the methods used to commemorate the event. Planted in 1918, the pine Avenue of Honour is a representative example of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War One commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual, regardless of rank, was equally recognised for their service. The High Street avenue of mixed exotic tree species, planted by 1915, is of historical significance for demonstrating the types of beautification works undertaken in rural towns in the early 20th century and for demonstrating the types of species popular for street trees at that time. (Criterion A)

The Elmhurst Tree Avenues are of aesthetic significance as landmark planting, which mark the western entry into Elmhurst and the central civic area of Elmhurst. The avenues are of aesthetic significance for indicating the existence of a once more populous township. (Criterion D)

The Elmhurst Avenue of Honour is of social significance for its relationship with the Elmhurst community as a memorial to those from the town who served in World War One and as a commemorative focus for the community since 1918. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No
No
Yes pine trees on both sides of High Street and Hotel Street, at the western entry to Elmhurst and the avenue of pines, cypress, planes, elms and oaks on both sides of High Street between Hotel Street and Degraes Street.
No
No
-
No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Elmhurst Mechanics Institute	
Address	34 High Street ELMHURST	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Mechanics' Institute	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Place history:[21]

John McKenzie was a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars in 1868, and was possibly responsible for the building of the brick Good Templars' Hall in Elmhurst ca. 1870. The Elmhurst Public Library, established in 1872 and housed in the Common School, was moved to the Templars' Hall in 1883.

The mechanics' institute movement was established in 1800 when Dr George Birkbeck of the Andersonian Institute in Scotland gave a series of lectures to local mechanics. The nineteenth century term 'mechanic' referred to an artisan or workingman. The lectures were free and proved popular. The movement spread quickly throughout the British Empire, including the Colony of Victoria from the 1850s. Mechanics' institutes (also named Athenaeums and Schools of Art) were established wherever a hall, library or school was needed. Nearly 1,000 were built in Victoria.[22]

The Good Templar's Hall in Elmhurst became the Mechanics' Institute hall ca. 1886. Its object was 'The diffusion of Literary, Scientific and other useful knowledge by means of lectures, a library of Reference and Circulation, and a reading room'. A copy of a catalogue of books in the library, printed by Banfields in 1887, shows that there were more than 520 books in circulation. In July 1890, the first court of Petty Sessions at Elmhurst was held in the Mechanics' Institute hall.

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A timber addition, measuring 16 feet by 12 feet, was made to the rear of the hall in 1893-94 to house the stage and to make more room for the expanding library.[23]

After World War One, the Red Cross provided the funds to build a brick extension, 20 feet by 19 feet 6 inches, at the front of the brick hall, and to erect a new memorial fence and gates. In 1928 tenders were called for and Jas. Mills' quote of £31 10s. was accepted. The work was completed by February 1929 and inscribed brass plates that commemorated Nurse Cameron and Nurse Gallagher who served in World War One were attached to the fence posts.[24]

The library was upgraded in 1950 and for some years was popular with a considerable section of the public. Library books were brought to the Elmhurst Mechanics' Institute every three months from the Ararat Municipal Library. Until 1950, the Mechanics Institute and Public Library worked together under the direction of one

committee; in that year it was decided to form two committees. A 'switching on' ceremony was held at the Mechanics' Institute when electricity was brought to Elmhurst in 1953.

In the early 1960s the hall was handed over to the Shire of Ararat and a new title dated September 1963 was given to the Shire to replace the lost one. A local committee was established to provide day-to-day management.

In 1962-3 the library was closed.

A bluestone cairn was installed to commemorate the establishment of the Elmhurst water supply and was opened by the Hon. F. J. Granter MLC on 17 January 1974.

In 1983, extensions to the hall were undertaken, and incorporated sections of the original hall and the 1929 front.

In 2006 a granite memorial, made by Waites Robson stonemasons of Stawell, was installed at the front of the building to honour the men and women who had served in war times; improvements to the grounds and gardens were made in 2007.

The Elmhurst Mechanics' Institute hall has been used for a variety of purposes since the 1880s, including Ararat Shire Council meetings, bazaars, meetings, art classes, church services, government elections, drama events, and flower shows, and continues today to provide an important meeting place for the Elmhurst district community.

The hall features local World War One and World War Two honour rolls, and also holds the honour rolls from Glenpatrick, Glenlofty and Eversley.

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[19] *Ibid.*, 24, 45.

[20] *Ibid.*, 24, 34.

[21] Much of this information is from *Echoes of Elmhurst*, 25-26. Mechanics' Institute Datasheet, Historic Places Section, DSE, 2012, 12-14.

[22] "What Is a Mechanics' Institute?," Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc, <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mivic/history.htm>.

[23] PROV, Public Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/340.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[24] PROV, Public Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/340.

Description

Physical Description

The Elmhurst Mechanics Institute is a red brick hall constructed in four main stages. The central gable roofed wing, which runs perpendicular to the street, comprises the original gable roofed brick hall to the rear and the 1929 addition to the front. The front section of this wing, added in 1929, includes an entry porch with shaped parapet roof, corner buttressing to the front of the hall and a brick front fence with brick pillars and brick balustrade extending either side of the porch. There are no windows to the front of this central wing. There are two brass plaques on the front fence: The plaque on the left side reads 'Sacred to the memory of Nurse Cameron who served in the Great War 1914 -1918'; The plaque on the right side reads: 'In honor of Nurse Gallagher who served in the Great War 1914 -1918', and on the next pillar 'Erected by the Elmhurst Red Cross Society 1-3-1929';

On the south side of the building is a ca. 1960s skillion roofed room with red brick walls. The front of this wing is constructed in line with the front of the hall, which has meant that the original buttressing has been removed to accommodate the addition. The verandah to the front is in line with the porch of the central hall.

On the north side of the building is a hip roofed wing running parallel to the street and perpendicular to the central hall. The roof of this wing, which was constructed in 1983, connects in with that of the hall. It has red brick walls and two large multi pane fixed windows to the front elevation. The front also contains a double door entry with a shallow flat roofed canopy constructed of concrete over the doors. This wing is set back behind the buttressing of the central hall.

A new addition to the west and east houses a toilet block.

All roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheet. The roof of the central hall also includes cylindrical roof vents. Original windows have been replaced in the hall at the rear to match new windows in the rest of the hall.

A bluestone cairn was installed to commemorate the establishment of the Elmhurst water supply and was opened by the Hon. F. J. Granter MLC on 17 January 1974 and stands at the front of the building.

A granite memorial erected in 2006 and located in front of the 1983 wing contains the inscription: 'This memorial was erected by the community of Elmhurst in memory of the men & women who served their country in time of war. Lest We Forget. Unveiled by Brigadier John Deighton CEO Vic Branch RSL 30th March, 2006'.

The hall features local World War One and World War Two honour rolls, and also holds the honour rolls from Glenpatrick, Glenlofty and Eversley. A flagpole has been erected at the front of the hall.

Physical Condition

The Mechanics Institute was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Elmhurst Mechanics Institute located at 34 High Street, Elmhurst. The location and original form, materials and details of the Mechanics Institute, front brick fence, granite war memorial and bluestone memorial cairn are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Elmhurst Mechanics Institute is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Elmhurst Mechanics Institute is of historical significance for its role in the development of community and civic life in Elmhurst and the surrounding district. Originally constructed as the Good Templars' Hall ca. 1870, the Elmhurst library was moved to the building in 1883 and in 1886 it became the Elmhurst Mechanics Institute. The earliest section of the building is of historical significance for demonstrating the early development of Elmhurst and as a rare example of a building constructed for the Independent Order of Good Templars. The 1929, ca. 1960 and 1983 additions are of historical significance for demonstrating the ongoing development of community and civic life in Elmhurst supporting the surrounding farming district. The 1929 additions and front brick fence are also of historical significance as Red Cross funded additions constructed in commemoration of two nurses, Nurse Cameron and Nurse Gallagher who served in World War One. (Criteria A & B)

The 1929 additions and front fence of the Elmhurst Mechanics Institute are aesthetically significant as the most distinctive part of the site. Features of note include the front porch with shaped parapet and front corner buttressing. Also of aesthetic note is the manner by which later additions have been constructed of red brick in sympathy with the original building and forming an overall unified red brick complex. (Criterion D)

The Elmhurst Mechanics Institute is of social significance as a focus for community activity since 1883. The Elmhurst Mechanics' Institute hall has been used for a variety of purposes since the 1880s, including Ararat Shire Council meetings, bazaars, meetings, art classes, church services, government elections, drama events, and flower shows, and continues today to provide an important meeting place for the Elmhurst district community. The Mechanics Institute is also of social significance as the focus of commemoration for the Elmhurst district community, with the front fence dedicated to two nurses who served in World War One, a war memorial erected in 2006 and a water memorial cairn erected in 1974. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Front brick fence

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Elmhurst Store, Residence, Outbuildings and Oak Tree		
Address	66 High Street ELMHURST	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Shop		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:

In 1866-67, a store and boarding house were built by Francis Bore on land he purchased in 1860 on the corner of High and Green streets in Elmhurst. The building was purchased by Henry Spiers in 1868. It was next owned by Wise and Spiers, then the Wise brothers, James and John, until 1922 when the store was sold to A. J. Wingfield. The oak tree in front of the residence was planted by John Wise.[21]

A fire swept through Elmhurst in 1906, burning a building owned by John Wise. This may have been the store and residence, which perhaps had sections rebuilt after this event.[22]

By the 1960s, the store was owned by the Smith brothers.[23]

The store, which now houses the Elmhurst Post Office, today operates on a part time basis.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.? The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] *Ibid.*, 24, 45.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[20] Ibid., 24, 34.

[21] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, 7.

[22] "BUSH FIRES." *The Argus*. 3 February 1906, 16.

[23] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, 7.

Description

Physical Description

The store and residence consist of a weatherboard shop and side storage room built up to the street line and an attached brick residence set back from the street. The shop has a gable roof to the front and hip to the back running perpendicular to the street and the storeroom wing has a hipped roof running parallel to the street. The front of the shop and storeroom has been clad in zincalume cladding with vertical corrugations. This cladding also forms a flat parapet across both buildings with a taller, stepped parapet to the shopfront. There is a flat roofed verandah to the front of the shop and storeroom with steel post supports. The shop front consists of glazed double doors to the north side and a large shop front window to the south side. There is a similar shop front window at the southern end of the storeroom adjacent to the double doors of the shop. There is also a single door entry into the storeroom but otherwise the facade to this wing is blank. The zincalume cladding extends part way around the sides of the shop building. The roofs are clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There are two corrugated iron clad stores to the west side of the shop. One of these is attached to the front storeroom while the other is detached.

The residence is mid-Victorian and has a tall hipped roof and a concave verandah to the front and extending around the north side. The verandah is unadorned with simple square timber posts. The front elevation is symmetrical and retains its original door and windows. The central four panel front door has side light and high light windows and there is a timber framed double hung window either side of the door. There are three brick chimneys with corncicing. At the rear of the residence is a gable roofed weatherboard wing extending from the north side, which is much more decorative than the front brick wing. There is a timber scalloped frieze forming the rear facing bargeboard with a central timber finial. The verandah to the two exposed sides is concave with square timber posts and delicate timber cut out triangular brackets to the posts. This wing connects in to the rear of the shop. Located to the rear of the residence is a gable and skillion roofed outbuilding with fibre cement sheet cladding, multi pane timber framed windows and corrugated iron cladding to the roof.

There is an oak tree at front of residence. The grid wire fence is a later change and does not contribute to the significance of the property.

Physical Condition

The buildings were in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Store and Residence located at 66 High Street, Elmhurst. The location and original form, materials and detailing of

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

the shop, adjacent store room, brick residence (including the weatherboard southern wing), the fibre cement clad outbuilding, corrugated iron clad stores and oak tree are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Store and Residence located at 66 High Street, Elmhurst are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Store and Residence at Elmhurst are historically significant for their long association with commercial activities in the Elmhurst township and as an early surviving commercial building in the township. The original buildings were constructed in 1866-67 by Francis Bore as a store and boarding house on land he purchased in 1860 with sections believed to have been rebuilt in the early 1900s after a fire. The complex of buildings is important for demonstrating the early settlement in the town from the 1850s when Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings. Sawmilling activity from the 1860s brought more people to the area. (Criteria A & B)

The Store and Residence at Elmhurst are aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a mid-Victorian store and residence complex demonstrating key features of the era. These features include the hip and gable roof compositions and relationship between the shop wing and the residence. The residence is an excellent intact example of a mid-Victorian style residence demonstrating key features of the style including the main hipped roof, concave verandah, symmetrical front facade composition, four panel timber front door with side light and high light windows and timber framed double hung windows. The weatherboard wing to the rear north of residence is particularly decorative with its scalloped frieze bargeboard, timber finial and triangular brackets to the verandah posts with a cut-out pattern. The gable and skillion roofed outbuilding clad in fibre cement sheet, and the two corrugated iron clad stores to the west side of the shop are contributory outbuildings and the oak tree also contributes to the landmark values of the complex. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes oak at the front of the site

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes fibre cement clad outbuilding and corrugated iron clad stores

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

Yes



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former CBC Bank and Residence	
Address	71 High Street ELMHURST	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Bank	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

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The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:[21]

On 1 November 1834, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (CBC) began operations in Sydney; by 1892 the bank had 152 branches.[22] The Bank of Victoria was established in Melbourne in 1853.

The Bank of Victoria opened an agency of the Avoca Bank of Victoria in the front room of a private house in Elmhurst in 1906.

In January 1910, tenders were called for the erection, to a bank design, of two new timber buildings to house branches of the Bank of Victoria in Elmhurst and Willaura. As a consequence, the new Bank of Victoria (the present building) was built and opened in 1910 with Mr B. Couston as the first manager. The bank was a branch of the Ararat Bank of Victoria.

On 1 January 1927, the Bank of Victoria and the Commercial Banking Company amalgamated and became known by the latter name. Mr P. S. Somerville was the first manager of the CBC Bank in Elmhurst.

The CBC Bank in Elmhurst closed in April 1942. It is currently used as a private residence.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] Ibid., 24, 45.

[20] Ibid., 24, 34.

[21] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, 7.

[22] 'Welcome', CNBC Officers' Club Inc. Available <http://www.cbcbank.com.au/index.htm>. Accessed 30 July 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The former bank has an impressive decorative timber frontage with a weatherboard clad banking chamber and office behind and residence further behind this. The block fronted facade extends around the sides by one bay and has a parapet roof with a projecting cornice and central pediment. Below the cornice is a blank band where the name of the bank was once located - 'The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited'. There are central double entry doors with pilasters and an entablature and a semi circular etched glass transom. Either side of the entry are two double hung arched windows with faux voussoirs and a keystone in timber. Behind the parapet the roof of the bank is a Dutch gable running parallel to the street, while the residence roof comprises twin lower Dutch gables running perpendicular to the street with a central box gutter running the length of the residence. The main entry to the residence is on the north side with a recessed door with highlights and sidelights. The windows to the residence are rectangular and timber framed and double hung. There are a number of red brick chimneys with brick cornices to the tops.

Physical Condition

The former Bank and Residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former CBC Bank and Residence located at 71 High Street, Elmhurst. The location and original form, materials and details of the bank and residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former CBC Bank and Residence located at 71 High Street, Elmhurst is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The former CBC Bank and Residence is of historical significance for its demonstration of the second wave of settlement in Elmhurst due to the coming of the railway in 1890. Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station built at Elmhurst in 1890. Prior to this Elmhurst had been settled in the 1850s as a river crossing on the goldfields route between Ararat and Pleasant Creek to Avoca and Castlemaine. The former Bank and Residence is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of a Bank of Victoria and Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Bank. (Criteria A & B)

The former CBC Bank and Residence is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a Bank of Victoria bank and residence. The timber frontage with detailing to mimic stone and render dressings demonstrates the late Victorian and Edwardian practice of providing decoration to timber buildings to make them look grander and constructed of masonry or stone. Features of note include the block fronted cladding to the bank facade, the parapet with cornice and pediment, the entry with pilasters and entablature, arched windows with stone-like detailing to the frames. While less opulent, the residence to the rear also contains intact features of note including the timber framed double hung windows, brick chimneys with corning and recessed main entry with sidelights and highlights. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	J Strain Butcher Store	
Address	76 High Street ELMHURST	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Shop	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:

The J. Strain butcher store is built on Allotment 7, Section 1 of the Elmhurst township on land first purchased by George F. Jones, publican, in 1857.

William Horden Wiltshire owned a small farm north east of Elmhurst and also conducted a butchery in the building of interest from the 1870s. He died in the Amherst Hospital in 1893, nine days after suffering a broken back when he fell from his butcher's cart. His son, also named William Horden Wiltshire, inherited the land on which the butcher store stands but did not live in the district.[21] By 1899, John Keam was managing the butchery.

It is thought that the Strain family took over the business in the early 1900s. By the early 1920s, the Strains owned approximately twelve acres of land on the east of McKay Street, Elmhurst, which is believed to have been used to raise livestock for the butchery, which they managed at the same time.

The store is used today as a private residence.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria*

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Descriptive Report, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[4] Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.? The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

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[19] Ibid., 24, 45.

[20] Ibid., 24, 34.

[21] 'William Horden Wiltshire', Wiltshire Family History. Available http://www.wiltshirehw.com.au/familytree/ps01/ps01_223.html Accessed 6 August 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The former Butcher's Shop is a single front weatherboard clad building with a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The shop is constructed to the street line with a skillion verandah over the footpath. The treated pine verandah posts are a later change. The shop front contains a single vertical timber clad door and a shop front window with fine timber latticing. The timber latticework to the shop front window looks early and may be original. Such cladding would have provided ventilation to the building while providing a semi permeable opening that customers could look into. There is also timber latticework to bands of ventilation below the eaves on the side elevations of the building. The north elevation also contains a fixed timber framed window with six panes and a smaller window further towards the rear. The front gable end of the shop contains the black painted wording: 'J. Strain Butcher'.

Physical Condition

The building was in poor condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The J. Strain Butcher Store located at 76 High Street, Elmhurst. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the butcher's store is integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The J. Strain Butcher Store located at 76 High Street, Elmhurst is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The J. Strain Butcher Store is historically significant for its long association with commercial activities of the Elmhurst township and as an early surviving commercial building in the township. The store constructed ca. 1870 was first operated as a butcher by William Horden Wiltshire. By 1899, John Keam was managing the butchery. It is thought that the Strain family took over the business in the early 1900s. The butcher store is important for demonstrating the first wave of settlement in the town from the 1850s when Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings. Sawmilling activity from the 1860s brought more people to the area. (Criteria A & B)

The J. Strain Butcher Store is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a mid-Victorian butcher's store

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demonstrating key features of the building type and construction era. These features include the hipped roof with skillion verandah to the front, the composition of openings to the shop front and the painted signage to the front gable end. The timber latticework to the shop front window and below eave vents to the side is an unusual and rare surviving feature particularly used for butcher stores of the Victorian era. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Fintry Farm Outbuildings Complex	
Address	1554 Back Bolac Road LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to

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the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in

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small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

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The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[41] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[42]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:

Squatters in the Port Phillip District took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) to graze mainly sheep from 1834. In 1837, in an effort to control illegal pastoral expansion, Governor Richard Bourke introduced the *Crown Lands Occupation Act*, which disallowed depasturing of lands beyond the 'limits of location' (defined by the Nineteen Counties centred around Sydney) unless they were taken up under an annual lease or licence costing £10. In addition, the Act imposed penalties for the illegal occupation of land. Squatter licenses, however, were not granted until July 1838 when the first full-time Commissioner of Crown Lands was appointed.

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Boloke (later named Lake Bolac) in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[43] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, squatter Robert Patterson claimed the Lake Boloke run (later named Lake Bolac) of 38,400 acres in 1842. In this year Patterson ran 18,500 sheep, 260 cattle and 20 horses.[44] Patterson is believed to have built the existing homestead ca1851. The homestead was constructed of rubble and lime mortar, with walls nearly 'two feet thick'. In 1852, it was described by a visitor as 'badly planned and built'.[45]

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Over the years, the run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

John Bell took over the lease of Lake Boloke run in 1853.[46] In 1855, the run was put up for sale and at that time comprised 25,000 sheep and about 500 head of cattle. Improvements included a sixteen-room dwelling house, kitchen, store, sheds, coach-house, grass paddock, woolshed, and a number of out stations.[47]

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Phillip District into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of the promised fourteen-year leases, yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation.

Duncan Macpherson Macnab and James Bell took over the Lake Boloke run in partnership in 1859 and purchased the pre-emptive right.

The Duffy Land Act, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act, but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Because the majority of selectors were dummies, the 1862 Act practically completed the alienation of the public land of the western plains by squatters.[48] John Moffat, who became the sole lessee of the Lake Boloke station in 1865,[49] gained a large area of land freehold on the run in this manner.

Construction of the bluestone woolshed was started in 1865. It is likely that the other buildings were built at the same time. All were constructed from locally quarried bluestone and were used for the growing of wool and sheep grazing activities that were undertaken on the Lake Boloke station. Their location on Back Bolac Road, which meets the Willaura-Wickliffe Road, facilitated the transportation of station's wool and livestock via the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) Railway Station on the Ararat-Portland railway line when it opened to traffic on 24 April 1877.

Lake Boloke run was put up for lease in February 1867. It was described as comprising an area of 45,000 acres, *lately fenced and subdivided into twenty sheep proof paddocks. The other improvements consist of a residence containing eleven rooms, detached kitchen, well stocked garden and orchard in full bearing; overseer's house of four rooms, men's cottages, stores, stables, and coach-house; new woolshed, with every convenience for twenty-five shearers, situated on the margin of the lake; also shearers' and shepherds' huts, &c., &c. With this property will be sold 40,000 sheep.*[50]

After the death of John Moffat in 1871, in 1872 the station was put up for auction in two parts: Boloke West station and Boloke East station. Boloke West comprised 21,940 acres of freehold land divided into ten paddocks of 500 to 3000 acres watered either by Lake Bolac, dams, or wells. Improvements consisted of a dwelling-house of ten rooms, with kitchen and servant's room, stable and two loose boxes, cart shed, men's huts, overseer's house of four rooms, garden, and orchard. Stock included 10,000 merino sheep. Boloke East comprised 23,201 acres fenced into ten paddocks of 1800 to 8000 acres. David Aitken was living in the homestead at the time.[51]

Robert Moffat, John Moffat's brother from the Ravenswood run, purchased the Boloke West property, which included the homestead and outbuildings. The family found the homestead damp, and planned to build elsewhere on the run, however this did not occur.[52] Moffat grew blue gums, pines and hedges on the property to provide protection for his sheep.[53] J Aitken was the next occupier.[54]

The Lake Bolac property was taken over by Peter Tyson in 1901. Tyson commissioned Arthur Murphy to subdivide 22,000 acres of the station into 41 farms for closer settlement in 1903. Murphy received the Lake Bolac homestead and pre-emptive right as commission.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Tyson retained the land on which the current Fintry farm complex stands, leasing out the woolshed to Jack Peters for use as stables. Thomas and Lewis Wills came to the district when the Nerrin station was subdivided in 1904. In 1905 they purchased what was known as the 'Bluestone Woolshed' property and called it 'Fintry'.^[55] The brothers took up wool growing and sheep grazing on the property.

The buildings continue to be used for farming purposes today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.

[14] *Ibid.*, 30.

[15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

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[16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.

[18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] Ibid., 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[29] Ibid., 127.

[30] Ibid., 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] Ibid.

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[38] Ibid.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

[40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*.

[42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[43] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[44] 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[45] Letter written by Mrs Robert Simpson, 19 May 1852, in 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[46] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[47] *The Argus*. 3 April 1855, 3.

[48] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 252. 'Dummies' were nominal selectors acting on behalf of the squatter to apply for land. After paying off their leases, the dummies transferred title to the squatter.

[49] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[50] "Advertising." *The Age*, 21 February 1867, 1.

[51] "Advertising." *The Argus*, 16 January 1872, 3.

[52] 'Heritage Festival: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society Open Day "Fintry" Woolshed and Buildings Sunday 27th April, 1997.' Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[53] "TOWN TALK." *Geelong Advertiser*, 17 January 1872, 2.

[54] 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[55] 'Descendants of George Wills'. Available <http://tww.id.au/family-history-wills/george-wills/pafn07.htm> Accessed 17 July 2014.

Description

Physical Description

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The collection of Fintry Farm outbuildings is located on both sides of Back Bolac Road. On the south side of the road are the bluestone station office; brick chimney; bluestone cook's hut and kitchen; bluestone shearers' quarters bluestone shearing shed; sheep dip; and corrugated barn.

On the north side of Back Bolac Road is the bluestone blacksmith/stable.

Station office and chimney

This small coursed bluestone building has a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There are narrow double doors on the front elevation with two tall narrow casement windows. Each casement has five panes. There is a rectangular vent in the gable end elevations and nothing on the rear elevation. There is a brick chimney with fireplace at the north end of the building set approximately three metres away from the building.

Cook's hut and kitchen

This medium scale coursed bluestone building has a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There is a bluestone chimney and wood box/oven enclosure. The front elevation contains a central door and a timber framed double hung window either side. There is a timber framed double hung window in one end elevation and a low and high window opening in the other gable end elevation. The sashes to the double hung windows each have six panes. There is a simple timber finial extant at one gable end and a slit vent in each gable end with timber louvres.

Shearers' quarters

This building is located adjacent to the cook's hut and kitchen. It is coursed bluestone with a gable roof running perpendicular to that of the adjacent kitchen. It has high timber louvre evenly spaced openings on one of the side elevations. The other side elevation is blank.

Shearing shed, barn and sheep dip

This is a bluestone building with a central gable roof and a low pitched skillion either side. The end elevation forms the frontage with a central arch opening with double doors and two timber framed windows either side. The windows directly adjacent to the central doors are larger than the outer windows. The other gable end elevation contains two arch openings with double doors and a central arched window. On the outside of each double door is a rectangular window. There is a circular vent in the gable ends. There is a corrugated iron gable roofed wing with skillion sides on the north side. This wing runs perpendicular to the main bluestone wing and has a matching roof form. The side elevation of the bluestone wing contains three levels of openings with windows under the eaves, some doors below these and openings under these leading to a basement level. Some windows under the eaves are fixed multi pane, while others are boarded up.

To the south of the shearing shed is a gable roofed corrugated iron clad barn, which is elevated on concrete stumps. One side wall contains central double, vertical timber clad doors.

The sheep dip is constructed of steel with a combination of wire mesh and corrugated iron side panels.

Blacksmith/stable

This is a coursed bluestone building with a gable roof clad in corrugated iron. There is a corrugated iron skillion wing on west side and a corrugated galvanised iron low pitched gable wing on the south side. The east elevation contains a door with window openings either side, to one end of the elevation. The windows have timber lattice infill.

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Physical Condition

The buildings were in fair condition in November 2013. The stonework was in a reasonable condition but timber eaves and windows were in poor condition. Most of the glazing to the windows has been lost.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Fintry Farm Outbuildings Complex located on 1554 Back Bolac Road, Lake Bolac. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- . bluestone station office;
- . brick chimney;
- . bluestone cook's hut and kitchen;
- . bluestone shearers' quarters
- . bluestone shearing shed;
- . sheep dip;
- . corrugated barn; and
- . bluestone blacksmith/stable.

.

The original location, form, materials and details of the above features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Fintry Farm Outbuildings Complex, Lake Bolac is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Fintry Farm Outbuildings Complex is of historic significance as the buildings evidence the important role that sheep grazing and wool growing has played in the early development of the Ararat Rural City municipality. The complex is of historical significance for its demonstration of the Lake Buloke run claimed by squatter Robert Patterson in 1842. The farm buildings are part of the original Lake Buloke run and were constructed by owner John Moffat in the 1860s. By this

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time the run was known as Lake Bolac. The buildings were used for the growing of wool and sheep grazing activities that were undertaken on the Lake Boloke station from its establishment in 1842. Their location on Back Bolac Road, which meets the Willaura-Wickliffe Road, facilitated the transportation of the station's wool and livestock via the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) Railway Station on the Ararat-Portland railway line when it opened to traffic on 24 April 1877. When parts of the Lake Bolac run were sold from 1903 for closer settlement, Peter Tyson retained the land on which the current Fintry farm complex stands, leasing out the shearing shed to Jack Peters for use as stables. Thomas and Lewis Wills purchased the property in 1905 and called it 'Fintry'. The brothers took up wool growing and sheep grazing on the property.

The collection of buildings is a rare surviving example of an early shearing complex demonstrating the operation of a sheep station in the mid to late 19th century. (Criteria A & B)

The Fintry Farm Outbuildings Complex is of aesthetic significance as a substantially intact and cohesive example of a shearing complex dating from the mid 19th century. The complex demonstrates the key features of a shearing complex and each building is an excellent intact example of its building type. The construction of the buildings in locally quarried bluestone contributes to the impressive appearance of the complex and unites the collection of buildings. Key features of the buildings include the gable roofs clad in galvanised iron, coursed bluestone walling, timber framed windows with fine timber mullions, timber finials and corrugated iron clad later extensions. The buildings are of aesthetic significance for their demonstration of skilled stonemasonry techniques used in the Victorian period. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes bluestone station office; brick chimney; bluestone cook's hut and kitchen; bluestone shearers' quarters; bluestone shearing shed; sheep dip; corrugated galvanised iron barn; and bluestone blacksmith/stable.
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Lake Boloke Station	
Address	1979 Glenelg Highway LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Pastoralism	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI Yes PS Yes
Heritage Protection	

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[7]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[9] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads, the Ararat-Warrnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[10] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[11]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[12] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[13] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[14]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[15] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[16] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[17]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[18]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[19] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[20] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[21] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[22]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[23] By placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[24]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of

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pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[25] In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[26] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[27] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[28]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[29]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[30] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[31] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[32] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[33] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[34]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[35] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[36] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[37] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on

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three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[38] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[39] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[40]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:

Squatters in the Port Phillip District took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) to graze mainly sheep from 1834. In 1837, in an effort to control illegal pastoral expansion, Governor Richard Bourke introduced the *Crown Lands Occupation Act*, which disallowed depasturing of lands beyond the 'limits of location' (defined by the Nineteen Counties centred around Sydney) unless they were taken up under an annual lease or licence costing £10. In addition, the Act imposed penalties for the illegal occupation of land. Squatter licenses, however, were not granted until July 1838 when the first full-time Commissioner of Crown Lands was appointed.

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Boloke (later named Lake Bolac) in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[41] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, squatter Robert Patterson claimed the Lake Boloke run (later named Lake Bolac) of 38,400 acres in 1842. In this year Patterson ran 18,500 sheep, 260 cattle and 20 horses.[42] Patterson is believed to have built the existing homestead ca1851. The homestead was constructed of rubble and lime mortar, with walls nearly 'two feet thick'. In 1852, it was described by a visitor as 'badly planned and built'.[43]

Over the years, the run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

John Bell took over the lease of Lake Boloke run in 1853.[44] In 1855, the run was put up for sale and at that time comprised 25,000 sheep and about 500 head of cattle. Improvements included a sixteen-room dwelling house, kitchen, store, sheds, coach-house, grass paddock, woolshed, and a number of out stations.[45]

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Phillip District into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of

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the promised fourteen-year leases, yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation.

Duncan Macpherson Macnab and James Bell took over the Lake Boloke run in partnership in 1859 and purchased the pre-emptive right.

The Duffy Land Act, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act, but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Because the majority of selectors were dummies, the 1862 Act practically completed the alienation of the public land of the western plains by squatters.[46] John Moffat, who became the sole lessee of the Lake Boloke station in 1865,[47] gained a large area of land freehold on the run in this manner.

Lake Boloke run was put up for lease in February 1867. It was described as comprising an area of 45,000 acres, *lately fenced and subdivided into twenty sheep proof paddocks. The other improvements consist of a residence containing eleven rooms, detached kitchen, well stocked garden and orchard in full bearing; overseer's house of four rooms, men's cottages, stores, stables, and coach-house; new woolshed, with every convenience for twenty-five shearers, situated on the margin of the lake; also shearers' and shepherds' huts, &c., &c. With this property will be sold 40,000 sheep.*[48]

Tenders for plasterers to undertake work on the residence were called for in 1867.[49]

After the death of John Moffat in 1871, in 1872 the station was put up for auction in two parts: Boloke West station and Boloke East station. Boloke West comprised 21,940 acres of freehold land divided into ten paddocks of 500 to 3000 acres watered either by Lake Bolac, dams, or wells. Improvements consisted of a dwelling-house of ten rooms, with kitchen and servant's room, stable and two loose boxes, cart shed, men's huts, overseer's house of four rooms, garden, and orchard. Stock included 10,000 merino sheep. Boloke East comprised 23,201 acres fenced into ten paddocks of 1800 to 8000 acres. David Aitken was living in the homestead at the time.[50]

Robert Moffat, John Moffat's brother from the Ravenswood run, purchased the Boloke West property, which included the homestead and outbuildings. The family found the homestead damp, and planned to build elsewhere on the run, however this did not occur.[51] Moffat grew blue gums, pines and hedges on the property to provide protection for his sheep.[52] J Aitken was the next occupier.[53]

The Lake Bolac property was taken over by Peter Tyson in 1901, who commissioned Arthur Murphy to subdivide 22,000 acres of the station into 41 farms for closer settlement in 1903. Murphy received the Lake Bolac homestead and pre-emptive right as commission. In 1903, the homestead was described as a 'well built, roomy stone structure'[54] in which the Murphy family lived until 1918.[55]

John Knight Moreton purchased a portion of the Lake Bolac Estate from Peter Tyson, and in 1918, purchased the homestead allotment of the estate from Arthur Murphy. Moreton planted 40 miles of trees on the property and, with his wife and seven children, lived in the bluestone homestead on the border of the lake until his death in 1941.[56] Under the ownership of Moreton, the property became known as 'Boswell Park', named after the second name of his wife.[57] The Moreton family continued to live at Boswell Park into the 1950s when it was sold to Godfrey Tallent in 1956.

The property was purchased by Ron and Jean Labbett in 1966 who used the land to grow potatoes. The Labbett family built a new residence on site in 1983, and moved out of the original homestead, which has not been lived in since.

Colin McKenzie purchased Boswell Park in 2005 and continues to farm the property today. The homestead was damaged and the overseer's house destroyed in strong winds in January 2006.

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James Pratt, who drowned in Lake Bolac in 1865, is buried on the property. The headstone was restored in 1995.

When it was being lived in, the Lake Bolac homestead was the focus of social activity in the district, its grounds hosting annual children's picnics, fetes, band recitals and garden and tennis parties.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[10] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[11] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.

[12] *Ibid.*, 30.

[13] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[14] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.

[16] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[17] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census*

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Results for Victoria 1841-1901 (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[18] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[19] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.

[20] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[21] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[22] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[23] Ibid., 17-18.

[24] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[25] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[26] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[27] Ibid., 127.

[28] Ibid., 126-7.

[29] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[30] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[31] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[32] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[34] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[35] Ibid.

[36] Ibid.

[37] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

[38] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

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[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994.*

[40] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[41] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[42] 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[43] Letter written by Mrs Robert Simpson, 19 May 1852, in 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[44] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[45] *The Argus*. 3 April 1855, 3.

[46] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 252. 'Dummies' were nominal selectors acting on behalf of the squatter to apply for land. After paying off their leases, the dummies transferred title to the squatter.

[47] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[48] "Advertising." *The Age*, 21 February 1867, 1.

[49] "Advertising." *Geelong Advertiser*, 1 July 1867, 3.

[50] "Advertising." *The Argus*, 16 January 1872, 3.

[51] 'Heritage Festival: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society Open Day "Fintry" Woolshed and Buildings Sunday 27th April, 1997.' Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[52] "TOWN TALK." *Geelong Advertiser*, 17 January 1872, 2.

[53] 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[54] "AROUND LAKE BOLAC." *The Australasian*, 28 November 1903, 33.

[55] Ibid. And 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

[56] "MR. JOHN KNIGHT MORETON." *Portland Guardian*, 22 September 1941, 2.

[57] 'Heritage Festival: Open Day Lake Boloke Homestead (Boswell Park) April 9th 1995', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Information provided by Karen McIntyre.

Description

Physical Description

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Original buildings from the Lake Boloke Station form two clusters located on the edge of Lake Bolac. One cluster relates to the homestead and the other cluster centres around the shearing/wool shed.

The homestead is a rendered stone residence with two main hipped wings (one single storey and one two-storey) running perpendicular to each other and forming a T-shaped plan. The front of the residence is oriented south with views over the lake. There is a long two-storey wing running east west with a concave roofed verandah across the front at ground floor level and terminating at the projecting north south wing at the east side and returning around the building on the west side. The upper front elevation of the two-storey wing contains four evenly spaced double casement windows. At ground floor is a central entry door with multi paned double hung windows either side. The front elevation of the projecting single storey wing contains a tripartite window with a wider central window. All three windows have double hung sashes. All windows are timber framed and other windows to the building are generally double hung types. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron and there is evidence of timber shingles under the iron sheets of the two-storey wing. The chimneys in both main wings are rendered with corncicing.

There is a circa 1920s single storey hip roofed structure attached to the north east corner of the homestead with weatherboards up to window sill height and strapped fibre cement sheet above this. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron and has wide eaves. This building may have been a laundry or servants' quarters. There is a tall red brick chimney towards the centre of the building. The building has timber framed double hung windows. There is a small open porch over the entry door on the northeast corner. A building of a similar age and construction but with a gable roof sits just northwest of this wing. It has louvre windows to the west elevation indicating that it may have been some sort of storage building or a meat house.

On the northwest corner of the homestead is a separate small stone building with a hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. This would have been the original detached kitchen. It has a tall bluestone chimney with cornice. There is a weatherboard filled in verandah on the east side of the building.

To the rear and centre of the homestead are a domed well cover and a windmill.

The shearing complex consists of a large shearing shed and stables building made up of four sections with separate roof forms. At the west end is a wide span gable roofed shearing shed with weatherboard cladding. There is an elevated floor to the centre of the building. There appears to be a sheep dip to the south of the building directly in front of a central stone chute opening in the building. Attached at the east end is what appears to be a weatherboard clad stables building, also with a wide span gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The stall detailing to the interior of this building is original and of interest. Further to the east of the stables is a separate wing with a hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron and weatherboard wall cladding. This building has a number of doors on the east elevation with under eaves timber framed windows. It is likely that this was the coach house but it may have been moved and converted for a new purpose relating to the stables and shearing shed. At the southeast corner of this building shed is a long rectangular bluestone building with a gable roof at one end and hipped roof at the other clad in corrugated galvanised iron. This appears to have been the original stables.

Directly west of the stables/wool shed is a gable roofed building running east west, which is open with posts on the north side. It is likely that this was the cart shed. The walls to this building are clad in weatherboards and the roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. To the rear of this building is a skillion roofed covered area likely to have been used for storing machinery.

To the south west of this building is a small weatherboard cottage with a gable roof running north south and a skillion roofed entry porch and verandah facing east. There is a brick chimney at the south end of the building. This is likely to be one of the men's cottages.

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Further to the southwest is a long bluestone building with a hipped roof running east west. This building appears to have been some sort of quarters either for shearers or the overseer. The walls are only partially intact to this building and there are no remnant window framed to the openings. The stonework is randomly coursed and there are stone quoins to the corners.

To the north of the cart shed is an early silo constructed of concrete. This was most likely constructed circa 1920s. It has a conical roof clad in galvanised iron and with a gable section allowing access at the end of the exterior ladder.

Physical Condition

All buildings were generally in poor condition; the silo, well cover and windmill were in good condition in May 2015.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Lake Boloke Station, located at 1979 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- . Stone Homestead and later weatherboard additions
- . Detached stone kitchen
- . Weatherboard and fibre cement store
- . Well
- . Windmill
- . Weatherboard Shearing Shed and associated sheep dip
- . Weatherboard stables
- . Stone stables
- . Weatherboard coach house
- . Weatherboard cart shed
- . Weatherboard Men's Cottage
- . Bluestone Quarters
- . Concrete silo
- . Grave site

The original location, form, details and materials of the above features are integral to the significance of the place.

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How is it significant?

The former Lake Boloke Station is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Lake Boloke Station is of historic significance as an early pastoral run, which was originally part of the Lake Boloke run (later named Lake Bolac) and contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Robert Patterson claimed the Lake Boloke run (later named Lake Bolac) of 38,400 acres in 1842 and is believed to have built the existing homestead ca1851. John Bell took over the lease of Lake Boloke run in 1853 and Duncan Macpherson Macnab and James Bell took over the run in partnership in 1859. John Moffat became the sole lessee of the Lake Boloke station in 1865. Following the death of John Moffat in 1871, in 1872 the station was put up for auction in two parts: Boloke West station and Boloke East station. His brother, Robert Moffat, from the Ravenswood run, purchased the Boloke West property, which included the homestead and outbuildings. Moffat planted hedges and trees to provide protection for his sheep. J Aitken took over the property and retained it until 1901 when Peter Tyson became proprietor and commissioned Arthur Murphy in 1903 to subdivide 22,000 acres of the station into 41 farms for closer settlement. Murphy received the Lake Bolac homestead and pre-emptive right as commission. John Knight Moreton purchased a portion of the Lake Bolac Estate from Peter Tyson, and in 1918, purchased the homestead allotment of the estate from Arthur Murphy. Moreton planted 40 miles of trees on the property and, with his wife and seven children, lived in the bluestone homestead until his death in 1941. Under his ownership, the property became known as 'Boswell Park'. The place is important for its associations the early owners of the property, who played an important role in pastoral settlement of the area, particularly the Bell, Moffat, Murphy and Moreton families. The property is also of historical significance for its role as a place for community events and contribution to closer settlement in the area in the early 20th century. The Homestead and associated buildings and Stables and Shearing Complex demonstrate the constituents and operation of a pastoral property from the 1850s to the 1940s period. Many of the buildings date from the 1850s and 1860s and are important rare examples of their type showing early methods of construction and detailing. (Criteria A, B & H)

The former Lake Boloke Station is of aesthetic significance as an early and intact collection of buildings and features relating to a pastoral property. The collection of substantially stone and weatherboard buildings retains many of the original forms, materials and detailing demonstrating the architectural styles, construction methods and detailing from the 1850s, 1860s and 1920s. The early homestead is impressive with its two-storey wing with ground floor verandah facing Lake Bolac. Features of note on the buildings include the fine timber detailing to the weatherboard buildings, impressive stonework using local stone, and retention of original opening locations and detailing to these openings. The spaces between the buildings are important in demonstrating the operation of the homestead and shearing complex and the associations of the different uses. In particular, the detached kitchen relating to the homestead is of importance as is the relationship between the sheep dip and the shearing shed. (Criteria B & D)

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Recommendations 2015

	No
	No
External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	Yes Detached stone kitchen, Weatherboard & fibre cement store, Well, Windmill, Weatherboard Shearing Shed & associated sheep dip, Weatherboard stables, Stone stables, Weatherboard coach house, Weatherboard cart shed, Weatherboard Men's Cottage (cont. below)
Tree Controls	
Fences & Outbuildings	
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

Outbuildings/fences notes cont: Bluestone Quarters, Concrete silo and Grave site.

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Lake Bolac General Store, Bulk Store and Pepper Trees		
Address	2124 Glenelg Highway LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Shop		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

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placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water

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supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[41] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[42]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

A small timber store was built at the Lake Bolac crossroads site by Cecil Louisson in 1858. Louisson purchased the land on which the store stood on 28 May 1863, and in 1869, replaced the original building with a store made from locally-quarried bluestone. Louisson sold the building to brothers William, Arthur and George Veale in 1874.

When William Veale died in 1911, the general store complex, known as Veale Bros. and built on approximately three acres, was described in his probate as 'stone buildings, shop and residence', the latter comprising six rooms of stone and four rooms of weatherboard. The complex also included timber sheds, chaff house, stables, outhouses, and a stone bulk store with a wooden lean-to. The property was valued at £3010.[44]

The Veale family owned the store until 1938 when it was sold to Mr Dixon, who in turn sold it to E. Stanbury in 1954. The brick extension was added in 1958 to celebrate 100 years of service to the community.

The business supplied all necessities, including groceries, haberdashery, manchester, hardware, meat, bread and tallow. The Lake Bolac Post Office was conducted at the store from 1868 until 1944, when it was moved to new premises.[45]

The Lake Bolac Store continues to provide service to the community today.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.
- [2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
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- [8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
- [9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.
- [14] *Ibid.*, 30.
- [15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.
- [18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Results for Victoria 1841-1901 (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] Ibid., 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[29] Ibid., 127.

[30] Ibid., 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

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[41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994.*

[42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[43] Most of this information is from 'Black and white photo - Original Lake Bolac Store erected in 1868'. From the Collection of Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, Victorian Collections, 2014. Available <http://victoriancollections.net.au/items/53780e3a2162ef197cff469e>. Accessed 6 August 2014; 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d; signage at building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society; and Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 16.

[44] William E. Veale Probate and Administration File, PROV, VPRS 28/P3/217.

[45] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 25.

Description

Physical Description

The Lake Bolac Store Complex comprises a coursed bluestone corner store and adjacent bluestone warehouse/bulk store with corrugated iron clad additions. There are four pepper trees to the Mortlake-Ararat Road frontage.

The store is located on the corner of the Glenelg Highway and Mortlake-Ararat Road (Montgomery Street). The building has an M-shaped hip roof with the front of the M facing the Glenelg Highway and the length running along Mortlake-Ararat Road. The original Glenelg Highway frontage has been covered by a later brick and glazed addition but the roof form and parapet are still evident. The store section of the building is distinguished by a stone parapet roof and the residence to the south along Mortlake Ararat Road does not have a parapet. The shop section facing Ararat Mortlake Road has a tripartite timber framed window and the original cut-off corner entry is extant. The residence has a central single door and a timber framed double hung window either side. The chimneys to the residential wing are stone with cornices and have been painted.

The bulk store has a hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron and a gable roofed corrugated iron clad wing wrapping around the south and west elevations. The warehouse has a central arched opening and no other openings to the front elevation. The north end wall contains a window opening with timber lattice infill.

Physical Condition

The store and bulk store were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Lake Bolac General Store and associated Bulk Store and four Pepper trees located at 2124 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the store/residence and bulk store and the Pepper trees are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Lake Bolac General Store and associated Bulk Store and four Pepper trees located at 2124 Glenelg Highway are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Lake Bolac General Store and Bulk Store are historically significant for their long association with commercial activities in Lake Bolac and for demonstrating the early development of the township in the 1860s. The store was erected in 1869 and replaced an earlier store on the site. Both stores were erected for Cecil Louisson who sold the building to brothers William, Arthur and George Veale in 1874. The Veale family owned the store until 1938 when it was sold to Mr Dixon, who in turn sold it to E. Stanbury in 1954. The store is of historical significance for its associations with these store owners who were prominent residents of the town. The store was important to the town, supplying all necessities, including groceries, haberdashery, manchester, hardware, meat, bread and tallow. The Bulk Store is historically significant as a rare surviving building type from the 1860s. The pepper trees at the front of the store are early plantings indicating the age of the property. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Lake Bolac General Store is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a mid-Victorian store incorporating a residence. Features of note include the different treatment and window types to the store and residence as well as the parapet to the store and the tripartite windows. The Bulk Store is a rare example of its type dating from the Victorian period constructed in bluestone. It is an imposing building in the streetscape. Both bluestone buildings are of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the arched opening in the bulk store, parapet to the store and quoins to the corners and openings. The pepper trees contribute to the landmark qualities of the site. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 4 Pepper trees

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Bulk store

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Lake Bolac Hotel, Stables and Elm Tree	
Address	2127 Glenelg Highway LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hotel	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy Land Act, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the Fisheries Act in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the Closer Settlement Act was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water

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supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

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Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

James Brown, employed by the Messrs. Chirnside at Barton and Mt. William stations, established a shanty in 1856 at Lake Bolac and later built a timber hotel. After marrying in 1861, in 1862, after purchasing two acres on which the hotel stood, Brown replaced the timber building with a hotel made from locally quarried bluestone. In the early years, the hotel also served the community for meetings, church services and as a barber shop, and the stables housed a morgue. Brown sold the hotel to George Connor in 1865 who died in 1869.

An advertisement for the sale of the Lake Bolac Hotel after Connor's death in 1875 read:

BUCKLAND and BURNETT will SELL by AUCTION at their wool warehouse, Moorabool street, Geelong, on Wednesday, 27th at two o'clock, by order of the administratrix of the estate of the late Mr. George Connor.

Crown Allotment 27, township of Lake Bolac, two acres, on which is erected the Lake Bolac Hotel, substantially built of bluestone, partly covered with slate and partly with iron. The house contains 16 large rooms. There is a detached kitchen built of stone, stabling for 13 horses, buggy house, washhouse, meathouse, stockyard, &c; large underground tank,

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and half acre garden well stocked with fruit trees.[44]

The Lake Bolac Hotel was finally sold to Horace Howlett in 1877. In 1887, a fire burnt down the stables, which were rebuilt with bluestone.

The longest owner of the hotel was Mrs Ward (nee Ford) of Wickliffe, who later married Louis Murray, who owned the hotel from 1892 until 1924, when she sold the hotel and seven acres to George O'Connor.[45] D. J. McNamara leased the hotel from 1913.[46]

The original 1862 hotel remains today and is used as the dining room of the current Lake Bolac Hotel.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[44] *The Argus*, 27 October 1875, 3.

[45] 'Young Bros. Wimmera and Western District Land Sales.' *The Horsham Times*, 7 October 1924, 4.

[46] *Border Watch*, 1 February 1913, 2.

Description

Physical Description

Lake Bolac Hotel is a bluestone corner building with hipped roofs clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The corner bay with the angled entry on the corner projects slightly from the side wings of the building and has a parapet to the roof. This front corner bay has two arched windows to the street elevations and the corner entry is also arched. The side wings along the street elevations have rectangular window openings with timber framed, double hung windows. There are stone voussoirs to the arched openings and quoins to corners and openings. The rectangular openings have bluestone lintels and all windows have bluestone sills. The Mortlake-Ararat Road elevation contains six evenly spaced openings, five of them windows and one a single door. On the Glenelg Highway elevation there are three windows and a later hip roofed wing that projects forward towards the street. The stonework coursing to this wing is different and more decorative with a vertical row of smaller stones between the large blocks. The front elevation to this wing has a single door and two rectangular openings with timber framed double hung windows. This may have been a later dining room addition, although it is still pre 1900 and probably around 1890. The chimneys to the building are brick and have a diagonal rather than square alignment on the roof. There is a later skillion roofed wing at the south end of the Mortlake-Ararat Road elevation. This is a simple addition probably added in the mid 20th century.

There are bluestone stables to the rear of the building with a skillion roof. The building has been altered but retains some of its original stonework.

Physical Condition

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The hotel was in good condition and the stables were in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Lake Bolac Hotel and Stables located at 2127 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and details of the former Hotel and Stables and the Elm tree to the southeast corner are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Lake Bolac Hotel, Stables and Elm tree located at 2127 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Lake Bolac Hotel is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of a mid-Victorian bluestone hotel and as an important indicator of the establishment of the Lake Bolac township in the early 1860s at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862 under the Duffy Land Act to provide land to people leaving the gold fields. Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area. Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. Constructed in 1862, the hotel was an early and important building in the township. As well as a hotel, the building served the community for meetings, church services and as a barber shop, and the stables housed a morgue. The hotel is of historical significance for its associations with the Brown and Ward families. James Brown, employed by the Messrs. Chirnside at Barton and Mt. William stations, established a shanty in 1856 at Lake Bolac and later built a timber hotel. In 1862, after purchasing two acres on which the hotel stood, Brown replaced the timber building with a hotel made from locally quarried bluestone. The longest owner of the hotel was Mrs Ward (nee Ford) of Wickliffe, who later married Louis Murray, who owned the hotel from 1892 until 1924. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Lake Bolac Hotel is aesthetically significant as an excellent intact example of a mid-Victorian bluestone hotel. Features of note include the coursed bluestone walls, different treatment to the corner wing with the arched windows and parapet, timber framed double hung windows, brick chimneys with a diagonal alignment and hipped roof forms. The Hotel is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the voussoirs to the arched openings, quoins to the corners and openings and more decorative coursing to the later dining room wing. The distinctive early building is a local landmark on the Glenelg Highway indicating early settlement in the district. The Elm tree to the southeast corner of the property and the stables to the rear contribute to the aesthetic significance of the site. (Criteria D & E)

The Lake Bolac Hotel is of social significance as an important gathering place for the Lake Bolac district community from 1862 and during its use as a hotel. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes Elm tree (south east corner)
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes bluestone stables
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bluestone Residence	
Address	2151 Glenelg Highway LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level State
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Bolohe run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Bolohe) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Bolohe run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

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placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water

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supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[41] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[42]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

This bluestone cottage was built by Robert Pearson Helme in 1862 from locally quarried stone. The home was occupied by Robert Helme, his wife Margaret, and children, Richard and Ruth. Robert, who arrived from Lancashire in 1859 on the ship 'Sultana', was a stonemason. His son, Richard, also took up the trade. On his death in 1903, Robert Helme's probate inventory included the cottage, which was valued at £35 and described as a two-roomed stone dwelling house with a detached two-roomed weatherboard kitchen.[44]

As stonemasons, Robert and Richard Helme, and Robert's brother, Thomas Helme, undertook much of the construction of Lake Bolac's bluestone buildings, including the Scots Uniting Church.

The residence continues to be lived in today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.

[14] *Ibid.*, 30.

[15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.

[18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] *Ibid.*, 9.

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- [22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.
- [24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.
- [25] Ibid., 17-18.
- [26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.
- [27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).
- [28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.
- [29] Ibid., 127.
- [30] Ibid., 126-7.
- [31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.
- [32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.
- [34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.
- [35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [37] Ibid.
- [38] Ibid.
- [39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7
- [40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.
- [41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*.
- [42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [43] Much of this information is from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District

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Historical Society, n.d; and signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[44] Robert Helme Probate and Administration File, PROV, VPRS 28/P2/683.

Description

Physical Description

The building is a simple residence constructed of coursed bluestone. The bluestone walls have been painted but the quoins to the corners and around the openings are still evident. It has a gable roof running parallel to the street and a bullnose verandah to the front. The verandah and roof cladding are later changes and are not original. The front elevation contains a central door and a window either side. The openings to these windows are original but the original timber windows have been replaced with aluminium. There is a weatherboard addition to the east, which is set back from the front. This appears to be an early addition and is most likely to have been the two roomed kitchen wing.

Physical Condition

The bluestone section of the residence was in good condition and the timber side wing was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

The Bluestone Residence located at 2151 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and details of the bluestone residence and weatherboard side wing are integral to the significance of the place.

The verandah and roof cladding are later changes and do not contribute to the significance of the building.

How is it significant?

The Bluestone Residence at 2151 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Bluestone Residence is of historical significance for its demonstration of the establishment of the Lake Bolac township in the early 1860s at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862 under the Duffy Land Act to provide land to those leaving the goldfields. Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area. Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. Constructed in 1862, the bluestone residence is significant for its associations with the Helme family. Robert Pearson Helme built the cottage from locally quarried stone and it was occupied by him with his wife Margaret and children - Richard and Ruth. As stonemasons, Robert and Richard Helme, and Robert's brother, Thomas Helme, undertook much of the construction of Lake Bolac's bluestone buildings, including the Scots Uniting Church. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Bluestone Residence is aesthetically significant as an example of a mid-Victorian style bluestone residence. Features that demonstrate the 1860s include the proportions, location close to the street, form and stonework. The residence is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the coursing and the

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quoins to corners and openings. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Scots Uniting Church, Sunday School Hall, Fence, Gate, and Stone Pine		
Address	139 Montgomery Street LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Church		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

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Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

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small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the Fisheries Act in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

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In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

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Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[42]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

The Presbytery of Mortlake formed in 1863 and Rev David Kaye conducted fortnightly services at Wickliffe. A site for a Presbyterian church in Lake Bolac was donated by Josiah Park in 1874.

In March 1876, the *Geelong Advertiser* reported that 'A Presbyterian Church is to be erected at Lake Bolac at a cost of £650 or £700. A donation of £300 towards defraying the expenses has been promised by Robert Moffat, squatter of Lake Buloke Station.'[44] The Presbyterians raised further monies through subscriptions and subsequently called for tenders for a church building in 1876 and 1877.[45]

The Scots Church was built over the period 1876-77 by Lake Bolac stonemasons Robert Helme, Robert Pitkethly and Jack Murray, known as 'Murray the Mason'. [46] The church was designed by architect George Harriott of Wickliffe.

The foundation stone of the Scots Church was laid on 23 May 1876 by Mrs John Moffatt and Mrs William Veale. Rev J. S. Muir preached the opening service. The church was part of the parish that also included Glenthompson, Chatsworth and Wickliffe.

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A Sunday school operated from 1878. A timber Sunday school hall, measuring 36 feet by 22 feet, with corrugated iron roof was built in 1939 beside the church and opened in 1940. Extensions, comprising an anteroom, kitchen and porch designed by Warrnambool architect Bruce Auty, were made to the Sunday school in 1955.[47]

Commemorative gates erected in 1947 were dedicated to the memory of Ruby Nixon.

A vestry measuring 20 feet by 14 feet, designed by L. H. Vernon and Associates, architects and civil engineers of Ballarat, was built in 1960 by R. P. White at a cost of £3,005. A bluestone porch, designed by the same architectural firm, was built in 1964 by Wilson Brothers.[48]

Methodist services were held in the church on Sunday evenings prior to 1914 and Church of England services were held until 1958.

A brick toilet block was erected in 1971.

The Scots Church at Lake Bolac became part of the Uniting Church in 1977.

The Scots Uniting Church continues to be used for services today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

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[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.

[14] *Ibid.*, 30.

[15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.

[18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] *Ibid.*, 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[29] *Ibid.*, 127.

[30] *Ibid.*, 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

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[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

[40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

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[43] Most of this information is from 'Scots Presbyterian Church Lake Bolac 1890' from the Collection of Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, Victorian Collections, 2014. Available <http://victoriancollections.net.au/items/53780e3a2162ef197cff469e>. Accessed 6 August 2014. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d. Signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 24-5.

[44] "TOWN TALK." *Geelong Advertiser*, 31 March 1876, 2.

[45] J. Breward, Presbyterian Archives. Personal Communication, 2013.

[46] J. Breward, Presbyterian Archives. Personal Communication, 2013.

[47] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882/P1/1036.

[48] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882/P1/1036.

Description

Physical Description

Scots Church, Lake Bolac is a coursed bluestone church with a gable roof running perpendicular to the street. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There are three closely spaced Gothic arch windows with leadlight in the end wall facing the street. The central window is taller than the flanking windows. Above the window is a Gothic arch vent with

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louvres. At the apex of the gable at either end is a bluestone open finial with a metal cross mounted on this at the front. The original cross from the rear apex is not extant. The nave is four bays in length with each bay is divided by stepped bluestone buttressing. On the south wall each bay has a narrow Gothic arch window with leadlight centrally placed. On the north side, the front bay contains an entry porch with a gable roof running parallel to the street. This porch was added in 1964. The entry, which is a Gothic arch with double timber doors, also in the Gothic arch shape, is in the front elevation of the porch. While a later addition, the porch is constructed in coursed bluestone with stepped buttressing to match the church. The three bays behind this porch contain narrow Gothic arch windows, which have been altered. There is a white brick vestry to the rear which is narrower than the nave and has a lower gable roof form which runs in the same direction as the roof to the nave. This rear addition also has stepped buttressing and a tripartite Gothic arch window to the rear. One side elevation contains a Gothic arch window and the other proposed an entry door.

The Sunday school building sits adjacent to the church and has a gable roof running parallel to the roof of the church. It is a timber framed building with weatherboard cladding. The building has been constructed in two stages. The front section has wide eaves with exposed rafters and timber framed double hung windows to the side walls. The south elevation also contains a central brick chimney. The front elevation is blank apart from double vertically clad timber doors and a concrete ramp. The rear section has a gable roof with walls and roof in line with the front section. On the south side is a bank of four timber framed double hung windows with highlight windows and the north side contains an enclosed entry formed by a flat roofed canopy and glazed wall with a cream brick base. This elevation also contains two twin timber framed double hung windows.

There are commemorative gates at the front of the site, directly in front of the church. These consist of wrought iron double gates with two pillars and a linking wall either side. The pillars directly adjacent to the gates are taller. The stonework to the pillars and walls is random coursing with raised mortar joints. The commemorative gate plaque contains the wording 'To the glory of God and in memory of Ruby Nixon 1895-1947'. Either side of the gates are evenly spaced coursed bluestone pillars with linking draped metal chain.

There is a stone pine also in front of the church.

Physical Condition

The church and Sunday School were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Scots Uniting Church Complex located at 139 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and details of the 1877 church with 1960s additions, weatherboard Sunday School, Memorial Gates and Stone pine are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Scots Uniting Church Complex located at 139 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Scots Uniting Church Complex in Lake Bolac is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early development period of the town of Lake Bolac as well as demonstrating the post World War Two boom. Lake Bolac was

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established in the early 1860s at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads. The church was constructed between 1876 and 1877 by local stonemasons Robert Helme, Robert Pitkethly and Jack Murray. The church was designed by architect George Harriet of Wickliffe. The rear vestry and side porch additions were made in the 1960s demonstrating the growth in population at the time as a result of post World War Two soldier settlement and good seasons for farming in the area. The additions to the Sunday School in 1955 also demonstrate this boom in population. The church is one of only a few 1870s bluestone churches in the Shire. The church is of significance for its associations with Robert Moffat of Lake Buloke Station who donated nearly half the money towards the cost of the original church and Josiah Park who donated the land on which the church sits. The commemorative gates erected in the 1940s are of historical significance for demonstrating the mid 20th century practice of erecting gates in the honour of significant people. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Scots Uniting Church Complex in Lake Bolac is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact 1870s bluestone church demonstrating skilled stonemasonry. Features of note include the coursed stonework, Gothic openings, finials to the gable ends and buttressing. The 1960s additions, comprising the rear vestry in white brick and side porch to the front, are of interest in their demonstration of two different methods of providing a later addition to an existing church. The use of white brick to the rear is unusual but demonstrative of the 1960s period. The commemorative gates are of aesthetic significance as an example of the type of gates typically constructed as a memorial in the mid 20th century. Typical features include the wrought iron gates and random stone pillars with raised mortar joints. The stone pine at the front of the church contributes to the aesthetic significance of the place. (Criteria D & E)

The Scots Uniting Church Complex in Lake Bolac is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1877 to the present day. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Stone pine

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front memorial gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bluestone Residence	
Address	149 Montgomery Street LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

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placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

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In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

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Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

The Pitkethly family of stonemasons built the cottage at 149 Montgomery Street in the 1860s after they arrived in the area in 1862.[44] The front section of the house, the earliest part, consisted of two rooms, one containing a fireplace.

In 1866, Robert Pitkethly, listed as a storekeeper at Lake Bolac, was declared insolvent,[45] however, by 1867 he had built the Lake Bolac bluestone school and, by 1878, the Roman Catholic bluestone church. Pitkethly also owned the Parupa Lime Works at Lake Bolac.[46]

The residence continues to be lived in today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

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- [3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
- [9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.
- [14] Ibid., 30.
- [15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.
- [18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.
- [21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.
- [22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

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- [23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.
- [24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.
- [25] Ibid., 17-18.
- [26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.
- [27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).
- [28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.
- [29] Ibid., 127.
- [30] Ibid., 126-7.
- [31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.
- [32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.
- [34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.
- [35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [37] Ibid.
- [38] Ibid.
- [39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7
- [40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.
- [41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*.
- [42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [43] Much of this information is from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d; and signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[44] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 28. Pitkethly's name appears as 'Petkethly' on the Lake Bolac township plan, however family will and probate documents use the former spelling.

[45] 'Advertising'. *The Argus*, 26 June 1866, 7.

[46] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

Description

Physical Description

This is a simple rectangular bluestone cottage with a hipped roof and a skillion verandah to two sides. The roof and verandah are later additions. The roof form was most likely originally a hip as it is seen today. At either end of the building is a bluestone chimney with cornice. The front elevation of the house has a central front door and a timber framed double hung window either side. These windows appear to be original. The front elevation of the house has been painted white at a later date. The earliest part of the house was the two front rooms constructed of bluestone. There is a later skillion addition to the rear.

Physical Condition

The bluestone residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Bluestone Residence located at 149 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and details of the bluestone residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Bluestone Residence at 149 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Bluestone Residence is of historical significance for its demonstration of the establishment of the Lake Bolac township in the early 1860s at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862 under the Duffy Land Act to provide land to people leaving the goldfields. Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area. Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. Constructed in 1862, the bluestone residence is significant for its associations with the Pitkethly family, a family of stonemasons. As well as building this residence, by 1867 Robert Pitkethly had built the Lake Bolac bluestone school and, by 1878, the Roman Catholic bluestone church. Pitkethly also owned the Parupa Lime Works at Lake Bolac. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Bluestone Residence is aesthetically significant as a rare example of a mid-Victorian style bluestone residence. Features that demonstrate the 1860s include the proportions, location close to the street, form and stonework. The

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

residence is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the coursing, chimneys and the quoins to corners and openings. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

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

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith	
Address	161 Montgomery Street LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Blacksmith, Residence, Wheelwright Shop	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

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placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water

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supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[41] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

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Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

Josiah Park with his wife Mary came to Lake Bolac in 1869 to work for Mr Child as a blacksmith, who operated from a building on the Ararat-Warrnambool road. There was a small house where the residence now stands, as well as two rooms behind the blacksmith shop.

After purchasing the blacksmith business next door, the Park family lived in the existing quarters before building the present house and stable in 1890. The builder was Jack Murray, an English stonemason and remittance man, known as 'Murray the Mason'. Josiah's eldest son, Thomas, joined the blacksmith business as a wheelwright when he finished school. Thomas designed and built the Peerless Woolpress, which won awards at the Royal Melbourne Show.

The residence was home to a family of twelve. The laundry and bathroom were detached. Water was pumped from a large underground tank by a windmill manufactured in the blacksmith shop. A verandah was added in 1920.

The stable on the south of the house contained three horses and a buggy, which was used for family travel. Work horses were kept separately. Chaff was stored in the loft and delivered to the horse stalls by chutes.

The residence and stables are lived in today, and the former blacksmith and wheelwright building is also used.

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- [1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.
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- [4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
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- [8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
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- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
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- [13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.
- [14] *Ibid.*, 30.
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- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.
- [18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census*

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Results for Victoria 1841-1901 (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] Ibid., 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] Ibid., 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

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[29] Ibid., 127.

[30] Ibid., 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

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[43] Most of this information is from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d; signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society; and 'Photograph - Lake Bolac State School 1893' from the Collection of Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, Victorian Collections, 2014. Available <http://victoriancollections.net.au/items/53780e3a2162ef197cff469e>. Accessed 6 August 2014.

Description

Physical Description

Residence

The residence is constructed of coursed bluestone with the main section with a front verandah and a hipped roof. This early and central wing is double fronted with a central entry door and timber framed, double hung windows either side. The verandah to the front has a bullnose profile and a cast iron frieze. Early photographs indicate that this is a later verandah and the 1920s verandah had a hipped profile. There is a gable roofed wing at the north end, stepped back from the front, which appears to have originally been a separate building. The southern section has three evenly spaced timber framed double hung windows to the front and the north section has a double roller door to the front. The main front wing retains its bluestone chimneys. The bluestone front fence to the front is not original and early photographs indicate a timber picket fence to the front.

Stables

The stables are constructed of bluestone and have a gable roof running perpendicular to the street. The building is two storey. The end wall facing the front is blank as is the south wall. The north wall has new aluminium framed openings but there is an arched lintel at the west end indicating the location of original double doors. There is a hip roofed single storey addition to the rear, also constructed of bluestone, but a later addition. The south side of the roof contains dormer windows, which are also a later addition.

Blacksmith/Wheelwright building

The blacksmith/wheelwright building is a double height gable roofed building with the roof running parallel to the street. The north end wall, rear wall and front section of wall at the north end are constructed of coursed bluestone, while the remainder of the building is weatherboard clad. Early photographs show that the walls that are now weatherboard clad were previously clad in corrugated iron. There is a small skillion roofed wing at the south end, which is lower than the substantially double height building.

Physical Condition

The buildings are altered but were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

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The bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith located at 161 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the buildings are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith located at 161 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith in Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac are historically significant for their long association with commercial activities in the Lake Bolac township. The blacksmith building was established ca. 1860s for Mr Child, a blacksmith. The residence and stables were constructed for the Park family in 1890 after they purchased the blacksmith business from Mr Child. Although altered, the buildings are significant as a rare example of a complex of buildings related to a blacksmith/wheelwright business operating from the late 19th century. The building complex is significant for its associations with the Park family. Josiah Park with his wife Mary came to Lake Bolac in 1869 to work for Mr Child as a blacksmith, later taking over the business. Josiah's eldest son, Thomas, joined the blacksmith business as a wheelwright when he finished school. Thomas designed and built the Peerless Woolpress, which won awards at the Royal Melbourne Show. (Criteria A, B & H)

The bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith in Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac are aesthetically significant as an example of a late 20th century blacksmith and associated residence complex. Although altered, the complex of buildings demonstrates the forms, layout and materials of a late 19th century residential and commercial complex. The materials and forms indicate the pre 1900 construction date of the buildings and demonstrate the early appearance of Lake Bolac. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes stables, blacksmith/wheelwright building

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, War Memorials and Pepper Trees		
Address	172 Montgomery Street LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Other - Monuments & Memorials		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Designer / Architect	Irwin, Jas., Walter & Auty

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warrnambool roads, the Ararat-Warrnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[41] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[42]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:[43]

The first Lake Bolac Public Hall was a weatherboard construction, measuring 52 feet by 24 feet, built in 1896 by Ollie Anderson of Ararat and opened by district MP Mr McLellan on 25 October 1896.[44] Prior to this time, all dances, concerts and meetings were held in the old flourmill. The opening of the hall was celebrated by a musical program arranged by William Veale Snr, and featured local artists.

Plans were drawn up in 1921 by James Irwin, architect of Ararat, for a new timber memorial hall with a Durabestos and iron roof, to honour Lake Bolac district's World War One soldiers. Measuring 50 feet by 30 feet, the building comprised two dressing rooms 9 feet by 9 feet, a stage 23 feet by 24 feet, a kitchen 9 feet by 14 feet, a supper room 17 feet by 23 feet, and a hall 32 feet by 50 feet.[45] The hall was built on land beside the Lake Bolac Hotel.

In 1922, the former hall building was relocated across Montgomery Street to become the supper room and stage area for the newly erected memorial hall. The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, built at a cost of £1050, was opened by the Premier of Victoria, Mr Lawson, on 10 June 1922.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

In 1929, a biocabin for the showing of films was constructed, and in 1934, extensions were made to the supper room and kitchen by builder J. S. Heard of Tatyoon.[46]

After World War Two, a monument was erected in front of the hall and became the focus of Anzac Day commemorations.

A memorial foyer, comprising a ladies powder room, gents toilet, new biocabin, and refreshment bar, were designed by Walter and Auty of Warrnambool and added to the front of the hall in 1957. The new facade included a cantilever verandah, concrete roof capping, louvre windows, granite honour roll with marble surround listing those who had served in World War One and World War Two, brick facing, terracotta tile facing, and nickel plated letters on copper, which read '1922 LAKE BOLAC MEMORIAL HALL'. A wrought iron flag pole was also erected.[47]

A classroom from the Lake Bolac Primary School was relocated and joined to the hall in the 1980s. Further additions were made to the hall in the 1990s.

Four peppercorn trees stand in the median strip near the hall in Montgomery Street; the one closest to the front of the hall was planted by Mrs L. Dear to commemorate her brother, Private V. H. Jones, 60th Battalion, who died in Belgium on 25 September 1917 fighting in World War One.

The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall has been used for a variety of purposes, including Ararat Shire Council meetings, bazaars, meetings, art classes, church services, government elections, drama events, and flower shows, and continues today to provide an important meeting place for the Lake Bolac district community.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.
- [14] Ibid., 30.
- [15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.
- [18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.
- [21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.
- [22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.
- [24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.
- [25] Ibid., 17-18.
- [26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.
- [27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).
- [28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.
- [29] Ibid., 127.
- [30] Ibid., 126-7.
- [31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

[40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*.

[42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[43] Most of this information is from 'Lake Bolac Public Hall 1896' from the Collection of Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, Victorian Collections, 2014. Available <http://victoriancollections.net.au/items/53780e3a2162ef197cff469e>. Accessed 6 August 2014. 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d. Signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[44] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS7882/P1/296.

[45] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS7882/P1/296.

[46] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS7882/P1/296.

[47] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS7882/P1/296.

Description

Physical Description

Physical Description:

The Lake Bolac Hall comprises four main sections: a 1957 front cream brick and tiled foyer and toilet facilities added to the front of the 1922 weatherboard hall, the 1922 weatherboard hall, the former 1896 hall at the rear of this and a relocated school building at the rear of this on the north east corner.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

At the front of the hall is a granite War Memorial obelisk on a rusticated stone plinth and bluestone stepped base and a bluestone memorial to the Australian Womens Land Army of the Lake Bolac District. There are four Pepper trees at the front of the hall in the median strip. One of these trees is a memorial tree.

The memorial foyer designed by Walter and Auty of Warrnambool and added to the front of the hall in 1957 comprises a cantilever verandah, concrete roof capping, granite honour roll with marble surround listing those who served in World War One and World War Two, brick facing, terracotta tile facing, and nickel plated letters on copper, which read '1922 LAKE BOLAC MEMORIAL HALL'. The side elevations of the foyer have deep set square windows. The entry is a glazed wall with double doors.

Behind the foyer is the 1922 weatherboard clad hall, which has a gable roof running perpendicular to the street. Cream brick side wings with skillion roofs, added in 1957, extend the length of the hall and cover the original side elevations. The side wings are set below the eaves of the 1922 hall. Behind this hall is the 1898 hall, which also has a gable roof, but this roof runs parallel with the street and intersects the gable to the front hall. The attached earlier hall projects further out on the south side. The weatherboards have been replaced with hardiplank cladding and original windows have been replaced with aluminium windows on the south side of the building.

The school building added to the northeast corner of the building is a 1920s single classroom building. It has a Dutch gable roof form and a bank of four double hung windows on the north wall with hopper windows above. The east and south elevations of the school building have been clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The south elevation contains a door with hopper window above and twin double hung windows with hopper windows above. The school building and former 1896 hall have cylindrical metal roof vents.

At the rear of the site is a small gable roofed shed clad in corrugated galvanised iron. This is likely to date from the 1920s.

Physical Condition

The hall was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, War Memorials and Pepper trees located at 172 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac. The location and original, form, materials and details of the 1896, 1922, 1957 wings, the 1924 former Lake Bolac School, War Memorial, Women's Land Army Memorial, and four Pepper trees are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, War Memorials and Pepper trees are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the progressive waves of development in the Lake Bolac District and for its important role in the civic life of the district. The earliest section of the hall, demonstrating the first wave of settlement in the district from the 1860s, sits behind the 1922 hall and was the first

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Lake Bolac Hall built in 1896. It was originally located across the road from the present hall and was moved to its current location when the War Memorial Hall was constructed in 1922. The weatherboard Memorial Hall, constructed in 1922, demonstrates the post World War One wave of settlement resulting from the Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The former Lake Bolac School building moved to the rear of the hall also demonstrates this period in the history of Lake Bolac. The 1957 brick foyer and amenities wings demonstrate a boom in the district resulting from the post World War Two Soldier Settlement Scheme, which coincided with an economic boom due to good farming seasons. The War Memorial obelisk is of historical significance for its demonstration of the type of War Memorials erected in rural townships to commemorate the wars. (Criterion A)

The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall is aesthetically significant as an example of a community hall constructed in a number of stages over a long period and utilising recycled buildings. The 1922 hall, 1957 foyer and amenities wings, and 1920s school building are good intact examples of their type and period. The foyer designed by Warrnambool architects Walter and Auty is of aesthetic significance as an excellent intact example of a 1950s hall frontage. Details of note include the terracotta tile facing, deep set windows to the side elevations, cantilever verandah and nickel plated letters on copper, which read '1922 LAKE BOLAC MEMORIAL HALL'. (Criteria D & E)

The Lake Bolac Memorial Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since the 1890s. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings since completion of the first hall in 1896. The War Memorial Obelisk, memorial Pepper tree and Women's Land Army memorial are of social significance as the focus of war commemoration for the town and surrounding district and as the location of Anzac ceremonies since erection of the War Memorial Obelisk after World War Two. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 4 Pepper trees

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Corrugated iron clad outbuilding

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bluestone Residence	
Address	199 Montgomery Street LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Boloke) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Boloke run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

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Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

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Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:

The property at 199 Montgomery Street Lake Bolac comprises Allotments 3 and 4 of the Lake Bolac Township.

Allotment 4 was purchased by Robert Pitkethly on 28 July 1865.[43] Pitkethly built a house and stables on the site, which were later used as a horse training centre by Fred Drever.[44]

A. M. McKay purchased Allotment 3 on 3 September 1862.[45] The residence of interest, constructed of locally quarried bluestone was built on the allotment ca. 1865, and was used as the first classroom of the Parupa Common School from 3 December 1866 until late 1867. Fees were sixpence a week paid each Monday morning. The Parupa Common School moved to a new building in late 1867.

Mr McDonald used the building as the residence for a bluestone flourmill he established ca. 1868 at the rear of Allotment 3 and on part of Allotment 4. The property was sold the following year to John King and David Midgley.

In April 1872, the flourmill was totally destroyed by fire, with repairs costing between £2000 and £3000. The residence was not affected. The flourmill closed at the end of 1876 due to insufficient grain supply.

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The old mill was converted into a hall and used for dances and other community activities. The bluestone residence was lived in by several families, including the manager of the flax mill. A milk bar was later operated from the premises by Jack Pedder.

The building is used as a private residence today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.

[14] *Ibid.*, 30.

[15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final*

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Thirty Years 1964-1994, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.

[18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] *Ibid.*, 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[29] *Ibid.*, 127.

[30] *Ibid.*, 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] *Ibid.*

[38] *Ibid.*

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[42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[43] Township of Lake Bolac Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 1952. Pitkethly's name appears as 'Petkethly' on the township plan, however family will and probate documents use the former spelling.

[44] Most of this information is from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d; and signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[45] Township of Lake Bolac Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 1952.

Description

Physical Description

The residence is a simple rectangular building with a gable roof running parallel with the street. The roof is a later change, and the original roof may have had a similar gable but would have had wider eaves. The house is built up to the street line and may have had a verandah to the front (given the height of the front elevation), but the current canopy over the entry is a later change. The front elevation contains a central arched opening for the front door and a recessed timber framed double hung window either side. The front door has quoins to the sides of the opening and voussoirs to the arch. The mullions to the window are fine indicating the early age of the building. There is a red brick chimney to the rear skillion wing, which is also constructed from coursed bluestone but appears to be a later addition. There are later additions on both sides of the building clad in Hardiplank. These side wings do not contribute to the significance of the place.

Physical Condition

The building was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Bluestone Residence located at 199 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and details of the bluestone residence including the stone skillion wing to the rear are integral to the significance of the place.

The Hardiplank clad extensions to the north and south sides do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

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The Bluestone Residence located at 199 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Bluestone Residence at 199 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac is of historical significance for its demonstration of the establishment of the Lake Bolac township in the early 1860s and for its role in the early development of the township. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862 under the Duffy Land Act to provide land to people leaving the goldfields. Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area. Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. Constructed in 1865, the bluestone residence has had a number of significant historical uses. It was used as the first classroom of the Parupa Common School from 3 December 1866 until late 1867. Mr McDonald also used the building as the residence for a bluestone flourmill he established ca. 1868. The bluestone residence has been lived in by several families, including the manager of the flax mill, and a milk bar was later operated from the premises by Jack Pedder. The building is significant as a rare surviving example of mid-Victorian bluestone residence. (Criteria A, B & G)

The Bluestone Residence is aesthetically significant as an example of a mid-Victorian style bluestone residence demonstrating key features of the style and period. Features that demonstrate the 1860s include the proportions, location close to the street, fine timber detailing to the windows and coursed stonework. The residence is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the coursing and the quoins and voussoirs to the front arched opening. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Lake Bolac State School No. 854, Teachers Residence, and Kurrajong and Pepper Trees		
Address	205-211 Montgomery Street LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	School - State (public), Staff housing		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to

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the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Boloke run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

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Place history:[43]

Application was made for a mixed school known as Parupa Common School in November 1865. The school commenced operations on 3 December 1866 in a bluestone building on the Ararat-Warrnambool Road. By March 1867, 37 pupils were enrolled.

Construction of a new school building by local stonemason Robert Pitkethly commenced in April 1867. The school was built on two acres of land on the Ararat-Warrnambool Road purchased with a grant supplemented by local contributions.

The new school was completed at a cost of £275 and opened at the end of 1867. The school, 30 feet by 18 feet by 10 feet high, was made of bluestone with a galvanised iron roof; a teacher's residence of three rooms was attached. The name was changed to Lake Bolac State School No. 854 in 1870, by which time it had an enrolment of 47 pupils.

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In July 1914, two acres adjoining the school were purchased and a school residence erected.

A new timber school building was constructed in October 1925 and was opened by Frank Tait in February 1926. The former bluestone school building was sold for removal.

Three classrooms were added and a general purpose room built in 1966 to mark the school's centenary.

The Lake Bolac school building was closed in 1979 when Lake Bolac State School No. 854 was moved to another site, where it operated until 2000 when the Lake Bolac P-12 School opened.

The former school and residence are now privately owned.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] Ian Clark in *ibid.*, 27. Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[8] Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[9] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55. Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[12] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[13] Mary Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers* (Lake Bolac, Vic.: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, 1966), 17.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[14] Ibid., 30.

[15] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964* / Lorna L. Banfield. *The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.

[18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964* / Lorna L. Banfield. *The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

[21] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] Ibid., 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[29] Ibid., 127.

[30] Ibid., 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964* / Lorna L. Banfield. *The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

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[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

[40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*.

[42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[43] This information is from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d; signage at the building by Lake Bolac and District Historical Society; and 'Josiah Park's Home built in 1890', from the Collection of Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, Victorian Collections, 2014. Available <http://victoriancollections.net.au/items/53780e3a2162ef197cff469e>. Accessed 6 August 2014. L. J. Blake, ed. *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education*, vol. 2 (Melbourne: Education Department Victoria, 1974), 33.

Description

Physical Description

School building

The school is a timber framed building with weatherboard cladding. It has a main Dutch gable roof with a smaller Dutch gable roofed wing on the front south corner. Adjacent to this is a skillion roofed porch which projects further towards the front. The building is well set back from the road. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheet with wide, lined eaves. There are two narrow, tall square brick chimneys, which are plain brickwork. Windows are timber framed and paired. The south side elevation of the building contains four of these paired windows with each pair being closely spaced. Each window contains a twin double hung window with a hopper window above. The sashes to the double hung windows each have six panes and the hopper windows have three panes. The double hung windows to the front elevation of the front corner match the double hung windows to the remainder of the building but there are no hopper windows above. The front elevation of the main wing adjacent to the porch has twin fixed sash windows, with each sash containing six panes. The north side elevation of the main wing contains a small casement window towards the front and a row of louvre windows extending across the remainder of the length.

The residence

The residence is a weatherboard clad building with a main hipped roof and a central projecting gable wing. It is well set back from the road. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheet and has wide eaves with exposed rafters. To one side of the gable wing is a skillion verandah under which is the entry door and a double hung window. The gable end to the

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projecting gable wing has half timbering and there is a twin double hung window in the front elevation. On the opposite side of the projecting wing to the verandah and entry there is a timber frame double hung window. There are two tall brick chimneys that have been painted and have brick banding towards the top as well as brick corning. There is a steel wire fence to the front of the residence. The original windows are timber framed and double hung with multi pane (6) sashes. There is a weatherboard skillion wing to the rear.

There is a Kurrajong tree and Pepper trees on the site.

Physical Condition

The former school building was in fair condition and the residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Lake Bolac State School and Teacher's Residence at 205-211 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac. The location and original form, materials and details of the weatherboard school and residence and Kurrajong and Pepper trees are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Lake Bolac State School and Teacher's Residence and Kurrajong and Pepper trees at 205-211 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac are of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Lake Bolac State School and Teacher's Residence are of historical significance for their demonstration of the provision of education in the Lake Bolac township. The 1925 construction of the new school building demonstrates the post World War One wave of settlement resulting from the Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The weatherboard school building replaced an earlier bluestone school building constructed in 1867. The teacher's residence was constructed in 1914 and replaced a three roomed residence attached to the bluestone school building. The retention of the school building and adjacent residence on their original sites and in such intact condition is rare. (Criteria A & B)

The former Lake Bolac State School and Teacher's Residence are aesthetically significant as substantially intact examples of an Education Department School and Teacher's Residence from the early 20th century. The residence and school building retain many original features characteristic of the period including the overall forms with hipped roofs, Dutch gables and wide eaves and timber framed double hung windows with multi pane sashes. The Kurrajong tree and Pepper trees contribute to the setting of the place and assist in indicating the early 20th century age of the buildings. (Criterion D)

How is it significant?

The former Lake Bolac State School and Teacher's Residence and Kurrajong and Pepper trees at 205-211 Montgomery Street, Lake Bolac are of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Kurrajong and Pepper trees

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains and Former Flax Mill Shed		
Address	Frontage Street LAKE BOLAC South Beach Road LAKE BOLAC	Significance Level	State
Place Type	Other - Manufacturing & Processing		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended	VHR No HI Yes PS Yes
Heritage Protection	

History and Historical Context

The Lake Bolac district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1] Up to 1,000 Djab wurrung, Wadda wurrung and Kirrae wurrung people gathered to harvest eels during the annual eel migratory season at Lake Bolac, along Salt Creek from its outlet at Lake Bolac to its junction with the Hopkins River, and at Mount William swamp.[2] Lake Bolac, a 1460-hectare body of fresh water, which is two metres deep with a catchment of 1000 square kilometres, is filled from the east by Fiery Creek. Salt Creek exits on the south shore.[3] Its valuable resource of fresh water was utilised not only by Aboriginal peoples, but also by later white settlers.

Surveyor General of New South Wales, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[4]

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From 1837, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep.[5] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834 and, from 1836, followed Mitchell's tracks from north of the Murray River. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[6]

Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) squatters Thomas Bilston and Thomas Norris came across Lake Bolac in 1839, but moved on because of Aboriginal occupation. J. D. Wyselaskie camped by the nearby Hopkins River in 1840, establishing Narrapumelap Station at Wickliffe.[7] In 1841, the lake was described by squatter Thomas Chirnside, and Chief Protector of the Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Subsequently, the Lake Bolac district was incorporated into the boundaries of the Lake Bolohe run of 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842.[8] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Mail and passenger coaches were established in the 1840s in the Colony of Victoria, and reached their peak in 1872, after which the expansion of the railways saw coach routes gradually contract. A changing station for coaches existed at Lake Bolac at the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, as did a bush hotel built in 1856 by James Brown and a store established in 1858 by Cecil Louisson.[9]

In order to provide land to the thousands of people who arrived during the gold rushes of the 1850s, the Duffy Land Act, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas' that were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[11] Allotments were taken up in the district of Lake Bolac under this Act and brought farming settlers to the area.

The Parupa (Lake Bolohe) township was subsequently surveyed to the west of the intersection of the Glenelg and Ararat-Warnambool roads, the Ararat-Warnambool road (today's Montgomery Street) correlating to the western boundary of the Lake Bolohe run.[12] Township blocks were put up for sale in September 1862, with stonemason Robert Pitkethly constructing many of the town's early bluestone buildings using stone from a local quarry, located at a site that is known locally today as 'McMasters Paddock', and mortar made from lime manufactured at Pitkethly's kiln.[13]

Lake Bolac township was proclaimed as Parupa in 1864, and the name was changed to Lake Bolac in 1892. A blacksmith shop opened in 1865 and Parupa Common School was opened in 1866 in a bluestone building later used as part of a flour mill; the mill closed in 1877.[14] Storekeeper Cecil Louisson was appointed postmaster in 1868 at £25 per annum.[15] A recreation reserve was gazetted in 1873, the same year the first burial in the cemetery occurred.[16]. A Roman Catholic church opened in 1874 and a Presbyterian church in 1876. A dedicated post office opened in 1887 and a hall in 1896.[17] Football was first played in 1875 and tennis in 1896.[18] By 1901, Lake Bolac township had a population of 132.[19]

Lake Bolac residents, lacking representation on the Ararat Shire council, urged the adoption of ridings; as a consequence, north, east and west ridings were established in 1869.[20]

Fine salt was manufactured at a salt lake at Parupa Park near Lake Bolac in the 1860s, from where bullock wagons carted salt to Ballarat. The salt was evaporated by fires lit under steel trays of salt water. Red gum and sheoke wood for the fires was carted from the Lappenich Wood Reserve.[21] Merchants were licensed to harvest salt from the lakes at Lake Bolac as late as 1937.[22] Those employed at the salt works included itinerant workers such as shearers and rouseabouts.[23] In addition, several lime kilns, which burnt lime for use in building construction, were established in the Parupa (Lake Bolac) district in the 1860s.[24]

Another early industry was eeling. During flooding of Fiery Creek and Lake Bolac, white settlers from Ararat lived in small huts on the banks of Lake Bolac and netted hundreds of eels at Salt Creek, selling them to nearby towns.[25] By

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placing nets across the outlet of Lake Bolac, European fishermen took every eel, thereby depriving Aboriginal people of an important food source that they had relied on for thousands of years. An amendment to the Fisheries Act in 1863 subsequently protected Aboriginal rights to the fish and eels of Lake Bolac.[26]

In an effort to break up the existing large estates in Victoria, the Closer Settlement Act was passed in 1904 and sections of Nerrin Nerrin were subsequently sold. However private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Lake Bolac district. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[27] In 1903, Murphy sold 22,000 acres of the Lake Bolac station. In addition, tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy 63,000 acres of land they were share-farming on the Nerrin Nerrin estate and purchased farm holdings in the early 1900s.[28] Another part of Nerrin Nerrin estate, comprising 2,500 acres adjoining the Lake Bolac township, was sold outright.[29] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation.[30]

In 1903, a newspaper report summed up the progress being made at Lake Bolac:

The old town is close to the lake [Lake Bolac] bank, and through it runs one of the old coaching roads. Surveyors are busily at work marking off an additional area of town allotments [on the eastern side of Montgomery Street]. The new settlement, which is springing up on all sides, means that this roadside hamlet will awaken to new life and activity. On Nerrin Nerrin, an estate which also adjoins the lake, some 12,000 acres have been cut up into farms, half of which is under grain this year.[31]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Narrapumelap,[32] boosting the district's population. The Lake Bolac Hall was moved across the road to become part of the memorial hall, which opened in 1922.[33] A new timber school was built in 1924, and a bush nursing hospital opened in 1929.[34] In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Lake Bolac attracted tourists who partook of boating, rowing, swimming and picnic activities. Electricity was connected to the town in 1938.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] This phase of settlement corresponded with the post World War Two economic boom and good seasons and brought significant wealth and growth to the township and district of Lake Bolac.

During World War Two, farmers, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The seed was used for the manufacture of linseed oil and meal. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942, which employed 100 people including 60 Land Army women, immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe devastated by war. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[36]

After continued lobbying from Lake Bolac residents, a south riding was added to Shire of Ararat in 1951.

The Lake Bolac township finally received a supply from Lake Bolac in 1952 after years of resident agitation for a water

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supply for the town. In 1951 the Lake Bolac Music Club was established to perform drama, music and live shows.[37] A higher elementary school opened at Lake Bolac in 1957 and was made a high school in 1960. A new building for the Bush Nursing Centre was built in 1957. The memorial hall was enlarged and re-opened in 1958; a war memorial was constructed at the same time. In 1960, a shed from the flax mill was relocated to the shore of Lake Bolac for use as a boat shed.[38] A new Catholic church was dedicated and opened in 1961.[39] In 1966, a swimming enclosure to allow competitive swimming was established on Lake Bolac.

Some limited irrigation was undertaken from Lake Bolac in the 1960s to spray irrigate onion, lucerne and potato crops on three properties adjacent to the lake, however high salinity levels meant that the activity was short lived.[40] The security of the Wimmera-Mallee system was improved by the construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir in 1962 to improve supplies to townships in the Ararat Shire. Lake Bolac was connected to this supply in 1970.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district, although Lake Bolac has increased its services. Additions were made to the Lake Bolac High School and opened in 1974. The Lake Bolac Recreation Reserve, originally on the northern side of the township, was redeveloped on 54 hectares on the eastern side of the township in the late 1970s and opened in 1980. A new primary school opened in 1979.[41] The high school became a P-12 College in 1998.

Severe drought caused Lake Bolac to dry out in 2008 and 2009, the first time since 1841. Flooding rains in 2010 saw the lake overflow and return to capacity. The Lake Bolac industrial estate commenced in 2002 and now contains at least eight businesses. A building to house the Lake Bolac Information Centre and Bendigo Community Bank was built in 2004. A new Bush Nursing Centre, police station and CFA fire shed have been built in recent years. The Lake Bolac Library was opened in 2012 and the sewerage scheme connected in 2013.[42]

Historically, locals and tourists alike visit Lake Bolac for picnics, swimming, aquatic sports and fishing activities. The Easter Yachting Regatta has been hosted at Lake Bolac since the 1960s and the Eel Festival, which celebrates the environment and indigenous cultural heritage, is now held as a biennial event after ten years of operating annually from 2005.

Agriculture (sheep and broad acre crops) and tourism are the main industries of the district.

Place history:

Flax has always been a minor crop in Australia and although there have been several attempts by government to encourage production, it was not until World War Two that an industry of any size was achieved. Pre World War Two, the maximum acreage at any one time (1919-20) was 1,600 acres; in 1939 Victoria, the chief producing state, had 1,358 acres. During World War Two, Victoria remained the chief producer, but South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania also contributed.[43]

Flax was used in the manufacture of military boots, clothing, parachute harness, cordage and canvas. In June 1940 supplies from Belgium were cut off and the United Kingdom asked Australia to supply the yield from 12,000 acres as well as providing for her own needs. In July 1940 the Commonwealth government set up a Flax Production Committee (under the Minister for Supply and Development) to arrange contracts with farmers, supply the seed and build and operate the mills.[44]

Technical problems relating to agriculture and biology were handled by State Departments of Agriculture and the University of Sydney; those relating to the retting of flax by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Division of Forest Products, Melbourne; and mechanical harvesting by H. V. McKay Massey Harris Pty. Ltd., Sunshine, Victoria.[45]

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'Retting', the process of separating the fibres of the flax plant, was studied by the Division of Forest Products in the hope of finding a more rapid chemical method, but promising results came too late in the war to have any influence on commercial production. The Flax Production Committee had 31 mills under its control in 1943-44. Under the wartime scheme, Australia was able to supply all her own needs of flax fibre and export substantial quantities to the United Kingdom. By 1947, nine flax mills operated in Victoria at Colac, Drouin, Ballarat, Lake Bolac, Lismore, Myrtleford, Strathkellar, Peshurst and Winchelsea. Although it was proposed to continue the industry at a level to meet local requirements after the war if efficient, because of a fall in demand, the development of artificial fibres, and competition from overseas, the government announced in 1957 that all its flax mills were to be sold.[46]

In 1940, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company, local farmers began growing flax under contract. The flax was processed at a mill built by the government at Lake Bolac in 1942-43, and opened officially on 12 October 1943. The mill at its capacity employed 100 people, including 60 members of the Women's Land Army who arrived in August 1944, and immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe affected by war.[47] The venture brought wealth to the farmers of the district and benefitted commercial enterprises in the town of Lake Bolac.

The manufacture of flax involved two main processes: retting and scutching. Retting was at first undertaken by laying out the flax stalks in paddocks for five to six weeks to allow the weather to separate the fibres. The Lake Bolac Flax Mill switched to water retting in later years, whereby flax was stacked in four concrete tanks measuring 20 feet by 20 feet and 9 feet 6 inches high that were filled with water heated to 25-35 degrees and emptied a number of times over sixty hours. The water for this process was obtained from Lake Bolac, heated in tanks, then pumped into the tank retters. The retted flax was transported to the scutching house where the hard centre was removed from the flax stalks by machinery. The resultant soft flax was then baled and transported to Melbourne.[48]

With very little local labour available, by 1945 approximately 35 men and 50 members of the Women's Land Army were employed at the Lake Bolac mill, by which time the Flax Production Committee had constructed a hostel for the women, and hut and mess room for the men.[49] In 1948, the *Argus* reported that 'Twenty Balt migrants have arrived at Lake Bolac to work at the Commonwealth Flax Mill, which is busy handling a bumper crop estimated at 5,000 tons.'[50] The twenty young men were from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.[51]

On January 14 1944, a fire that originated at the Lake Bolac Flax Mill burnt towards Mortlake and Lismore, and on the same day, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[52] Another fire caused considerable damage to the flax mill in 1956.

Substantial areas of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac, Westmere, Mininera, Tatyoon and Nerrin Nerrin districts and processed by the mill until its closure on 29 August 1959. The mill equipment, machinery, hostel, kitchen, hay sheds, and huts were auctioned at this time. The site, including the weatherboard manager's residence, was purchased by K. Matheson for £6,000 and was owned by the Matheson family until 1987.[53]

In 1960, Lake Bolac Aquatic Club members relocated a shed, thought to be the boiler house, from the flax mill to the foreshore of the lake for use as a boatshed. The Lake Bolac College renovated the boatshed in 2001.[54]

Footings from the flax mill, believed to be the remains of the retting vats and the scutcher shed, can be seen at the original mill site today. The former flax mill shed remains in use as a boatshed.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- [3] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [4] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [5] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [6] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [7] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
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- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
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- [16] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46. Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 18.
- [18] Information from Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [19] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 252.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 21.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[21] Ibid., 9.

[22] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[23] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[24] Green, *History of Lake Bolac 1841-1966: After the Boolucburrers*, 17.

[25] Ibid., 17-18.

[26] Jan Critchett, "A Study of Aboriginal Contact and Post-Contact History and Places," (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, July 1995), 121.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[28] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[29] Ibid., 127.

[30] Ibid., 126-7.

[31] "Closer Settlement. Successful Private Enterprise.," *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903.

[32] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[33] Information from 'Historical Buildings of Interest: Self Guided Tour', Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.

[34] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 46-7

[40] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Lake Bolac, 30 May 2012.

[41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*.

[42] Information provided by Karen McIntyre, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

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- [43] 'Lake Bolac Subject File', La Trobe Australiana Collection, State Library Victoria.
- [44] 'Lake Bolac Subject File', La Trobe Australiana Collection, State Library Victoria.
- [45] 'Lake Bolac Subject File', La Trobe Australiana Collection, State Library Victoria.
- [46] 'Lake Bolac Subject File', La Trobe Australiana Collection, State Library Victoria.
- [47] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [48] 'Lake Bolac Flax Mill', STC Humanities Class, Lake Bolac High School, 1987.
- [49] "ORGANISERS' REPORTS." *The Australian Worker*, 17 January 1945, 10.
- [50] "LAKE BOLAC FLAX MILL EMPLOYS 20 BALTS." *The Argus*, 17 January 1948, 1.
- [51] 'Lake Bolac Flax Mill', STC Humanities Class, Lake Bolac High School, 1987.
- [52] Ibid.
- [53] 'Lake Bolac Flax Mill', STC Humanities Class, Lake Bolac High School, 1987.
- [54] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

Description

Physical Description

The footings to the flax mill buildings are located at South Beach Road. They comprise concrete footings approximately 21 metres long x 10 metres wide x 500 mm high with steel uprights, believed to be remains of the scutcher shed, and a reinforced concrete platform (hidden by plantings) approximately 2 metres high, believed to be the remains of retting vats and the scutcher shed.

A shed from the former Flax Mill, believed to be the boiler house, was relocated to Frontage Street for use as boatshed. It is a long building with a low pitched gable roof and it is clad in corrugated metal sheet laid vertically. The building is two storey with aluminium windows to the upper level and large sliding metal doors to three sides.

Physical Condition

The shed was in good condition in November 2013 and the footings are already a ruin and as such are stable.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains located on South Beach Road and the former Flax Mill Shed located on Frontage Street, Lake Bolac. The remaining original form and materials of the footings and shed are integral to the significance of the place.

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How is it significant?

The Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains and former Flax Mill Shed are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains and former Flax Mill Shed are historically significant for demonstrating an important industry in the district after World War One and during World War Two, which made a significant contribution to employment and prosperity to the area and for its association with the Women's Land Army. In 1940, at the request of the Commonwealth Flax Production Company local farmers of the district began growing flax under contract. The flax was processed at a mill built by the government at Lake Bolac in 1942-43, and opened officially on 12 October 1943. The mill at its capacity employed 100 people, including 60 members of the Women's Land Army who arrived in August 1944, and immigrants and displaced persons from areas of Europe affected by war. The venture brought wealth to the farmers of the district and benefitted commercial enterprises in Lake Bolac. Substantial areas of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac, Westmere, Mininera, Tatyoon and Nerrin Nerrin districts and processed by the mill until its closure on 29 August 1959. Building fabric demonstrating the once important flax processing industry in the district is rare. (Criteria A & B)

The Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains and former Flax Mill Shed are aesthetically significant as a visual reminder of the once important flax production industry in the district. The remaining elements including the concrete foundations and the shed indicate the scale, configuration and appearance of the now removed flax mill. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Corrugated iron clad shed

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

Yes

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Avenue of Honour	
Address	Mortlake-Ararat Road MAROONA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Avenue of Honour, Avenue of Honour	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Maroona-Rossbridge district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition travelled south of the future Maroona and Rossbridge districts on 21 September and set up camp that night in what was to become the Tatyoon district.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

What was to become the Maroona-Rossbridge district was incorporated into the boundaries of two runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; and Mount William Plains, 20,000 acres, taken up by John Ross in 1844.[5]

Mail coaches and carriers, en route between Port Fairy and Warrnambool to Ararat, stopped at Maroona where the Sandy Creek Hotel or Hopkins Inn had been established by James Lysaght who had arrived at Portland with the Hentys.[6] A township site was surveyed at Maroona in 1861 on the Maroona-Glenhompson Road at a crossing point on the Hopkins River. Further south on the same road, in 1858 Alexander Laing built a wayside inn on John Ross's run beside a bridge across the Hopkins River to exploit the trade of drovers and teamsters. The site became the nucleus of the settlement of Ross's Bridge (named after John Ross).[7] From 1858, coaches travelling between Port Fairy and Ararat twice weekly stopped at Ross's Bridge and the Hopkins Inn at Maroona.[8] Sites for a Roman Catholic Church and cemetery at Maroona were reserved in 1862. Lime burning was undertaken in the district south of Burrumbeep by the Bowtell family.[9]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land, which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[10] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Some allotments were taken up in the district of Maroona under this Act.[11]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected, but the legislation failed to stop aggregation of land by squatters. However, some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Maroona-Ross's Bridge area, and by the late 1860s, Ross's Bridge and Maroona had been established as centres for surrounding wheat farming populations.[12] At Maroona in 1872, a school site was reserved, a post office and store opened, and land sales took place in the township. A portable building was constructed at the Maroona school in 1879.

A school opened at Ross's Bridge in 1872, and teacher's residence was built in 1874-5. A Catholic church opened at Ross's Bridge in 1886 and a Presbyterian church in 1897.[13] The name of Ross's Bridge was officially changed to Rossbridge in 1893, the same year a recreation reserve was gazetted in the township.

When the Ararat-Portland railway opened in 1877, with a station at Maroona, the population of the original Maroona settlement moved to the railway site, where a school and new hotel opened. George Angus moved the Maroona Post Office to the Maroona Railway Station ca. 1883.[14] The new Maroona township was proclaimed in 1885.

In the late 1890s improvements in cultivation techniques, including the use of machinery and superphosphate, enabled farmers to increase crop yields in the area. In addition, the demands of organised Labor and talk of land taxes provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the district to introduce their own closer settlement schemes.[15] Agricultural areas were subsequently surveyed on Menenia and Burrumbeep. Further private subdivision of Burrumbeep and Menenia took place in 1907-8. A wide stretch of land was put under wheat, oats and barley and brought increased activity to the Maroona Railway Station.

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The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with its junction at Maroona, opened on 8 August 1913[16] and brought a new wave of prosperity to the district. A new state school was built at a site north of the township in 1914, opening in 1915. The Maroona Soldiers Memorial Hall opened in 1924, the same year as the Maroona Hotel.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was far more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Servicemen Leagues (RSLs). One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[17] The Maroona-Rossbridge district experienced growth in the 1950s because of this settlement.

The Rossbridge Post Office closed in 1962. A new bridge was constructed over the Hopkins River at Maroona in 1972.[18]

A fire destroyed the Maroona Memorial Hall in 1974. The Rossbridge Uniting Church closed for regular services in 1981. A new brick multi-purpose pavilion was built at the Maroona football oval in 1983 and tennis courts were constructed in 1992. The Rossbridge school closed in 1993.[19]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the Maroona-Rossbridge district. Today, the Maroona Primary School provides educational facilities to the district and the Maroona Recreation Reserve continues to provide an important focus for the local community. The Rossbridge settlement is evidenced by the former bluestone school, teacher's residence and church. The original Maroona settlement site is evidenced by a cypress tree.

Place history:

Like other war memorials across the Australian landscape, Avenues of Honour were planted to commemorate the sacrifice and service made by local volunteers during World War One. By 1918, the high casualty rate in Australia from World War One of 64.93%, the highest of all allied forces, meant that every Australian was related to or was closely associated with someone who had been killed. The planting of memorial trees by town residents acted as a personal focus of remembrance for a grieving community. From 1917 to 1921, Victorians planted at least 128 avenues, with trees mostly of European origin. Although avenues exist in other states of Australia, they were most popular in Victoria.[20]

In June 1918, the secretary of the Maroona school committee applied to the Ararat Shire council for permission to erect 33 tree guards near the Maroona railway station to plant an honour avenue to the district soldiers.[21] This was carried out and name plates were erected next to each tree.

Today the Avenue of Honour consists of pine and cypress trees: seven on the east side of road; and thirteen on the west side of the road. The name plates are no longer in evidence.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] George Roberston, Rossbridge resident, personal communication, January 2014.

[7] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 31-2.

[8] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[9] *Maroona Centenary 1877-1977*, (Maroona, Vic.: Maroona Primary School, 1977), 7.

[10] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[12] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 30.

[13] Ibid., 31-2.

[14] *Maroona Centenary 1877-1977*, 3.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 35.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[18] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 32, 88.

[19] Ibid., 87-88.

[20] *Avenues of Honour Education and Celebration Program*. National Trust, 2014. Available <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic>. Accessed 22 April 2014. Janine Haddow, "Avenues of Honour: A Victorian Cultural Landscape," *Landscape Australia*, no. 3 (1988).

[21] 'Ararat Shire Council Monthly Meeting.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 6 June 1918, 2.

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Description

Physical Description

The Maroona Avenue of Honour comprises twenty pine and cypress trees extending along both sides of Mortlake-Ararat Road on the northern side of the township. There are seven trees on the east side of the road and thirteen on the west side.

Physical Condition

The avenue was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Maroona Avenue of Honour consisting of 20 pine and cypress trees on both sides of Mortlake-Ararat Road, at the northern end of Maroona.

How is it significant?

The Maroona Avenue of Honour is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Maroona Avenue of Honour is of historical significance for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War One and the methods used to commemorate the event. Planted in 1918, the Avenue of Honour is a representative example of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War One commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual, regardless of rank, was equally recognised for their service. (Criterion A)

The Maroona Avenue of Honour is of aesthetic significance as a commemorative planting, which marks the northern entry into Maroona. The Avenue is of aesthetic significance as a landmark indicating the existence of a once more populous township. (Criterion D)

The Maroona Avenue of Honour is of social significance for its relationship with the Maroona community as a memorial to those from the town who served in World War One and as a commemorative focus for the community since 1918. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 20 pines and cypress trees

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Maroona Railway Complex and Former Station Masters Residence		
Address	Railway Reserve Mortlake-Ararat Road MAROONA 7344 Mortlake-Ararat Road MAROONA	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Station Building,Railway Residence/Quarters,Signals		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended VHR No **HI** No **PS** Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Maroona-Rossbridge district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition travelled south of the future Maroona and Rossbridge districts on 21 September and set up camp that night in what was to become the Tatyoon district.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

What was to become the Maroona-Rossbridge district was incorporated into the boundaries of two runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; and Mount William Plains, 20,000 acres, taken up by John Ross in 1844.[5]

Mail coaches and carriers, en route between Port Fairy and Warrnambool to inland towns, stopped at Maroona where the Sandy Creek Hotel or Hopkins Inn had been established. A township site was surveyed at Maroona in 1861. Further south on the same road, in 1858 Alexander Laing built a wayside inn on John Ross's run beside a bridge across the Hopkins River to exploit the trade of drovers and teamsters. The site became the nucleus of the settlement of Ross's Bridge (named after John Ross).[6] From 1858, coaches travelling between Port Fairy and Ararat twice weekly stopped at Ross's Bridge and the Hopkins Inn at Maroona.[7] Sites for a Roman Catholic Church and cemetery at Maroona were reserved in 1862.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land, which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Some allotments were taken up in the district of Maroona under this Act.[9]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected, but the legislation failed to stop aggregation of land by squatters. However, some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Maroona-Ross's Bridge area, and by the late 1860s, Ross's Bridge and Maroona had been established as centres for surrounding wheat farming populations.[10] At Maroona in 1872, a school site was reserved and land sales took place in the township. A portable building was constructed at the Maroona school in 1879.

A school opened at Ross's Bridge in 1872, and teacher's residence was built in 1874-5. A Catholic church opened at Ross's Bridge in 1886 and a Presbyterian church in 1897.[11] The name of Ross's Bridge was officially changed to Rossbridge in 1893, the same year a recreation reserve was gazetted in the township.

When the Ararat-Portland railway opened in 1877, with a station at Maroona, the population of Maroona grew and a school and new hotel opened. The Maroona township was proclaimed in 1885.

In the late 1890s improvements in cultivation techniques, including the use of machinery and superphosphate, enabled farmers to increase crop yields in the area. A wide stretch of land was put under wheat, oats and barley and brought increased activity to the Maroona Railway Station.

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with its junction at Maroona, opened on 8 August 1913[12] and brought a new wave of prosperity to the district. In Maroona, a new state school was built at another site north of the township in 1914, and opened in 1915. The Maroona Soldiers Memorial Hall opened in 1924.

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The Rossbridge Post Office closed in 1962. A new bridge was constructed over the Hopkins River at Maroona in 1972.[13]

A fire destroyed the Maroona Memorial Hall in 1974. The Rossbridge Uniting Church closed for regular services in 1981. A new brick multi-purpose pavilion was built at the Maroona football oval in 1983 and tennis courts were constructed in 1992. The Rossbridge school closed in 1993.[14]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the Maroona-Rossbridge district. Today, the Maroona Primary School provides educational facilities to the district and the Maroona Recreation Reserve continues to provide an important focus for the local community. The Rossbridge settlement is evidenced by the former bluestone school, teacher's residence and church.

Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[15]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until 1869 that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[16] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

Tenders for the railway line from Ararat to the seaboard at Portland were called on 13 October 1875 for 66 miles of railway line. Overend and Robb successfully tendered with a price of £354,653 and the work commenced from Ararat with 526 men in February 1876. The Ararat-Portland railway was officially opened to traffic on 24 April 1877. As part of the Ararat-Portland railway line, a siding was opened at the township of Maroona, where a passenger station and outbuildings were constructed in 1877 by contractor Ainsworth Harrison at a price of £918 8s 10d.[17]

Victorian Railways called for tenders for the erection of a goods shed at Maroona in 1881.[18] Pritchard and Blackwood were the successful tenderers with a price of £195 10s 6d.[19]

Wheat deliveries at the Maroona railway station increased from 5,000 bags in 1901 to 27,000 bags in 1902.[20] By March 1913, the amount of wheat stacked at railway stations was recorded as: Willaura 92,000 bags; Maroona 36,000 bags; Stavelly 16,000 bags; Calvert 12,200 bags; Glenthompson 12,000 bags; Moutajup 2,000 bags; Langi Logan 2,000 bags; and on the various stations between Ararat and Geelong, 200,000 bags.[21]

By 1900, the Western Plains were encircled by railways, but crossed by none. In 1908, investigation for the construction of a railway across the plains commenced to connect the Ararat-Hamilton line to either the Geelong-Ballarat or Geelong-Colac line. Routes from Bannockburn, Moriac and Winchelsea were considered.[22]

In December 1908, the Winchelsea Railway League wrote to the Premier of Victoria, Sir Thomas Bent, requesting that a flying survey be made for the proposed Willaura to Geelong railway to connect at Winchelsea. It was argued that there

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

would be no engineering difficulties and that a saving of thousands of pounds in construction costs could be made. Most of the route would cross first class agricultural land suitable for wheat, oats and barley growing.[23]

The final agreed route for the Western Plains Line was from Gheringhap, via Inverleigh, Cressy, Lismore and Derrinallum, to Maroona, which served as the junction between this line and the branch line to Portland. The construction of the line was advanced by the need to find an alternate route to the Western Line (which was steeply graded in crossing the Great Dividing Range between Ararat and Bacchus Marsh), plans to make Geelong the primary port for the export of bulk grains, and attempts to develop Portland as a major frozen lamb export point.[24]

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria. Construction, heading west from Cressy, commenced on 27 September 1910, and from Maroona in an eastwards direction, in March 1911. Goods were hauled for the public between Maroona and Tatyoon from April 1912 and Westmere from September 1912. Tracklaying over the full distance was completed on February 22 1913 and some regular public train services commenced.[25] The line opened on 8 August 1913 with construction undertaken to standards and designs provided by Victorian Railways. In 1914, Maroona station took £4208 in revenue (not including passengers).[26]

The opening of the Western Plains Line entailed significant remodelling of and additions to the existing railway infrastructure at Maroona to create an island platform. This allowed trains from the Western Plains Line to cross over the main Ararat-Portland Line to access the platform face on the west side, enabling passengers from the Western Plains Line to transfer to the train from Portland located on the east platform face and continue to Ararat.[27]

The increasing volume of exchange traffic necessitated additions to the station yard. Extensive goods sidings were laid and the original station buildings replaced. Additions in 1915 effectively doubled the size of the railway station. Changes included the construction of an elevated signal box, platform verandahs and a pedestrian overbridge. The *Ararat Advertiser* reported in 1915:

At the Maroona railway station the coal staging, the footbridge, ash pit, etc., have all been completed, and 90 per cent of the tracks finished; whilst the big turntable sent here [Ararat] has been transferred to Maroona, where it is most urgently needed.[28]

The station upgrade also included the construction of a Class 2 residence for the stationmaster on land behind (west of) the railway station.

A concrete railway residence was constructed in the 1940s north of the railway station on the Mortlake-Ararat Road.[29]

Even though passenger numbers had declined by World War Two, Maroona remained a seasonally busy station, especially after the development of the port at Portland in the 1950s, until the deregulation of grain handling in the 1980s. During the wheat season, much of the grain from the various lines to the north of Ararat, particularly from Marmalake (Murtoa), was directed over the Western Plains Line to Geelong for export. In addition, congestion on the main Western Line saw a significant number of Melbourne-Adelaide freight services being diverted via Geelong and the Western Plains Line to Ararat. This increased activity resulted in the construction of a locomotive depot and four pre-cut railway houses for depot workers at Maroona in the 1950s.[30]

On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroona line ended and this may have initiated a program of demolition whereby the 1913-15 station buildings were removed and the current simple timber portable station building relocated to the platform. It is not known when the demolition program occurred.

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The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down, with passenger services on the Ararat-Portland line closing on 14 September 1981.

The Gheringhap-Maroonna line was converted from broad gauge to standard gauge in 1995.

The junction at Maroonna has been reconfigured to give priority to the Western Plains Line. The centenary of the Gheringhap-Maroonna Railway was celebrated in 2013.

Today the Maroonna railway complex comprises a timber station building, platform, signal quadrant levers used on the Western Plains Line (once housed in the signal box), a van goods shed (which may date from 1877), weighbridge and toilets.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 31-2.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaly, 1974), 82.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 30.

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[11] Ibid., 31-2.

[12] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[13] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 32, 88.

[14] Ibid., 87-88.

[15] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.

[16] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[17] "Successful Tenders." *The Argus*, 3 March 1877, 6.

[18] Miles Lewis and Terry Sawyer, *Australian Architectural Index* (Miles Lewis, 2013 [cited 10 September 2013]); available from <http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html>.

[19] "Victorian Government Gazette". Vol 60, 30 June 1881.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[21] A.N.A. *Ararat and a National Project: Water for the Mallee - the Conference, the Town and the Eversley Weir*, (Ararat, Vic.: Advertiser Office, 1913), 86.

[22] "Gheringhap-Marroona Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.

[23] Ibid.

[24] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.

[25] "Gheringhap-Marroona Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."

[26] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 98.

[27] Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[28] "Railway Improvement Works." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 21 August 1915, 2.

[29] Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[30] Ibid.

Description

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Physical Description

The surviving features of the Maroona Railway Station comprise a timber station building, timber van goods shed, two corrugated iron clad toilets, passenger platform, signal levers, weigh bridge and the former station master's residence.

The station building is a long timber framed building with a gable roof and skillion verandah over the platform. The walls are clad with vertical timber boards and the roof is clad in corrugated iron. There are three single doors to the platform elevation, one with a screen door also. The doors are vertical timber lined. The timber framed windows are not a consistent style or scale with a bank of three and two single windows. Only the single windows appear to be original. On one end wall is a brick chimney. The rear elevation facing away from the platform contains three separate square timber framed windows with a skillion corrugated iron hood over each of them.

The van goods shed adjacent to the station building on the passenger platform has horizontal weatherboard cladding to the exterior and a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There is a single door to the platform elevation, to one side of the elevation. There are three signal levers located between the station building and the parcel office.

Also on the passenger platform on the opposite side of the station building to the parcel office are two small toilet buildings with skillion roofs. The walls and roofs to these structures are clad in corrugated galvanised iron. One of the structures has a door facing the platform and the other has a side door.

The passenger platform has a brick retaining wall and concrete slab platform. The bricks to the retaining wall at the toilet end of the platform have been removed.

The weigh bridge has two steel plates on a concrete base and the office is a small skillion roofed building with flat metal sheet cladding to the walls and corrugated metal sheet cladding to the roof. There is an aluminium framed window facing the weigh bridge with two sashes of glass louvres and a single entry door on one end wall.

The station master's residence is a timber framed building with a Dutch gable main roof running parallel to the street and a centrally placed projecting gable roofed wing to the front running perpendicular to the street. The gable end of the projecting front wing has half timbering with stucco corner timber brackets to the eaves. The windows are timber framed and double hung and the window in the projecting wing is a twin double hung type. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheet and there are two red brick rectangular chimneys with a stucco band and render cornice to the top.

Physical Condition

The station building, goods shed, weighbridge and toilets were in poor-fair condition in November 2013.

The station master's residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Maroona Railway Complex, consisting of the timber station building, van goods shed, two corrugated iron clad toilets, passenger platform, signal levers and weigh bridge located on the Railway Reserve Mortlake-Ararat Road, and the

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

former station master's residence located at 7344 Mortlake-Ararat Road, Maroona. The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Maroona Railway Complex is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Maroona Railway Complex is of historical significance for its ability to demonstrate the opening of the Ararat to Portland Railway line. The Ararat-Portland railway was officially opened to traffic on 24 April 1877 and the van goods shed at Maroona is a remnant of the infrastructure built at Maroona Railway Station as part of the 1877 line. The complex is also of historical significance for its demonstration of the construction of the important Western Plains Line, from Gherinhap to Maroona, commenced in 1910. The Western Plains Line, from Gherinhap to Maroona, was officially opened at Lismore in August 1913 and demonstrated the growing need for rail transport services in the Western Plains due to the expanding farming community at that time. With the Maroona Station already part of the Ararat to Portland line, Maroona became an important junction station for people and goods travelling to Portland and the station building and station master's residence date from this period. (Criterion A)

The Maroona Railway Complex is aesthetically significant as a collection of railway station related features illustrating the components, appearance and design of a rural railway station servicing a grain farming district in the early to mid twentieth century. The 1913 station building and station master's residence exhibit principal characteristics of their building types and age. These characteristics include the overall form, scale and materials, opening types and placement, and detailing. The weatherboard van goods shed and signal levers, which likely date from the 1877 station, are important and rare surviving examples of their types. The weighbridge and office and platform toilets are good representative examples of their type and era, adding to the understanding of the operation of the station as a complex servicing passengers and goods. (Criteria B & D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Mininera Post Office, Store and Associated Residence		
Address	1-5 George Street MININERA	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Residence, Shop, Post Office		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts were included in the boundaries of seven runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846; and Terinallum taken up by the Clyde Company in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (later known as Streatham) and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Later surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail from Melbourne to Portland from mid-1844.[6] Crossroads were established where the boundaries of Nerrin Nerrin, Blythvale, Menenia and Yalla-y-Poora stations met, near the site of present-day Mininera Railway Station.[7] From 1859, coaches traversed the road, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[8]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[10] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[11] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[12] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[13] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, on which the Mininera and Mininera East settlements were established.[14]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[15] effectively giving rise to the settlements of Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin and the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[16] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[17] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the construction of a store and post office in the same year.[18] A post office was conducted at the Pura Pura Railway Station from 1913 to 1924. A railway siding at Nerrin Nerrin was also established in 1913. Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[19] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[20] boosting the population of the Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin districts. The Terinallum North Estate, 12,990 acres centring on Pura Pura and part of the original Terinallum run, was opened in 1921 for soldier settlement.[21] The Gheringhap-Maroon railway line was important in facilitating soldier settlement in these aforementioned districts.

A hall was constructed at Pura Pura ca 1922 and a school opened at Nerrin Nerrin in 1925.[22] A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[23] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[24] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere. A bridge was opened over Emu Creek at Pura Pura in 1940.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] The Trawalla Estate was established in 1954 on the Nerrin Nerrin run where nine soldier settlers took up farms.[26] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[27] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[28]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[29] The Nerrin Nerrin school closed in 1950. On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroon railway line ended, impacting on stations at Westmere, Mininera, Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin. The Pura Pura Post Office closed in 1966.

St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952 and a supper room was added to the Westmere Hall in the same year.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rorke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters General's Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rorke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[30]

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The Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten opened in the Westmere Hall in August 1973. The Mininera Hall was sold in 1975 and the school closed in the same year. A large grain bunker was built at Westmere in the early 1980s, but was never used.[31] Westmere was supplied water by a pipeline from the Streatham reservoir in the early 1980s.[32] St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere closed in 1991, and Westmere State School No. 3833 closed in 1993, as did the post office.[33]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Pura Pura Hall, Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[34] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria. Construction, heading west from Cressy, commenced on 27 September 1910, and from Maroona in an eastwards direction in March 1911. Goods were hauled for the public between Maroona and Tatyoon from April 1912 and Westmere from September 1912. Tracklaying over the full distance was completed on February 22 1913 and some regular public train services commenced.[35]

The line opened on 8 August 1913 with a station established at Mininera. A township was surveyed around the railway station site on 78 acres, Allotment B, Section 23, Parish of Mininera, owned by J. Ware, formerly a part of the Yaccumunda property. John Renkin opened a store in the township.[36] John and Eve Renkin also operated the Mininera Post Office from 24 November 1913 from the store, and lived in a residence sited next door, likely moved in from another location. The train brought mail, fruit, vegetables and bread to Mininera.[37]

The store, post office and residence at 1-5 George Street were owned by the Renkin family until 1950, when the property was sold to Jared and Ivy Hines.[38] It is believed the store operated until ca. 1958, after which time it closed. The post office continued to be operated by the Renkins from a building at the rear of the store until the 1970s. In the 1970s, the post office business was moved next door, to 7 George Street, and taken over by the Wilsons in 1974.[39] It continues to operate from 7 George Street today.

The former Mininera store, post office and associated residence currently stand vacant.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 154.

[8] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.

[11] Ibid., 127.

[12] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[13] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[14] Ibid., 129.

[15] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[16] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.

[17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.

[18] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.

[19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[21] *Victorian Government Gazette*. No. 69, 1921, 1542.

[22] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[23] Ibid., 3,5.

[24] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.

[25] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[26] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

[27] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.

[28] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[29] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

[30] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[31] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.

[32] Ibid., 92-94.

[33] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.

[34] *Rural Townships*.

[35] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.

[36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 154.

[37] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 2.

[38] Certificate of Title.

[39] Ken Wilson, Personal Communication, 8 May 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The former store consists of a double gable building with one gable comprising a storeroom and the other comprising a former post office/store. The former post office section is weatherboard clad and the storeroom is constructed of in-situ concrete. The two gable sections stand side by side with the storeroom having a wider gable. There is a skillion verandah spanning across the front of the two buildings. The original central timber double doors are extant to the storeroom and the front elevation of the former Post Office contains the original large square timber framed shop front window with

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

four panes and double half glazed entry doors to one side.

The former store is built up to the street line while the residence is set back from the front. There is a link between the two buildings towards the rear of the residence. The residence is a Victorian style building with a main hip roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron and a later gable roofed section to the rear. The walls are clad in weatherboard and there is a hip roofed verandah to the front with chamfer stopped timber posts and a cast iron lacework frieze. The front elevation retains the original central front door with side lights and highlight window and timber framed double hung window either side. Other original windows to the residence are timber framed and double hung. The front verandah floor is timber.

Physical Condition

The buildings were in fair condition November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Mininera Post Office, Store and Associated Residence located at 1-5 George Street, Mininera. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the buildings are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Mininera Post Office, Store and Residence located at 1-5 George Street, Mininera are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Mininera Post Office, Store and Residence are historically significant for their long association with commercial and postal activities of the Mininera township. The building was used as a store and post office from ca.1913. It is one of only a few surviving premises that evidence the social and commercial centre of Mininera. The building is of historical significance for its associations with the Renkin family who operated a store and post office from the site from 1913 until the 1970s. (Criteria A, B & H)

The former Mininera Post Office, Store and Residence are aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of an early 20th century store and Victorian style residence. The ca.1913 shop retains its original simple gable roofed form, timber framed shop front window, double half glazed timber doors. The adjacent concrete storeroom is unusual and adds to the interest of the complex. The residence is an excellent intact example of a modest Victorian style residence demonstrating key features of the style including the main hipped roof, hipped roof verandah with chamfer stopped timber posts and cast iron frieze and central four panel timber door with sidelight and highlight windows and the timber framed double hung windows. (Criteria D & E)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Mininera Railway Complex	
Address	George Street (west of railway line) MININERA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Silo,Other - Transport - Rail	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts were included in the boundaries of seven runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846; and Terinallum taken up by the Clyde Company in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (later known as Streatham) and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Later surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail from Melbourne to Portland from mid-1844.[6] Crossroads were established where the boundaries of Nerrin Nerrin, Blythvale, Menenia and Yalla-y-Poora stations met, near the site of present-day Mininera Railway Station.[7] From 1859, coaches traversed the road, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[8]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[10] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[11] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[12] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[13] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, on which the Mininera and Mininera East settlements were established.[14]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[15] effectively giving rise to the settlements of Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin and the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway.

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With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[16] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[17] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the construction of a store and post office in the same year.[18] Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[19] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[20] boosting the population of the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts. The Gheringhap-Maroon railway line was important in facilitating soldier settlement in these districts.

A school opened at Nerrin Nerrin in 1925.[21] A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[22] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[23] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[24] The Trawalla Estate was established in 1954 on the Nerrin Nerrin run where nine soldier settlers took up farms.[25] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[26] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[27]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[28] The Nerrin Nerrin school closed in 1950. On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroon railway line ended, impacting on stations at Westmere, Mininera, Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin.

St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952 and a supper room was added to the Westmere Hall in the same year.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rorke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters General's Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rorke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[29]

The Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten opened in the Westmere Hall in August 1973. The Mininera Hall was sold in 1975 and the school closed in the same year. A large grain bunker was built at Westmere in the early 1980s, but was never used.[30] Westmere was supplied water by a pipeline from the Streatham reservoir in the early 1980s.[31] St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere closed in 1991, and Westmere State School No. 3833 closed in 1993, as did

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the post office.[32]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Pura Pura Hall, Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[33] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[34]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until 1869 that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[35] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

By 1900, the Western Plains were encircled by railways, but crossed by none. In 1908, investigation for the construction of a railway across the plains commenced to connect the Ararat-Hamilton line to either the Geelong-Ballarat or Geelong-Colac line. Routes from Bannockburn, Moriac or Winchelsea were considered.[36]

In December 1908, the Winchelsea Railway League wrote to the Premier of Victoria, Sir Thomas Bent, requesting that a flying survey be made for the proposed Willaura to Geelong Railway to connect at Winchelsea. It was argued that there would be no engineering difficulties and that a saving of thousands of pounds in construction costs could be made. Most of the route would cross first class agricultural land suitable for wheat, oats and barley growing.[37]

The final agreed route for the Western Plains Line was from Gheringhap, via Inverleigh, Cressy, Lismore and Derrinallum to Maroona, which served as the junction between this line and the branch line to Portland. The construction of the line was advanced by the need to find an alternate route to the Western Line (which was steeply graded in crossing the Great Dividing Range between Ararat and Bacchus Marsh), plans to make Geelong the primary port for the export of bulk grains (achieved in 1939), and attempts to develop Portland as a major frozen lamb export point.[38]

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria. Construction, heading west from Cressy, commenced on 27 September 1910, and from Maroona in an eastwards direction, in March 1911. Goods were hauled for the public between Maroona and Tatyoon from April 1912

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and Westmere from September 1912. Tracklaying over the full distance was completed on February 22 1913 and some regular public train services commenced.[39]

The line opened on 8 August 1913 with construction undertaken to the standards and designs provided by Victorian Railways with a station at Mininera. The train brought mail, fruit, vegetables and bread to Mininera. During the 1914 harvest, 2,000 tons of bagged wheat were taken by train daily from Mininera to Westmere.[40]

A 1918 plan of the Mininera Railway Station shows a passenger platform on the east side of the line with a station building (consisting of a combined station office and parcels office, booking hall, general waiting room and ladies waiting room) and toilet facilities. A van goods shed is shown on the same platform and a ten-ton Avery weighbridge on the road approach. The plan also shows two class 4 1910 type railway residences on the station ground, each with an outside wash house and toilet.[41]

The goods platform on the west of the line had a standard small goods shed and a temporary sheep race. Sheep yards were most likely provided in later years. On the same side of the railway line, provision was made for 33 stick sheds to store wheat. The plan also shows the proposed location of two silos and elevator with a total capacity of 25,000 bushels.[42] Some of the railway sheds were used by members of the Mininera Football Club in the 1920s.[43]

On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroona line ceased.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations from 1938, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. The silos proposed on the 1918 Mininera station plan were not built, however, and a wheat bunker was built at Mininera in the 1960s.[44]

Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a large oats Victorian Oats Pool shed was built in the early 1960s at Mininera. Mininera was known as the 'Oat Capital' of Victoria for many years. John and Eve Renkin operated the store and post office at Mininera and also bought grain for Louis Dreyfus and Co. Their sons, Rob and Len, operated the oat shed at Mininera in the late 1960s and 1970s.[45]

Railway residences at Mininera increased to four over the years, but were sold in 1966.[46] Mininera Railway Station was reduced to 'no one in charge' in 1969 and the Grain Elevators Board built a weighbridge at the station ca 1970.[47]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down.

The Gheringhap-Marroona line was converted from broad gauge to standard gauge in 1995.

Today, all that remains at the Mininera Railway Station is the 1960s Victorian Oats Pool shed and auger, and the ca 1970 weighbridge, both of which are unused.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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- [2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p.
- [7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 154.
- [8] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.
- [9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [11] Ibid., 127.
- [12] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [13] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [14] Ibid., 129.
- [15] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [16] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [18] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

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- [21] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [22] Ibid., 3,5.
- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [25] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [27] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [29] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [30] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [31] Ibid., 92-94.
- [32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [33] *Rural Townships*.
- [34] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.
- [35] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.
- [36] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.
- [37] Ibid.
- [38] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.
- [39] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."
- [40] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 2.
- [41] Information supplied by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

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[42] Information supplied by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[43] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 2.

[44] Ibid., 7.

[45] Ibid.

[46] Ibid., 2.

[47] Information supplied by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

Description

Physical Description

The surviving features of the Mininera Railway Station comprise an oats shed and auger, platform mound, and a weighbridge and office.

The oats shed is a standard design with a gable roof clad in corrugated metal sheet and the exposed steel wall structure is lined internally with corrugated metal sheet. At one end is an auger with cantilever open metal framed platform extending out from the upper portion of the gable end. There are doors from the gable end leading on to the platform and an external steel ladder also leading to the platform.

The earth mound is all that is left of the railway platform.

The weighbridge is concrete with steel plates and the office has a rectangular plan and a skillion roof. It is clad in corrugated metal sheet with the corrugations running vertically. There is a single door into one side and a steel framed window facing the weighbridge.

Physical Condition

The oats shed and weighbridge and office were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Mininera Railway Complex, consisting of the oats shed and auger, platform mound, and a weigh bridge and office, located on George Street, Mininera, The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Mininera Railway Complex located on George Street, Mininera is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

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Why is it significant?

The Mininera Railway Complex is of historical significance to Ararat Rural City Council for its ability to demonstrate the coming of the railway to the closer settlement areas in the district and the important role it played in facilitating the post World War One Soldier Settlement scheme in the Westmere-Mininera district. The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona was officially opened at Lismore in August 1913 and demonstrated the growing need for rail transport services in the Western Plains due to the expanding farming community at that time. The oats shed built at the station in the early 1960s demonstrates the importance of oats growing to the district with Mininera known as the 'Oat Capital' of Victoria for many years. (Criterion A)

The Mininera Railway Complex is aesthetically significant as a visual reminder of the once important rail network in the area and as a reminder of the pivotal role oats played in the livelihood of the district. The oats shed constructed in the early 1960s and the weighbridge and office are intact representative examples of their building types. (Criterion B)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Mount Cole Reservoir and Langi Ghiran Reservoir		
Address	Reservoir Road MOUNT COLE Reservoir Track WARRAK	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Water Supply Reservoir/ Dam		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

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History and Historical Context

Contextual History:

Gold rush immigration swelled the population of Victoria from 77,000 people in 1851 to 237,000 in 1854. During 1852, the peak year of the rushes, 90,000 people arrived in Melbourne. By 1857, the colony had a population of 411,000.[1] In the period 1851-60, Victoria produced 20 million ounces of gold, one-third of world output.[2] This was at a time when gold was the primary international standard of exchange because it was stable in price, durable, and transportable. The hoarding of vast quantities of Californian and Victorian gold by banks in America, England and France provided a basis for currencies and financial systems around the globe and supported a huge credit expansion that bankrolled world trade, shipping and manufacturing.[3] By 1903, Australia was the largest single producer of gold in the world.

Incorporating the Ararat Mining Division and a small portion of the Beaufort Mining Division (between Mount Cole and Streatham and focusing on Fiery Creek) gold mining in the Ararat district made a significant contribution to these events.[4]

Place History:[5]

During the gold rushes, in order to supply a safe drinking water supply to growing settlements, government funded the construction of goldfield reservoirs from the 1860s. A severe drought in 1865-66 caused most diggers to desert the gullies of the Ararat district. Conditions were so bad in March 1866 that Opossum Flat Reservoir, built in 1856, was appropriated by the Ararat Borough council for the exclusive use of the residents of Ararat.[6]

By the time the Municipal District of Ararat was incorporated on 24 September 1858, the demand for water was high. In March 1859, a deputation from Ararat council travelled to Melbourne to make representations to the government for a grant to construct a water storage for Ararat. As a result of the deputation's efforts, the government constructed a water storage in Olivers Gully, Ararat, in 1860. In 1862, the water was piped from Olivers Gully storage to a restricted area of Barkly Street, Ararat. The piping was of compressed cardboard and bitumen, but in a few weeks it developed leaks and had to be replaced with a six inch cast iron main. Because the catchment area had so much mining activity, the water was quite unsuitable for general domestic use.

Langi Ghiran Reservoir

In 1870, in order to supply Ararat township a water supply, chief hydraulic engineer of the Water Supply Department, George Gordon, proposed to pipe water from Mount Cole to Ararat, however the estimated cost of £40,000 was too great. Early in 1874, Gordon recommended instead a 15,200,000 gallon water storage be constructed at Mount Langi Ghiran; that water be piped from Langi Ghiran to the Olivers Gully dam; that Olivers Gully dam be improved as a water storage; and that an extension be made to the reticulation in Ararat township. The mechanical equipment available at that time made the task an arduous and protracted one, and water did not flow from Langi Ghiran Reservoir to Olivers Gully Reservoir until August 1876. As the demand for water increased, further improvements were made to the Olivers Gully Reservoir in 1883 and 1906.

As part of Gordon's water scheme, a reservoir was constructed on Mount Langi Ghiran, at the site of the waterfalls, from granite stone blocks quarried from stone adjacent to the site of the reservoir. The reservoir was located at an elevation of 1,641 feet at full service level to make it a gravitational reservoir to the Olivers Gully Reservoir and designed to hold 15,200,000 gallons of water. Although the reservoir construction and inlet pipe to Ararat was commenced in 1870, construction was not completed until 1876. The total cost was £55,000. The overflow from the storage passed to the Hopkins River to enter the sea at Warrnambool. The scheme, however, was not a success, with water restrictions introduced in Ararat in the summer of 1876.

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As part of chief hydraulic engineer of the Water Supply Department, George Gordon water scheme for Ararat, a reservoir was constructed on Mount Langi Ghiran, at the site of the waterfalls, from granite stone blocks quarried from stone adjacent to the site of the reservoir. Construction commenced in 1870 and the reservoir was completed in 1876. To augment the Langi Ghiran supply, the Mount Cole Reservoir was constructed in 1881.

Mount Cole Reservoir

To augment the Langi Ghiran supply, the Mount Cole Reservoir was constructed in 1881. A pipe head weir on Spring Creek on Mount Cole was constructed to pipe water via gravitation approximately 5 miles to Langi Ghiran Reservoir. This work, which included the laying of a six-inch cast iron main pipeline that discharged water into an open slab stone aqueduct, was completed in 1883. The water supply from Mount Cole considerably boosted the flow through the Langi Ghiran storage to Ararat, however the supply remained insufficient for the township's needs. As a consequence, a single-arch dam was built on Spring Creek at Mount Cole in 1906 and the pipeline between the reservoirs was enlarged twice over the years to 1937. The central arch was raised another 17 feet in 1926 to increase the storage to 90 million gallons.

The total storage of all reservoirs of 181 million gallons was insufficient in 1938, and even less adequate with post World War Two growth in Ararat. In 1954, an increase in catchment area was obtained by diverting water from Green Range Creek to the Mount Cole main and replacing the timber main with twelve-inch concrete-lined steel pipes. The height of the reservoir was extended in 1986.

Langi Ghiran Reservoir (67 megalitres) and Mount Cole Reservoir (800 megalitres) continue to be used today to supply water to Ararat.

[1] Cate Elkner, "Immigration and Ethnicity," University of Melbourne, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00004b.htm>.

[2] Graeme Davison, John Hirst, and Stuart Macintyre, eds., *The Oxford Companion to Australian History* (Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press, 1998), 284.

[3] Jane Lennon, "Victorian Gold - World Heritage Status?," in *Bendigo: Nothing But Gold 150 Years of Gold mining Conference Papers* (Bendigo, Vic.2001), 45.

[4] Mining District boundaries have been determined with reference to William Slight, "Victoria Mining Districts, Mining Divisions & the Gold Fields," (Melbourne: Department of Mines, 1866).

[5] Most of this information is from R. Allan Blachford, *The Centenary of Water Supply in Ararat 1876-1976* (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1976), 12-14, 28-29. Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), 167-69.

[6] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 10.

Description

Physical Description

The Langhi Ghiran Reservoir is built into the side of the mountain and is lined with granite blocks quarried from adjacent to the site. It holds 67 megalitres of water. The outer retaining/dam wall is constructed from stepped coursed granite blocks. The reservoir is surrounded by bushland.

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The Mount Cole Reservoir is built into the side of the mountain. It has concrete wall lining with a tall curved concrete retaining wall mounted by a steel fence, to the outer edge (away from the side of the mount). This concrete wall is built into the rock. It holds 800 megalitres of water. The reservoir is surrounded by bushland.

Physical Condition

Both reservoirs are in use and were in good condition on November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Mount Cole Reservoir, Reservoir Road, Mount Cole and Langi Ghiran Reservoir, Reservoir Track, Warrak. The location and original form, and materials of the reservoirs are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Mount Cole Reservoir and Langi Ghiran Reservoir are of local historic and technical significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Mount Cole Reservoir and Langi Ghiran Reservoir are of historical significance for their demonstration of the early water supply methods in the Shire. They are also significant for their provision of water to the Ararat township from the 1870s and 1880s and are still in use today. As part of chief hydraulic engineer of the Water Supply Department George Gordon's water scheme for Ararat, a reservoir was constructed on Mount Langi Ghiran, at the site of the waterfalls, from granite stone blocks quarried from stone adjacent to the site of the reservoir. Construction of the Langi Ghiran Reservoir commenced in 1870 and was completed in 1876. To augment the Langi Ghiran supply, the Mount Cole Reservoir was constructed in 1881. (Criteria A & B)

The Mount Cole Reservoir and Langi Ghiran Reservoir are of aesthetic and technical significance for their demonstration of late 19th century water catchment, storage and supply technologies that are still in use today. The expansive stepped granite wall of the Langhi Ghiran Reservoir is of technical significance as an impressive piece of engineering and construction dating from the Victorian period. (Criteria E & F)

Recommendations 2015

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

-



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Avenue of Honour	
Address	Ararat-Halls Gap Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Avenue of Honour	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were also taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[22] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at

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Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

Like other war memorials across the Australian landscape, Avenues of Honour were planted to commemorate the sacrifice and service made by local volunteers during World War One. By 1918, the high casualty rate in Australia from World War One of 64.93%, the highest of all allied forces, meant that every Australian was related to or was closely associated with someone who had been killed. The planting of memorial trees by town residents acted as a personal focus of remembrance for a grieving community. From 1917 to 1921, Victorians planted at least 128 avenues, with trees mostly of European origin. Although avenues exist in other states of Australia, they were most popular in Victoria.[31]

At the behest of Cr T. C. Maidment of Barton, a public meeting was held at the Mechanics' Hall in Moyston on 11 September for the purpose of inaugurating a scheme for an Avenue of Honour at Moyston.[32] The scheme was given approval by the meeting, and in October 1918 A. Lennox, on behalf of the Moyston Honour Avenue Committee, sought permission from the Shire of Ararat to remove 'six old bluegum trees and a few small box trees' on the Ararat road in order to plant an Avenue of Honour.[33] A working bee was subsequently held to remove the trees and prepare the soil in October 1918 and a number of fund raising events were held to cover the costs of the planting.

The Moyston Avenue of Honour was planted on the site of the old Moyston cemetery in 1921[34] to commemorate the 53 Moyston district men who enlisted for service during World War One.[35] There is evidence that further trees, supplied by the Forests Commission, were planted in the Avenue of Honour in 1925 by Moyston school children.[36]

The Moyston Avenue of Honour today comprises 27 *Pinus Radiata* (Monterey Pine) trees approximately 24 metres in height; each tree is marked with a plaque listing the name of a serviceman. The Avenue is the only known example of using this species in a commemorative avenue.[37] It is believed that the 1933 date on the timber signs at the entrances to the Avenue refer to the date of dedication.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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- [3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
- [6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.
- [7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.
- [8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.
- [9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.
- [10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.
- [11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.
- [12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.
- [13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.
- [15] *Ibid.*, 104.
- [16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.
- [17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.
- [19] *Ibid.*, 253.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.
- [21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] *Avenues of Honour Education and Celebration Program*. National Trust, 2014. Available <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic>. Accessed 22 April 2014. Janine Haddow, "Avenues of Honour: A Victorian Cultural Landscape," *Landscape Australia*, no. 3 (1988).

[32] 'Advertising'. *The Ararat Advertiser*, 7 September 1918, 3.

[33] 'Ararat Shire Council Monthly Meeting.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 3 October 1918, 4.

[34] Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 16.

[35] Ibid.

[36] 'STATE SCHOOL FORESTRY.' *The Australasian*, 8 August 1925, 15.

[37] 'Moyston Avenue of Honour' citation, Heritage Inventory, Heritage Victoria, 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The Moyston Avenue of Honour comprises 27 *Pinus Radiata* (Monterey Pine) extending along both sides of Ararat-Halls Gap Road, planted approximately 11 metres apart. The trees are approximately 24 metres in height. There is a horizontal timber sign on concrete posts at each end of the avenue containing the wording: 'Honour Avenue AD 1933'. Each tree in the Avenue is marked with a concrete post containing a metal name plate.

Physical Condition

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The trees were in fair condition and the signage and name plates were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Moyston Avenue of Honour consisting of 27 *Pinus Radiata* (Monterey Pine) trees on both sides of Ararat - Halls Gap Road at the eastern end of Moyston, name plaques and timber sign. The location and original form, materials and details of these elements are integral to the significance of the place

How is it significant?

The Moyston Avenue of Honour is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Moyston Avenue of Honour is of historical significance for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War One and the methods used to commemorate the event. Planted in 1921, the Avenue of Honour is a representative example of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War One commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual, regardless of rank, was equally recognised for their service. It is believed that the 1933 date on the timber signs at the entrances to the Avenue refer to the date of dedication. The Avenue is of historical significance as the only known example of the use of *Pinus Radiata* (Monterey Pine) in a commemorative avenue. (Criteria A & B)

The Moyston Avenue of Honour is of aesthetic significance as a commemorative planting, which provides a dramatic eastern entrance into Moyston. The Avenue is of aesthetic significance as an impressive avenue with regularly spaced tall trees either side of the road. The retention of early signage at either end of the Avenue and the dedication plaques at each tree is of aesthetic significance and an original feature of avenues that is often lost. (Criteria B & D)

The Moyston Avenue of Honour is of social significance for its relationship with the Moyston community as a memorial to those from the town who served in World War One and as a commemorative focus for the community since 1921. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 27 Radiata pine trees

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Moyston Hall and War Memorial	
Address	12 Brooke Street MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	War Memorial,Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Place history:[31]

The mechanics' institute movement was established in 1800 when Dr George Birkbeck of the Andersonian Institute in Scotland gave a series of lectures to local mechanics. The nineteenth century term 'mechanic' referred to an artisan or workingman. The lectures were free and proved popular. The movement spread quickly throughout the British Empire, including the colony of Victoria from the 1850s. Mechanics' institutes (also named Athenaeums and Schools of Art) were established wherever a hall, library or school was needed. Nearly 1,000 were built in Victoria and 562 remain today.[32]

A mechanics' institute and free library was established at Moyston in the Moyston Hotel building, acquired ca. 1867. A library operated from the building, which also featured a hall where social events were held. An existing Moyston Mechanics' Institute account book records memberships from 1867 until 1879, and a minute book details the day-to-day running of the institute. At the end of 1877, the institute's library contained 389 volumes.[33]

Because the existing hall pine floor was not suitable for dancing, local residents decided to build a new hall in 1913. Land was purchased from Miss Knox next door to the Mechanics' Institute and a hall was constructed by Messr McArthur and Son of Ararat for £380. The building comprised a hall 60 feet by 28 feet, a stage with a raked floor, pine lined walls and red pine floor. A further £27 was spent on equipping the old hall as a supper room. Other equipment included new seats, lighting, a water tank and a piano.

The Moyston Hall was officially opened on 30 January 1914 after 46 years of using the Moyston Mechanics Institute as a public meeting place. The opening event comprised a concert and dance, attended by 350 residents. In 1920, an obelisk was erected next to the hall to commemorate the twelve district soldiers who served and those who died in World War One.[34]

The hall and equipment were paid for by a government grant and fundraising by local residents, including the installation of a new floor in the hall in 1935. A new kitchen was constructed by contractor J. Hill of Ballarat in 1938.

Photographs of pioneers of Moyston were given to the hall by Councillor Alex McDonald in 1949. A hedge was planted at the back of the war memorial and a granite memorial gate to World War Two, with the arch dedicated to Sergeant E. Wilton who was killed in action on 25 August 1943, was erected in front of the existing memorial in 1950.

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The Shire of Ararat became trustees of the building in 1957, and in the same year a library was established at the hall. A new supper room and kitchen were built in 1967 and the former supper room (the original 1860s hotel and mechanics' institute building) was demolished in the same year. The new supper room measured 20 feet by 35 feet and was built of ripple iron to match the existing hall.[35] A 'back to' Moyston event was held at the hall in 1967.

Septic toilets were built in 1978 and the kitchen remodelled in 1986. Native trees were planted at the rear of the hall in 1991. Verandahs were built at the front of the hall and supper room in 2001 and reverse cycle air conditioning was installed in 2006. The hall roof was replaced in 2013.

Centenary celebrations were for the Moyston Hall in February 2014 and included the launching of a book about the hall's history.

Events held at the hall included a Labour Party rally in 1914, farewells to district soldiers in 1915, and welcome homes and memorial services for those who served in World War One. Honour rolls were subsequently hung in the hall. Picture shows were held at the hall from 1918. Meetings, balls, weddings, reunions, plays, birthday parties, banquets, dances, indoor carpet bowls, Moyston Primary School concerts, and table tennis were some of the activities held in the hall over the years. A 'switch on' ceremony to celebrate the bringing of electricity to Moyston took place in 1956. Food was prepared at the hall for fire fighters during the 1961 and 2006 fires in the Grampians. The Infant Welfare Centre used the hall in the 1960s[36] and the Moyston Playgroup used the hall from the 1980s.

The Moyston Hall continues to provide an important role as a meeting place for Moyston district residents and holds photographic displays of sporting teams, trophies and a display of photos of '95 Pioneers of Moyston'.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] *Ibid.*, 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] *Ibid.*, 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] *Ibid.*, 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L.*

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Banfield. *The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Unless otherwise noted, all information in this section is from Anne Marshall and Neil Wilde, *Moyston Hall Centenary 1914-2014* (Ararat: Hansen Design and Print, 2014).

[32] "What Is a Mechanics' Institute?," Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc, <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mivic/history.htm>.

[33] Moyston Mechanics' Institute Minute and Account Book 1868-1880 in Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932," in *Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4* (State Library of Victoria).

[34] Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 16.

[35] PROV, Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/374.

[36] PROV, Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/374.

Description

Physical Description

The Moyston Hall is a gable roofed single hall space with timber block faced cladding to the front elevation and vertically laid ripple iron to the side elevations. Fretwork to the front gable end is in the form of a stepped truss with vertical rail infill. There is a central timber flag pole or finial and a sign stating MOYSTON HALL at the centre. The roof has been reclad in green colorbond and there are cylindrical roof vents mounted on the ridge. The front elevation contains centrally placed vertical timber double doors with a timber framed double hung window either side. The front bullnosed verandah with balustrade and concrete platform are later additions that do not contribute to the significance of the building. The south side elevation contains the original evenly spaced timber framed double hung windows. The north side original elevation has been altered to accommodate the 1967 supper room addition, but still retains the ripple iron cladding to parts. The rear gable end elevation is substantially intact with its ripple iron cladding, wide vertically clad timber door and square timber framed window with four panes. A flat roofed toilet wing with brick walls has been added at a later date to the southwest corner. This, as well as the later north wing, does not contribute to the significance of the building.

Adjacent to the hall on the south side is a war memorial that consists of a stone archway commemorating the First and Second World Wars. One pillar contains the date 1939 and 'Erected by Maroona' and the other pillar contains the date 1945 and 'And Moyston'. The top of the arch was specifically dedicated to the memory of Sgt. E Wilton killed in action, August 25th 1943. There are wrought iron double gates to the arch. Behind the gates is a stone war memorial obelisk on a rough quarry faced pediment and a bluestone stepped platform. The base of the obelisk contains an inscription including the names of those who fought from the district in World War One with gold leaf finish.

Physical Condition

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The Hall, Memorial Gates and Memorial Obelisk were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Moyston Hall, War Memorial and Memorial Gates located at 12 Brooke Street, Moyston. The location and original form, materials and details of the Hall, Memorial and Memorial Gates are integral to the significance of the place.

The brick toilet wing on the south west corner, the 1967 supper room (substantially altered in 1986) and the hall front verandah (added in 2001) do not contribute to the significance of the hall.

How is it significant?

The Moyston Hall, War Memorial, Memorial Gates located at 12 Brooke Street, Moyston are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Moyston Hall, War Memorial and Memorial Gates are of historical significance for their role in the development of the community and civic life in Moyston and the surrounding district. The Moyston Hall was officially opened on 30 January 1914 after 46 years of using the Moyston Mechanics Institute as a public meeting place. The Mechanics Institute became the supper room for the new hall but this was demolished in 1967 when the new supper room was constructed on the north side of the hall. The 1967 supper room was substantially altered in 1986. An obelisk was erected next to the hall in 1920 to commemorate the twelve district soldiers who served and those who died in World War One. The granite arched gateway was erected in 1950 as a memorial to World War Two, with the arch dedicated to Sergeant E. Wilton who was killed in action on 25 August 1943. The memorials are of historical significance for their demonstration of the type of War Memorials erected in rural townships after the World Wars. (Criterion A)

The Moyston Hall is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and decorative example of a community hall designed in the early 20th century. These features include the gable form, timber block fronted facade, timber fretwork to the front gable end, ripple iron cladding to the side and rear elevations and timber framed, double hung windows. The granite War Memorial Obelisk is of aesthetic significance for demonstrating a typical form of memorial erected in rural towns after World War One. The granite Memorial Gates dedicated to an individual are a rare and more unusual example of memorial gates erected after World War Two. (Criteria B & D)

The Moyston Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since 1914. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings, and concerts and memorial ceremonies since its completion in 1914. In addition, picture shows were held at the hall from 1918 and the Infant Welfare Centre used the hall in the 1960s. The World War One Memorial obelisk and World War Two Memorial Gates are of social significance as the focus of war commemoration for the town and surrounding district and as the location of Anzac ceremonies since 1920. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes granite Memorial Gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

Yes



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Residence and Former Store	
Address	18 Brooke Street MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence, Shop	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

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Place history:

Allotment 10, Section 3, of the Township of Moyston was purchased by W. Matthews at the first township sales in November 1861. Matthews also purchased a number of other allotments in the township.[31]

William Matthews was Moyston's first storekeeper and built a residence and store on Allotment 10, Section 3, Moyston, out of handmade bricks and bluestone soon after he purchased the land in 1861. It was the first building to be erected in Brooke Street.[32] William married Anna Marie Matthews, who died in 1870.

The Brooke Street buildings were still owned by William Matthews when he died in 1898, and were described in his probate as a weatherboard shop and dwelling in 'very poor repair at present occupied by Mr Giles, the deceased's son-in-law'[33] who was married to William's daughter, Grace. The residence and store were inherited by William's other daughter, Annie Maree.

The property was sold in 1954.

The residence at 18 Brooke Street, Moyston, continues to be lived in today.

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
- [6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.
- [7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.
- [8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.
- [9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.
- [10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.
- [11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.
- [12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.
- [13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.
- [15] *Ibid.*, 104.
- [16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.
- [17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.
- [19] *Ibid.*, 253.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.
- [21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.
- [23] *Ibid.*, 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.
- [24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.
- [26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.
- [27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.
- [28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.
- [29] Ibid., 129.
- [30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.
- [31] Township of Moyston Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 1956.
- [32] Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 14. Banfield, Lorna L., and John McKenzie. *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 18.
- [33] PROV, Probate and Administration Files, VPRS 28/P02/497.

Description

Physical Description

The shop is timber framed with a gable roof running perpendicular to the street and weatherboard cladding. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. It is distinguishable as a former shop as it is built up to the street line with the residence set back. There is a timber framed double hung window to the centre of the front elevation, however it is assumed that this was originally the shop front and would have contained a door. There is a brick chimney towards the centre of this building, and a central door on the end elevation. This weatherboard shop wing projects forward of the rear of the residence also.

The residence is attached to the weatherboard shop and has a hip roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. It is probable that this brick and stone building was originally both the shop and residence. The rear elevation of the building shows the original construction with bluestone walls and wide redbrick quoining to the openings and the windows. This elevation contains two double hung, timber framed windows and an elevated timber door. These openings appear to be original. The exposed end wall of the building is all red brick and has been painted. It contains a large timber framed double hung window, which is unlikely to be original. The Brooke Street elevation is weatherboard with a central door, a timber framed window either side and a skillion verandah across the front. There is a red brick chimney at the centre of the building.

Physical Condition

Both buildings were in fair to poor condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

What is significant?

The Residence and former Store located at 18 Brooke Street, Moyston. The location and existing form, materials and detailing of the brick, stone and weatherboard Residence and weatherboard former Store are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Residence and former Store located at 18 Brooke Street, Moyston are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Residence and former Store are historically significant for their association with the early establishment of the Moyston township during the gold rush and as the first store in the town. Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857 and allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'. William Matthews, Moyston's first storekeeper built a residence and store on this site soon after he purchased the land in 1861. This was likely to be have been a combined shop and residence constructed of brick and stone and was the first building to be erected in Brooke Street. The Residence and former Store are of historical significance for their associations with the Matthews family who were prominent early residents of Moyston. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Residence and former Store are aesthetically significant as reminders of the early appearance of the township of Moyston. The original form, placement and materials of the two buildings contribute to demonstrating this early appearance. Features of note include the timber framed double hung windows and the red brick chimneys. The rear wall of the Residence is of aesthetic significance for its unusual and early construction of bluestone with wide handmade red brick quoining. This elevation is also significant for the retention of early window and door openings. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Stonehurst Farmhouse	
Address	19 Decker Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were also taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[22] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

William Matthews purchased Allotments 163, 164, and 166, Township of Moyston, in 1864-67.[31] Matthews also purchased neighbouring Allotments 165 and 208 in the same period, and Allotment 162 in later years, making a total of approximately 30 acres that he owned.

Stonemason William Matthews was born in Cornwall in 1814. He married Jane Ellis on 17 September 1836 at St Just, Cornwall, and is believed to have built the Church of England church in Moyston and was a signatory to the purchase of land for the Moyston Mechanics' Institute. He likely built the house, 'Stonehurst', at 19 Decker Road in the mid-1860s after he purchased the ten-acre allotment on which it stands in 1864. William lived there with his wife and eight children and was described as a 'gent' on his death in 1891. Jane Matthews died in 1901.[32]

William Matthews's probate at his death in 1891 included real estate described as the aforementioned allotments on which was built a 'bluestone dwelling containing 5 rooms, also brick dairy and fencing' at a value of £420.[33]

The Decker family owned the home in later years and descendants continue to live there today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna

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[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

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[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

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[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] *Ibid.*, 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

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[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Township of Moyston Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 1956.

[32] Anne Marshall and Neil Wilde, *Moyston Hall Centenary 1914-2014* (Ararat: Hansen Design and Print, 2014), 53.

[33] PROV, Probate and Administration Files, VPRS 28/P03/261.

Description

Physical Description

The early farmhouse has a rectangular plan with a double hipped roof. The hipped roofs are running parallel to one another with a valley gutter running the length of the building at the centre. Both sections are constructed of random coursed granite with a course of bluestone and then red brick at the top of the walls. The front of the building is along the long side of one of the hips. There is a skillion verandah that has been in filled with weatherboard and cement sheet cladding on one side and a skillion verandah to the other. It is not clear which was originally the front elevation. There is a brick chimney at the end of one hip. The roof is clad in galvanised corrugated iron and the original windows are timber framed.

Physical Condition

The farmhouse was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Stonehurst farmhouse located at 19 Decker Road, Moyston. The location and original form, materials and details of the residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Stonehurst farmhouse located at 19 Decker Road, Moyston is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Stonehurst farmhouse is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early establishment of the Moyston township in the 1860s as a result of the gold rush. Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857 and allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. Stonemason William Matthews is likely to have built this house in the mid-1860s after he purchased the ten-acre allotment on which it stands in 1864. The property is of significance for its associations with Matthews who is believed to have built the Church of England church in Moyston and was a signatory to the purchase of land for the Moyston Mechanics' Institute. The farmhouse is also of historical significance for its associations with the Decker family who owned the property in later years and after whom the road on which it is located is named after. (Criteria A & H)

The Stonehurst farmhouse is aesthetically significant as a rare surviving example of a mid 19th century stone residence constructed with a combination of randomly coursed granite and bluestone with the incorporation of a brick top course. The residence is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the random coursing. (Criteria B & D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Moyston Cemetery	
Address	15 Moyston Cemetery Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

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The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

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The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at

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Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

Burials in the early days of the gold diggings in the colony of Victoria occurred anywhere and everywhere. Burial grounds took on the informal names of gold mining localities well before the landscape was officially mapped or named. Hastily dug shallow graves were excavated in ground which had little auriferous value and were often unmarked, or signified by a single sandstone or timber headstone hewn out of materials found on site; some were etched with a cross. Later, markers were more elaborate, and those that could afford to had a message carved to commemorate the deceased.

From the late 1850s, in a time when disease was thought to be spread by foul odours or 'miasmas', early goldfield cemeteries near settlements were closed, and formal (gazetted) cemeteries were established away from populations.

A cemetery was established on the Campbell's Reef (Moyston) diggings at the site where the Moyston Avenue of Honour grows today. A six-acre site was gazetted for another cemetery at Moyston on 1 August 1890 and burials took place at the new cemetery from this time on.[31] The cemetery was divided into four main sections: Church of England, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic.

The first burial in the Moyston Cemetery was that of Ann Roberts, wife of Edward, who died on 27 October 1866 aged 33[?] years. This burial pre-dates the formal gazettal of the cemetery in 1890.

The Moyston Cemetery contains graves of families who have had a long association with the Moyston community, including early white settler families such as the Coads, the Burkes, and the Polas. The cemetery also contains a mausoleum for the McDonald family, which was erected in 1953.

The Moyston Cemetery is still used today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] *Ibid.*, 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] *Ibid.*, 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

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[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 62, 1 August 1890, 3063.

Description

Physical Description

The Moyston cemetery has a rectangular plan and contains marked grave sites in clusters relating to the different denominations. The cemetery is laid out in a grid like plan with unmade paths leading to the different areas and cast iron markers identifying the denomination of a particular area. The cemetery is clear of trees with the exception of a single cypress behind the Mausoleum. The cemetery contains some early marked graves with sandstone headstones as well as more recent graves with polished marble headstones. Some of the early graves also include cast iron fence surrounds. A feature of the cemetery is a pink granite McDonald family mausoleum erected by Alex McDonald and his son Hugh in May 1953. The mausoleum is located directly behind the front gates and has a central Romanesque gable wing flanked by a flat lower roofed wing. The central gabled wing has a recessed arched opening with double panelled doors and a fanlight above. The eaves to the roof contain dentils and arcaded frieze, also in granite. There is a polished granite plaque on the front of each flat roofed wing. The plaques are in a darker granite and have gold lettering, one containing the wording McDonald Mausoleum and the other stating: Erected by Alex McDonald and son Hugh May 1953. There is a granite platform with steps to the front of the mausoleum. Notable graves in the cemetery include a stone angel on a tall marble plinth and the Kirkwood grave, which has a tall timber picket grave surround with a timber headstone.

Entry to the cemetery is on the south side. The entry comprises iron and wire mesh double gates with a wire mesh pedestrian gate to one side. The perimeter fence consists of tapered concrete posts with wire mesh panel infill. The fence has been removed on the west boundary

Physical Condition

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The graves were in fair to good condition, the Mausoleum was in good condition and the front gates and fence were in fair condition in December 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Moyston Cemetery located at 15 Moyston Cemetery Road, Moyston. The location and original form, materials and details of the entry gates, Mausoleum, boundary fence, cypress, grave sites and their associated headstones, and surrounds are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Moyston Cemetery located at 15 Moyston Cemetery Road is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Moyston Cemetery is historically significant for its association with the early settlement and development of the Moyston district and the township of Moyston. The first burial in the Moyston Cemetery was that of Ann Roberts, wife of Edward, who died on 27 October 1866. This burial pre-dates the formal gazettal of the cemetery in 1890. The cemetery is a rare reminder of the gold mining history of the area as it was established as a result of the gold rush that occurred in the area in the 1860s. (Criteria A & B)

Moyston Cemetery is aesthetically significant as a representative example of a rural cemetery established in the mid 1800s on the gold fields. It demonstrates key characteristics of an early cemetery including the grid like layout and the separation of denominations. It provides examples of late Victorian headstones and cast iron cemetery surrounds. Notable graves in the cemetery include a stone angel on a tall marble plinth and the Kirkwood grave, which has a tall timber picket grave surround with a timber headstone. A feature of the cemetery is a pink granite mausoleum erected for the McDonald family by Alex McDonald and his son Hugh in May 1953. The mausoleum is located directly behind the front gates and has a central Romanesque gable wing flanked by a flat lower roofed wing. The central gabled wing has a recessed arched opening with double panelled doors and a fanlight above. The eaves to the roof contain dentils and an arcaded frieze, also in granite. There is a granite platform with steps to the front of the mausoleum. The iron and mesh front gates to the Cemetery, wire perimeter fence and single cypress at the centre of the cemetery contribute to the setting of the place. (Criteria D & E)

Moyston Cemetery is of social significance as an important commemorative site valued by the Moyston district community. The Moyston Cemetery contains graves of families who have had a long association with the Moyston community, including early white settler families such as the Coads, the Burkes, and the Polas. (Criteria G & H)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes cypress

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front iron and wire gates and perimeter concrete post and wire mesh fence

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Moyston Christ Church and Pines	
Address	14 Moyston-Dunkeld Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)
Gothic Revival

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836.

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Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

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Place history:

Two acres of land for a Church of England church at Moyston were gazetted in 1869.[31]

The foundation stone of the Church of England, named Christ Church, at Moyston was laid on 23 March 1869 by the local lodge of Freemasons.[32] Local stonemason William Matthews, born in Cornwall in 1814, is believed to have built the church,[33] which comprised a nave 40 feet by 24 feet; an altar room 15 feet by 8 feet; a room 8 feet by 6 feet; and a porch 6 feet 6 inches by 4 feet nine inches.[34]

Christ Church, part of the Parish of Ararat, was formally opened on 24 October 1869 with a religious service that attracted a large congregation. The *Ararat Advertiser* reported:

The building itself is one of which the people of Moyston may well be proud. It is in the Gothic style of architecture, having a depth of fifty feet by a width of twenty-six feet. The walls, which are sixteen feet high, are pierced for side-lights, which are filled with frosted and edged with stained-glass. The chancel window is not yet completed; when finished it will present subjects of scriptural interest, executed in highly finished stained glass. It is sincerely to be hoped that in the possession of another means of worship, Moyston will feel its obligation to spiritual service commensurately increased.[35]

Power was connected to the church in 1959.

On 24 August 1981, the Church of England of Australia was officially renamed the Anglican Church of Australia.

Services are no longer held at the Moyston Christ Church, though it is still owned by the Anglican Church.

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- [2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
- [6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.
- [7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.
- [8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.
- [9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.
- [10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.
- [11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.
- [12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.
- [13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.
- [15] *Ibid.*, 104.
- [16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.
- [17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.
- [19] *Ibid.*, 253.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.
- [21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive*

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Report, 86.

[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] *Ibid.*, 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] *Ibid.*, 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Township of Moyston Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 1956.

[32] *The Argus*, 29 March 1869, 4.

[33] Anne Marshall and Neil Wilde, *Moyston Hall Centenary 1914-2014* (Ararat: Hansen Design and Print, 2014), 53.

[34] PROV, Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/1428.

[35] "NEWS AND NOTES." *The Ballarat Star*, 30 October 1869, 2.

Description

Physical Description

This is a random coursed bluestone church with sandstone dressings. It has a gable roof running parallel with the street and a gable roofed bay forming the altar room at the east end. The long south side of the building forms the front elevation and at the west end is a shallow gabled porch with a pointed arch entry and double timber doors also forming a pointed arch. The doors each have three panels with diagonal board infill. There is a trefoil relief motif at the apex of the parapet gable to the entry porch. Each long side elevation has four bays divided by a buttress. The buttressing is a combination of bluestone and sandstone with the sandstone forming quoining to the sides of the buttresses. At the point where the gable parapet meets the top of the buttress at the corners there is a relief trefoil mould in sandstone and this detail is repeated in the same location at the end wall of the end bay which also has a gable parapet and buttressing at the end corners. Each bay of the side walls with the exception of the entry porch contains a pointed arch window with diamond patterned leadlight. There is sandstone quoining to the window openings. The end wall of the bay contains three

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pointed arched windows closely spaced and with the central window taller than the side windows. There is diamond patterned leadlight as well as stained glass to these windows. To the side elevations of the bay there is a quatrefoil relief mould in sandstone and this size and shaped opening is also in the gable ends of the nave. At the apex of the gable parapet at either end of the nave is a sandstone carved cross.

There are pines along the rear (north) boundary.

Physical Condition

The church was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Christ Church and boundary pines located at 14 Moyston-Dunkeld Road, Moyston. The location and original form, materials and details of the 1869 church and the pines are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Christ Church and boundary pines located at 14 Moyston-Dunkeld Road, Moyston are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Christ Church, Moyston is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early development period of the town of Moyston due to the gold rush. Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857 and allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'. Constructed in 1869, the church is of historical significance for its demonstration of the period of peak population and investment in the township and this is illustrated by the elaborate and grand nature of the church. The foundation stone of the Church of England, named Christ Church, at Moyston was laid on 23 March 1869 by the local lodge of Freemasons. Local stonemason William Matthews, born in Cornwall in 1814, is believed to have built the church. The church is a rare surviving, intact example of a mid Victorian stone church. (Criteria A & B)

Christ Church, Moyston is aesthetically significant as an intact and finely detailed Victorian Gothic style stone church. The church exhibits key features of the Victorian Gothic style as well as fine detailing and workmanship in the stonework. These features include the randomly coursed bluestone, sandstone quoining to the openings and buttresses, quatrefoil and trefoil relief moulds, sandstone parapets to the gable ends and stone crosses to the apex, leadlight and stained glass windows and panelled front doors. The pines on the northern boundary provide a marker to the site in views from the main road and contribute to the setting of the place. (Criteria D & E)

Christ Church, Moyston is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1869. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes pines on the north boundary
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Barton Station Shearing Shed	
Address	531 Moyston-Dunkeld Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Pastoralism	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858. The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[8]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[9] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming on the former sheep runs of the Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[10] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[11]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[12] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of who took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a

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southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[13] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

Squatters in the Port Phillip District took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) to graze mainly sheep from 1834. In 1837, in an effort to control illegal pastoral expansion, Governor Richard Bourke introduced the *Crown Lands Occupation Act*, which disallowed depasturing of lands beyond the 'limits of location' (defined by the Nineteen Counties centred around Sydney) unless they were taken up under an annual lease or licence costing £10. In addition, the Act imposed penalties for the illegal occupation of land. Squatter licenses, however, were not granted until July 1838 when the first full-time Commissioner of Crown Lands was appointed.

Under this legislation, squatter R. H. Bunbury took up a run of 38,000 acres in 1841 and named it Barton after Barton Hall, his ancestral home. Thomas Chirnside, who had also taken up the Mount William station of 38,000 acres in 1842, took over the lease to Barton in 1850.[14]

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Phillip District into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of the promised fourteen-year leases, yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation. As a consequence of the Order, by 1861 Thomas Chirnside had purchased the Barton pre-emptive right in two lots of 320 acres: Portion A was located on the east of Mount William and on the Little Wimmera River, and Portion B on the Dunkeld-Moyston road. A plan of the pre-emptive right dated 1861 showed that the Barton station homestead, stables and stockyard were located on Portion A, and the Barton station woolshed located on Portion B.[15] It is likely that Chirnside built the woolshed in the period 1850-61.

The Victorian Land Acts of the 1860s were aimed at encouraging the settlement of the colony's burgeoning population, however many squatters were able to retain their hold over the most productive land through methods of dummyming and peacocking. 'Dummies' were nominal selectors acting on behalf of the squatter to apply for land. After paying off their leases, the dummies transferred title to the squatter. 'Peacocking', or 'picking out the eyes' of the land, involved the squatter using local knowledge to select the best land to render the country less useful for farming. By 1870, when remaining leases were cancelled under the legislation of the 1869 *Land Act*, squatters had established large privately owned estates, including Barton.[16] By 1880 in the Western District and southern Wimmera, ten families: the Chirnsides, Roberstons, Russells, Clarkes, Wilsons, Armytages, Moffats, Austins, Manifolds and Wares, owned almost two million acres between them.[17] The formation of these estates established the important fine merino wool-growing industry that continues today.

Robert Hood became the owner of Barton station in 1865.[18] In 1875, the Barton run was put up for sale and was described as comprising 15,716 acres of freehold land subdivided into 20 paddocks with fencing. The advertisement stated that, 'The homestead consists of a comfortable weatherboard cottage, containing eight rooms, kitchen, storeroom, overseer's house, men's huts, garden, stables, woolshed of stone with slate roof, new screw wool press, sheepwash for

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hot and cold water, sheep and cattle yards'.[19]

James Randle Brown took over Barton station in 1876 as did James Robbie later in the same year; Robbie held it into the 1880s.[20] Thomas Maidment took over ownership of the property in the late 1890s. The Maidment family subsequently established Maidment Pty Ltd and came to own most of the land of the Parish of Moyston West. The company used the land to cultivate crops and to graze sheep and cattle, but most of the income came from the production of wool. An existing ledger lists the wool produced by the Maidment company as follows: 1904, 198 bales sold for £3,499; 1905, 192 bales sold for £3,477; 1906, 307 bales sold for £5,075; 1907, 265 bales sold for £3,947; 1908, 214 bales sold for £2,732; 1909, 231 bales sold for £3,351; 1910, 198 bales sold for £3,070; and 1911, 208 bales sold for £3,843.[21] Much of this activity centred on Barton station. The Maidment family retained ownership of Barton until 1952 when it was sold to the Millear family.

The Black Friday fires of 1939 struck the Moyston area, and the woolshed at Barton was damaged, but its stone walls endured and were incorporated into a new woolshed.[22]

Qatar-owned Hassad Australia took over ownership of 8,250 hectares of the Barton property, including the woolshed, in 2012.

Barton estate is no longer farmed as a whole, with the homestead and shearing/wool shed properties now owned by separate owners. The shearing/wool shed has played an integral role in the grazing and wool growing enterprises of Barton station and continues to be used today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

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[8] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[9] Ibid., 104.

[10] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[12] Ibid., 129.

[13] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[14] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[15] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 205. Pre-Emptive Right Plan, B64, 1861.

[16] Ibid., 70.

[17] Geoffrey Serle, *The Rush to Be Rich: A History of the Colony of Victoria, 1883-1889* (Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1971), 47.

[18] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[19] 'Advertising.' *The Argus*, 23 November, 1875, 3.

[20] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 114.

[21] "Maidment Family Papers, 1856-1967," in *Manuscripts MS 11075 Boxes 1607/7-10* (State Library of Victoria, 1856).

[22] *The Australasian*, 29 November 1941, 32.

Description

Physical Description

The Barton Station Shearing shed is a rectangular building with low coursed bluestone walls and a tall hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There is an arched entrance to the centre at the (short end) front of the building and a gable roof over this entry. There is a large timber finial at the apex of the gable over the entry and the barge boards contain the wording 'Barton Station'. The gable end of the entry has ripple iron cladding. There are six bays to the length of the building. The entrance door is a large timber framed slider with ripple iron cladding to the exterior. The mortar joints to the coursed bluestone appear to have been altered/repared at a later date. There are rectangular roof lights with sliding covers dotted over the roof of the shed. Either side of the entry is a timber framed window under the eaves. The side elevations contain a series of openings with windows directly under the eaves and sheep release chutes with timber upward sliding doors. Towards the centre on each elevation is an arched opening where sheep enter into or out to the yards. These have early timber double gates.

The corrugated iron clad shed attached to the west side and the corrugated iron clad additions to the rear and east are not

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significant.

Physical Condition

The bluestone shed was in good condition and was still in use in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Barton Station Shearing Shed, located at 531 Moyston-Dunkeld Road, Moyston. The location, original form, materials and detailing of the Shearing Shed is integral to the significance of the place.

Later corrugated iron clad additions to the rear and west of the bluestone building do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Barton Station Shearing Shed, Moyston is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Barton Station Shearing Shed is of historic significance as an early surviving and important component associated with Barton Station, which was originally taken up by squatter R. H. Bunbury in 1841. Bunbury named the station Barton after Barton Hall, his ancestral home. Thomas Chirnside, who had also taken up the Mount William station of 38,000 acres in 1842, took over the lease from Barton in 1850 and by 1861 he had purchased the Barton pre-emptive right in two lots of 320 acres: Portion A was located on the east of Mount William and on the Little Wimmera River, and Portion B on the Dunkeld-Moyston road. The Barton station shearing shed located on Portion B was likely to have been constructed by Chirnside between 1850 and 1861. Although affected by fire in 1939, the bluestone walls survived. The Barton Station shearing shed is of historical significance for its demonstration of the establishment of the important fine merino wool-growing industry in the district that continues today. It is of historical significance for its associations with the Chirnside family, one of the most important wool growing families in the Western District by the 1880s. (Criteria A & H)

Barton Station Shearing Shed is of aesthetic significance as a mid 19th century bluestone shearing shed demonstrating key features of the building type and age. Features of note include the low coursed bluestone walls, arched openings, all encompassing tall hipped roof, under eaves window openings, timber double gates, sheep release chutes and gable roofed entry with sliding door. Constructed of bluestone between 1850 and 1861, the shed is an early example of a substantially intact bluestone shearing shed. (Criteria B, D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Moyston Reservoir	
Address	Old Moyston Reservoir Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Water Supply Reservoir/ Dam	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were also taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[22] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at

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Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

In order to supply a safe drinking water supply to growing gold rush settlements, the government of the colony of Victoria funded the construction of reservoirs from 1861. Overseen by the Mines Department, one such reservoir was built by contractor S. Tully at Campbells Reef (Moyston) in 1862-63 at a cost of £1054[31] and by 1863 held water to a depth of eight feet. After heavy rains in 1864, repairs were made to the reservoir by wash by the same contractor at a cost of £110.[32] A severe drought in 1865-66 caused most diggers to desert the gullies of the district, but the farming and town population depended on the reservoir supplies.

Because the reservoir was located below Moyston, a reticulated supply could not be connected to the township. Local residents took water from the reservoir via a hand pump and drew water from McDonald's well in dry periods.[33]

The Moyston reservoir dried up in the 1914-15 drought and silt was cleaned out and the reservoir fenced in the latter year.

A six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was constructed in the Grampians in 1962. Water was supplied from the reservoir to Willaura, and from 1973 piped from the Willaura headworks to supply reticulated water to Moyston. It is believed that the Moyston reservoir was closed in that year.

The former Moyston reservoir is used today as a picnic spot by locals.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne,

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Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaly, 1974), 45.

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[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] *Ibid.*, 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] *Ibid.*, 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] *Ibid.*, 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

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[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 150, 26 December 1862, 2676.

[32] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 10, 29 January 1864, 217.

[33] Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 16.

Description

Physical Description

The former reservoir comprises a square watering hole with coursed bluestone spillway. The reservoir is surrounded by eucalypts and sits within grassed public parkland. It is now used as a local picnic spot.

Physical Condition

The reservoir was in fair condition and the bluestone spillway was no longer being maintained in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Moyston Reservoir, Old Moyston Reservoir Road, Moyston. The location and original form of the reservoir and the form and materials of the bluestone spillway are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Moyston Reservoir is of local historic and technical significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Moyston Reservoir is of historical significance as a rare example of the early water supply methods used in

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the Shire during the gold rush era. It is also significant for the provision of safe drinking water to the Moyston township from the 1860s until the 1960s. Overseen by the Mines Department, a reservoir to supply safe drinking water to the growing goldfields population was built by contractor S. Tully at Campbells Reef (Moyston) in 1862-63. A severe drought in 1865-66 caused most diggers to desert the gullies of the district, but the farming and town population depended on the reservoir supplies. Because the reservoir was located below Moyston, a reticulated supply could not be connected to the township. Local residents took water from the reservoir via a hand pump and drew water from McDonald's well in dry periods. When a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was constructed in the Grampians in 1962, a reticulated water supply was delivered to Moyston via Willaura. It is believed that the Moyston reservoir was closed at this time. (Criteria A & B)

The former Moyston Reservoir is of technical significance for its demonstration of mid 19th century water storage and supply technologies. The reservoir retains its original form and bluestone spillway, demonstrating construction methodologies of the mid 19th century. (Criterion F)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

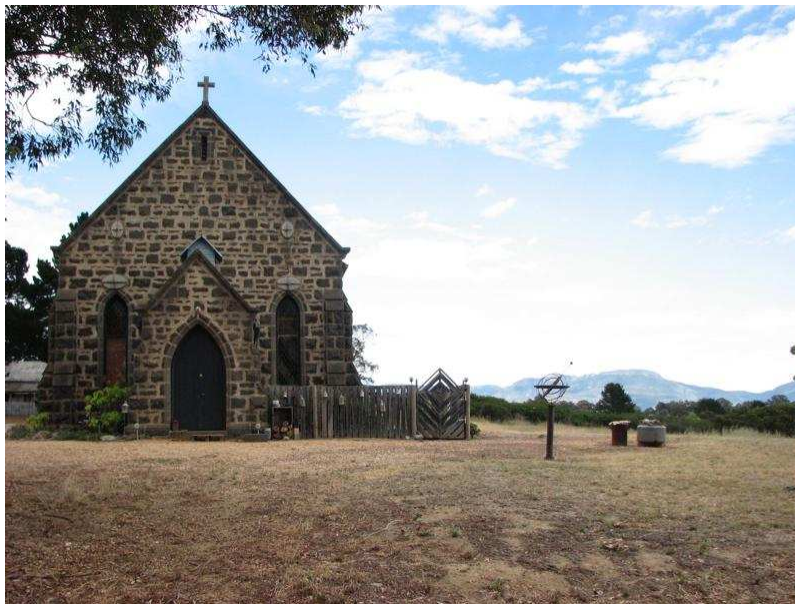
No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Moyston Presbyterian Church	
Address	14 Presbyterian Church Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

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Place history:

The Presbyterian Church of Australia formed ca. 1838.

In the local district in 1864, Presbyterian minister Rev. J. Megaw preached in fourteen places, taking in Buangor, Yarram, Mount William, Moyston, Great Western and Woodlands.

Land for a Presbyterian church was gazetted in Moyston in 1865.[31] In the same year a meeting of twenty Presbyterian parishioners met to discuss the construction of a church in the township, and included A. Herbertson, M. Spears, Arch. McDonald, J. Kennedy, R. Burke, D. Moore and W. Boyd. The bluestone church building cost over £600 and was opened on 21 January 1866 by the Rev. A. Macdonald of Hamilton.[32]

Special services, a tea meeting and concert were held in April 1916 to celebrate the church's jubilee. A centenary service was held on 6 February 1966.

Many congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Australia united with congregations from the Methodist and Congregational Churches to form the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977. The Moyston Presbyterian Church became part of the Uniting Church in this year.

The church is used as a private residence today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Township of Moyston Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 1956.

[32] "MOYSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 13 April 1916, 2.

Description

Physical Description

The bluestone church is located at the top of a small rise and has a gable roof running perpendicular to Presbyterian Church Road. The bluestone walls are coursed. There is a central gabled porch entry at the centre of the front gable end with a central pointed arch opening and double timber doors. The gable roofed flue to the top of the porch roof is not original and forms part of the conversion of the building to a residence. There is a low parapet to the front gable end of the porch and the gable ends of the nave. The gable ends to the nave are surmounted by a stone cross. There is a vertical rectangular vent in each gable end. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. Either side of the entrance porch on the end wall of the nave is a long pointed arch window. There is corner buttressing to the front and on the side elevations; each of the three bays is divided by a buttress. Each bay contains a centrally placed pointed arch window. Some of the windows retain their diamond pattern lead-lighting. The rear elevation of the nave also contains corner buttressing and three pointed arch windows with the central window being taller than the window either side.

The mortar jointing to the walls has been re-pointed in a method that does not match the original. The original jointing would not have been so wide and would have been confined to the jointing spaces. The later jointing detracts from the original appearance of the building.

Physical Condition

The former church was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

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What is significant?

The former Presbyterian Church located at 14 Presbyterian Church Road, Moyston. The setting, location and original form, materials and details of the 1878 church are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Presbyterian Church located at 14 Presbyterian Church Road, Moyston is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Moyston Presbyterian Church is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early development period of the town of Moyston due to the gold rush. The Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857 and allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'. Constructed in 1866, the church is of historical significance for its demonstration of the period of peak population in the township. In 1867 the population was 1500. The church is a rare surviving, substantially intact example of a mid Victorian stone church. (Criteria A & B)

The former Moyston Presbyterian Church is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and well-accomplished example of a bluestone mid Victorian church set on a prominent location on a hill. The church demonstrates key features of the period including the coursed bluestone walls, low parapets, gable roof form with a front gable entry porch. Other features of note include the pointed arch windows, stone crosses on the apex of the nave gable ends, stone buttressing and leadlight windows. The later repointing detracts from the original appearance of the former church. (Criterion D)

The former Moyston Presbyterian Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the Moyston district from 1866. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Stone Outbuildings	
Address	864 Rocky Point Road MOYSTON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Woolshed/Shearing Shed,Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were also taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[22] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at

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Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

George Coad, a stonemason from Cornwall, his wife Elizabeth (nee Mathews) and ten children, arrived in Australia via Adelaide in 1850 and worked in the Burra copper mines in South Australia.

In the 1850s, after hearing of the gold rushes at Canton Lead (Ararat), the Coad family moved to Phillips Flat and purchased a number of allotments at Rocky Point in 1859 to take up farming and grazing. Altogether George Coad's contiguous blocks measured over 500 acres. He and his son, John, also a stonemason, built a farm complex of granite and bluestone, including a residence, shed, and woolshed, which the family named 'Westcot' on Allotment 5, Section 5, of 76 acres in the early 1860s. It is believed that the farm complex was built of bluestone quarried from Rossbridge and transported by bullock wagon to the site. The Coad family lived in a stone shed, still in existence on the property, until George and John finished their home located close to Salt Creek. The substantial woolshed was built by John Coad in 1864 in the belief that a railway line between Horsham and Maroona was to pass through the area, at which stage the woolshed would be converted into a flourmill. The railway line never eventuated.[31]

George Coad died in 1882 and the farm was left to his wife, Elizabeth, who lived there for another six years. Both George and Elizabeth Coad are buried in the Moyston Cemetery, as are some of their children.[32]

The 1860s Coad residence, then owned by John Coad (George and Elizabeth's son) and his wife Lucy (nee Woodland), was destroyed by fire in 1891.[33] Another stone residence was then built by John Coad in the period 1891-93. It comprised three bedrooms, a dining room, a sitting room, and a detached kitchen built of stone. John died in 1915, and his wife and two daughters continued to live in the house for a number of years.[34]

The original stone shed and woolshed built by George and John Coad still exist on the property today. The 1891-93 residence has been substantially altered by recent re-facing of the walls with new stone.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment,

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1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] Ibid., 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] Ibid., 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

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[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Vola Bellis, *George and Elizabeth Coad Family History: Cornwall 1850 - Moyston 1986* (Cohuna, Vic.: V. Bellis, 1986), 18, 82.

[32] *George and Elizabeth Coad Family History: Cornwall 1850 - Moyston 1986*, 82.

[33] "Bush Fires in Victoria." *Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser*, 21 February 1891, 3.

[34] Bellis, *George and Elizabeth Coad Family History: Cornwall 1850 - Moyston 1986*, 81-82.

Description

Physical Description

The two stone outbuildings are constructed of random coursed granite and bluestone obtained from a local quarry. The stone is of varying tones. They consist of a farm shed and a larger woolshed.

The farm shed is located behind the existing farmhouse (not significant) and faces the rear of the house. It has a gable roof clad in corrugated iron. The entirety of the walls is random course stone, including the gable ends. It appears that there was a skillion addition or verandah to the rear as there is roof sheet hanging off the rear. The building is in poor condition. One end wall contains a square window with a timber frame and timber lintel. No glazing remains in this window. The front elevation contains double vertical timber, ledged and braced doors with an adjacent window (with no surviving glazing) and a large vehicle opening at the end. There may or may not have originally been a door to this opening. The building does not have any surviving eaves timbers or any gutters and downpipes.

The woolshed is located north west of the farmhouse. The randomly coursed stone wing has a gable roof clad in

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corrugated galvanised iron. This section of the building is tall and the entire wall area is constructed in stone, including the gable ends. There are square timber framed openings in the gable ends. The front elevation contains a single tall opening with a timber lintel. To the north west corner is a corrugated iron clad skillion wing. The chutes at the rear of this section indicated that this is where the shearing took place. There are timber post and rail cattle yards at the front and rear of the building.

Physical Condition

The farm shed was in poor condition and the woolshed was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Stone Outbuildings located at 864 Rocky Point Road, Moyston. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the stone farm shed, the stone and corrugated iron woolshed, and timber cattle yards are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Stone Outbuildings located at 864 Rocky Point Road, Moyston are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The two Stone Outbuildings are of historic significance as original surviving components of the farm complex established by the Coad family in the 1860s. They demonstrate early settlement in the Moyston district for farming and grazing purposes. In the 1850s, the Coad family moved to Phillips Flat and purchased a number of allotments at Rocky Point in 1859 to take up farming and grazing. George Coad and his son John, both stonemasons, built a farm complex of granite and bluestone, including a residence, shed, and woolshed, in the 1860s, which the family named 'Westcot'. It is believed that the farm complex was built of bluestone quarried from Rossbridge and transported by bullock wagon to the site. The substantial woolshed was built by John Coad in 1864 in the belief that a railway line between Horsham and Maroona was to pass through the area, at which stage the woolshed would be converted into a flourmill. This did not eventuate. The buildings are rare surviving examples of early stone farm buildings and are significant for their association with the Coad family, an early pioneering family in the Moyston district. (Criteria A, B & H)

The two Stone Outbuildings are of aesthetic significance as substantially intact mid Victorian farm buildings constructed of randomly coursed stone. The form, scale, materials, opening type and placement and building techniques, with the use of timber framing to the openings and the randomly coursed stonework contribute to the aesthetic significance of the buildings. The buildings are of aesthetic significance for their demonstration of skilled stonemasonry techniques used in the mid Victorian period and for the picturesque appearance of the granite and bluestone of varying tones. The cattle yards around the woolshed contribute to the understanding of the use of the woolshed and contribute to the aesthetic significance of the place. (Criteria D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes Stone farm shed, stone and corrugated iron woolshed, timber post and rail cattle yards
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	Yes

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Mount Hamilton Farm Outbuildings Complex	
Address	Woorndoo-Streatham Road NERRIN NERRIN	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm,Woolshed/Shearing Shed,Shearers' Quarters,Cool room	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts were included in the boundaries of seven runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846; and Terinallum taken up by the Clyde Company in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (later known as Streatham) and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Later surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail from Melbourne to Portland from mid-1844.[6] Crossroads were established where the boundaries of Nerrin Nerrin, Blythvale, Menenia and Yalla-y-Poora stations met, near the site of present-day Mininera Railway Station.[7] From 1859, coaches traversed the road, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[8]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

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Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[15] effectively giving rise to the settlements of Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin and the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway.

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With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[16] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[17] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the construction of a store and post office in the same year.[18] Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[19] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

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Place history:

The Nerrin Nerrin run, 52,027 acres, was taken up by John MacPherson in 1846.

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Philip District (later Victoria) into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of the promised fourteen-year leases, in the Colony of Victoria yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation. John MacPherson purchased the pre-emptive right to Nerrin Nerrin in 1861, at which time he had established a homestead on the Nerrin Nerrin swamp, huts, sheep yards and a wool shed. None of these buildings were constructed on the site of interest (Section B of the pre-emptive right) at this time.[34]

The Nerrin Nerrin run was subdivided in 1863, with 31,628 acres retained by John MacPherson, and a new homestead built. After John MacPherson's death in 1875, trustees took over the property, with sons William, James and John taking over ownership in 1877. William gained sole possession in 1884 and managed the sheep property until his death in 1901.[35]

Nerrin Nerrin was subdivided in 1910, with Agar Wynne retaining the homestead and 16,000 acres. He used the land for thoroughbred horse breeding, and the growing of merino wool. The remainder of the property, 14,618 acres, including the site of interest, was purchased by George Maslin and named Mount Hamilton.[36]

Mount Hamilton changed ownership frequently; it was sold again in 1910 to Lindsay Field, to Alexander Phillip in 1920, to the Ellis brothers in 1924, to Richard Bryant in 1928, to Noel Calvert and Steven Sprague in 1948, and to T. and S. Whinny in 2009.[37] Part of Mount Hamilton was also subdivided in 1949 for soldier settlement.

The Mount Hamilton farm outbuildings are situated on Section B of the original Nerrin Nerrin run pre-emptive right. It is not known when they were constructed, but it is likely they were established by Lindsay Field when Nerrin Nerrin was subdivided in 1910 and Field had ownership of the property in the period 1910-20. He may have located the outbuildings at this site to enable ready access to the Nerrin Nerrin settlement railway facilities for the transport of wool and livestock.

The outbuildings evidence the important role that sheep grazing and wool growing has played in the ongoing development of the Nerrin Nerrin district, and more widely, the Ararat Rural City municipality. Moreover, the outbuildings comprise some of only a few elements left of the farm complex established at that time.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria*

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Descriptive Report, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 154.

[8] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.

[11] *Ibid.*, 127.

[12] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[13] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[14] *Ibid.*, 129.

[15] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[16] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.

[17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.

[18] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.

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- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [21] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [22] Ibid., 3,5.
- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [25] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [27] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [29] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [30] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [31] Ibid., 92-94.
- [32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [33] *Rural Townships*.
- [34] Pre-emptive Right Plan, PR N 24, 1861.
- [35] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 2-3.
- [36] Ibid.
- [37] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

The Mount Hamilton Farm Outbuildings Complex comprises a shearing shed, wool store; workers dining room and kitchen, meat shed; workers' quarters and manager's quarters.

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The shearing shed and wool store are located adjacent to one another, end to end. The buildings have corrugated iron wall and roof cladding, The corrugated iron sheets to the walls are laid vertically. The buildings have gable roofs with wide eaves to the side elevations. They are both elevated on timber stumps. The shearing shed has a main section with a central gable roof and wide skillion wings either side. At one end is a wing with the same gable roof but shorter skillion wings. The shearing section has evenly spaced openings to the side elevations. The narrower end wing has double timber doors and a small louvre window either side. The wool store has a loading platform and a large sliding door. There are vertical boards lining the lower part of the wall either side of the sliding door.

The workers' quarters, dining room and kitchen and managers quarters are located adjacent to one another side by side. They all have gable roofs and have corrugated iron sheet cladding to the walls and roof. The corrugations are laid horizontally to the walls. The openings are timber framed and the doors have vertical timber lining. The buildings increase in size, the smallest being the manager's quarters, then the dining room and kitchen, and then the shearers' quarters.

The manager's quarters have three evenly spaced openings down one side and a red brick chimney at the centre of one gable end. The dining room and kitchen have window openings along one side, a single door and small window on the other side and double doors to the front gable end. The rear gable end has a brick skillion room with a chimney at the centre to the end wall of the dining room. This indicates the existence of a large oven. There is another much larger brick chimney also at this gable end adjacent to the brick skillion room. To the side of the building and towards the rear is a timber framed meat house, which has weatherboards two thirds of the way up the walls, and then it is open above that. It has a gable roof with wide eaves. The shearers' quarters has six doorways down one side. Each set of three is evenly spaced with one set of three more closely spaced indicating there are three double and three single rooms. At one gable end is a skillion wing extending the width of the building. It is likely that this is an amenities block.

Physical Condition

The shearing shed and wool store were in good condition in November 2013.

The workers' quarters, manager's residence, meat shed and dining room/kitchen block were in poor condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Mount Hamilton Farm Outbuildings Complex located on Woorndoo-Streatham Road, Nerrin Nerrin. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- . Shearing Shed;
- . Wool Store;
- . Workers Dining Room and Kitchen;
- . Meat Shed;
- . Workers' Quarters;

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- . Manager's Quarters; and
- . Pines along the fence line

The location and original form, materials and details of these elements are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Mount Hamilton Farm Outbuildings Complex, Nerrin Nerrin is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Mount Hamilton Farm Outbuildings Complex is of historic significance as the buildings evidence the important role that sheep grazing and wool growing has played in the ongoing development of the Nerrin Nerrin district, and more widely, the Ararat Rural City municipality. Moreover, the outbuildings comprise some of only a few elements left of the farm complex established at that time. The Mount Hamilton farm outbuildings are situated on Section B of the original Nerrin Nerrin run pre-emptive right. It is not known when they were constructed, but it is likely they were established by Lindsay Field when Nerrin Nerrin was subdivided in 1910 and Field had ownership of the property in the period 1910-20. He may have located the outbuildings at this site to enable ready access to the Nerrin Nerrin settlement railway facilities for the transport of wool and livestock. (Criteria A & B)

Mount Hamilton Farm Outbuildings Complex is of aesthetic significance as a substantially intact and cohesive example of a shearing complex dating from the early 20th century. The complex demonstrates the key features of a shearing complex and each building is an excellent intact example of its building type. The quarters' complex is a rare surviving example of a united and intact collection of buildings of their type. Key features that unite the buildings are the gable roofs, red brick chimneys, corrugated iron sheet cladding to the walls and roof, timber framed openings and the doors with vertical timber lining. The pines along the fence line provide a backdrop to the buildings and are a landmark in the area indicating the location of the buildings. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes pines along the fence lines

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Nerrin Nerrin Public Hall	
Address	Woorndoo-Streatham Road NERRIN NERRIN	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts were included in the boundaries of seven runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846; and Terinallum taken up by the Clyde Company in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

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Place history:

By 1900, the Western Plains were encircled by railways, but crossed by none. In 1908, investigation for the construction of a railway across the plains commenced to connect the Ararat-Hamilton line to either the Geelong-Ballarat or Geelong-Colac line. Routes from Bannockburn, Moriac or Winchelsea were considered.[34]

The final agreed route for the Western Plains Line was from Gheringhap, via Inverleigh, Cressy, Lismore and Derrinallum to Maroona, which served as the junction between this line and the branch line to Portland. The construction of the line was advanced by the need to find an alternate route to the Western Line, which was steeply graded in crossing the Great Dividing Range between Ararat and Bacchus Marsh; plans to make Geelong the primary port for the export of bulk grains (achieved in 1939); and attempts to develop Portland as a major frozen lamb export point.[35]

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria.[36]

The line opened on 8 August 1913 with a platform, shelter and three railway houses constructed at Nerrin Nerrin. The Nerrin Nerrin Post Office opened at the railway station in 1913.

The railway siding and post office, shifted to its own building in 1919, became the focus of the Nerrin Nerrin settlement, with population growing in the district during the era of soldier settlement in the 1920s and 1950s. A hall was subsequently opened at Nerrin Nerrin in the 1950s in an army building located to the site.[37]

Today, Nerrin Nerrin Hall is privately owned.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p.
- [7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 154.
- [8] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.
- [9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [11] Ibid., 127.
- [12] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [13] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [14] Ibid., 129.
- [15] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [16] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [18] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [21] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [22] Ibid., 3,5.
- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

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[25] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

[26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.

[27] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.

[28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

[29] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[30] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.

[31] *Ibid.*, 92-94.

[32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.

[33] *Rural Townships*.

[34] "Gheringhap-Maroon Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.

[35] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.

[36] "Gheringhap-Maroon Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."

[37] Information provided by Dorothy Dunn, Streatham and District Historical Society.

Description

Physical Description

The Nerrin Nerrin Hall is a former P1 Army Hut designed as a standard type for troop accommodation requirements for Army Camps in Australia during World War Two. It has a gable roof clad in corrugated asbestos cement sheet and has corrugated galvanised steel cladding to the walls. The eaves are wide with exposed rafters. The corrugations are broad and deep and laid horizontally. There are evenly spaced timber framed paired casement windows down the sides of the building. There are four long metal roof vents on the ridge of the roof. At either gable end there is a single vertically clad timber door.

Physical Condition

The former Nerrin Nerrin Hall was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

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What is significant?

The former Nerrin Nerrin Public Hall located at Woorndoo-Streatham Road, Nerrin Nerrin. The location and original form, materials and details of the former Hall are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Nerrin Nerrin Public Hall is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Nerrin Nerrin Public Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the formerly more populous settlement of Nerrin Nerrin. The Nerrin Nerrin settlement developed after the Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, opened in 1913 with a platform, shelter and three railway houses constructed at Nerrin Nerrin. The Nerrin Nerrin Post Office opened at the railway station in 1913. The railway siding and post office, shifted to its own building in 1919, became the focus of the Nerrin Nerrin settlement, with population growing in the district during the era of soldier settlement in the 1920s. The hall was subsequently opened at Nerrin Nerrin in the post World War Two period demonstrating an increase in population due to the second wave of soldier settlement after World War Two. The hall is of historical significance as an example of a P1 World War Two Army Hut originally designed and constructed for accommodation at army camps. Hundreds of P1 huts were constructed, and following World War Two were surplus to army requirements and commonly sold and relocated and re-used for other purposes. The former Nerrin Nerrin Hall demonstrates this practice of recycling surplus army infrastructure following the end of World War Two. (Criterion A)

The former Nerrin Nerrin Hall is aesthetically significant as an excellent intact example of a P1 Army Hut designed and constructed for accommodation purposes during World War Two. The hut is instantly recognisable as a P1 hut with its standard dimensions, form, materials and features. The standard features and materials include the gable roof clad in corrugated asbestos cement sheet, corrugated galvanised steel wall cladding, evenly spaced timber framed paired casement windows to the side elevations and the single vertically clad timber door at either end. (Criterion D)

The former Nerrin Nerrin Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the Nerrin Nerrin district since the post World War Two period. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Springfield Hill Farm Complex and Hedge		
Address	172 Rhymney Road NORVAL	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Farm		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes		
Designer / Architect	Ryan, Michael	Architectural Style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Bungalow

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836.

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Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man

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a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were also taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts.

Mining on the main Opossum Gully Lead for twenty years from 1856 gave rise to a small township, Norval, with a store, hotel, school and flour mill.[22] The post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[23] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[24] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[25] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[26] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[27]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[28] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[29]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as

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small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[30] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[31] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

The Brady family, from County Cavan, Ireland, came to the Ararat district in search of gold.[1] Thomas Brady came to own a number of allotments in the Parish of Ararat in the 1860s-70s under the 1860s Land Acts, on which he established Springfield Farm with his wife, Mary, and their children.

Springfield Farm was used mainly for grazing, and a winery was established. When Thomas Brady died in 1896 he left the house block and adjoining land to his sons, George and Philip Brady. Springfield Farm was described in Thomas's probate of 1896 as including 'an 8-room dwelling house of which two rooms only are of brick, rest being of wood, corrugated iron roof, partitions mostly canvas and paper.' The residence was located behind the existing shearing shed. The rest of the Springfield Farm land was divided between Thomas's other sons, James and George Brady.[2]

Philip Brady married Harriet Martha Pola and they lived at Springfield Farm with their children. Philip died in 1910, and in 1917 Harriet engaged Ararat architect M. Ryan to design a new brick residence for the property.[3] Gravel from nearby Dennicull Creek was used in the construction of the residence.[4]

It is believed the existing shearing shed was originally the Norval Hotel, moved to Springfield by a horse and dray ca. 1927.[5]

The farm complex continues to be used today.

[1] Local resident, Kevin Brady, 21 September 2015.

[2] PROV, Probate and Administration Files, VPRS 28/P2/440.

[3] "Advertising." *Ararat Chronicle and Willaura and Lake Bolac Districts Recorder*, 6 March 1917, 3.

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[4] Local resident, Kevin Brady, 21 September 2015.

[5] Local resident, Kevin Brady, 21 September 2015.

Description

Physical Description

Springfield Hill Farm Complex comprises a large Federation bungalow style farmhouse constructed in 1917 and earlier farm outbuildings including corrugated iron clad stables, vertical timber clad stables, corrugated iron clad shearing shed, red brick farm building, bluestone rubble ruins of the 1860s residence, and tall hedge to the front of the farmhouse.

Farmhouse and hedge

The farmhouse is a sprawling Federation bungalow style residence constructed of brick with an exterior rendered finish. The render finish to the exterior is unusually elaborate with the base of the walls having a ruled ashlar finish up to a moulded dado (at mid window height) and there is a rough stucco finish above this. The front section of the building has a layout on a diagonal axis, typical of the Federation style, with a central main hipped roof with a gablet and a projecting gable at two corners and verandah in between and around the front gable and returns along the side. The corner between the two gable wings has been cut off and there is a twin double hung window to this cut-off elevation. The gable wings contain tripartite box casement windows with four highlight windows above. To the rear of the front section the roof is a series of hips and gables. The verandah has a skillion profile and turned timber posts with corner timber brackets and a rendered balustrade which dips in a semi-circle between posts. Other original windows to the residence are timber framed and double hung. The front door is half glazed with an arched window pane and side light and highlight windows around the door. The gablets and gable ends to the roof have half timbering and the chimneys are rough cast rendered with two cornice moulds to the top and terracotta chimney pots. The roof is clad in Indian red corrugated metal sheet and there is terracotta ridging and finials to the ridges. There is a timber picket fence to the front of the residence tapering in to the driveway entry with early timber gate posts. To the north and south of the picket fence, along the front boundary is a tall hedge with 'Spring' cut into north section and 'Field' on south section. There is a corrugated iron fence across the front at the base of the hedge.

Machinery shed

Directly south of the house in a paddock on its own is a corrugated iron clad building, which is likely to be a machinery shed, given its open form to one side. The front of the building facing away from the road is open and it is divided into four bays, which step down the hill. The gable roof along the length of the building also has a stepped form, which is unusual. The building has wide eaves to the open section at the front and exposed large rafters. The uprights are bush poles and there are large sawn timber beams between the bush poles to the front.

Shearing Complex

The shearing shed is located in a cluster of buildings to the south east of the machinery shed. It is a corrugated iron clad building with a central hip roofed section, small skillion roofed wings to the north, south and west and a large rectangular skillion roofed wing to the south east corner. All wings have corrugated iron cladding to the walls and roofs. A rectangular red brick building sits to the east of the hip roofed section of the shearing shed. It has a chimney and a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron. This building is likely to have been the shearers' quarters.

Stables

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To the west of the shearing shed are timber-framed stables with vertical timber cladding to the walls and a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. This appears to be an early building.

Ruin

Behind the shearing shed are the ruins of the 1860s residence. They consist of two random rubble stone walls, a doorway with timber posts and a stone lintel, and a section of low red brick wall.

Physical Condition

The farmhouse and shearing shed were in good condition; the brick quarters, vertical timber clad building and machinery shed were in fair condition; and the front picket fence was in poor condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Springfield Hill Farm Complex, located at 172 Rhymney Road, Norval. The original form, materials and detailing of the Federation bungalow farmhouse, corrugated iron clad machinery shed and shearing shed, brick quarters, vertical timber clad stables, stone and brick ruin, front picket fence and hedge contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Springfield Hill Farm Complex, Norval is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Springfield Hill Farm Complex is of historic significance for demonstrating the early settlement of the Norval district for grazing and wine-making purposes. The property demonstrates the occupation of the land and farming operations of the Brady family from the 1860s to the 1920s with a range of surviving buildings spanning this period. Originally established by Thomas Brady, Springfield Farm was left to his sons, George, James and Philip Brady when he died in 1896. Philip Brady married Harriet Martha Pola and they lived at Springfield Farm with their children. Philip died in 1910, and in 1917 Harriet engaged Ararat architect M. Ryan to design the current brick residence for the property. The farmhouse and associated outbuildings evidence the long farming connection the Brady family has had with the district. (Criteria A & H)

Springfield Hill Farm complex is of aesthetic significance for the excellent intact example of an architect designed Federation bungalow farmhouse. The building exhibits many distinctive features including the rendered exterior with ruled ashlar to the base and roughcast finish to the upper section of walls, picturesque roof form with hips, gables, gablets, rendered chimneys, ridging and finials and half timbered gable ends, timber framed double hung windows, box windows and extensive verandah with turned timber posts, timber corner brackets and rendered balustrade. The early picket fence and hedge to the front of the farmhouse are of aesthetic significance for providing a grand frontage to the property and make a significant contribution to the setting of the place. The farm buildings are of aesthetic significance as intact early buildings demonstrating the workings of the farm and in some cases pre-date the residence. The machinery shed, vertical timber clad stables, brick quarters, and stone and brick remains of the 1860s residence are of aesthetic significance for demonstrating early construction techniques and are rare surviving examples of their types. (Criteria B, D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes front hedge

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front timber picket fence, machinery shed, vertical timber clad stables, stone and brick ruin, shearing shed and red brick quarters building

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

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Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Dares Culvert Over Unnamed Creek
Address	Salvation Gully Road (over unnamed creek) NORVAL
Place Type	Road Bridge
Citation Date	2015
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Designer / Architect	Monash, Sir John

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:[1]

In the first decade of the twentieth century large pastoral properties in the Ararat Shire were broken up for closer settlement, changing the landscape, as the *Ararat Advertiser* put it, 'from sheep walk to thriving agricultural settlement'. [1] With closer settlement came the need for new roads, and bridges to carry the roads over the Shire's flood-prone streams. The young Shire Engineer, Robert Speed, was aware of the advantages of reinforced concrete. He had experimented with new technology himself, building a bridge with a steel girder cased in concrete. [2] It is likely that Speed opened negotiations with the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co after the spring flood of 1909. In November he asked for a quote for two new bridges to replace timber bridges washed away by floodwaters. He told the Company that he was satisfied that a Monier structure was the best. The Company submitted designs for the two bridges, and for two others that were required, offering a package price of £1268. Although he did not need to sell the

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idea of reinforced concrete to Speed, Monash did need to convince the Ararat Shire Council that it was worth spending a bit more - 'only one fifth more than timber' - to have a 'permanent structure, proof against fire flood and decay'. Speed recommended Monash's designs to his council and the firm was contracted to build four reinforced concrete girder bridges.[3]

The Company gained the confidence of Council and established a good working relationship with Speed. Several more reinforced concrete bridges were commissioned by the council over the next few years, and by the mid 1930s the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co had built 18 bridges in the Shire of Ararat. They were all small bridges of no more than three spans, situated on country roads where they provided a vital transport link for farmers taking their produce to the railway. Of these eighteen, only four positively identified examples were known to be still standing in 1998. The four bridges, as a collection, are useful in demonstrating the development of bridge design over a few years from 1910 to 1913, particularly showing the change from having the middle part of the girder unreinforced to providing shear reinforcing in the full span of the girder.

Lesley Alves gratefully acknowledges the assistance of John McKenzie, former Ararat Shire Engineer, in researching these bridges.

1. *Ararat Advertiser*, 22 March 1910.
2. Speed showed Lynch a sketch of the bridge, Lynch to Monash, 22 January 1910, Company records Box 68 File 761.
3. Correspondence 18 November 1909 to 7 January 1910, Company records.

Place history:[2]

Dare's culvert was included in the first contract for four bridges in the Ararat Shire. Construction probably commenced immediately after the completion of the first two bridges in April 1910 and was completed in June without any notable incidents.[*]

In the early 1980s, because an erosion gully was working its way towards the bridge from the downstream side, the invert (floor) and outlet were concreted and a 'drop structure' (step) was provided to dissipate the energy of the water and decrease its velocity. [*]

[*] Company records Box 68 File 761. Information supplied by John McKenzie.

[1] All historical information is directly cited from Lesley Alves, *T-Girder Bridges, Part 1 Bridges in the Shire of Ararat* (1998 [cited 5 October 2013]); available from <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~aholgate/jm/girdertexts/gdrtext1.html#ararat>.

[2] This information is directly cited from Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

Although described as a culvert this is a small single span reinforced concrete bridge. It has a clear span of 4.27 metres and consists of four girders with no shear reinforcing in the middle half of the span. The original iron handrails have been replaced by corrugated steel guardrails fixed to the bridge with triangular steel brackets.

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Physical Condition

The bridge was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Dare's Culvert over an unnamed creek, Salvation Gully Road, Norval. The location, form, and surviving original materials and details are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Dare's Culvert, Salvation Gully Road, Norval is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Dare's Culvert, Salvation Gully Road, Norval is historically significant as a rare surviving example of a road bridge constructed by the John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co. in the early twentieth century. Completed in June 1910, it is one of only four remaining of 18 such bridges built in the Shire of Ararat, and is a reminder of the shire engineer's willingness to try new technology. (Criteria A & B)

Dare's Culvert, Salvation Gully Road, Norval, although altered in the 1980s, is aesthetically significant as a typical example of a small reinforced concrete bridges built in country Victoria by John Monash and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co. in the early twentieth century. The bridge demonstrates key attributes of the company's road bridge design of the time including the concrete girder construction with concrete column and wall abutments. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No
No
No
No
No
-
No

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

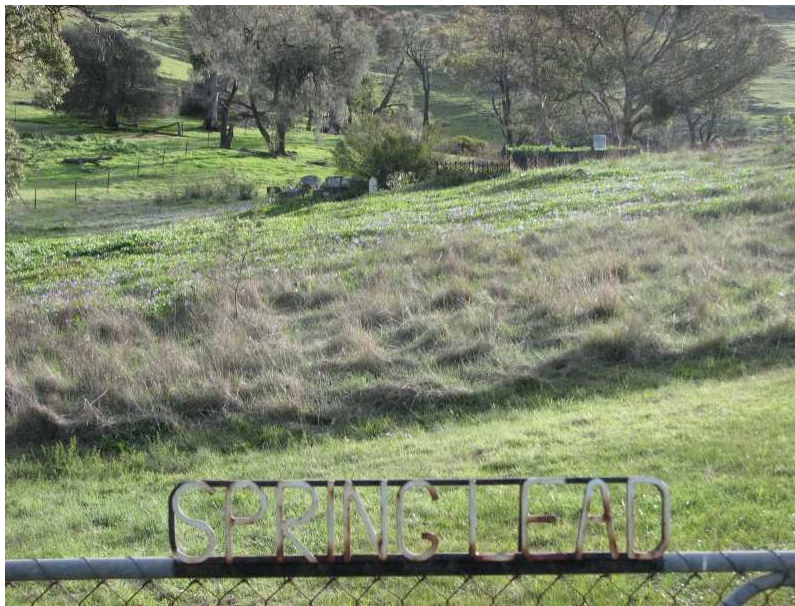




Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Spring Lead Cemetery	
Address	Spring Lead Road NORVAL	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments were also taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts.

Mining on the main Opossum Gully Lead for twenty years from 1856 gave rise to a small township, Norval, with a store, hotel, school and flour mill.[22] The post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[23] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[24] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[25] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[26] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[27]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[28] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[29]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington

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subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[30] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[31] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

Burials in the early days of the gold diggings in the colony of Victoria occurred anywhere and everywhere. Burial grounds took on the informal names of gold mining localities well before the landscape was officially mapped or named. Hastily dug shallow graves were excavated in ground which had little auriferous value and were often unmarked, or signified by a single sandstone or timber headstone hewn out of materials found on site; some were etched with a cross. Later, markers were more elaborate, and those that could afford to had a message carved to commemorate the deceased.

It is likely that a burial ground was established at Spring Lead in the 1850s after a gold rush to Opossum Gully in 1856.[32]

On the 13 October 1868 a request was made to the Victorian Chief Secretary by Edward Clarke Webb of Ararat in regards to the existing burial ground at Spring Lead:

At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Opossum Gully and Spring Lead held on the 9th inst to consider the best means to protect the burial ground situated near the head of Spring Lead on the road leading to Opossum Gully, it was determined to apply to the Hon. the Chief Secretary for a sum of money sufficient to securely fence it in. This piece of ground contains 3a 28p and has been used for burials from the first discovery of Ararat as a gold field, and contains many graves; it has never been enclosed, and consequently is over run by cattle, and graves mutilated by swine.

At the same meeting, four Trustees were appointed: Thomas Brady, Edward Marshall, William Johnson, and John Grant.

On 9 November 1868 the Victorian Board of Lands and Works temporarily reserved the land as a site for a cemetery at Opossum Gully; the land then became listed as the Spring Lead Cemetery.

Burials at the cemetery include:

. Two family members of Edward Clarke Webb: his wife and one daughter.

. Elizabeth Webb, aged 45 years, buried 15 February, 1879.

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. Elizabeth Webb, aged 3 years, buried 20 January, 1867.

. A number of members of the Seadon family, including: Andrew Seadon, aged 5 months, buried, 1888; Jessie Seadon; Leslie Seadon; William Robert Seadon, buried 1930; Annie Seadon; Thomas Seadon, buried 1905.

. A number of members of the Osman family; including: Margaret Osman (1895); Miles Osman (1905).

. Members of the Farrell family including: Euphemia (1888); Isabel Maud (1911); Thomas (1898); Mathew (1901).

. Members of the Scherger family; Hodges family; Paynter family; and Smart family.

Early burial charges at the cemetery in 1882 were: single burial adult 10 shillings; land to fence off same 8ft x 4ft. 10 shillings; child under 12 years 5 shillings; land to fence off same 6ft x 3ft 5 shillings; for permission to place tablet/headstone £10.

The Spring Lead Cemetery also includes Chinese burials and is still in use.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

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- [11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.
- [12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.
- [13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.
- [15] *Ibid.*, 104.
- [16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.
- [17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.
- [19] *Ibid.*, 253.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.
- [21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [22] *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 37.
- [23] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.
- [24] *Ibid.*, 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.
- [25] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [26] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.
- [27] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.
- [28] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.
- [29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.
- [30] *Ibid.*, 129.
- [31] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

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[32] The information from this point on is quoted directly from David Weatherill, *Australian Cemeteries: Spring Lead Cemetery*, 2004. Available at <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/vic/ararat/springlead.htm>.

Description

Physical Description

The Spring Lead cemetery is on a sloped site (rising upward from the road entrance) on the side of a hill on the west side of Spring Lead Road. It has a rectangular plan and contains marked grave sites in clusters laid out in a grid like plan. The site has a scattering of remnant eucalypts and bulokes. The grave sites are divided into denominations and include marble, granite and bluestone headstones with some cast iron and timber picket grave surrounds. A number of the graves are for children including one for 'DEAR LITTLE ALICE'. A Chinese grave from 1874 has recently been restored. The latest grave is from 2012.

Entry to the cemetery is at the centre of the block along the Spring Lead Road frontage. There is a vehicular woven wire entry gate with a steel cylindrical frame. The timber gate posts appear to be earlier and may be the original gate posts. Steel lettering on entrance gate contains the words: 'SPRING LEAD'. There is a small corrugated iron clad shed on the inside of the gate. It has a square plan and a skillion roof. The track leading from the entry immediately curves to the north after the gates and extends along the northern boundary.

Physical Condition

The graves were in poor - good condition with rabbit and weed invasion prevalent in November 2013. The shed and front gate were in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Spring Lead Cemetery located on Spring Lead Road, Norval. The location and original form, materials and details of the entry gate, timber gate posts, corrugated iron clad shed, remnant eucalypts and bulokes, and grave sites are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Spring Lead Cemetery located on Spring Lead Road, Norval is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Spring Lead Cemetery is historically significant for its demonstration of the early settlement and development of the Norval District as a result of gold mining. In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. A burial ground had been established at the head of Spring Lead on the goldfields by 1868. This was when a public meeting of the inhabitants of Opossum Gully and Spring Lead was held to consider the best means to protect the burial ground situated near the head of Spring Lead on the road leading to Opossum Gully. On 9 November 1868 the Victorian Board of Lands and Works temporarily reserved the land as a site for a cemetery at Opossum Gully. The land then became listed as the Spring Lead Cemetery.

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The cemetery is of historical significance as the only feature indicating the high population of the area during the 1850s gold rush. It also demonstrates the types of settlements that sprung up around gold mining areas that never developed into townships as the population left after the gold rush was over. (Criteria A & B)

Spring Lead Cemetery is aesthetically significant as a representative example of a rural cemetery established in the mid 1800s on the gold fields. It provides examples of late Victorian headstones and cast iron cemetery surrounds. The entry gate with the SPRING LEAD metal lettering, remnant eucalypts and buloke and picturesque hillside setting contribute to the aesthetic significance of the place. (Criterion D)

Spring Lead Cemetery is of social significance as an important commemorative site valued by the Norval district community. The Spring Lead Cemetery contains graves of families who have had a long association with the district, including the Seadon, Osman and Farrell families. (Criteria G & H)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes remnant eucalypts and bulokes

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front gate and timber gate posts, corrugated iron clad shed

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	St Days Residence	
Address	3285 Ararat-Halls Gap Road POMONAL	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Pomonal district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

After Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836.[2]

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, from 1837 squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favourable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The major run in what was to become known as the Pomonal district was Lexington (also Larose and Mokepilly), 120,000 acres taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the 1860s, sawmillers and charcoal burners took up work in the forests of what was to become the Pomonal district.

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[6] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the previous Land Acts, the 1869 *Land Act* opened all unalienated land in the colony for selection of up to 320 acres and required selectors to live on and cultivate their land. The Acts, for the most part, however only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains, where, by 1871, the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7]

Allotments in the Pomonal district were taken up by selectors under the 1869 *Land Act*. [8] Selectors grew fruit and established vineyards. The association with fruit resulted in the district named 'Pomona' because of its mythological association with orchards and fruit.

Fruit growing commenced in earnest in the 1890s and peaked around 1913-14.[9] One of Pomonal's first selectors, Frenchman Peter de Mey, took up land in 1876 and established an orchard and a vineyard of two acres each.[10] Dr W. H. Syme from Stawell established the apple growing industry in Pomonal in 1890 on land he purchased at the foot of Mount Cassell. Other settlers followed, and by 1899, apples, berries, nuts, passion fruit, lemons, oranges and melons grew on 400 acres of orchards.[11]

The *Stawell News* reported in 1906 that 'The total quantity of apples exported from Pomonal this season will be about 10,000 cases, which will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the total exported from Victoria.' [12] By 1907, the industry was well established. In that year, George Barnes' 319-acre property, for example, comprised two houses, a men's hut, washhouse, fruit house, stables, other outbuildings and 30 acres of fruit trees.[13] By 1910, it was estimated that there were 14 homesteads within two miles of the Pomonal Post Office, a population of 103, and 466 acres of fruit

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trees planted.[14] In 1912, 30,000 cases of fruit were sent to London and Hamburg from Pomonal.[15]

Because of the difficulties of carting fruit to the nearest railway station at Stawell, in 1911 plans were made to establish a tramway to Stawell in connection with a proposal to establish a village settlement along the Pomonal-Halls Gap Road, however this did not eventuate.[16] In 1930, 60,000 cases of apples were exported,[17] and in the same year, the Colombie Cup for the best apples was won by Pomonal.[18] Because of declining overseas markets, and the destruction of orchards by bushfires in January 1939, the industry was in decline by 1940.

Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913 after Temple Smith from the Lands Department proclaimed that Pomonal soils were suitable for the industry. By 1923, five growers had established tobacco crops, and a Tobacco Grower's Association was formed at Pomonal in the same year.[19] A rise in the duty on imported tobacco leaf in December 1930 resulted in a significant expansion of the industry in Australia and an economic boom for Pomonal where fruit trees were pulled out to make way for tobacco growing. The expansion of the industry was led by companies with outside capital, including the British Australian Tobacco Company and the National Tobacco Company, who planned to cultivate tobacco on hundreds of acres in the Pomonal area. By 1933 in the Parish of Jallukar, 1,000 acres had been cultivated to tobacco and pine trees planted as wind breaks. During the 1930s economic depression, the industry employed Greeks and Armenians from the cities.[20]

Because of unfavourable climatic conditions and unsatisfactory prices, by 1935, only ten of the forty registered tobacco growers remained in Pomonal South, and after the duty on foreign leaf was lowered and the excise doubled in 1936, the industry declined.[21] Most of the remaining plantations, barns and kilns were destroyed in the fires of January 1939, however tobacco kilns exist at Pomonal today to evidence the industry.

The fruit and tobacco industries brought growth to the Pomonal district. A building to house a school was moved to Pomonal in 1899 and cricket and football clubs were established in the early 1890s. The Pomona Post office opened in 1904, but because there was at least one other place with the same name in Australia, the name 'Pomona' was changed to Pomonal later in the same year.[22] The Pomonal Public Hall also opened in 1904. An important development in Pomonal's progress was the opening of Better Route Road to Halls Gap via Pomonal in 1926. The road brought increased traffic through the district.[23]

A store opened at Pomonal in 1927, beside which was built a garage in 1933, which also housed a library. Another store opened and continues to operate today as the Pomonal General Store and post office. A new public hall opened in 1933, and a Methodist church was built in 1935 and used by four denominations.

In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Pomonal, en route to the Grampians, attracted tourists who partook of walking and nature activities. In 1928, the *Argus* described a nature study camp, replete with a botanist, chef and tent accommodation, established on the Banfield family's land at Red Man's Bluff, Mount William. The same site was used for church camps from the late 1940s to the 1980s, and is still used as a camping ground today.[24]

On 13 January 1939, fires throughout Victoria claimed 71 lives (including three in the Grampians), destroyed 69 sawmills and burnt millions of hectares of land, including farms in the Pomonal district. The day became known as Black Friday.[25] The first fire brigade at Pomonal was established in the same year.

Pomonal experienced an influx of Lutheran families during the 1940s and 1950s, and, due to subdivision, another increase in population occurred in the 1970s. A number of plant nurseries were established in Pomonal from 1970, and extensions were made to the Pomonal General Store in the 1980s to exploit the tourist trade. Pomonal was supplied water from the Stawell pipeline from 1989. Water via a pipeline from a new water treatment plant in Halls Gap was supplied to Pomonal from 2001.[26]

Fires occurred again in the Grampians in 1999 and in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, and thousands of

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stock animals and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

Today there are a variety of small businesses in Pomonal with approximately 150 households making up the village and its outlying district. Pomonal businesses include plant nurseries, art/craft outlets, several accommodation establishments, an earthmoving business, an olive grove, a lavender farm, a winery, a wildlife park, a horse stud, a natural therapies centre, a day spa and a glass blowing business and gallery.[27] Tourism remains an important industry.

Place history:[28]

Bernard Gannon, a bullock driver from Bellelen, was the first selector of the land that became known as 'St. Days' under the 1869 *Land Act*. The land was then taken up by Richard Morcom.

Henry Morcom came to Australia with his son, Richard, in 1867 to work on the goldfields. His wife and three remaining sons followed in 1869. After leaving the goldfields, Richard and his two brothers, Thomas and Diggery, selected land in the Stawell-Pomonal district.

Richard Morcom selected Allotment Y6, 68 acres, and Allotment Y7, 59 acres, Parish of Jallukar, under the 1869 *Land Act* and was living on the property, which he named St. Days in memory of his homeland, Cornwall, by 1878. Morcom developed a complex gravitational irrigation system for the apple orchard he established, and, with the help of his brothers, Diggery and Thomas, was exporting apples to London by 1890. By 1891, he had 18 acres under cultivation.

Richard married Charlotte Williams, who died in childbirth in 1872, and remarried Rachel Dark in 1875. Their daughter, Charlotte, was accidentally shot and killed in 1881.

The Morcom family disposed of St. Days orchard in 1891; the land at that time was still under lease under the 1869 *Land Act*. The property consisted of 129 acres, 18 acres of which were planted to orchard, and was sold for £2300.

St. Days was acquired by Rosa C. Lamond of Melbourne, formerly of Stawell, under the 1869 *Land Act* and held freehold by her by July 1894. Her husband, William Lamond, was a ship's captain, who died in 1890. After his death, Rosa acquired St. Days and built a 'fine chateau', the present residence.

St. Days was a substantial residence, which included a detached laundry, kitchen, and servants' quarters.

Rosa Lamond sold St. Days in 1902 to F. Allsop, who further developed the orchard until he left the district in 1927. His brother-in-law, G. D. Bell, then managed the orchard until 1936, when it was leased by A. Milne, who lived there until 1956.

The property has changed hands several times since then and is still used as a residence today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

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[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[8] Jalluka Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1880.

[9] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>. Accessed 24 July 2014.

[10] Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place* (Stawell, Vic.: Stawell Times-News, 1984).

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

[12] Cited in Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, ed. John Wynd (Pomonal, Vic.: Pomonal Progress Association, 2013), 20.

[13] George Barnes and Archibald George Campbell, "Lease, 1907," in *Manuscripts MS 6144* (State Library of Victoria, 1907).

[14] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 22.

[15] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

[16] A.N.A. *Ararat and a National Project: Water for the Mallee - the Conference, the Town and the Eversley Weir*, (Ararat, Vic.: Advertiser Office, 1913), 35-7.

[17] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 43.

[20] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55.

[21] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 49. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 101.

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[22] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 71.

[23] Ibid., 182.

[24] Ibid., 34.

[25] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142-43.

[26] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 117-18.

[27] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships".

[28] Most of this information is from *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 6-7, 15-16.

Description

Physical Description

The building is a Victorian style weatherboard clad residence with an M-shaped hipped roof and skillion roofed verandah round three sides. The roofs are clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The verandah has chamfered timber posts and a cast iron lacework frieze with corner brackets. Original windows are timber framed and double hung and there is a bay window to one elevation. The original front door is panelled with highlight and side light windows. There are two broad brick chimneys with corning.

Physical Condition

The residence was in fair condition in 2014.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Day's Residence located at 3285 Ararat-Halls Gap Road Pomonal. The location and original form, materials and details of the Victorian weatherboard residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

St Day's Residence located at 3285 Ararat-Halls Gap Road Pomonal is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The weatherboard residence is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early establishment of the Pomonal district for farming purposes and for its associations with the successful orchard growing family, the Morcoms. Richard Morcom selected the property under the 1869 *Land Act* and was living on the property, which he named St. Days in memory of his homeland, Cornwall. By 1878, Morcom had developed a complex gravitational irrigation system for the apple orchard he established, and, with the help of his brothers, Digbery and Thomas, was exporting apples to London by

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1890. The Morcom family disposed of St. Days orchard in 1891 and it was acquired by Rosa C. Lamond who had the present Victorian residence constructed in the 1890s. The property is significant as an existing rare example of a known successful orchard in the Shire and was managed as an orchard until at least 1936. (Criteria A, B & H)

The weatherboard residence is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a weatherboard Victorian farm residence. Constructed in the 1890s the residence was considered a fine and substantial residence for its period. Features of note that demonstrate the Victorian period include the M-shaped hip roof, brick chimneys with corning, timber framed double hung windows, bay window, panelled front door with side light and highlight windows and skillion verandah with chamfer stopped timber posts and cast iron lacework frieze. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

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.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Fernside Residence	
Address	Librarian Road POMONAL	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Pomonal district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

After Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836.[2]

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, from 1837 squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favourable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The major run in what was to become known as the Pomonal district was Lexington (also Larose and Mokepilly), 120,000 acres taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the 1860s, sawmillers and charcoal burners took up work in the forests of what was to become the Pomonal district.

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[6] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the previous Land Acts, the 1869 *Land Act* opened all unalienated land in the colony for selection of up to 320 acres and required selectors to live on and cultivate their land. The Acts, for the most part, however only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains, where, by 1871, the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7]

Allotments in the Pomonal district were taken up by selectors under the 1869 *Land Act*. [8] Selectors grew fruit and established vineyards. The association with fruit resulted in the district named 'Pomona' because of its mythological association with orchards and fruit.

Fruit growing commenced in earnest in the 1890s and peaked around 1913-14.[9] One of Pomonal's first selectors, Frenchman Peter de Mey, took up land in 1876 and established an orchard and a vineyard of two acres each.[10] Dr W. H. Syme from Stawell established the apple growing industry in Pomonal in 1890 on land he purchased at the foot of Mount Cassell. Other settlers followed, and by 1899, apples, berries, nuts, passion fruit, lemons, oranges and melons grew on 400 acres of orchards.[11]

The *Stawell News* reported in 1906 that 'The total quantity of apples exported from Pomonal this season will be about 10,000 cases, which will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the total exported from Victoria.' [12] By 1907, the industry was well established. By 1910, it was estimated that there were 14 homesteads within two miles of the Pomonal Post Office, a population of 103, and 466 acres of fruit trees planted.[13] In 1912, 30,000 cases of fruit were sent to London and Hamburg from Pomonal.[14]

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Because of the difficulties of carting fruit to the nearest railway station at Stawell, in 1911 plans were made to establish a tramway to Stawell in connection with a proposal to establish a village settlement along the Pomonal-Halls Gap Road, however this did not eventuate.[15] In 1930, 60,000 cases of apples were exported,[16] and in the same year, the Colombie Cup for the best apples was won by Pomonal.[17] Because of declining overseas markets, and the destruction of orchards by bushfires in January 1939, the industry was in decline by 1940.

Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913 after Temple Smith from the Lands Department proclaimed that Pomonal soils were suitable for the industry. By 1923, five growers had established tobacco crops, and a Tobacco Grower's Association was formed at Pomonal in the same year.[18] A rise in the duty on imported tobacco leaf in December 1930 resulted in a significant expansion of the industry in Australia and an economic boom for Pomonal where fruit trees were pulled out to make way for tobacco growing. The expansion of the industry was led by companies with outside capital, including the British Australian Tobacco Company and the National Tobacco Company, who planned to cultivate tobacco on hundreds of acres in the Pomonal area. By 1933 in the Parish of Jallukar, 1,000 acres had been cultivated to tobacco and pine trees planted as wind breaks. During the 1930s economic depression, the industry employed Greeks and Armenians from the cities.[19]

Because of unfavourable climatic conditions and unsatisfactory prices, by 1935, only ten of the forty registered tobacco growers remained in Pomonal South, and after the duty on foreign leaf was lowered and the excise doubled in 1936, the industry declined.[20] Most of the remaining plantations, barns and kilns were destroyed in the fires of January 1939, however tobacco kilns exist at Pomonal today to evidence the industry.

The fruit and tobacco industries brought growth to the Pomonal district. A building to house a school was moved to Pomonal in 1899 and cricket and football clubs were established in the early 1890s. The Pomona Post office opened in 1904, but because there was at least one other place with the same name in Australia, the name 'Pomona' was changed to Pomonal later in the same year.[21] The Pomonal Public Hall also opened in 1904. An important development in Pomonal's progress was the opening of Better Route Road to Halls Gap via Pomonal in 1926. The road brought increased traffic through the district.[22]

A store opened at Pomonal in 1927, beside which was built a garage in 1933, which also housed a library. Another store opened and continues to operate today as the Pomonal General Store and post office. A new public hall opened in 1933, and a Methodist church was built in 1935 and used by four denominations.

In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Pomonal, en route to the Grampians, attracted tourists who partook of walking and nature activities. In 1928, the *Argus* described a nature study camp, replete with a botanist, chef and tent accommodation, established on the Banfield family's land at Red Man's Bluff, Mount William. The same site was used for church camps from the late 1940s to the 1980s, and is still used as a camping ground today.[23]

On 13 January 1939, fires throughout Victoria claimed 71 lives (including three in the Grampians), destroyed 69 sawmills and burnt millions of hectares of land, including farms in the Pomonal district. The day became known as Black Friday.[24] The first fire brigade at Pomonal was established in the same year.

Pomonal experienced an influx of Lutheran families during the 1940s and 1950s, and, due to subdivision, another increase in population occurred in the 1970s. A number of plant nurseries were established in Pomonal from 1970, and extensions were made to the Pomonal General Store in the 1980s to exploit the tourist trade. Pomonal was supplied water from the Stawell pipeline from 1989. Water via a pipeline from a new water treatment plant in Halls Gap was supplied to Pomonal from 2001.[25]

Fires occurred again in the Grampians in 1999 and in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, and thousands of stock animals and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread

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rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

Today there are a variety of small businesses in Pomonal with approximately 150 households making up the village and its outlying district. Pomonal businesses include plant nurseries, art/craft outlets, several accommodation establishments, an earthmoving business, an olive grove, a lavender farm, a winery, a wildlife park, a horse stud, a natural therapies centre, a day spa and a glass blowing business and gallery.[26] Tourism remains an important industry.

Place history:[27]

Fernside, a nine-roomed residence, was built by George Barnes at the foot of Mount William in the Grampians. George Barnes, a draper in Stawell and manager of the Stawell Brick Works, employed A G Campbell to manage his orchard at Fernside. By 1907, the 319-acre property comprised two houses, a men's hut, washhouse, fruit house, stables, other outbuildings and 30 acres of fruit trees.[28] Barnes also planted the Springwood orchard. In 1912, 6,000 cases of apples were exported from Fernside. Barnes was also involved in a syndicate in 1921 that proposed to erect a plant to process the tobacco leaf that was being grown in the district.

W R Archibald took up Fernside under the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act* in 1920-21, and also took up the Springwood orchard. In 1931, it was reported that Archibald had sold Fernside, 450 acres, to the Federal Tobacco Company of Sydney,[29] although it is believed that Archibald continued to live at Fernside until 1941, when he moved to Bairnsdale, returning to Fernside for a short time ca. 1949.

During the blazing fires of 1939, a fruit-packing shed and all outbuildings, orchard, pine-avenue, and garden were destroyed at Fernside, but the house was saved.[30]

W W Constable lived at Fernside until 1950. The property was sold to J F Raeck in 1954. John and Sarah Raeck, with their son, Arthur, lived at Fernside until 1972. In this year, by which time the residence was in poor condition, was purchased by Barry and Norma Cosson.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

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- [6] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [8] Jalluka Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1880.
- [9] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>. Accessed 24 July 2014.
- [10] Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place* (Stawell, Vic.: Stawell Times-News, 1984).
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [12] Cited in Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, ed. John Wynd (Pomonal, Vic.: Pomonal Progress Association, 2013), 20.
- [13] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 22.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [15] A.N.A. *Ararat and a National Project: Water for the Mallee - the Conference, the Town and the Eversley Weir*, (Ararat, Vic.: Advertiser Office, 1913), 35-7.
- [16] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [17] Ibid.
- [18] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 43.
- [19] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55.
- [20] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 49. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 101.
- [21] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 71.
- [22] Ibid., 182.
- [23] Ibid., 34.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142-43.
- [25] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 117-18.
- [26] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships".
- [27] Unless otherwise cited, this information is from *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 16-21, 37.

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[28] George Barnes and Archibald George Campbell, "Lease, 1907," in *Manuscripts MS 6144* (State Library of Victoria, 1907).

[29] "SHEPPARTON." *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, 13 November 1931, 8.

[30] "FIRE-FIGHTER MISSING." *The Argus*, 14 January 1939, 2.

Description

Physical Description

Fernside is a weatherboard Edwardian style residence. It has an M-shaped hip roof clad in corrugated iron and brick chimneys with cornices. The building has a simple rectangular plan with only the two twin hips extending the length and no projecting wings. The residence is elevated on tall stumps and looks out over a valley to the east. The front of the dwelling faces east also. There is a skillion roofed verandah around the four sides. The eastern side of the verandah has been partially filled in with timber framed windows and weatherboards but also retains the original scalloped timber frieze and posts. This frieze and posts also extends around the south side. Original timbers and doors are timber framed.

Physical Condition

Fernside residence was in fair condition in December 2014.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Fernside Residence located in Librarian Road, Pomonal. The original location, form, materials and details of the residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Fernside Residence located in Librarian Road, Pomonal is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Fernside Residence is of historical significance as an early and substantial property established in the Pomonal district at the foot of Mt William in the Grampians. The residence is important for its associations with George Barnes, a draper in Stawell and manager of the Stawell Brick Works. Barnes established the property and had the residence built around 1900. It is also associated with the orchard industry in the district as Barnes established an orchard at Fernside and also planted the orchard at Springwood. By 1907 there were 30 acres of fruit trees at the Fernside property as well as associated outbuildings and a manager's house. During the blazing fires of 1939, a fruit-packing shed and all outbuildings, orchard, pine-avenue, and garden were destroyed at Fernside, but the house was saved. (Criteria A & H)

The Fernside Residence is aesthetically significant as a good example of an Edwardian style farm residence. The residence retains its original footprint and form with the M-Shaped double hip roof. The building also retains original timber framed window and door openings and the characteristic timber fretwork frieze to the verandah. The residence is

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enhanced by its orientation towards a valley with sweeping views of the surrounding farm landscape. (Criteria B & D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	-
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Tobacco Kilns	
Address	163 Springwood Hill Road POMONAL 3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road POMONAL	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Kiln other	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Pomonal district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

After Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836.[2]

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, from 1837 squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favourable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The major run in what was to become known as the Pomonal district was Lexington (also Larose and Mokepilly), 120,000 acres taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the 1860s, sawmillers and charcoal burners took up work in the forests of what was to become the Pomonal district.

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[6] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the previous Land Acts, the 1869 *Land Act* opened all unalienated land in the colony for selection of up to 320 acres and required selectors to live on and cultivate their land. The Acts, for the most part, however only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains, where, by 1871, the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7]

Allotments in the Pomonal district were taken up by selectors under the 1869 *Land Act*. [8] Selectors grew fruit and established vineyards. The association with fruit resulted in the district named 'Pomona' because of its mythological association with orchards and fruit.

Fruit growing commenced in earnest in the 1890s and peaked around 1913-14.[9] One of Pomonal's first selectors, Frenchman Peter de Mey, took up land in 1876 and established an orchard and a vineyard of two acres each.[10] Dr W. H. Syme from Stawell established the apple growing industry in Pomonal in 1890 on land he purchased at the foot of Mount Cassell. Other settlers followed, and by 1899, apples, berries, nuts, passion fruit, lemons, oranges and melons grew on 400 acres of orchards.[11]

The *Stawell News* reported in 1906 that 'The total quantity of apples exported from Pomonal this season will be about 10,000 cases, which will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the total exported from Victoria.' [12] By 1907, the industry was well established. In that year, George Barnes' 319-acre property, for example, comprised two houses, a men's hut, washhouse, fruit house, stables, other outbuildings and 30 acres of fruit trees.[13] By 1910, it was estimated that there were 14 homesteads within two miles of the Pomonal Post Office, a population of 103, and 466 acres of fruit

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

trees planted.[14] In 1912, 30,000 cases of fruit were sent to London and Hamburg from Pomonal.[15]

Because of the difficulties of carting fruit to the nearest railway station at Stawell, in 1911 plans were made to establish a tramway to Stawell in connection with a proposal to establish a village settlement along the Pomonal-Halls Gap Road, however this did not eventuate.[16] In 1930, 60,000 cases of apples were exported,[17] and in the same year, the Colombie Cup for the best apples was won by Pomonal.[18] Because of declining overseas markets, and the destruction of orchards by bushfires in January 1939, the industry was in decline by 1940.

Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913. The industry declined in the mid-1930s.

The fruit and tobacco industries brought growth to the Pomonal district. A building to house a school was moved to Pomonal in 1899 and cricket and football clubs were established in the early 1890s. The Pomona Post office opened in 1904, but because there was at least one other place with the same name in Australia, the name 'Pomona' was changed to Pomonal later in the same year.[19] The Pomonal Public Hall also opened in 1904. An important development in Pomonal's progress was the opening of Better Route Road to Halls Gap via Pomonal in 1926. The road brought increased traffic through the district.[20]

A store opened at Pomonal in 1927, beside which was built a garage in 1933, which also housed a library. Another store opened and continues to operate today as the Pomonal General Store and post office. A new public hall opened in 1933, and a Methodist church was built in 1935 and used by four denominations.

In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Pomonal, en route to the Grampians, attracted tourists who partook of walking and nature activities. In 1928, the *Argus* described a nature study camp, replete with a botanist, chef and tent accommodation, established on the Banfield family's land at Red Man's Bluff, Mount William. The same site was used for church camps from the late 1940s to the 1980s, and is still used as a camping ground today.[21]

On 13 January 1939, fires throughout Victoria claimed 71 lives (including three in the Grampians), destroyed 69 sawmills and burnt millions of hectares of land, including farms in the Pomonal district. The day became known as Black Friday.[22] The first fire brigade at Pomonal was established in the same year.

Pomonal experienced an influx of Lutheran families during the 1940s and 1950s, and, due to subdivision, another increase in population occurred in the 1970s. A number of plant nurseries were established in Pomonal from 1970, and extensions were made to the Pomonal General Store in the 1980s to exploit the tourist trade. Pomonal was supplied water from the Stawell pipeline from 1989. Water via a pipeline from a new water treatment plant in Halls Gap was supplied to Pomonal from 2001.[23]

Fires occurred again in the Grampians in 1999 and in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, and thousands of stock animals and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

Today there are a variety of small businesses in Pomonal with approximately 150 households making up the village and its outlying district. Pomonal businesses include plant nurseries, art/craft outlets, several accommodation establishments, an earthmoving business, an olive grove, a lavender farm, a winery, a wildlife park, a horse stud, a natural therapies centre, a day spa and a glass blowing business and gallery.[24] Tourism remains an important industry.

Place history:[25]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913 after Temple Smith from the Lands Department proclaimed that Pomonal soils were suitable for the industry. By 1923, five growers had established tobacco crops, and a Tobacco Grower's Association was formed at Pomonal in the same year.[26] A rise in the duty on imported tobacco leaf in December 1930 resulted in a significant expansion of the industry in Australia and an economic boom for Pomonal where fruit trees were pulled out to make way for tobacco growing. The expansion of the industry was led by companies with outside capital, including the British Australian Tobacco Company and the National Tobacco Company, who planned to cultivate tobacco on hundreds of acres in the Pomonal area. By 1933 in the Parish of Jallukar, 1,000 acres had been cultivated to tobacco and pine trees planted as wind breaks. During the 1930s economic depression, the industry employed Greeks and Armenians from the cities.[27]

Because of unfavourable climatic conditions and unsatisfactory prices, by 1935, only ten of the forty registered tobacco growers remained in Pomonal South, and after the duty on foreign leaf was lowered and the excise doubled in 1936, the industry declined.[28] Most of the remaining plantations, barns and kilns were destroyed in the fires of January 1939, however two tobacco kilns exist at Pomonal today to evidence the industry.

Tobacco kilns, or barns, were hung with green tobacco leaves and wood fires were lit to raise the temperature inside the kiln to 90°F. After about 24 hours, the leaves turned yellow, where upon the vents were opened and the temperature raised to 180°F to dry out the stems. Moisture was added to the kilns in the latter stages to make the leaves less brittle so that they could be graded.

The tobacco kiln at 163 Springwood Hill Road, Pomonal, was constructed in the early 1930s by the British Australian Tobacco Company. The company purchased an orchard, 'Springwood', established by Dr W. H. Syme, and another 200 acres from R. E. Fowler ca. 1930 to grow tobacco.

The other tobacco kiln at 3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal, was built in the early 1930s by the Van Every brothers, who continued to grow tobacco after 1936 when the industry declined. The kiln was converted as part of Gus Van Every's butchery business.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Report, 86.

[8] Jalluka Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1880.

[9] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>. Accessed 24 July 2014.

[10] Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place* (Stawell, Vic.: Stawell Times-News, 1984).

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

[12] Cited in Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, ed. John Wynd (Pomonal, Vic.: Pomonal Progress Association, 2013), 20.

[13] George Barnes and Archibald George Campbell, "Lease, 1907," in *Manuscripts MS 6144* (State Library of Victoria, 1907).

[14] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 22.

[15] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

[16] A.N.A. *Ararat and a National Project: Water for the Mallee - the Conference, the Town and the Eversley Weir*, (Ararat, Vic.: Advertiser Office, 1913), 35-7.

[17] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 71.

[20] Ibid., 182.

[21] Ibid., 34.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142-43.

[23] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 117-18.

[24] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships".

[25] Most of this information is from *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 43-54.

[26] Ibid., 43.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55.

[28] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 49. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 101.

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Description

Physical Condition

The Springwood Road kiln was in fair condition and the Ararat-Halls Gap Road kiln was in good condition in November 2013.

Physical Description

The Springwood Road kiln is a square planned building, approximately two storeys in height. It is timber framed with corrugated iron sheet wall cladding laid horizontally. It has a pyramidal roof with wide eaves and exposed rafters. The roofs are also clad in corrugated galvanised iron sheet. The top of the pyramid is separated from the base and elevated on four timber posts to provide covered ventilation to the roof. There is a small square opening with a vertically clad timber door centrally placed under the eaves on one elevation and a similar opening on the opposite side with a vertically clad timber door below.

The Ararat-Halls Gap Road kiln has a square plan and is two-storey in height. It is timber framed with horizontal timber slats to the exterior and a cement render finish to just above door height. Above this the timber slats are exposed, most likely to assist with ventilation to the top of the building. The roof is a Dutch gable with wide eaves and exposed rafters and clad in corrugated iron. The small gables to the roof are open allowing ventilation from the top of the roof. There is a single timber framed door opening in one elevation. The interior of the Ararat Halls Gap Road kiln was converted as part of Gus Van Every's butchery business.

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance:

The Tobacco Kilns located at 163 Springwood Road and 3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal. The original form, location, materials and details of the two kilns are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Tobacco Kilns located at 163 Springwood Road and 3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The two Tobacco Kilns in Pomonal are of historic significance as they evidence the important tobacco growing industry in the Pomonal area, which brought growth to the Pomonal district in the early 20th century. Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913 after Temple Smith from the Lands Department proclaimed that Pomonal soils were suitable for the industry. The tobacco kiln at 163 Springwood Hill Road was constructed in the early 1930s by the British Australian Tobacco Company. The company purchased an orchard, 'Springwood', established by Dr W. H. Syme, and another 200 acres from R. E. Fowler ca. 1930 to grow tobacco. The tobacco kiln at 3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road was built in the early 1930s by the Van Every brothers. The industry declined in the mid-1930s but the Van Every brothers continued to grow tobacco after 1936. The kilns are significant as rare surviving remnants of the tobacco growing industry in the area. (Criteria A & B)

The two Tobacco Kilns in Pomonal are of aesthetic significance as substantially intact examples of tobacco kilns

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demonstrating key attributes of the building type. The kilns retain their distinctive forms with their square plan, two-storey height and tall pitched roofs allowing ventilation at the top of the building. The top of the corrugated iron clad kiln is of interest with its two part pyramidal roof. The buildings demonstrate two different types of cladding used for tobacco kilns, one with corrugated iron cladding and the other with a cement rendered finish over horizontal timber slats. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Adair Residence	
Address	220 Cherry Tree Road POMONAL	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Pomonal district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

After Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836.[2]

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, from 1837 squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by

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favourable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The major run in what was to become known as the Pomonal district was Lexington (also Larose and Mokepilly), 120,000 acres taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the 1860s, sawmillers and charcoal burners took up work in the forests of what was to become the Pomonal district.

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[6] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the previous Land Acts, the 1869 *Land Act* opened all unalienated land in the colony for selection of up to 320 acres and required selectors to live on and cultivate their land. The Acts, for the most part, however only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains, where, by 1871, the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7]

Allotments in the Pomonal district were taken up by selectors under the 1869 *Land Act*. [8] Selectors grew fruit and established vineyards. The association with fruit resulted in the district named 'Pomona' because of its mythological association with orchards and fruit.

Fruit growing commenced in earnest in the 1890s and peaked around 1913-14.[9] One of Pomonal's first selectors, Frenchman Peter de Mey, took up land in 1876 and established an orchard and a vineyard of two acres each.[10] Dr W. H. Syme from Stawell established the apple growing industry in Pomonal in 1890 on land he purchased at the foot of Mount Cassell. Other settlers followed, and by 1899, apples, berries, nuts, passion fruit, lemons, oranges and melons grew on 400 acres of orchards.[11]

The *Stawell News* reported in 1906 that 'The total quantity of apples exported from Pomonal this season will be about 10,000 cases, which will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the total exported from Victoria.' [12] By 1907, the industry was well established. In that year, George Barnes' 319-acre property, for example, comprised two houses, a men's hut, washhouse, fruit house, stables, other outbuildings and 30 acres of fruit trees.[13] By 1910, it was estimated that there were 14 homesteads within two miles of the Pomonal Post Office, a population of 103, and 466 acres of fruit trees planted.[14] In 1912, 30,000 cases of fruit were sent to London and Hamburg from Pomonal.[15]

Because of the difficulties of carting fruit to the nearest railway station at Stawell, in 1911 plans were made to establish a tramway to Stawell in connection with a proposal to establish a village settlement along the Pomonal-Halls Gap Road, however this did not eventuate.[16] In 1930, 60,000 cases of apples were exported,[17] and in the same year, the Colombie Cup for the best apples was won by Pomonal.[18] Because of declining overseas markets, and the destruction of orchards by bushfires in January 1939, the industry was in decline by 1940.

Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913 after Temple Smith from the Lands Department proclaimed that Pomonal soils were suitable for the industry. By 1923, five growers had established tobacco crops, and a Tobacco Grower's Association was formed at Pomonal in the same year.[19] A rise in the duty on imported tobacco leaf in December 1930 resulted in a significant expansion of the industry in Australia and an economic boom for Pomonal where fruit trees were pulled out to make way for tobacco growing. The expansion of the industry was led by companies with outside capital, including the British Australian Tobacco Company and the National Tobacco Company,

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who planned to cultivate tobacco on hundreds of acres in the Pomonal area. By 1933 in the Parish of Jallukar, 1,000 acres had been cultivated to tobacco and pine trees planted as wind breaks. During the 1930s economic depression, the industry employed Greeks and Armenians from the cities.[20]

Because of unfavourable climatic conditions and unsatisfactory prices, by 1935, only ten of the forty registered tobacco growers remained in Pomonal South, and after the duty on foreign leaf was lowered and the excise doubled in 1936, the industry declined.[21] Most of the remaining plantations, barns and kilns were destroyed in the fires of January 1939, however tobacco kilns exist at Pomonal today to evidence the industry.

The fruit and tobacco industries brought growth to the Pomonal district. A building to house a school was moved to Pomonal in 1899 and cricket and football clubs were established in the early 1890s. The Pomona Post office opened in 1904, but because there was at least one other place with the same name in Australia, the name 'Pomona' was changed to Pomonal later in the same year.[22] The Pomonal Public Hall also opened in 1904. An important development in Pomonal's progress was the opening of Better Route Road to Halls Gap via Pomonal in 1926. The road brought increased traffic through the district.[23]

A store opened at Pomonal in 1927, beside which was built a garage in 1933, which also housed a library. Another store opened and continues to operate today as the Pomonal General Store and post office. A new public hall opened in 1933, and a Methodist church was built in 1935 and used by four denominations.

In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Pomonal, en route to the Grampians, attracted tourists who partook of walking and nature activities. In 1928, the *Argus* described a nature study camp, replete with a botanist, chef and tent accommodation, established on the Banfield family's land at Red Man's Bluff, Mount William. The same site was used for church camps from the late 1940s to the 1980s, and is still used as a camping ground today.[24]

On 13 January 1939, fires throughout Victoria claimed 71 lives (including three in the Grampians), destroyed 69 sawmills and burnt millions of hectares of land, including farms in the Pomonal district. The day became known as Black Friday.[25] The first fire brigade at Pomonal was established in the same year.

Pomonal experienced an influx of Lutheran families during the 1940s and 1950s, and, due to subdivision, another increase in population occurred in the 1970s. A number of plant nurseries were established in Pomonal from 1970, and extensions were made to the Pomonal General Store in the 1980s to exploit the tourist trade. Pomonal was supplied water from the Stawell pipeline from 1989. Water via a pipeline from a new water treatment plant in Halls Gap was supplied to Pomonal from 2001.[26]

Fires occurred again in the Grampians in 1999 and in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, and thousands of stock animals and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

Today there are a variety of small businesses in Pomonal with approximately 150 households making up the village and its outlying district. Pomonal businesses include plant nurseries, art/craft outlets, several accommodation establishments, an earthmoving business, an olive grove, a lavender farm, a winery, a wildlife park, a horse stud, a natural therapies centre, a day spa and a glass blowing business and gallery.[27] Tourism remains an important industry.

Place history:[28]

W. H. Syme, doctor of Stawell, took up approximately 224 acres, Allotment 18, Section 1, Parish of Jallukar, under the

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1869 *Land Act*, and owned the land by 1903. He also took up 20 acres, Allotment 53 of 1, Section 1, Parish of Jallukar, under a grazing licence, land which was spring-fed and which he owned by 1900.[29] Syme built a house, 'Mount Cassel', after the mountain peak named by French selector, Peter De Mey, situated behind the property. 'Mount Cassel' was sold to the Cox family and burnt down in the 1939 fire.

Syme planted fruit trees, naming his orchard 'Springwood'; the orchard was managed by T. E. Morcom. Syme also employed a number of gardeners to landscape the springs area and creek that ran through his 20-acre allotment. Water from the spring was used by Syme to irrigate his orchard.

The British Australian Tobacco Company purchased 'Springwood' and another 200 acres from R. E. Fowler ca. 1930 to grow tobacco. The company employed former government tobacco expert, Temple Smith, as technical adviser. As with other tobacco companies, the land was worked on a share basis, with the company clearing the land and the men providing labour and plants. If the crop failed, the growers bore the financial loss.

The current residence at 220 Cherry Tree Lane was built on Symes's 20-acre allotment in 1931 for Temple Smith. The house survived the 1939 fire and was purchased in 1941 by R. Long, who named the property 'Adair' after his home town in Ireland.

'Adair' is currently used as a residence and also provides accommodation for visitors. Remnant fruit trees survive and evidence of terraces built for the planting of tobacco can be seen.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[8] Jalluka Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1880.

[9] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>. Accessed 24 July 2014.

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- [10] Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place* (Stawell, Vic.: Stawell Times-News, 1984).
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [12] Cited in Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, ed. John Wynd (Pomonal, Vic.: Pomonal Progress Association, 2013), 20.
- [13] George Barnes and Archibald George Campbell, "Lease, 1907," in *Manuscripts MS 6144* (State Library of Victoria, 1907).
- [14] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 22.
- [15] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [16] A.N.A. *Ararat and a National Project: Water for the Mallee - the Conference, the Town and the Eversley Weir*, (Ararat, Vic.: Advertiser Office, 1913), 35-7.
- [17] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [18] Ibid.
- [19] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 43.
- [20] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55.
- [21] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 49. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 101.
- [22] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 71.
- [23] Ibid., 182.
- [24] Ibid., 34.
- [25] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142-43.
- [26] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 117-18.
- [27] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships".
- [28] Most of this information is from *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 16, 19, 47, 50.
- [29] Jallukar Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1880.

Description

Physical Description

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The Adair residence is a weatherboard Bungalow style building set on a rural block. It is elevated and has a main gable roof and projecting gable roofed wing one third of the way along the front elevation. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheet and has wide eaves with exposed rafters. The gable wing has two twin timber framed double hung windows. There is a skillion roofed verandah around two sides giving the main roof a Dutch gable appearance. On one side of the projecting gable wing is a chimney with an expressed chimney breast and small rectangular windows either side and on the other side is a tripartite double hung window. This window type is also repeated in the end wall under the verandah. The upper sashes to the double hung windows have six panes. There is another internal fireplace with a chimney projecting from the roof. Both chimneys are red brick and square with no adornment. The gable ends to the roof have half timbering and a central louvre vent extending the height of the gable.

Physical Condition

The residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Adair Residence located at 220 Cherry Tree Road, Pomonal. The location, original form, materials and detailing of the 1931 residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Adair Residence located at 220 Cherry Tree Road, Pomonal is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Adair Residence is of historic significance for its associations with the tobacco growing industry in the area and for its associations with prominent residents, Dr W. H. Syme and Temple Smith. Completed in 1931, the house was built on tobacco growing land for tobacco technical advisor Temple Smith. The British Australian Tobacco Company had purchased the property around 1930 to grow tobacco and employed former government tobacco expert, Temple Smith, as technical adviser. As with other tobacco companies, the land was worked on a share basis, with the company clearing the land and the men providing labour and plants. If the crop failed, the growers bore the financial loss. The house is on a twenty-acre allotment that was previously owned by W. H. Syme, doctor of Stawell. Syme, who built a residence on an adjacent lot, planted fruit trees on this lot and named his orchard 'Springwood'. (Criteria A & H)

The Adair Residence is of aesthetic significance as an example of a Bungalow style farmhouse. Constructed in 1931, the residence retains many of its original Inter-War period features including the main roof form with gables with plain tall chimneys, the gable ends with half timbering and louvre vents, wide eaves with exposed rafters and wide rectangular double hung windows in pairs and triples and with six pane upper sashes. (Criterion D)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

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.



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Tunnel and Pumphouse Remains, Stawell Water Supply System		
Address	Tunnel Road POMONAL	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Water Pump House/Pumping Station, Water Tunnel		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI Yes PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Gold rush immigration swelled the population of Victoria from 77,000 people in 1851 to 237,000 in 1854. During 1852, the peak year of the rushes, 90,000 people arrived in Melbourne. By 1857, the colony had a population of 411,000.[1] In the period 1851-60, Victoria produced 20 million ounces of gold, one-third of world output.[2] This was at a time when gold was the primary international standard of exchange because it was stable in price, durable, and transportable. The hoarding of vast quantities of Californian and Victorian gold by banks in America, England and France provided a basis for currencies and financial systems around the globe and supported a huge credit expansion that bankrolled world trade, shipping and manufacturing.[3] By 1903, Australia was the largest single producer of gold in the world.

Following gold discovery at Pleasant Creek, later known as Stawell West, the township of Stawell was proclaimed in 1858

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following a rush to the area in 1857.[4]

Place history:[5]

During the gold rushes, in order to supply a safe drinking water supply to growing settlements, government funded the construction of goldfield reservoirs from the 1860. Two reservoirs, filed from run off, were built at Stawell in this year. Because the catchment area had so much mining activity, the water was quite unsuitable for general domestic use. A severe drought in 1865-66 put further stress on Stawell's water supply. By 1868, locals were calling for a government investigation into Stawell's water supply required for domestic and sanitary purposes, and to drive the quartz crushing mills.

The Pleasant Creek Waterworks and Tramway Company formed in 1868 to construct a pipeline to bring water to Stawell from the lower Fyans Valley in the Grampians, however a lack of funding led to the collapse of the company. In 1869, the Stawell Shire Council formed a Water Commission sub-committee to examine ideas for supplying water to Stawell. Chief hydraulic engineer of the Water Supply Department, George Gordon, visited Stawell in 1873 and 1874 to examine the schemes, and recommended government engineer, C. H. O. Bagge's scheme to bring water via a tunnel through the Mount William range from a weir on the upper Fyans Creek in the Grampians at an estimated cost of £84,000. The Stawell Shire council approved the scheme and the government advanced £10,000 to commence the works.

Works on the eastern end of the tunnel began on 18 February 1875 with a 1,000 people present due to a public holiday declared by the Stawell Borough. Excavation of the tunnel through the rock of the Mount William range proved more difficult than anticipated however, and a decision was made to start work on the other side of the tunnel at the same time.

The two tunnel drives met in 1880 with a great degree of accuracy; by this time the required distribution tank at the tunnel entrance, pipeline, syphons, aqueduct, and fluming to take the water to Stawell had been installed.

The Stawell Water Supply scheme was finished in 1881 at a cost of £115,000, with £100,000 of the amount borrowed from government. Innovative and pioneering in its approach, the scheme involved building more than twelve kilometres of fluming, a tunnel and a pipeline. The tunnel, built through one kilometre of solid rock, involved one of the earliest uses of dynamite.

Further storages and upgrades to Stawell's water supply infrastructure were built in ensuing years, however the original tunnel, deemed to be in good condition in 1979 and from where rubble from a rock fall was removed and a 20-metre length of 450mm pipe installed in 1988, remains in use.

Pomonal was supplied water from the Stawell pipeline from 1989. Water via a pipeline from a new water treatment plant in Halls Gap was supplied to Pomonal from 2001.[6] The pumphouse was partially destroyed in the Grampians fire of 2006.

The water supply scheme is now overseen by Grampians Region Water Authority, who took over from Stawell Water Supply under amalgamation of water bodies in 1995.

[1] Cate Elkner, "Immigration and Ethnicity," University of Melbourne, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00004b.htm>.

[2] Graeme Davison, John Hirst, and Stuart Macintyre, eds., *The Oxford Companion to Australian History* (Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press, 1998), 284.

[3] Jane Lennon, "Victorian Gold - World Heritage Status?," in *Bendigo: Nothing But Gold 150 Years of Gold mining*

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Conference Papers (Bendigo, Vic.2001), 45.

[4] Signage at site.

[5] Information from signage at the tunnel site.

[6] Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, ed. John Wynd (Pomonal, Vic.: Pomonal Progress Association, 2013), 117-18.

Description

Physical Description

The Stawell Water Supply System remains comprise of a tunnel entrance with standard size double metal doors with a wire mesh upper section. The rock and earth has been cut/excavated away around the tunnel entrance. There are also pump house remains near the entrance to the tunnel comprising sections of composite brick and stone rubble wall covering an area of approximately a six metre square with two associated cast iron pipes on the ground and extending from the base of the walls.

Physical Condition

The doors to the tunnel were in good condition in November 2013. The walls to the pump house are ruinous.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Stawell Water Supply System Tunnel and Pumphouse Remains located on Tunnel Road, Pomonal. The location and original form and materials of the remaining elements of the water supply system consisting of the brick and rubble pumphouse remains and cast iron pipes and the tunnel entrance with the excavated opening and metal double doors are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Stawell Water Supply System Tunnel and Pumphouse Remains are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Stawell Water Supply System Tunnel and Pumphouse remains are of historical significance for their demonstration of the water supply methodologies used in the area in the 1880s and as an important reminder of the early supply of water to the Stawell district. Chief hydraulic engineer of the Water Supply Department, George Gordon, visited Stawell in 1873 and 1874 to examine proposed water schemes for the area and recommended government engineer C. H. O. Bagge's scheme to bring water via a tunnel through the Mount William range from a weir on the upper Fyans Creek in the Grampians. The Stawell Water Supply scheme was completed in 1881. (Criteria A & B)

The Stawell Water Supply System Tunnel and Pumphouse remains are of technological significance as part of the innovative and pioneering Stawell Water Supply Scheme, which involved building more than twelve kilometres of

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fluming, a tunnel and a pipeline. Works on the eastern end of the tunnel began on 18 February 1875 but excavation of the tunnel through the rock of the Mount William range proved more difficult than anticipated and a decision was made to work on both sides of the tunnel at the same time. The two tunnel drives met in 1880 with a great degree of accuracy. The tunnel, built through one kilometre of solid rock, involved one of the earliest uses of dynamite. (Criterion F)

Recommendations 2015

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



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Oak Trees	
Address	639 Tunnel Road POMONAL	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Garden Residential	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Pomonal district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

After Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836.[2]

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, from 1837 squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by

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favourable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The major run in what was to become known as the Pomonal district was Lexington (also Larose and Mokepilly), 120,000 acres taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the 1860s, sawmillers and charcoal burners took up work in the forests of what was to become the Pomonal district.

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[6] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the previous Land Acts, the 1869 *Land Act* opened all unalienated land in the colony for selection of up to 320 acres and required selectors to live on and cultivate their land. The Acts, for the most part, however only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains, where, by 1871, the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7]

Allotments in the Pomonal district were taken up by selectors under the 1869 *Land Act*. [8] Selectors grew fruit and established vineyards. The association with fruit resulted in the district named 'Pomona' because of its mythological association with orchards and fruit.

Fruit growing commenced in earnest in the 1890s and peaked around 1913-14.[9] One of Pomonal's first selectors, Frenchman Peter de Mey, took up land in 1876 and established an orchard and a vineyard of two acres each.[10] Dr W. H. Syme from Stawell established the apple growing industry in Pomonal in 1890 on land he purchased at the foot of Mount Cassell. Other settlers followed, and by 1899, apples, berries, nuts, passion fruit, lemons, oranges and melons grew on 400 acres of orchards.[11]

The *Stawell News* reported in 1906 that 'The total quantity of apples exported from Pomonal this season will be about 10,000 cases, which will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the total exported from Victoria.' [12] By 1907, the industry was well established. In that year, George Barnes' 319-acre property, for example, comprised two houses, a men's hut, washhouse, fruit house, stables, other outbuildings and 30 acres of fruit trees.[13] By 1910, it was estimated that there were 14 homesteads within two miles of the Pomonal Post Office, a population of 103, and 466 acres of fruit trees planted.[14] In 1912, 30,000 cases of fruit were sent to London and Hamburg from Pomonal.[15]

Because of the difficulties of carting fruit to the nearest railway station at Stawell, in 1911 plans were made to establish a tramway to Stawell in connection with a proposal to establish a village settlement along the Pomonal-Halls Gap Road, however this did not eventuate.[16] In 1930, 60,000 cases of apples were exported,[17] and in the same year, the Colombie Cup for the best apples was won by Pomonal.[18] Because of declining overseas markets, and the destruction of orchards by bushfires in January 1939, the industry was in decline by 1940.

Tobacco was grown on small allotments in the Pomonal district from 1913 after Temple Smith from the Lands Department proclaimed that Pomonal soils were suitable for the industry. By 1923, five growers had established tobacco crops, and a Tobacco Grower's Association was formed at Pomonal in the same year.[19] A rise in the duty on imported tobacco leaf in December 1930 resulted in a significant expansion of the industry in Australia and an economic boom for Pomonal where fruit trees were pulled out to make way for tobacco growing. The expansion of the industry was led by companies with outside capital, including the British Australian Tobacco Company and the National Tobacco Company,

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who planned to cultivate tobacco on hundreds of acres in the Pomonal area. By 1933 in the Parish of Jallukar, 1,000 acres had been cultivated to tobacco and pine trees planted as wind breaks. During the 1930s economic depression, the industry employed Greeks and Armenians from the cities.[20]

Because of unfavourable climatic conditions and unsatisfactory prices, by 1935, only ten of the forty registered tobacco growers remained in Pomonal South, and after the duty on foreign leaf was lowered and the excise doubled in 1936, the industry declined.[21] Most of the remaining plantations, barns and kilns were destroyed in the fires of January 1939, however tobacco kilns exist at Pomonal today to evidence the industry.

The fruit and tobacco industries brought growth to the Pomonal district. A building to house a school was moved to Pomonal in 1899 and cricket and football clubs were established in the early 1890s. The Pomona Post office opened in 1904, but because there was at least one other place with the same name in Australia, the name 'Pomona' was changed to Pomonal later in the same year.[22] The Pomonal Public Hall also opened in 1904. An important development in Pomonal's progress was the opening of Better Route Road to Halls Gap via Pomonal in 1926. The road brought increased traffic through the district.[23]

A store opened at Pomonal in 1927, beside which was built a garage in 1933, which also housed a library. Another store opened and continues to operate today as the Pomonal General Store and post office. A new public hall opened in 1933, and a Methodist church was built in 1935 and used by four denominations.

In the 1920s, with increasing use of the car, Pomonal, en route to the Grampians, attracted tourists who partook of walking and nature activities. In 1928, the *Argus* described a nature study camp, replete with a botanist, chef and tent accommodation, established on the Banfield family's land at Red Man's Bluff, Mount William. The same site was used for church camps from the late 1940s to the 1980s, and is still used as a camping ground today.[24]

On 13 January 1939, fires throughout Victoria claimed 71 lives (including three in the Grampians), destroyed 69 sawmills and burnt millions of hectares of land, including farms in the Pomonal district. The day became known as Black Friday.[25] The first fire brigade at Pomonal was established in the same year.

Pomonal experienced an influx of Lutheran families during the 1940s and 1950s, and, due to subdivision, another increase in population occurred in the 1970s. A number of plant nurseries were established in Pomonal from 1970, and extensions were made to the Pomonal General Store in the 1980s to exploit the tourist trade. Pomonal was supplied water from the Stawell pipeline from 1989. Water via a pipeline from a new water treatment plant in Halls Gap was supplied to Pomonal from 2001.[26]

Fires occurred again in the Grampians in 1999 and in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, and thousands of stock animals and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

Today there are a variety of small businesses in Pomonal with approximately 150 households making up the village and its outlying district. Pomonal businesses include plant nurseries, art/craft outlets, several accommodation establishments, an earthmoving business, an olive grove, a lavender farm, a winery, a wildlife park, a horse stud, a natural therapies centre, a day spa and a glass blowing business and gallery.[27] Tourism remains an important industry.

Place history:[28]

The land on which the oak trees grow was taken up by the Grieve family in Section 2 of the Parish of Jallukar under the

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1869 *Land Act*: R. W. C. Grieve took up Allotment 7A, approximately 45 acres and owned the land by 1887; M. F. Grieve took up Allotment 7, approximately 158 acres, and owned the land by 1910.[29] Robert William Grieve used the land to grow wattle bark used in tanning, but wrote to the Lands Department in the 1880s stating that since owning the block it had been swept by bush fires three times.

Grieve built 'Dundonald' on Allotment 7A between 1887 and 1892. In 1892, Grieve, an auctioneer, put the property up for sale and described it as a seven-room cottage with shed, verandah, bathroom, fernery, stable, buggy shed, harness and man's room. The property was transferred to Mary Florence Grieve, then to Francis Nalder and occupied by A. Anderson and family until sold ca. 1919 to A. F. Wilkinson, who died in 1925.

J. O. Seeck owned the property in the 1930s during the tobacco boom and built three large curing barns and a conditioning shed. After the house was partly burnt in 1938, Seeck sold it to Ollice Hull, who repaired the damage. Unfortunately, however, the house was razed in the 1939 bushfire.

The existing eight oak trees are all that remains of Robert Grieve's 'Dundonald' property, and are testament to the impact of fires in the Grampians, and more specifically the Pomonal district.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[8] Jallukar Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1880.

[9] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>. Accessed 24 July 2014.

[10] Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place* (Stawell, Vic.: Stawell Times-News, 1984).

[11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.

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- [12] Cited in Isabel Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, ed. John Wynd (Pomonal, Vic.: Pomonal Progress Association, 2013), 20.
- [13] George Barnes and Archibald George Campbell, "Lease, 1907," in *Manuscripts MS 6144* (State Library of Victoria, 1907).
- [14] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 22.
- [15] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [16] A.N.A. Ararat and a National Project: *Water for the Mallee - the Conference, the Town and the Eversley Weir*, (Ararat, Vic.: Advertiser Office, 1913), 35-7.
- [17] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142.
- [18] Ibid.
- [19] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 43.
- [20] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 55.
- [21] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 49. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 101.
- [22] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 71.
- [23] Ibid., 182.
- [24] Ibid., 34.
- [25] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 142-43.
- [26] Armer, *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 117-18.
- [27] 'Pomonal' in "Rural Townships".
- [28] *Pomonal: A Picturesque Place Revisted*, 13.
- [29] Jallukar Parish Plan, Department Lands and Survey, 1880.

Description

Physical Description

The site consists of 8 oak trees, which are the remnants of the former Dundonald property. The eight trees are located in a single line together and are spaced approximately six metres apart.

Physical Condition

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The trees were in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The eight oak trees located at 639 Tunnel Road, Pomonal.

How is it significant?

The eight oak trees at 639 Tunnel Road, Pomonal are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The eight oak trees at 639 Tunnel Road, Pomonal are of historical significance for their demonstration of early settlement in the Pomonal district and as the only tangible remains of Robert Grieve's Dundonald property. The property was taken up by the Grieve family under the 1869 *Land Act* and by 1887 Robert William Grieve owned the land. Grieve used the land to grow wattle bark used in tanning, but wrote to the Lands Department in the 1880s stating that since owning the block it had been swept by bush fires three times. The Dundonald farmhouse was constructed for Grieve between 1887 and 1892. It was damaged by fire in 1938 and then completely razed in the 1939 bush fires. The trees are of historical significance as testament to the impact fires have had on the Grampians and more specifically the Pomonal district. (Criteria A & B)

The eight oak trees at 639 Tunnel Road, Pomonal are of aesthetic significance as landmark plantings indicating the existence of an early farming property in the area. They are also a visually important marker on the road to Stawell Water Supply Tunnel. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No
No
Yes 8 oak trees
No
No
-
No

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Pura Pura Public Hall	
Address	Darlington-Carranballac Road PURA PURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Designer / Architect	Richards, G.S. & Richards P.S.

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts were included in the boundaries of seven runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846; and Terinallum taken up by the Clyde Company in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (later known as Streatham) and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Later surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail from Melbourne to Portland from mid-1844.[6] Crossroads were established where the boundaries of Nerrin Nerrin, Blythvale, Menenia and Yalla-y-Poora stations met, near the site of present-day Mininera Railway Station.[7] From 1859, coaches traversed the road, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[8]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[10] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[11] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[12] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[13] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, on which the Mininera and Mininera East settlements were established.[14]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[15] effectively giving rise to the settlements of Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin and the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway.

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With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[16] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[17] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the construction of a store and post office in the same year.[18] A post office was conducted at the Pura Pura Railway Station from 1913 to 1924. A railway siding at Nerrin Nerrin was also established in 1913. Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[19] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[20] boosting the population of the Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin districts. The Terinallum North Estate, 12,990 acres centring on Pura Pura and part of the original Terinallum run, was opened in 1921 for soldier settlement.[21] The Gheringhap-Maroon railway line was important in facilitating soldier settlement in these aforementioned districts.

A hall was constructed at Pura Pura ca 1922 and a school opened at Nerrin Nerrin in 1925.[22] A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[23] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[24] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere. A bridge was opened over Emu Creek at Pura Pura in 1940.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poor, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] The Trawalla Estate was established in 1954 on the Nerrin Nerrin run where nine soldier settlers took up farms.[26] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[27] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[28]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[29] The Nerrin Nerrin school closed in 1950. On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroon railway line ended, impacting on stations at Westmere, Mininera, Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin. The Pura Pura Post Office closed in 1966.

St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952 and a supper room was added to the Westmere Hall in the same year.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rorke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters General's Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rorke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[30]

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The Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten opened in the Westmere Hall in August 1973. The Mininera Hall was sold in 1975 and the school closed in the same year. A large grain bunker was built at Westmere in the early 1980s, but was never used.[31] Westmere was supplied water by a pipeline from the Streatham reservoir in the early 1980s.[32] St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere closed in 1991, and Westmere State School No. 3833 closed in 1993, as did the post office.[33]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Pura Pura Hall, Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[34] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:

In 1920, 31 allotments on Terrinallum North Estate, which incorporated the Pura Pura Railway Station, were offered for soldier settlement by the Closer Settlement Board.

In 1922, it was reported that soldier settlers at Pura Pura and Vite Vite had formed a united progress association, which planned to make immediate application for a telephone, money-order office, and school, and to commence collecting subscriptions towards the erection of a public hall at Pura Pura.[35]

A public hall was subsequently built in 1923 on land belonging to the Closer Settlement Board and partly funded through public subscription. The hall was an army hut made of corrugated cement sheet lined with masonite with a caneite ceiling and hardwood floor. The building measured 39 feet by 30 feet. In 1932, perhaps because of its poor condition, the Closer Settlement Board threatened to remove the hall.[36]

A building for new hall at Pura Pura was transported from Cressy in February 1947. At the same time, fund raising was held for the Pura Pura Hall 'rebuild'. [37]

In 1952, the hall building, along with bricks, cement sheets, hardwood, doors and window frames (all likely purchased for a planned new hall) were auctioned.[38]

In 1957, the Mortlake Shire Council allocated £1500 towards the cost of erecting a new public hall at Pura Pura. Plans for the hall were drawn up by P.S. and G. S. Richards, architects of Ballarat. The planned timber hall consisted of a hall (with stage) 50 feet by 30 feet; a porch 10 feet by 7 feet; a kitchen 20 feet by 16 feet; and a supper room 30 feet by 16 feet.[39]

An application was made to the Board of Health to open the hall in September 1957. The building was described at that time as: timber framed with sheet iron walls and roof; plaster and masonite dado; and hardwood floor.[40]

A septic tank was installed in 1962, and in 1979-80, a concrete block toilet block and foyer were added to the front of the hall.[41]

The Pura Pura Public Hall has stood empty for some years and there are plans by the Ararat Rural City (who took over

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

management of the hall in 1994 after the state-wide amalgamation of municipalities.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [21] *Victoria Government Gazette*. No. 69, 1921, 1542.
- [22] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [23] *Ibid.*, 3,5.
- [24] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
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- [26] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [27] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
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- [29] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [30] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [31] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [32] *Ibid.*, 92-94.
- [33] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [34] *Rural Townships*.
- [35] 'Pura Pura.' *The Argus*, 16 January 1922, 8.
- [36] 'Pura Pura School.' *Camperdown Chronicle*, 14 July 1932, 4.
- [37] 'Pura Pura.' *Camperdown Chronicle*, 10 February 1947, 1.
- [38] 'Clearing Sale.' *Camperdown Chronicle*, 25 January 1952, 5.
- [39] PROV, Public Building File, 7882/P1/1073.

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[40] PROV, Public Building File, 7882/P1/1073.

[41] PROV, Public Building File, 7882/P1/1073.

Description

Physical Description

The Pura Pura Public Hall is a timber framed building with metal sheet cladding to the walls with horizontal square edge corrugations. The main hall section of the building has a gable roof running perpendicular to the street with corrugated metal sheet cladding and cement sheet cladding to the gable end. There is a painted board sign across the front of the gable end stating Pura Pura Public Hall. There are evenly spaced metal framed sliding windows with a fixed upper pane, on the side elevations of the hall. At the front of the building are concrete block wings either side of the entry and the flat roof over these rooms forms an open entry porch in front of the main entry doors to the hall. The front elevation of each concrete block wing has a timber framed double hung window. At the rear south corner of the building is a hip roofed wing projecting south. This section has timber framed double hung windows.

At the front of the site there are double wire mesh gates with timber gateposts, which most likely pre-date the existing hall.

Physical Condition

Pura Pura Public Hall was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Pura Pura Public Hall located on Darlington-Carranballac Road, Pura Pura. The location and original form, materials and details of the hall and entrance gates are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Pura Pura Public Hall is of local historical and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Pura Pura Public Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the second wave of soldier settlement in the Pura Pura district after World War Two. The Terinallum North Estate, centring on Pura Pura, was originally opened up for soldier settlement in 1921, but a second wave of soldier settlement occurred following World War Two, boosting the farming population of districts such as Pura Pura. A community hall was first erected in Pura Pura in 1921 but the second wave of soldier settlement initiated the need for a new hall, with this larger replacement hall erected in 1957. The hall demonstrates that the 1950s was the most prosperous period for the Pura Pura district, with the post World War Two settlers experiencing more success than the earlier soldier settlement farmers. The construction of the concrete block toilet wings at the front of the building in 1979 demonstrates that there was still a strong local farming community in the district at that time. The hall is the only public building indicating the existence of the Pura Pura settlement area. The entrance gates, which pre-date the existing Hall indicate that the site was used for that purpose prior to the 1950s. (Criterion A)

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The Pura Pura Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since the 1950s. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings, concerts and memorial ceremonies since its completion in 1957. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front double gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

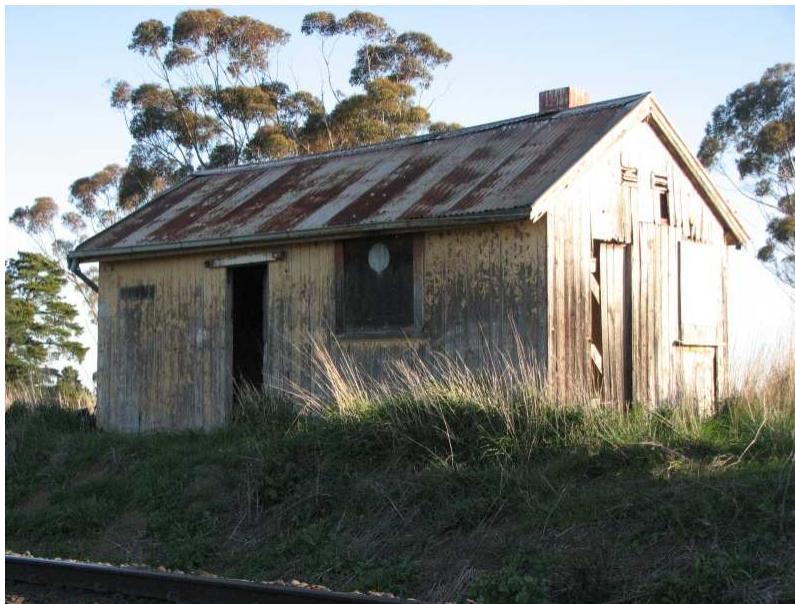
No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Pura Pura Railway Station, Pines and Sugar Gums		
Address	Nerrin Nerrin-Pura Pura Road PURA PURA	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Station Building		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts were included in the boundaries of seven runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846; and Terinallum taken up by the Clyde Company in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (later known as Streatham) and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Later surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail from Melbourne to Portland from mid-1844.[6] Crossroads were established where the boundaries of Nerrin Nerrin, Blythvale, Menenia and Yalla-y-Poora stations met, near the site of present-day Mininera Railway Station.[7] From 1859, coaches traversed the road, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[8]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[10] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[11] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[12] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[13] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, on which the Mininera and Mininera East settlements were established.[14]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[15] effectively giving rise to the settlements of Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin and the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway.

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With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[16] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[17] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the construction of a store and post office in the same year.[18] A post office was conducted at the Pura Pura Railway Station from 1913 to 1924. Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[19] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[20] boosting the population of the Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin districts. The Terinallum North Estate, 12,990 acres centring on Pura Pura and part of the original Terinallum run, was opened in 1921 for soldier settlement.[21] The Gheringhap-Maroon railway line was important in facilitating soldier settlement in these aforementioned districts.

A hall was constructed at Pura Pura ca 1922 and a school opened at Nerrin Nerrin in 1925.[22] A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[23] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[24] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere. A bridge was opened over Emu Creek at Pura Pura in 1940.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] The Trawalla Estate was established in 1954 on the Nerrin Nerrin run where nine soldier settlers took up farms.[26] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[27] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere, Mininera, Nerrin Nerrin and Pura Pura districts.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[28]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[29] The Nerrin Nerrin school closed in 1950. On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroon railway line ended, impacting on stations at Westmere, Mininera, Pura Pura and Nerrin Nerrin. The Pura Pura Post Office closed in 1966.

St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952 and a supper room was added to the Westmere Hall in the same year.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rorke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters General's Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rorke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[30]

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Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[35]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[36] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

By 1900, the Western Plains were encircled by railways, but crossed by none. In 1908, investigation for the construction of a railway across the plains commenced to connect the Ararat-Hamilton line to either the Geelong-Ballarat or Geelong-Colac line. Routes from Bannockburn, Moriac or Winchelsea were considered.[37]

In December 1908, the Winchelsea Railway League wrote to the Premier of Victoria, Sir Thomas Bent, requesting that a flying survey be made for the proposed Willaura to Geelong Railway to connect at Winchelsea. It was argued that there would be no engineering difficulties and that a saving of thousands of pounds in construction costs could be made. Most of the route would cross first class agricultural land suitable for wheat, oats and barley growing.[38]

The final agreed route for the Western Plains Line was from Gheringhap, via Inverleigh, Cressy, Lismore and Derrinallum to Maroona, which served as the junction between this line and the branch line to Portland. The construction of the line was advanced by the need to find an alternate route to the Western Line, which was steeply graded in crossing the Great Dividing Range, between Ararat and Bacchus Marsh; plans to make Geelong the primary port for the export of bulk grains; and attempts to develop Portland as a major frozen lamb export point.[39]

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three

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year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria. Construction, heading west from Cressy, commenced on 27 September 1910, and from Maroona in an eastwards direction in March 1911. Goods were hauled for the public between Maroona and Tatyoon from April 1912 and Westmere from September 1912. Tracklaying over the full distance was completed on February 22 1913 and some regular public train services commenced.[40] The line opened on 8 August 1913 with construction undertaken to the standards and designs provided by Victorian Railways with a station at Pura Pura under the charge of Mr L. Miles. The railway line was finally officially opened at Lismore on Friday August 8 1913[41] and was important in facilitating the post World War One Soldier Settlement Scheme in the Pura Pura district.

A standard Victorian Railways timber portable station building, with waiting room, was erected at the Pura Pura Railway Station ca 1913.[42] It was a small class 4 station building containing a booking office and a parcels office, which doubled as a waiting room for the few passengers. No bulk grain handling facilities were ever provided at Pura Pura station.[43]

There is evidence of a short goods platform, on which was constructed a small goods shed.

A 1910 type class 3 railway residence was constructed at 2158 Darlington-Carranbal Road, most likely for the officer in charge.[44]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroona line ended. The station was reduced to a no one in charge status in 1967. This effectively meant the station was closed, although goods could be still received or loaded in wagon load lots.[45]

Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a further reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented.

The centenary of the Gheringhap-Marroona Railway was celebrated in 2013.

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- [28] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [29] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [30] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [31] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [32] Ibid., 92-94.
- [33] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [34] *Rural Townships*.
- [35] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.
- [36] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.
- [37] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.
- [38] Ibid.
- [39] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.
- [40] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."
- [41] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 98.
- [42] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."
- [43] Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.
- [44] Ibid.
- [45] Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

Description

Physical Description

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

All that remains of the Pura Pura Railway Station is the Station building, which was erected at the station in 1913. It is a standard Victorian Railways timber portable class 4 station building. It contains a booking office and a parcels office, which doubled as a waiting room. It has a single gable roof running parallel to the railway line and vertical timber board cladding. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron and has wide eaves. The windows are timber framed and double hung. There is a chimney on the opposite side to the trackside elevation. It is red brick with a soldier course capping. There is a single door and window to the trackside elevation.

Evidence also remains of a short goods platform, where a goods shed once stood. The railway track is also still extant as are pines and sugar gums that are remnant indicators of the extent of the railway reserve.

Physical Condition

The station building was in poor condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Pura Pura Railway Station consisting of the timber station building, remnant goods platform, pines and sugar gums located on the Nerrin Nerrin-Pura Pura Road, Pura Pura, The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Pura Pura Railway Station is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Pura Pura Railway Station is of historical significance for its ability to demonstrate the coming of the railway to the closer settlement areas in the district and the important role it played in supporting the wheat and wool industry and settlement on the Western Plains. The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona was officially opened in August 1913 and it was substantially due to this new rail link that the settlement of Pura Pura developed. (Criterion A)

The Pura Pura Railway Station remnants are aesthetically significant as an evocative reminder of the once important rail network in the area and as an indicator that Pura Pura was a more populous and productive township around the beginning of the 20th century. The station building, erected around 1913 is a representative example of a small class 4 station building designed by the Victorian Railways in the early 20th century. (Criterion B)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes pines and sugar gums
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Stone Wine Cellar	
Address	857 Moyston-Great Western Road RHYMNEY	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Vineyard/Winery	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments under this Act and also the 1869 *Land Act* were taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population.[22]

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28] In 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef and site for a school was reserved in 1874. In addition, a site for a mechanics' institute and free library was reserved in 1895 and a recreation reserve was gazetted in 1902.

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

The Duver family took up a number of allotments in the Rhymney district under the 1869 *Land Act*. [31]

Under the Act, Henrich Christian Duver, who was married to Anna Catherina Duver, came to own Allotment 11, Section A, twenty acres, in the Parish of Lexington. After Henrich died in 1884, the property was passed on to his wife, then on to other Duver family members.[32]

The Duver family established a vineyard in the 1870s and constructed a stone wine cellar on Allotment 11. Members of the wine committee of the Centennial Exhibition visited vineyards in the Ararat district in December 1887, including that owned by Messrs Duver.[33]

A report in 1892 describing the Rhymney district included the Duver vineyard:

It is a pleasure to drive through the Rhymney vineyards, the plants have such vigorous health and give such generous returns. The cultivation of the soil is all that could be wished. Dotted along the valley are many small vineyards, the best known of which are those of Mr. J. Pola, Messrs. H. Slade and Son, and Mrs. F. Duver. The area under vines is extending rapidly... Nearly the whole of the wine made in the Rhymney vineyards is purchased by Mr. Irvine, who takes delivery before it is 12 months old. [34]

The stone wine cellar is still owned by the Duver family.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences

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were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] Ibid., 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] Ibid., 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

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[23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Lexington Parish Plan, J. C. Kelsh, 1875.

[32] Probate and Administration Files, PROV VPRS 28/P3/456.

[33] 'TOWN NEWS.' *The Australasian*, 17 December 1887, 27.

[34] 'THE VINTAGE.' *The Australasian*, 30 April 1892, 6.

Description

Physical Description

The wine cellar comprises a tall coursed random stone building with a gable roof clad in corrugated iron. There is a hip roofed narrow, long porch with stone walls projecting from gable end over the staircase leading to the cellar. The roof to this entry is also clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There are short wing walls either side of the porch with a coping stone across the top. To the rear of the tall stone section is a corrugated iron clad wing that extends the existing roofline and wall line to approximately the same length as the stone section. There are no openings in the side walls of the stone section but there louvre openings along the sides of the corrugated iron clad section. There are rectangular roof lights to the roof of the stone section.

Physical Condition

The wine cellar was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Stone Wine Cellar located at 857 Moyston-Great Western Road Rhymney. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the wine cellar contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Stone Wine Cellar located at 857 Moyston-Great Western Road, Rhymney is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Stone Wine Cellar is of historic significance for its demonstration of the early establishment of vineyards in the Shire and for its associations with the pioneering vigneron in the district, the Duver family. The Duver family took up a number of allotments in the Rhymney district under the 1869 *Land Act*, with Henrich Christian Duver owning 20 acres on which a vineyard was planted in the 1870s and on which the stone wine cellar was constructed. After Henrich died in 1884, the property was passed on to his wife, Anna Catherine Duver, then on to other Duver family members. The wine cellar is still owned by the Duver family. (Criteria A & H)

The Stone Wine Cellar is of aesthetic significance as a rare intact example of a mid 19th century wine cellar demonstrating key attributes of the building type and age. These attributes include the gable roofed form of the building, its scale and its substantial stone wall construction. The imposing stone building is a landmark in the Rhymney district landscape providing a visual reminder of the early establishment of the wine industry in the Shire. (Criteria B & D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Brick Farmhouse and Canary Island Palm		
Address	Pentland Creek Road RHYMNEY	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Farm, Tree		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

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Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

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The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments under this Act and also the 1869 *Land Act* were taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population.[22]

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28] In 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef and site for a school was reserved in 1874. In addition, a site for a mechanics' institute and free library was reserved in 1895 and a recreation reserve was gazetted in 1902.

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as

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small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

The Pola family took up a number of allotments in the Lexington Parish under the 1869 *Land Act*, including land taken up by Pietro Pola and John Pola at Rhymney.[31]

Pietro Polo, aged 21, left his homeland in the canton of Girsens, Switzerland, to embark on the 'Marco Polo' ship, which departed from Liverpool in late 1858. It is believed that Pietro had a background in viticulture and winemaking as family papers from 1894 make mention of 40 pieces of property in Switzerland, including 'vineyards at Selvetta'.[32]

The Pola brothers planted their first vines at Rhymney in the early 1870s, with John Pola establishing 'St Paul's' vineyard, and Pietro Pola establishing 'St Mark's'. Their pioneering work as vigneron led many others to plant vines in the district. In 1887 the Centennial Exhibition Wine Committee visited the area. At that time, Pietro had 16 acres under vines and had established a substantial stone cellar with a large underground area for wine maturation and storage. A three-year old blend of tokay and chasselas impressed visitors.[33]

A report in 1892 describing the Rhymney district included the Pola vineyard:

It is a pleasure to drive through the Rhymney vineyards, the plants have such vigorous health and give such generous returns. The cultivation of the soil is all that could be wished. Dotted along the valley are many small vineyards, the best known of which are those of Mr. J. Pola, Messrs. H. Slade and Son, and Mrs. F. Duver. The area under vines is extending rapidly... Nearly the whole of the wine made in the Rhymney vineyards is purchased by Mr. Irvine, who takes delivery before it is 12 months old.[34]

By 1894, Pietro had 70 acres under grapes at St Mark's, and John Pola had 40 acres of grapes growing.[35]

Pietro Pola died in 1924 aged 88 years. His probate inventory described the real estate he owned in Lexington and Concogella Parishes: a total of approximately 496 acres, known as St Mark's. The property, including land, buildings, cellars, machinery and casks, was left to Pietro's son, John Peter Pola.[36]

J. P. Pola added to his St Pauls vineyard through the purchase in 1928 of St. Andrew's vineyard, Rhymney, owned by

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Best's Great Western Wines Ltd., for more than £5,000.[37]

Wine production continued on the property, which still remains in the Pola family, until the 1950s.[38] Grazing was also undertaken on the property in later years. It is likely the current residence was built by the Pola family after Pietro Pola's death in 1924.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

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[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaly, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] *Ibid.*, 104.

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- [16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.
- [17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.
- [19] Ibid., 253.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.
- [21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.
- [23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.
- [24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.
- [26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.
- [27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.
- [28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.
- [29] Ibid., 129.
- [30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.
- [31] Lexington Parish Plan, J. C. Kelsh, 1875.
- [32] 'Our History', Donovan Wines, 2013. Available <http://www.donovanwines.com.au/our-history>.
- [33] 'Our History', Donovan Wines, 2013. Available <http://www.donovanwines.com.au/our-history>.
- [34] 'THE VINTAGE.' *The Australasian*, 30 April 1892, 6.
- [35] "THE VINTAGE AT GREAT WESTERN." *The Australasian*, 14 April 1894, 6.
- [36] Probate and Administration Files, PROV, VPRS 28/P3/1534.
- [37] "COUNTRY NEWS." *The Argus*, 17 December 1928, 20.

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[38]'Our History', Donovan Wines, 2013. Available <http://www.donovanwines.com.au/our-history>.

Description

Physical Description

This is a brick farmhouse with a diagonal axis plan. It was constructed ca. 1930. It has a main central hip roofed wing with projecting hip wings at diagonal corners and a corner verandah in between. The roof is green painted corrugated galvanised iron. The walls are red brick with no render detailing or other adornment. The verandah roof is an extension of the main hipped roof. There is a skillion wing to the rear. The windows are timber framed and double hung. The verandah has a brick balustrade with tapered rendered pillars. There are two tall rectangular plan chimneys, one to the main section and one to the rear skillion section. There is a Canary Island palm at the front of the residence.

Physical Condition

The residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Brick Farmhouse and Canary Island Palm located on Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney. The original form, materials and detailing of the farmhouse and Canary Island palm contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Brick Farmhouse and Canary Island Palm located on Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Brick Farmhouse at Rhymney is of historic significance for its demonstration of the early establishment of vineyard properties in the Shire and for its associations with the pioneering vigneron in the Rhymney district, the Pola family. Pietro and John Pola who migrated from Switzerland in the late 1850s took up land at Rhymney and planted their first vines in the early 1870s. John Pola established 'St Paul's' vineyard and Pietro Pola established 'St Mark's'. Their pioneering work as vigneron led many others to plant vines in the district. The property on which this house stands formed part of Pietro Pola's St Mark's vineyard, which passed to his son John Peter Pola, upon Pietro's death in 1924 and the property remained in the Pola family until the 1950s. (Criteria A & H)

The Brick Farmhouse is of aesthetic significance as an intact example of modest inter-war style bungalow farmhouse. Features of note include the unadorned plain red face brickwork, tall, narrow brick chimneys, solid verandah with brick balustrade and pillars, and timber framed, double hung windows. The Canary Island Palm contributes to the setting of the place being characteristic of gardens of the Inter-War period and compliments the style of the residence. (Criterion D)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Canary Island palm

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

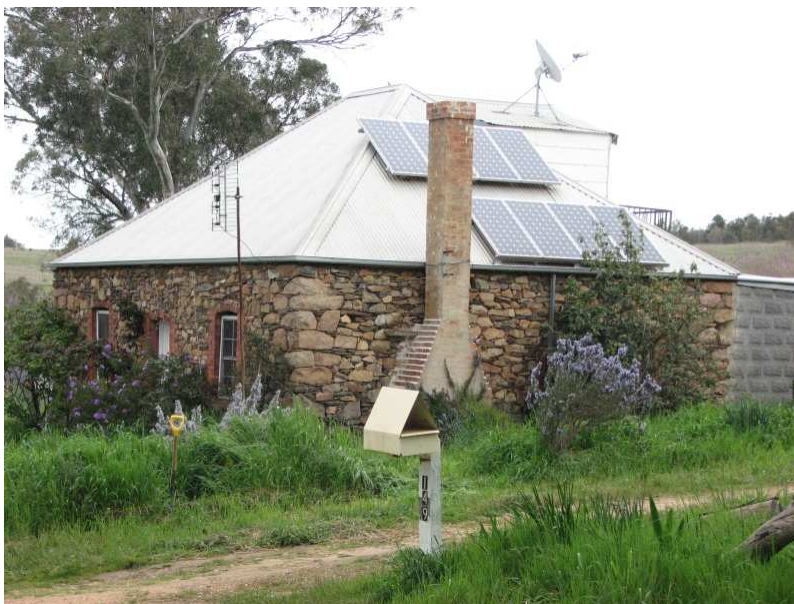
No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Stone Residence	
Address	149 Pentland Creek Road RHYMNEY	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

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subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

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Place history:

Allotments 23, 23A, 23B and 8B, Section A, Parish of Lexington, were taken up by Garret O'Brien under the 1869 *Land Act* and owned freehold by him over the period 1880-93.[31]

Garret O'Brien, who was a vigneron, and his wife Ann (Nancy) nee Herd, and two sons lived at Rhymney in a stone house built ca. 1870s. A fire that started in the Black Ranges burnt through Rhymney in February 1891, destroying the O'Briens' home, wine cellar, vineyard and barn.[32]

The O'Briens rebuilt their house and cellars and the vineyard was included in a description of the Rhymney district in the *Australasian* in 1893:

The soil in the Rhymney vineyards is of a more fertile description than that at Great Western. The yield of wine is usually larger, and it is of a slightly heavier description. The vineyards are situated along one side of a valley, and are all in a clump. The growth and vigorous appearance of the vines gives a good indication of the strength of the soil. The vineyards in this neighbourhood are noted for the care taken by the proprietors in maintaining the soil in a high state of cultivation.[33]

Garret and Nancy O'Brien both died in 1899. Garret O'Brien's real estate at the time of his death included a stone house with iron roof and buildings erected on Allotment 23A, Section A, Parish of Lexington, and valued at £70. O'Brien's residence and land passed to his sons, Thomas O'Brien and William Smith O'Brien.[34]

The stone house at 149 Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney, was therefore built in the early 1890s by the O'Brien family of vignerons and was still owned by the same family in the 1970s. It continues to be lived in today.

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] *Ibid.*, 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] *Ibid.*, 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

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[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] Lexington Parish Plan, J. C. Kelsh, 1875.

[32] "AGRICULTURAL. BUSH FIRES IN THE COUNTRY." *The Australasian*, 21 February 1891, 9.

[33] "THE VINTAGE." *The Australasian*, 6 May 1893, 6.

[34] PROV, Probate and Administration Files, VPRS 28/P2/533.

Description

Physical Description

The original part of this residence comprises the main rectangular wing with a tall hipped roof clad in corrugated metal sheet. The walls are constructed of random rubble with larger stone used at the corners and red brick quoining to the windows and door openings. The front elevation contains a central door with a timber framed window either side. There is a tall brick chimney towards the front on the north side. Later additions to the rear include a tall hardiplank clad dormer and a concrete block wing skillion roofed wing. These later additions do not contribute to the significance of the place

Physical Condition

The residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Stone Residence located at 149 Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney. The location and original form, materials and details of the random stone residence are integral to the significance of the place.

The rear skillion roofed concrete block wing and tall hardi-plank clad dormer do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Stone Residence at 149 Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Stone Residence is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early establishment of vineyard properties in the Rhymney district and for its association with the family of vigneron the O'Briens. Garret O'Brien, who was a vigneron, and his wife Ann (Nancy) nee Herd, and two sons lived at Rhymney in a stone house built ca. 1870s. A fire in February 1891 destroyed their original home, wine cellar, vineyard and barn and they rebuilt this stone dwelling soon after. When Garret and Nancy O'Brien died in 1899 the residence and land passed to their sons, Thomas O'Brien and William Smith O'Brien and the property continued to be owned by the same family until the 1970s. (Criteria A & H)

The Stone Residence is aesthetically significant as an example of a late Victorian stone residence constructed from local materials. The random field stone used for the walls would have been collected from the local area. The quoining around the windows and door openings contributes to the picturesque appearance of the residence. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Brick Farmhouse and Hedge	
Address	69 Pentland Creek Road RHYMNEY	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. Mitchell first glimpsed the mountain range he was to later name the Grampians on 10 July 1836, and named Mount William and Mount Zero on 11 July 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September

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1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day.[2]

Around the same time, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the Port Phillip District to graze mainly sheep.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's Land via Geelong and Portland Bay, the latter occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after squatters from north of the Murray River arrived, attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Moyston, Norval and Rhymney districts were incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Barton, 38,000 acres, taken up by R. H. Bunbury in 1841; and Lexington, La Rose and Mokepille, 120,000 acres, taken up by C. B. Hall in 1840.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Tom Wills, the eldest son of Horatio and Elizabeth Wills, who took over the Lexington run in 1841, became a well-known Australian cricketer and, after observing local Aboriginal people playing a game with a possum skin ball, is said to have founded the game of Australian Rules Football.[6] A memorial to Wills was unveiled at Moyston in 1998.

In what was to become the Ararat Shire, gold was first discovered in May 1854 on the Burrumbeep run at a place that became known as Pinky Point on the Mount William goldfield. By 21 June 1854, between 600 and 1,000 people had arrived.[7] Several new alluvial rushes occurred in 1855, which led to the development of two other goldfields: Mount Ararat (later Cathcart) and Armstrong's. A series of discoveries from 1856 to 1858, including a rush to Opossum Gully (Norval) in 1856, resulted in the assembly of one of the largest mining populations at any of the Victorian diggings. The peak of the Ararat rush came in 1857, when Chinese gold seekers discovered the Canton Lead (later known as Ararat), and a party of European miners opened Campbell's Reef where a school opened in 1858.

Another party of prospectors struck a payable reef at Campbell's Reef (Moyston) in July 1859, which soon featured a large pyrites works.[8] From September 1859 to January 1860, an estimated 20,000 people rushed Campbell's Reef, and in February 1860, a new rush commenced nearby at Milkman's claim. Moonlight Reef was struck in May 1860, and the population rose to 3,000; in October of the same year, 500 diggers were on the ground at Londonderry, while smithies, butchers, bakers and two dairy men were on their way from Ararat. However, by the end of 1860, the population of the diggings had dropped to 400.[9]

In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments under this Act and also the 1869 *Land Act* were taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[22] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the

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district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:

The Pola family took up a number of allotments in the Lexington Parish under the 1869 *Land Act*, including land taken up by Pietro Pola and John Pola.[31]

Pietro Pola, aged 21, left his homeland in the canton of Girsens, Switzerland to embark on the 'Marco Polo' ship, which departed from Liverpool in late 1858. It is believed that Pietro had a background in viticulture and winemaking as family papers from 1894 make mention of 40 pieces of property in Switzerland, including 'vineyards at Selvetta'.[32]

Pietro and John Pola took up land at Rhymney. The Pola brothers planted their first vines in the early 1870s, with John Pola establishing 'St Paul's' vineyard, and Pietro Pola establishing 'St Mark's'. Their pioneering work as vigneron led many others to plant vines in the district.[33]

A report in 1892 describing the Rhymney district included the Pola vineyard:

It is a pleasure to drive through the Rhymney vineyards, the plants have such vigorous health and give such generous returns. The cultivation of the soil is all that could be wished. Dotted along the valley are many small vineyards, the best known of which are those of Mr. J. Pola, Messrs. H. Slade and Son, and Mrs. F. Duver. The area under vines is extending rapidly... Nearly the whole of the wine made in the Rhymney vineyards is purchased by Mr. Irvine, who takes delivery before it is 12 months old.[34]

By 1894, Pietro had 70 acres under grapes at St Mark's, and John Pola had 40 acres of grapes growing.[35]

John Pola, married to Harriet, died in 1897 after being run over by a train at Great Western. The real estate listed in John's probate was described as Allotments 6 and 7, Section A, Parish of Lexington, on which was erected a weatherboard house containing four rooms with partitions of canvas and paper and iron roof; a wine cellar; and one three roomed house built of slabs. Forty acres were planted to vines.[36]

The property, which by 1917 included a concrete house, was passed on to John and Harriet's son, John Peter Pola, who died in 1922. His real estate at the time of his death in 1922 was described as 226 acres, including Allotments 5A, 6 and 7, Section A, Parish of Lexington, on which was erected a five roomed concrete dwelling house and kitchen, old house,

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dairy, stables, chaff house, farm buildings, and about 40 acres of vineyard.[37]

The property remains in ownership of the Pola family today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaly, 1974), 45.

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[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] *Ibid.*, 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

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- [17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.
- [18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.
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- [22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.
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- [25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.
- [26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.
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- [28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.
- [29] Ibid., 129.
- [30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.
- [31] Lexington Parish Plan, J. C. Kelsh, 1875.
- [32] 'Our History', Donovan Wines, 2013. Available <http://www.donovanwines.com.au/our-history>.
- [33] 'Our History', Donovan Wines, 2013. Available <http://www.donovanwines.com.au/our-history>.
- [34] 'THE VINTAGE.' *The Australasian*, 30 April 1892, 6.
- [35] "THE VINTAGE AT GREAT WESTERN." *The Australasian*, 14 April 1894, 6.
- [36] Probate and Administration Files, PROV, VPRS 28/P2/461.
- [37] Probate and Administration Files, PROV, VPRS 28/P3/1338.

Description

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Physical Description

This farmhouse comprises of two main wings constructed of red brick. The main front wing with a gable roof appears to have been constructed ca. 1940s: this is indicated by the eaves, the short twin timber framed double hung windows and the verandah with its pokerwork brick balustrade and brick pillars. The other main wing also has a gable roof, however the broad brick chimneys with render corncicing indicate an earlier date of construction. The residence also has a mixture of narrow timber framed double hung windows (Victorian and Edwardian style) and shorter twin double hung windows, which were common in the 1930s to 1950s period. It is probable that the ca. 1940s residence incorporated an earlier residence. The roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheet.

There is a hedge to the front of the property.

Physical Condition

The residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Brick Farmhouse and Hedge located at 69 Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney. The location and form, materials and detailing of the earlier and later stages of the farmhouse and hedge contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Brick Farmhouse and Hedge located at 69 Pentland Creek Road, Rhymney are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Brick Farmhouse at Rhymney is of historic significance for its demonstration of the early establishment of vineyard properties in the Shire and for its associations with the pioneering vigneron in the Rhymney district, the Pola family. Pietro and John Pola who migrated from Switzerland in the late 1850s took up land at Rhymney and planted their first vines in the early 1870s. John Pola established 'St Paul's' vineyard and Pietro Pola established 'St Mark's'. Their pioneering work as vigneron led many others to plant vines in the district. The property on which this house stands formed part of John Pola's St Paul's vineyard, which passed to his son John Peter Pola on his mother Harriet's death in 1917, and the property has remained in the Pola family to the present day. (Criteria A & H)

The Brick Farmhouse is of aesthetic significance as an intact example of a modest circa 1940s bungalow farmhouse, which incorporates an earlier residence. Features of the ca.1940s wing include the gable roofed with tall narrow chimney and return verandah with brick balustrade and brick pillars. Features indicating the incorporation of an earlier building include the broad red brick chimneys with render corncicing and narrow timber framed double hung windows. The front hedge contributes to the setting of the place and provides a grand entrance to the property. (Criterion D)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes front hedge

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Rocky Point Hall and Pines	
Address	730 Moyston-Rocky Point Road ROCKY POINT	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Moyston, Rocky Point, Norval and Rhymney districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

As part of an expedition ordered by Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell explored the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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In 1864, the bulk of the Ararat Mining Division's 1,500 mining population was reported as being concentrated in five main localities: Campbell's Reef, Rocky Point, Ararat, Opossum Gully (Norval) and Armstrong's. They were principally involved in re-working the gullies: in March 1864, the mining registrar calculated that 30 puddling machines and 200 sluices and toms were in use throughout the division.[10] One thousand prospectors looked for gold in Shay's Flat and Providence Gully in 1864-65, but the district was not well known until quartz reef miners profitably opened up Rhymney Reef in October 1868. The area became known as Rhymney and produced gold at intervals for the next twenty years, with nearly two hundred miners working on the reef in the winter of 1895.[11]

The Great Extended at Moyston commenced operations in 1866, but by the early 1870s, partly because of the problem of pumping out water from the mines, many of the companies had ceased operations.[12] Moyston's gold mining industry declined after 1874 because the existing companies did not have the capital for deeper sinking, although the Moyston reefs continued to provide employment for a limited number of miners through until the 1890s. The last Moyston mine to close was the Golden Gate in 1910.[13] The gold won on the Moyston field totalled approximately 40,790 ounces.[14]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. In Ararat in May 1858, between 4,000 and 5,000 miners and would-be farmers demanded the right to free selection of land at a torchlight meeting of the Ararat Land and Reform League.[15] In 1860, 'every man a vote, a rifle, and farm' was the cry of a demonstration outside parliament house in Melbourne. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of

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leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. This acreage included 'special' lands near towns, and 80-640 acre holdings in the 'country' lands. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of this acreage was leased on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[16] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Moyston district.[17]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Under Sections 33 and 34, residence and cultivation licenses were issued to people occupying land on the goldfields and under the same Act, goldfield commons were established. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[18] but again mostly into the hands of the squatters, however a number of allotments were taken up in the districts of Moyston, Rhymney and Opossum Gully. A flour mill was established at Opossum Gully in the 1860s and the post office at Opossum Gully was renamed 'Norval' in 1893.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected. Some three million acres were selected under this Act.[19] Section 42 of the 1865 Act allowed people to reside on and cultivate Crown land of up to 20 acres in and around the goldfields under annual licenses. Under this section, Chinese residents established extensive market gardens. One quarter of a million acres were made available through the Ararat Land Office under the 1865 Act, with over 550 intending selectors crowding the office on 5 June 1865, its first day of dealing with the Act.[20] The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[21] Messrs Chirnside and Logan, for example, retained a large portion of their Burrumbeep run. However allotments under this Act and also the 1869 *Land Act* were taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston, Rocky Point and Rhymney districts. By the 1870s, Moyston was the centre of a large farming population[22] and in 1875 a post office opened at Rhymney Reef.

Moyston township was surveyed on Campbell's Reef, where a school had been established in a tent in 1857, with allotments put up for sale in November 1861. In the 1860s, seven or eight quartz mines were working and a row of engine houses, crushing machines and whims outlined the reef. By the 1870s, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), three stores, three hotels, school, a police station and miners' tents made up the township.[23] The settlement was known as Campbell's Reef until 1866, the year the post office was renamed 'Moyston'.

The Moyston Progress Association formed in 1864, the same year a racecourse and recreation reserve was put aside in the Moyston township. The Moyston Common School was finished in 1865. In 1867, the Ararat to Moyston road was constructed and crossed the Mount Ararat Range via a cutting made by the Carroll brothers. In 1868, a doctor and Justice of the Peace established services in Moyston, a timber courthouse from Ararat was moved to Moyston, and the Moyston Mechanics' Institute opened.[24] About 1,500 people lived in Moyston in 1867, but by 1871 the Moyston township only had a population of 510.[25] In 1874, Moyston State School No. 1263 commenced operation. New police quarters were built in 1883. By 1901, Moyston's population had decreased to 127.[26]

Selectors took up wheat farming and some grew fruit and established dairying on the creek flats. Viticulture was also established in the district. In 1880, nearly 15,000 gallons of wine were produced in the Ararat Shire.[27] In the 1880s and 1890s, twenty vineyards in the Rhymney district were in operation.[28] At Rocky Point, a school opened in 1902 and a hall in 1906.

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the Shire of Ararat to introduce their own closer settlement schemes in 1907-08, with the owners of Lexington

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subdividing and selling 5,000 acres between Moyston and Cathcart.[29] The subdivision brought more farmers to the district, most of whom took up agriculture and grazing. The Moyston Public Hall opened in 1914. A recreation reserve at Moyston was reserved in the early 1940s, power was connected to the township in 1956 and a supper room was added to the Moyston Public Hall in 1964.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 1999 and again in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians, including Mafeking, Moyston, Barton, Jallukar and Pomonal. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died.

With farm amalgamation from the 1970s the farming population in the district declined, however subdivision of land close to Moyston in the mid-1970s brought a number of families to the area. A new general store opened in 1977. Grape growing and winemaking today is flourishing in the district of Moyston. A sheep dog competition established in Moyston in 1928 is the longest consecutively run sheep dog trial event to be held in Victoria.[30] Moyston today is served by a church, school, post office and hall. The Moyston Progress Association still continues to play a vital role in district life.

Place history:[31]

Rocky Point State School No. 3417 opened in 1902 in a wattle and daub building erected by local residents, primarily for church services, in the mid-1890s. The Rocky Point school committee asked the Education Department to provide a teacher and to furnish the building. Prior to 1902, Rocky Point children travelled to Moyston and Cathcart for their schooling.

Because of increased enrolments, a new school building was required. In 1906, a galvanised iron hall and school building was erected on a five-acre site north of the original school. The building was constructed by Ararat contractor George Scovell. The building measured 31 feet by 15 feet and could accommodate 119 adults. It was built of wood with an iron roof, with timber lined walls and ceiling, and a brick fireplace. The Education Department rented the Rocky Point Hall from the community for use as the Rocky Point State School.

A recreation reserve of two acres was gazetted next to the Rocky Point Hall in 1914.

After population dwindled in the area, the school closed in 1927.

The Rocky Point Hall was used for school classes as well as for church services and as a Sunday school. It also served as a community meeting place for euchre parties, dances, meetings, concerts, memorial services for those killed in World War One, and fetes.

The pine trees on site were significantly affected by the Moyston district fire of 2015.

The hall continues to be used by the local community today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment,

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[6] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[7] Ian D. Clark, *From Barley to Burrumbeep : A Family History of Leonard Clark and Sarah Bowtell* (Jeeralang Junction, Vic.: Heritage Matters Pty. Ltd, 1996), 20.

[8] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, August 1999), 2.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 80-81.

[10] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 10.

[11] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 83. Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 45.

[12] "Victorian Goldfields Project Historic Gold Mining Sites in the South West Region of Victoria: Report on Cultural Heritage," 2.

[13] A. W. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston* (Moyston, Vic.: Moyston Progress Association, 1989), 5.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 81-82.

[15] Ibid., 104.

[16] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[17] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 104.

[18] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[19] Ibid., 253.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 108.

[21] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

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[22] *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 117.

[23] Ibid., 81. Vanstan, *Reminiscences of Moyston*, 5.

[24] 'Moyston' in "Rural Townships," Ararat Rural City Council, <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[25] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 321. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 18.

[26] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 321.

[27] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 28.

[28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 139-40.

[29] Ibid., 129.

[30] Information provided at Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Moyston, 31 May 2012.

[31] L. J. Blake, ed. *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education*, vol. 2 (Melbourne: Education Department Victoria, 1974), 102. Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882/P1/513.

Description

Physical Description

The Rocky Point Hall is a rudimentary building. It comprises a single hall wing with a hip roof running east west, clad in corrugated galvanised iron and a skillion roofed side wing to the rear of the north side elevation. The walls are also clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The front elevation contains a central single vertical timber clad door with no other adornment. The south side elevation contains four evenly spaced, timber framed, double hung windows, which are original. The north side elevation contains a central brick chimney with cornice and the skillion wing also has a brick chimney with cornice on its north side. The skillion wing has a vertical clad timber door facing the front of the building. There are no windows to the north side. There are two corrugated iron tanks on brick bases at the rear of the building and set back further behind the building are two skillion roofed toilet buildings, also clad in corrugated galvanised iron. These toilet buildings are in line with each other but set apart.

Pine trees grow on the boundaries, although some of these were affected by the 2015 Moyston district fire.

Physical Condition

The hall and toilet buildings were in fair condition in November 2013. Some of the boundary pine trees were affected by fire in 2015.

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Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Rocky Point Hall located at 730 Moyston-Rocky Point Road, Rocky Point. The location and original form, materials and details of the 1906 hall, corrugated iron clad toilet building and boundary pine trees are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Rocky Point Hall is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Rocky Point Hall is of historical significance for the important role it played in the education and civic life of Rocky Point and for its demonstration of a once more populous settlement in the early 20th century. The hall was constructed in 1906 and the Education Department rented the building from the community for use as the Rocky Point State School until 1927 when the school closed due to a dwindling population. The hall is still in use by the local community. (Criteria A & B)

The Rocky Point Hall is aesthetically significant as an intact example of a rudimentary rural hall. Original features of note include the vertical timber clad doors, corrugated galvanised iron cladding, timber framed double hung windows and brick chimneys with cornices. The surviving simple skillion roofed toilet buildings contribute to the setting of the hall and assist in demonstrating the rudimentary nature of the hall and school in the early 20th century. The remaining pine trees on the borders provide a marker for the location of the hall, which is well set back from the main road and contribute to the setting of the place. (Criterion D)

The Rocky Point Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since 1906. The Rocky Point Hall was used for school classes as well as for church services and as a Sunday school. It also served as a community meeting place for euchre parties, dances, meetings, concerts, memorial services for those killed in World War One, and fetes. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes boundary pine trees

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes two corrugated iron clad toilet buildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Inn and Pines	
Address	6869 Mortlake-Ararat Road ROSSBRIDGE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence, Inn/Tavern	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Maroona-Rossbridge district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition travelled south of the future Maroona and Rossbridge districts on 21 September and set up camp that night in what was to become the Tatyoon district.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

What was to become the Maroona-Rossbridge district was incorporated into the boundaries of two runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; and Mount William Plains, 20,000 acres, taken up by John Ross in 1844.[5]

Mail coaches and carriers, en route between Port Fairy and Warrnambool to Ararat, stopped at Maroona where the Sandy Creek Hotel or Hopkins Inn had been established by James Lysaght who had arrived at Portland with the Hentys.[6] A township site was surveyed at Maroona in 1861 on the Maroona-Glenhompson Road at a crossing point on the Hopkins River. Further south on the same road another inn was built on John Ross's run at a site known as Ross's Bridge. From 1858, coaches travelling between Port Fairy and Ararat twice weekly stopped at Ross's Bridge and the Hopkins Inn at Maroona.[7] Sites for a Roman Catholic Church and cemetery at Maroona were reserved in 1862. Lime burning was undertaken in the district south of Burrumbeep by the Bowtell family.[8]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land, which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[9] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Some allotments were taken up in the district of Maroona under this Act.[10]

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected, but the legislation failed to stop aggregation of land by squatters. However, some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Maroona-Ross's Bridge area, and by the late 1860s, Ross's Bridge and Maroona had been established as centres for surrounding wheat farming populations.[11] At Maroona in 1872, a school site was reserved, a post office and store opened, and land sales took place in the township. A portable building was constructed at the Maroona school in 1879.

A school opened at Ross's Bridge in 1872, and teacher's residence was built in 1874-5. A Catholic church opened at Ross's Bridge in 1886 and a Presbyterian church in 1897.[12] The name of Ross's Bridge was officially changed to Rossbridge in 1893, the same year a recreation reserve was gazetted in the township.

When the Ararat-Portland railway opened in 1877, with a station at Maroona, the population of the original Maroona settlement moved to the railway site, where a school and new hotel opened. George Angus moved the Maroona Post Office to the Maroona Railway Station ca. 1883.[13] The new Maroona township was proclaimed in 1885.

In the late 1890s improvements in cultivation techniques, including the use of machinery and superphosphate, enabled farmers to increase crop yields in the area. In addition, the demands of organised Labor and talk of land taxes provided impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the district to introduce their own closer settlement schemes.[14] Agricultural areas were subsequently surveyed on Menenia and Burrumbeep. Further private subdivision of Burrumbeep and Menenia took place in 1907-8. A wide stretch of land was put under wheat, oats and barley and brought increased activity to the Maroona Railway Station.

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with its junction at Maroona, opened on 8 August 1913[15] and brought a new

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wave of prosperity to the district. A new state school was built at a site north of the township in 1914, opening in 1915. The Maroona Soldiers Memorial Hall opened in 1924, the same year as the Maroona Hotel.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was far more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Servicemen Leagues (RSLs). One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[16] The Maroona-Rossbridge district experienced growth in the 1950s because of this settlement.

The Rossbridge Post Office closed in 1962. A new bridge was constructed over the Hopkins River at Maroona in 1972.[17]

A fire destroyed the Maroona Memorial Hall in 1974. The Rossbridge Uniting Church closed for regular services in 1981. A new brick multi-purpose pavilion was built at the Maroona football oval in 1983 and tennis courts were constructed in 1992. The Rossbridge school closed in 1993.[18]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the Maroona-Rossbridge district. Today, the Maroona Primary School provides educational facilities to the district and the Maroona Recreation Reserve continues to provide an important focus for the local community. The Rossbridge settlement is evidenced by the former bluestone school, teacher's residence and church. The original Maroona settlement site is evidenced by a cypress tree.

Place history:

The Central Road Board was established in 1851 to oversee the construction of a road network in the Colony of Victoria. The responsibility for road works was handed over to local districts, with support given through government grants, rates and tolls, under the *Roads Act* of 1853. Machinery was purchased for road making and toll gates erected to collect the necessary funds for road building.

During the mid 1850s, the Warrnambool and Belfast Road Districts agitated for a road to the Western District to connect the ports with the Ararat and Pleasant Creek goldfields and the Wimmera.[19] The Ararat to the South-Western Seaboard (Belfast - later Port Fairy) Road was subsequently constructed from 1858 by contractors employed by the Central Road Board.[20]

From 1858, mail coaches and carriers, en route between Port Fairy and Warrnambool to Ararat, stopped at Wickliffe, Ross's Bridge and Maroona, places where bluestone inns were established in the late 1850s.

One of these inns was built in 1858, before the survey of the township of Rossbridge in 1861, by Alexander (Sandy) Laing. Laing constructed a wayside inn on John Ross's run on the Ararat Road beside a bridge across the Hopkins River. The site became the nucleus of the settlement of Ross's Bridge (named after John Ross).[21] From 1858, coaches travelling between Port Fairy and Ararat twice weekly stopped at Ross's Bridge.[22]

The inn today is used as a private residence.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] George Roberston, Rossbridge resident, personal communication, January 2014.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] *Maroona Centenary 1877-1977*, (Maroona, Vic.: Maroona Primary School, 1977), 7.

[9] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 30.

[12] Ibid., 31-2.

[13] *Maroona Centenary 1877-1977*, 3.

[14] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 35.

[15] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 32, 88.

[18] Ibid., 87-88.

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[19] Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 82.

[20] *Victoria Government Gazette*. 25 May 1859, 1088; and 9 March 1860, 442.

[21] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31-2.

[22] Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 82.

Description

Physical Description

This is a single storey early Victorian bluestone former Inn set back from the road. The main rectangular section has a tall hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron and random coursed bluestone walls. There is a skillion wing to the rear, which has coursed bluestone to the outside facing walls (seen by the public) but rubble walls to the inner face. Both sections have bluestone quoins to the corners indicating that they were constructed at a similar time. There is a square bluestone chimney at the front and centre of the residence and a chimney to the skillion section at the rear. The chimneys are bluestone with bluestone corning to the top. Windows are timber framed and double hung with generally two pane sashes. The original windows are characterised by the fine timber mullions and framing typical of the early Victorian period. The openings are defined further by a flat tooled edge to the bluestone providing a narrow frame to the opening.

The front elevation comprises a four panel timber door with highlight window at either end and two evenly spaced double hung timber windows in between. The door thresholds, window sills and lintels are bluestone. The absence of a verandah to the front indicates the early age and the former use of the building as an inn.

There are two pines at the front just south of the former inn.

Physical Condition

The former inn was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Inn and two pines located at 6869 Mortlake-Ararat Road, Rossbridge. The location and original form, materials and details of the former Inn and two pines are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Inn and two pines at 6869 Mortlake-Ararat Road, Rossbridge are of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Inn at Rossbridge is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of an early Victorian Inn demonstrating the establishment of roads by the Central Road Board and early settlement of the area. The Inn was

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constructed in 1858 by Alexander Laing on the Ararat to the South-Western Seaboard Road, on which construction was commenced in the same year. The inn site became the nucleus of the settlement of Ross's Bridge (named after squatter John Ross). From 1858, coaches travelling between Port Fairy and Ararat stopped twice weekly at Ross's Bridge. (Criteria A & B)

The former Inn at Rossbridge is aesthetically significant as an excellent intact example of an early Victorian stone Inn. Features of note that demonstrate the early Victorian style include the fine timber framing and mullions to the windows, four panel timber doors, coursed stonework with quoins, tall hipped roof and stone chimneys with cornices. The former Inn is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework including the random coursing to the main section of the building, the tooled edges around openings the quoins to corners and the bluestone sills thresholds and lintels. The two pines at the front of the property provide a road marker for the former Inn and assist in indicating the age of the property. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Streatham Memorial Hall	
Address	30 Campbell Street STREATHAM	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Memorial,Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Streatham is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Fiery Creek (Streatham) district was located at the junction of four runs: the Caranballac run of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Nerrin Nerrin of 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; and View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a branch of the road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (named after the waterway by which it was located and later named Streatham), which consisted of a government centre and police station, and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail and passenger service from Melbourne to Portland via Fiery Creek from mid-1844.[6] Services to Geelong, Belfast (Port Fairy), Ballarat and Ararat followed.[7]

The Fiery Creek settlement, where the region's first post office was opened in 1844, was officially named Streatham when the township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852.[8] In 1854, when a bridge opened over Fiery Creek, the township had a population of 56.[9] In the 1850s, Aboriginal people sold fish from Fiery Creek to Brown's hotel at Streatham township, and to selectors in the district in the 1860s.[10]

In 1856, the Mount Ararat goldfield was connected to the Western District mail service by a coach twice a week to Streatham[11] and a bridge was opened in 1858 over Fiery Creek at Streatham. In the same year, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, with a stop at Streatham,[12] and from 1859 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branxholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham (a coach changing point), Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[13]

James Bonwick, Inspector of Denominational Schools, described Streatham in 1857: 'The population consists of a doctor, a publican, a storekeeper, a smith, a mailman, a bullock driver. The houses are wretched looking places on a wide plain without a garden wall to shield them from the wind.'[14] The Streatham Hotel opened in 1860.

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Township blocks in Streatham were sold in 1864, although buildings were in evidence before this year.[19] A school opened at Streatham in 1864 and was replaced with another building in 1867; in later years the school became known as

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Streatham State School No. 844, and was enlarged in 1879.[20] The Third Hotel opened in 1869.[21]

A stone church, St John's Presbyterian Church, was constructed in 1874-75 at Streatham, and included an upstairs gallery with a private pew for the owner of Fiery Creek run (a subdivision of the Carranballac run).[22].

Salt was collected from the lakes of the Streatham district in the 1880s.[23] In 1883, the township was described as comprising a savings bank and telegraph office, coach station, police barracks, a hotel, two stores, blacksmith's shop and about 80 inhabitants.[24] A hall opened in 1888. By 1901, the population of Streatham was 84.[25]

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Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin, Yalla-Y-Poora, and Blythvale, however, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[29] A recreation reserve was established at Streatham in 1920, where football, cricket, golf, basketball and tennis were played.[30]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[31] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Streatham district.

Electricity was connected to Streatham in 1939. A reticulated water supply to Streatham was delivered from Fiery Creek in 1959; the supply system was supplemented with a bore in 1969 and a reservoir in 1982. An Infant Welfare Centre was constructed in 1961 at Streatham.

New golf links were constructed in 1970 and the Streatham Hotel closed in 1971.

In February 1977 Streatham was substantially destroyed by bushfires, which burnt across western Victoria to the South Australian border. The fire in Streatham left one man dead; a further thirty people were injured.[32] In town, the post office, four shops, two garages, Presbyterian church, and 14 houses were destroyed in the blaze. The Catholic Church, memorial hall, baby health centre and six houses remained. Another 138 buildings were affected in the district. Simpson Park was established at Streatham to commemorate the fire and a new brick school opened in 1982. The state government offered to fund a small shopping centre after the fire, however not enough business owners were willing to start again and the funding was put towards improving the town's water supply instead. St John's Uniting Church was restored and re-dedicated in 1980.[33]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Streatham State School No. 844 closed in 1996. In the 1990s, two shops and a stock and station agent with a post office, and a tennis and golf club operated. The Streatham General Store, post office and stock and station agency serve

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Streatham residents today. With Mininera and Westmere, the football club known as the Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers, is also active. Streatham today has a seed cleaning business, a public hall, community centre housing the Fireworld Museum, an infant welfare centre, CFA Unit, golf course and the Uniting and Catholic churches. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:

The first Streatham Hall was built in 1888 in Campbell Street by Mr Todd of Skipton for £245.[34] Built of timber with an iron roof, it comprised an anteroom with skillion roof of 13 feet by 22 feet; a stage of 22 feet by 13 feet; and a hall 40 feet by 22 feet. A supper room of 52 feet by 16 feet was added to the west wall of the hall in 1925. Another addition to the supper room was made by J. S. Heard in 1935. Electricity was supplied to the building in the same year.[35]

Fund raising for a new hall began in the 1950s, and included the sowing and selling of crops, an 'Ugly Man' competition, garden parties, fetes, gymkhanas.[36]

In 1956, the hall was sold for £625 and removed from the site. Designs for a new memorial hall were drawn up in 1957 by Hugh Peck and Associates, architects of Melbourne. The new building with a projection box and roofed with corrugated asbestos was constructed of cream brick with a glazed brick dado, and incorporated sash windows with fixed hoppers, fixed glazed windows, and a terracotta memorial panel.[37]

The Streatham Memorial Hall was built at a cost of £23,000 and was opened in 1958 by Premier Henry Bolte. RSL officials unveiled the memorial plaque to *Maxwell Slater* and John Alexander Thomson who died in World War Two.[38]

New toilets were constructed at the hall in 1969-70.

Residents took shelter in the memorial hall during the fire of February 1977. Damage to the west side of the building caused by the fire was later restored.[39]

In 1980-81, renovations were undertaken to the building, including the installation of aluminium framed windows and brick infill work to window openings on the south wall.[40]

In 2012, a further upgrade to the hall was undertaken with funding supplied by the Australian government.

The Streatham Memorial Hall has hosted a number of community activities since its opening in 1958, including badminton, bowls, dances, balls, concerts, fetes, displays, classes, and the showing of films. The hall continues to function as an important focus for community activity.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep

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and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p. Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 13.

[7] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 7.

[8] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 423.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 69, 115.

[11] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.

[14] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 9.

[15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[16] J. M. Powell, *The Public Lands of Australia Felix: Settlement and Land Appraisal in Victoria 1834-91 with Special Reference to the Western Plains* (Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press, 1970), 79.

[17] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13. Streatham Township Plan, 1864.

[20] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 423.

[21] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 69, 115.

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- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13.
- [24] Ibid., 13.
- [25] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 423.
- [26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.
- [27] Ibid., 126-7.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 26.
- [29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [30] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 18.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 37.
- [33] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [34] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 16.
- [35] PROV, Streatham Memorial Hall Public Building File, VPRS 1882/P1/296.
- [36] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13.
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- [38] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 17.
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Description

Physical Description

cement roof. The main hall has a gable roof running perpendicular to Campbell Street and has a cut-out front corner where the adjacent flat roofed entry foyer connects into it. The foyer has an elevated entrance platform. The horizontal line of the roof to the foyer continues across the front of the gable end of the hall to frame a green terracotta tiled memorial panel. The inscription on this memorial panel is 'Lest We Forget. Maxwell Slater. John Alexander Thomson'.

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Above the panel is a row of three windows and infill panelling to the apex of the gable end. Behind the flat roofed foyer and connecting in with the hall is an uneven gable roofed wing running parallel to Campbell Street. It is an uneven gable because the rear slope is longer than the slope facing Campbell Street. There is a wide cream brick chimney at the rear of the flat roofed foyer where the two gabled sections connect.

Most of the original timber framed openings have been replaced with aluminium frames however the original glazed timber framed foyer doors and the timber framed windows above the memorial panel survive. It appears that the scale and placement of the original windows has generally been retained but the windows to the front elevation of the foyer appear to have been altered as demonstrated by the differing brickwork on this elevation.

At the rear of the hall is a skillion wing which extends across the width of the hall and two later skillion toilet wings at either side of the rear wing.

Physical Condition

The building was in good condition November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Streatham Memorial Hall located at 30 Campbell Street, Streatham. The location and original form, materials and details of the hall are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Streatham Memorial Hall is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Streatham Memorial Hall is of historical significance for its role in the development of community and civic life in Streatham and the surrounding district. Completed in 1958, the hall demonstrates the increased and steady population in the Streatham district as a result of the World War Two soldier settlement scheme, which saw the settlement of a number of new farms in the Streatham area. Constructed as a World War Two Memorial, the hall is also of historical significance as an example of the type of war memorials that were constructed in honour of World War Two. The types of community facilities constructed as war memorials after World War Two showed a marked difference to the memorialisation through erection of monuments, which occurred after World War One. The Streatham Memorial Hall was opened in 1958 by Premier Henry Bolte. RSL officials unveiled the memorial plaque to *Maxwell Slater* and John Alexander Thomson who died in World War Two. The hall is also of historical significance for its use as a shelter during the fire of February 1977. Damage to the west side of the building caused by the fire was later restored. (Criterion A)

The Streatham Memorial Hall is aesthetically significant as a distinctive and substantially intact example of an architect designed community hall constructed in the 1950s. Distinctive features of note include the combined gable and flat roof forms, configuration of hall and foyer spaces and tiled memorial panel at the front of the hall. Features typical of the late 1950s period include the use of cream brick and the banks of modular windows. The timber framed openings at the entry foyer are important as surviving original timber framed openings to the building. (Criteria D & E)

The Streatham Memorial Hall is of social significance as a focus for community activity since 1958. The Streatham Memorial Hall has hosted a number of community activities since its opening, including badminton, bowls, dances, balls,

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concerts, fetes, displays, classes, and the showing of films. The hall continues to function as an important focus for community activity. The hall is also of social significance as the focus of World War Two commemoration for the Streatham district. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Streatham State School No. 844 Teachers Residence		
Address	31 Campbell Street STREATHAM	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Staff housing		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

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Place history:[34]

A site for a school at Streatham was reserved in 1864 and a one-room building opened, which housed 30 pupils. By 1865, a building fund for a new school had reached £125, and in 1866, a bluestone school opened. Master's quarters, consisting of a living room and lobby, were built on to the schoolroom by O. H. Botterell in 1867.

The *Education Act*, which set up in Victoria the basis for a uniquely centralised public school system based on the principles of free, secular and compulsory education, was passed in 1872. After a petition was signed by ratepayers and forwarded by the Ararat Shire to the Education Department in 1879, Streatham State School No. 844 was enlarged. At this time, 45 children were attending the school.

After the opening up of Blythvale estate in 1908 and the Yall-Y-Poora estate in 1909, a number of farming families moved into the district. The resultant overcrowded conditions at the school led to plans to convert the entire building into classrooms. After estimates were received however, a decision was taken to build a new school to accommodate 52 children, a six-room teacher's residence and to undertake fencing. The school and residence, constructed on land next to the school, were subsequently built in 1909.

Funds were raised over the years to maintain and improve the school buildings. Two extra classrooms were added, two shelter sheds were built, fencing around the play area established, and playground equipment purchased.

In 1977, fire destroyed the school. Temporary buildings were moved in and used until a new brick school opened in 1982. The original school bell was re-erected in the yard and a plaque to commemorate the school's centenary was installed.

Streatham State School No. 844 closed in 1996. Students from the district now attend the Lake Bolac school. The former teacher's residence is all that remains of the 1909 school buildings.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne,

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p. Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 13.

[7] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 7.

[8] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 423.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 69, 115.

[11] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.

[14] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 9.

[15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[16] J. M. Powell, *The Public Lands of Australia Felix: Settlement and Land Appraisal in Victoria 1834-91 with Special Reference to the Western Plains* (Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press, 1970), 79.

[17] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13. Streatham Township Plan, 1864.

[20] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 423.

[21] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 69, 115.

[23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13.

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[24] Ibid., 13.

[25] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 423.

[26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.

[27] Ibid., 126-7.

[28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 26.

[29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[30] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 18.

[31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 37.

[33] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.

[34] This information has been referenced from Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-26.

Description

Physical Description

The former teacher's residence is a timber framed building clad in weatherboards. It has a main tall hipped roof with exposed rafters running parallel to the street and a central projecting gable wing to the front. To the east side of the wing is a front verandah with a skillion roof that is the continuation of the main roof line. The verandah which has turned timber posts provides shelter over the single entrance door. There is also a double hung window to the wall under this verandah. At the centre of the projecting gable wing is a twin double hung window with six panes per sash. The gable to this wing has a projecting barge board with panel gable infill also projecting out from the wall and extending from the bargeboard with fine timber corner brackets. The window on the west side of the projecting wing has a skillion canopy over the window. There is a dominant red brick chimney directly behind the front projecting gable and a narrower chimney to the west side. Other original windows to the building are timber framed and double hung.

There is a separate weatherboard laundry to the rear of the residence.

There is a picket fence to the front of the building.

Physical Condition

The building was in good condition in November 2013.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Streatham State School No. 844 Teacher's Residence at 31 Campbell Street, Streatham. The location and original form, materials and details of the weatherboard residence and external laundry are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Streatham State School No. 844 Teacher's Residence is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Streatham State School No. 844 Teacher's Residence is of historical significance as surviving evidence of the 1909 State School built in Streatham on an adjacent site. The school and residence were both constructed in 1909 due to overcrowding in the earlier Streatham school building. The former Teacher's Residence demonstrates the expansion of the population in Streatham township and associated farming district around 1909 as a result of the opening up of Nerrin Nerrin estate in the early 1900s and Blythvale estate in 1908. The 1909 school was burnt down in the fire of February 1977 and the residence remains as the only evidence of the 1909 school. (Criteria A & B)

The former Streatham State School No. 844 Teacher's Residence is aesthetically significant as a particularly intact example of an Education Department Teacher's Residence from the early 20th century. The residence retains many original features characteristic of the period including the overall form with a combination of hip and gable roofs, fine timber detailing and decoration, timber framed double hung windows, some with multi panes, verandah with turned posts and exposed rafters to the eaves. The residence is a picturesque feature of the Campbell Street streetscape. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No
No
No
Yes rear laundry
Yes
-
No

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church	
Address	50 Campbell Street STREATHAM	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Streatham is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Fiery Creek (Streatham) district was located at the junction of four runs: the Caranballac run of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Nerrin Nerrin of 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; and View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

By 1839, a branch of the road from Buninyong led to Portland Bay via Gregory's Inn at Carngham, Mt Emu, Fiery Creek (named after the waterway by which it was located and later named Streatham), which consisted of a government centre and police station, and The Grange (later known as Hamilton). Surveyed to a width of three chains and named Portland Bay Road, it was used for the weekly overland mail and passenger service from Melbourne to Portland via Fiery Creek from mid-1844.[6] Services to Geelong, Belfast (Port Fairy), Ballarat and Ararat followed.[7]

The Fiery Creek settlement, where the region's first post office was opened in 1844, was officially named Streatham when the township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852.[8] In 1854, when a bridge opened over Fiery Creek, the township had a population of 56.[9] In the 1850s, Aboriginal people sold fish from Fiery Creek to Brown's hotel at Streatham township, and to selectors in the district in the 1860s.[10]

In 1856, the Mount Ararat goldfield was connected to the Western District mail service by a coach twice a week to Streatham[11] and a bridge was opened in 1858 over Fiery Creek at Streatham. In the same year, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, with a stop at Streatham,[12] and from 1859 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branxholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham (a coach changing point), Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[13]

James Bonwick, Inspector of Denominational Schools, described Streatham in 1857: 'The population consists of a doctor, a publican, a storekeeper, a smith, a mailman, a bullock driver. The houses are wretched looking places on a wide plain without a garden wall to shield them from the wind.'[14] The Streatham Hotel opened in 1860.

The *Land Act* (Nicholson Act) introduced in September 1860 provided three million acres of country land for sale and lease. Under this Act, 800,000 acres of land were sold, but only half to selectors. Four-fifths of the acreage was sold on the western plains, mostly to squatters.[15] Under the 1860 *Land Act*, allotments were taken up in the Streatham district.[16]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[17] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[18] Under this Act, some allotments were taken up in the Streatham district.

Township blocks in Streatham were sold in 1864, although buildings were in evidence before this year.[19] A school opened at Streatham in 1864 and was replaced with another building in 1867; in later years the school became known as

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Streatham State School No. 844, and was enlarged in 1879.[20] The Third Hotel opened in 1869.[21]

A stone church, St John's Presbyterian Church, was constructed in 1874-75 at Streatham, and included an upstairs gallery with a private pew for the owner of Fiery Creek run (a subdivision of the Carranballac run).[22].

Salt was collected from the lakes of the Streatham district in the 1880s.[23] In 1883, the township was described as comprising a savings bank and telegraph office, coach station, police barracks, a hotel, two stores, blacksmith's shop and about 80 inhabitants.[24] A hall opened in 1888. By 1901, the population of Streatham was 84.[25]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Streatham district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming with sharefarmers on 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate purchasing their farm holdings in the early 1900s.[26] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[27] A further 20,000 acres of Blythvale were sold for farms in 1908. A new school and teacher's residence for Streatham State School No. 844 were subsequently built in 1909 and a Catholic church was erected in 1912.[28]

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin, Yalla-Y-Poora, and Blythvale, however, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[29] A recreation reserve was established at Streatham in 1920, where football, cricket, golf, basketball and tennis were played.[30]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[31] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Streatham district.

Electricity was connected to Streatham in 1939. A reticulated water supply to Streatham was delivered from Fiery Creek in 1959; the supply system was supplemented with a bore in 1969 and a reservoir in 1982. An Infant Welfare Centre was constructed in 1961 at Streatham.

New golf links were constructed in 1970 and the Streatham Hotel closed in 1971.

In February 1977 Streatham was substantially destroyed by bushfires, which burnt across western Victoria to the South Australian border. The fire in Streatham left one man dead; a further thirty people were injured.[32] In town, the post office, four shops, two garages, Presbyterian church, and 14 houses were destroyed in the blaze. The Catholic church, memorial hall, baby health centre and six houses remained. Another 138 buildings were affected in the district. Simpson Park was established at Streatham to commemorate the fire and a new brick school opened in 1982. The state government offered to fund a small shopping centre after the fire, however not enough business owners were willing to start again and the funding was put towards improving the town's water supply instead. St John's Uniting Church was restored and re-dedicated in 1980.[33]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Streatham State School No. 844 closed in 1996. In the 1990s, two shops and a stock and station agent with a post office, and a tennis and golf club operated. The Streatham General Store, post office and stock and station agency serve

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Streatham residents today. With Mininera and Westmere, the football club known as the Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers, is also active. Streatham today has a seed cleaning business, a public hall, community centre housing the Fireworld Museum, an infant welfare centre, CFA Unit, golf course and the Uniting and Catholic churches. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:[34]

After the opening up of Blythvale estate in 1908 and the Yalla-Y-Poorra estate in 1909, a number of farming families moved into the district. St Columba's Catholic Church, a timber building, was subsequently opened in Streatham in 1912 by Bishop Joseph Higgins D. D. and Father Michael Barrett P. P.

In 1914, the church was formally consecrated by the Bishop of Ballarat, Dr. Higgins. At the service the sum of nearly £100 was collected. The church cost £500, and, by its opening, £300 had been already raised.[35]

The church was used continuously until the new St Columba's Memorial Church opened in 1968. The 1912 building was moved to the back of the block and used for mass during the building program. Designed by Valentine Lohse, architect of South Yarra, the new church comprised a chapel; priest's sacristy; meeting room; crying room; and toilets.[36]

St Columba's Memorial Church was opened by Bishop James O'Collins D. D. and Father L. Gallagher P. P. on 24 November 1968. The church was dedicated as a memorial to all those who gave their lives in the armed forces, including local parishioner Hugh O'Rorke Jnr in World War Two. The new church catered for approximately 40 families.

Residents took shelter in the church during the fire of February 1977, which damaged the northwest corner of the building.

The final regular mass at St Columba's Memorial Church was held in 2004. Occasional masses continue to be held.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the

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table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Joan Hunt, "Campbell and Woolley's Store," *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 10 (2011): n.p. Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 13.

[7] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 7.

[8] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 423.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 69, 115.

[11] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.

[14] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 9.

[15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 250.

[16] J. M. Powell, *The Public Lands of Australia Felix: Settlement and Land Appraisal in Victoria 1834-91 with Special Reference to the Western Plains* (Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press, 1970), 79.

[17] Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, 257.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[19] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13. Streatham Township Plan, 1864.

[20] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 423.

[21] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 69, 115.

[23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 13.

[24] Ibid., 13.

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- [25] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 423.
- [26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 127.
- [27] Ibid., 126-7.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 26.
- [29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [30] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 18.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 37.
- [33] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [34] Most of this information has been taken from Tom Mulcahy in Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*.
- [35] 'VICTORIAN NEWS.' *Western Champion*, 28 May 1914, 25.
- [36] PROV, Public Building File, 7882/P1/1815.

Description

Physical Description

St Columba's Memorial Chapel is a brick church with a single low pitched gable roof clad in corrugated metal sheet. The gable runs perpendicular to the street and the roof has wide eaves. The bricks are a sandstone colour. The centre of the building forms the nave with wings extending out to the sides under extended sections of the gable roof. The gaps between the wings provide sheltered entries as the gable roof extends over these sections too. The dramatic frontage comprises a central narrower gable bay projecting out from the main gable. At the centre of the gable end is a floor to ceiling stained glass wall in a vertical rectangular pattern. The front wall of the frontage extends beyond the width of the wing forming wing walls like straight buttresses. At the centre of the window is a large bronze cross, which is mounted to the exterior. At the base of this bay is a brick planter box extending across the width of the bay and wing walls. Windows to the building including the stained glass wall are aluminium framed.

The title of the church is on the front elevation of the east wing behind the front bay. A platform to this corner of the building leads to the main entry doors on the east side of the church leading into the front bay. Mounted on top of the front bay is a wrought iron tower with a central elevated cross.

A marble plaque on the south wall reads: 'This church was blessed and opened by the Most Rev J. P. O'Collins D. D. Bishop of Ballarat on the 24th November 1968. Rev L. Gallagher P. P.'

A bronze plaque, also on the south wall, reads: 'This church was erected to the memory of all those who gave their lives

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in the service of their country. May they rest in peace.'

At the rear of the building there is a central projecting panel of bricks with an inlaid cross, formed out of darker bricks.

At the front of the site are low wrought iron curved double gates with a low brick wall either side constructed of the same bricks as those on the church building.

Physical Condition

The building was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church located at 50 Campbell Street, Streatham. The location and original form, materials and details of the church and front fence and gates are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church, Streatham is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church, Streatham is of historical significance for its demonstration of the increased population in the Streatham district as a result of the World War Two soldier settlement scheme, which saw the settlement of a number of new farms in the Streatham area. Completed in 1968 to the designs of South Yarra architect Valentine Lohse, the church was dedicated as a memorial to all those who gave their lives in the armed forces, including local parishioner Hugh O'Rorke Jnr in World War Two. Construction of a large, architect designed church at this time demonstrates that there was a substantial and steady population in the Streatham district during the 1960s. The church is also of historical significance for its use as a shelter for residents during the fire of February 1977, which damaged the northwest corner of the building. (Criterion A)

St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church, Streatham is aesthetically significant as a striking and substantially intact architect designed chapel from the 1960s. The building demonstrates key architectural characteristics of the 1960s era including the use of sandstone coloured brick, the wall of stained glass windows in a rectangular geometric pattern, the low pitched gable roof with wide eaves and the aluminium windows. The church is striking in its simplicity, dramatic stained glass frontage and tall sculptural wrought iron cross, which is mounted on the roof of the building. (Criterion D & E)

St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church, Streatham is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1968 with particular connections to the Catholic community. The Chapel is also of social significance as the focus of War commemoration for the Streatham district. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes front brick fence and wrought iron gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bowmont Farm Complex and Canary Island Palms		
Address	1331 Helendoite Road TATYOON	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Homestead Complex		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogon and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogan was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogan, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogan in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogan area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogan settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support

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and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poorra, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poorra Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poorra settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:

The land on which the 'Bowmont' homestead is built, Section M of Ballyrogan Parish, was first owned freehold by J. Young in 1875-76. Young took up the land, approximately 628 acres, under the 1865 *Land Act*.

The King family settled in the Tatyoon district in the 1870s, with mention made of their farm being harvested with a reaper and binder in 1877.[24] William King came to own a number of allotments in the Parishes of Ballyrogan, Gorrinn, Helendoite and Colvinsby and built 'Bowmont' in 1908.

An obituary for William King after his death in March 1914 at the age of 50 years stated that he had spent all his life in the Tatyoon district, his father being one of the pioneer farmers of the area. He was elected a member of the Ararat Shire council in 1909 and was made its president in 1913. He was for many years a member of the committee of the Agricultural Society, and for a term its president, and as a breeder of fine stock, his services to the society 'were of distinct value,' and were much appreciated. He left a family of four sons and three daughters. He was buried in the family grave in the Tatyoon Cemetery. At the time of his death he was serving as President of the Shire of Ararat council.[25]

King's probate inventory of 1914 lists a number of allotments owned by him in the Parish of Ballyrogan and Parish of Helendoite, measuring in total 4,110 acres, and valued at £16,444. King's homestead, Bowmont, built of bricks fired on site, was valued at £2,000.[26]

A merino stud had been established ca.1908 at Dobie by Robert King, William King's son. Robert purchased a number of rams and ewes from Carngham. Only Carngham rams were used until 1920 when a Tasmanian ram was obtained. The stud was taken over by Richard Wilson King, Robert's brother, in 1934 after Robert King's death and moved to

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Bowmont after Richard purchased the property in the same year. The stud had particular success in wool championships in the interwar and post World War Two years. King obtained the highest price for greasy wool in Australia at Geelong wool sales in January 1949 when four bales of Bowmont extra superfine merino realised 156d. a pound. The highest price for any type of wool in Australia for the season, 320d. a pound, was also obtained by King in 1952.[27] Richard King undertook renovations, including to the roof, and made alterations to the homestead in 1957.

In 1970, the Bowmont stud was sold by Richard King to Geoffrey R. King, who also established a Hereford stud at Bowmont in 1973. In 2008, following a restructure of ownership, the stud was passed to Sam King.[28]

The King family continue to operate the Bowmont sheep and cattle stud from the property today. The homestead, garden, and a road on the east side of the property, named King Road, evidence the long connection the family has had with the district.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaly, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

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- [13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.
- [15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.
- [16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.
- [19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.
- [21] Ibid., 31.
- [22] Ibid., 88.
- [23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [24] Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 80.
- [25] 'Obituary.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 10 March 1914, 3.
- [26] PROV, Wills, VPRS 7591/ P2/527; and PROV, Probates, VPRS 28/P3/535.
- [27] 'RECORD PRICE FOR GREASY WOOL.' *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, 6 January 1949, 3; 'At Geelong.' *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Friday 21 November 1952, 12.
- [28] 'Stud Details', The Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders Ltd, Drysdale, 2014. Available <http://www.merinos.com.au/flockReg/details.asp?flockID=MV2032>. Accessed 7 May 2014. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 132.

Description

Physical Description

Bowmont contains a two-storey brick farmhouse and corrugated iron clad outbuildings.

The homestead is a two-storey brick building with the upper level being an attic storey extending from the roof, which

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appears to be a later addition. The roof is a series of hips clad in tiles, with the ground floor hips having a wide curve. The walls of the upper storey are clad in shingle tiles and bay windows on the ground floor are also clad in shingle tiles. The ground floor is rendered brick. There are prominent tall square chimneys constructed of cream brick with wide red brick band at the top. The ground floor windows are timber framed and double hung while the attic storey windows are metal framed. The detailing such as the roof forms and materials indicate that the building dates from the Arts and Craft period. The attic storey appears to date from the post World War Two period.

There are a number of farm related buildings located in paddocks adjacent to the homestead. These generally have gable roofs and are clad in corrugated galvanised iron.

The driveway to the property is lined with Canary Island Palms.

Physical Condition

The homestead and outbuildings appeared to be in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Bowmont Farm Complex, located at 1331 Helendoite Road, Tatyoon. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the brick homestead and associated farm outbuildings and Canary Island Palms are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Bowmont Farm Complex, Tatyoon is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Bowmont Farm Complex is of historic significance as an important farming property in the Tatyoon district demonstrating the successful wool growing industry in the area. Bowmont, built of bricks fired on site, was the homestead of William King at the time of his death in 1914. William's son Robert had established a merino stud ca.1908 and took over the property upon William's death. The stud was taken over by Richard Wilson King, Robert's brother, in 1934 after Robert King's death. Richard King had particular success in wool championships in the interwar and post World War Two years. King obtained the highest price for greasy wool in Australia at Geelong wool sales in January 1949 when four bales of Bowmont extra superfine merino realised 156d. a pound. The highest price for any type of wool in Australia for the season, 320d. a pound, was also obtained by King in 1952. The homestead, including the roof, was renovated in 1957. The homestead and associated outbuildings evidence the long and successful farming connection the King family has had with the district. (Criteria A & H)

Bowmont Farm complex is of aesthetic significance for its Homestead, which is an example of a homestead substantially constructed in the Inter-War English Cottage style. Features of particular note include the curved hipped tiled roof, tall cream brick chimneys with red brick bands at the top, and shingle tiled cladding to the upper attic storey and bay windows on the ground floor. The detailing from the Inter-War period reflects the Inter-War and post World War Two period of success for the merino stud at the property. The corrugated iron clad outbuildings are of aesthetic significance as intact examples of their building types dating from the early 20th century. The Canary Island Palms are prominent features located at the top of the entrance driveway and are significant for providing a landscape around the residence characteristic of the Inter-War period. (Criteria D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Canary Island palms

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Farm related buildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Yeronga Residence, Garage and Trees	
Address	900 Helendoite Road TATYOON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Homestead Complex	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

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

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogon west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogon.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogon Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogon was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogon, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogon in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogon area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogon settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier

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settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poora, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poora Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poora settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poora districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:[24]

'Yeronga', a double-brick residence and three-car garage, was built in 1935-36 for Archibald Henry Lewis after he married in 1935. The residence and garage were constructed by a Ballarat builder. The property at the time measured approximately 2000 acres and was used mainly for grazing sheep.

Ian Lewis, Archibold's son, grew up on the farm and in later years came to own it.

Over the years, Yeronga has been used mainly to run merino sheep and cattle, either by the Lewis family or by share farmers, who have also grown wheat, oats and canola.

Approximately 80 hectares of native grasses has been fenced-off area along a creek.

Ian Lewis sold the farm in 2013. The property, when sold, also included a set of sheep yards, a two-stand shearing shed, hay shed and machinery shed.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.
- [7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.
- [8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.
- [10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.
- [11] *Victoria Government Gazette*.
- [12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.
- [13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.
- [15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.
- [16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

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[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[21] Ibid., 31.

[22] Ibid., 88.

[23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[24] 'Featured Property.' *Weekly Times*, 24 July 2013. Available http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2013/07/24/577243_featured-property.html. Accessed 5 November 2013. Ian Lewis, Personal Communication, 8 May 2014.

Description

Physical Description

Yeronga residence is an Inter-War Classical revival style building constructed in red brick with a ceramic tile roof. It has a main hipped roof with a projecting gambrel roofed front porch to the centre of the front elevation. At either side of the porch is a tripartite timber framed window with a central fixed sash and double hung sashes. The most distinctive feature is the arcaded central front porch with short fluted columns supporting the arches and differing colour bricks to the arch voussoirs and in a pattern on the brick balustrade. The upper pane of the double hung sashes has Art Deco style leadlight. Under the porch is a recessed front door and a twin double hung window which has the same pattern leadlight to the upper panes as the adjacent front elevation windows. The chimneys are red brick with a dark brick band at the base and a darker brick band at the top.

To the southeast corner of the residence is a red brick garage constructed in the same style as the residence. It has a hipped roof clad in tiles and three evenly spaced roller door openings to the front.

Cypress trees grow in the driveway and pines have been planted on the boundaries.

Physical Condition

The residence and garage were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Yeronga Residence, Garage and trees, located at 900 Helendoite Road, Tatyoon. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the red brick farmhouse and garage, and entrance driveway cypress trees and boundary pine trees, are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

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Yeronga Residence, Garage and trees located at 900 Helendoite Road, Tatyoon are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Yeronga Residence, Garage and trees are of historic significance as intact elements of a farm property demonstrating the successful farming period experienced in the district in the Inter-War period. Built in 1935-36 for Archibald Henry Lewis after he married in 1935, Yeronga has been used mainly for sheep and cattle grazing either by the Lewis family or by share farmers, who have also grown wheat, oats and canola. The property is of historical significance for its association with the Lewis family who owned the property from 1935 until 2013. (Criteria A & H)

Yeronga residence is of aesthetic significance as an excellent intact example of the Inter-War Classical revival style farmhouse. Particular features of note include the projecting arcaded entry porch with gambrel roof, use of different colour brick for patterning on the building, the tall chimneys with different colour bands and the timber framed windows with Art Deco style leadlight. The garage, also dating from the Inter-War period contributes to the significant setting around the residence. The cypress trees, a prominent feature located along the entrance driveway, and the pine trees on the boundaries, contribute to the setting of the place. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No
No
Yes Driveway cypress and pines on boundaries
Yes Garage
Yes
-
No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Avenue of Honour	
Address	Tatyoan Road TATYOON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Avenue of Honour	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoan, Ballyroan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

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Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogon.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogon Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogon was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogon, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogon in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogon area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogon settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support

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and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poorra, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poorra Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poorra settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:

Like other war memorials across the Australian landscape, Avenues of Honour were planted to commemorate the sacrifice and service made by local volunteers during World War One. By 1918, the high casualty rate in Australia from World War One of 64.93%, the highest of all allied forces, meant that every Australian was related to or was closely associated with someone who had been killed. The planting of memorial trees by town residents acted as a personal focus of remembrance for a grieving community. From 1917 to 1921, Victorians planted at least 128 avenues, with trees mostly of European origin. Although avenues exist in other states of Australia, they were most popular in Victoria.[24]

In early July 1918, T. Linton sought permission from the Ararat Shire council to plant an Avenue of Honour to commemorate those Tatyoon district residents who had served in World War One.[25] The community of Tatyoon subsequently undertook tree planting of the Avenue of Honour along both sides of the Tatyoon Road opposite the railway station in July 1918.[26] A bluestone cairn with a metal plate inscribed with the names of local servicemen was also installed.

Today, the Avenue of Honour consists of Desert Ashes and Elms: fifteen on the west side of the road, and 22 on the east side of the road. A bluestone cairn inscribed with the names of local servicemen who served in World War One stands at the southern end of avenue.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria*

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Descriptive Report, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[21] Ibid., 31.

[22] Ibid., 88.

[23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[24] *Avenues of Honour Education and Celebration Program*. National Trust, 2014. Available <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic>. Accessed 22 April 2014. Janine Haddow, "Avenues of Honour: A Victorian Cultural Landscape," *Landscape Australia*, no. 3 (1988).

[25] 'Ararat Shire Council Monthly Meeting.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 4 July 1918, 3.

[26] 'Tatyoan.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 30 July 1918, 2.

Description

Physical Description

The Tatyoan Avenue of Honour consists of evenly spaced Desert Ashes and Elms on either side of Tatyoan Road at the centre of Tatyoan. There are 15 trees on the west side of the road and 22 trees on the east side of Tatyoan Road opposite the Railway Station. There are modern signs at the northern and southern ends stating 'Avenue of Honour'. A bluestone memorial with a metal plaque inscribed with the names of local servicemen who served in World War One stands at the southern end of the avenue.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Tatyoan Avenue of Honour consisting of 37 Desert Ashes and Elms on both sides of Tatyoan Road and a bluestone memorial plaque at the centre of Tatyoan. The location and original form, materials and details of the plaque and trees are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Tatyoan Avenue of Honour is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Tatyoan Avenue of Honour is of historical significance for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War One

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and the methods used to commemorate the event. Planted in July 1918, the Avenue of Honour is a representative example of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War One commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual, regardless of rank, was equally recognised for their service. (Criterion A)

The Tatyoon Avenue of Honour is of aesthetic significance as a landmark and commemorative planting marking the centre of the Tatyoon township. The number of trees indicates that the township was once more populous. The bluestone memorial plaque is an example of the methods used to mark the tree avenues and record the names of those who were being honoured. (Criterion D)

The Tatyoon Avenue of Honour is of social significance for its relationship with the Tatyoon community as a memorial to those from the town who served in World War One and as a commemorative focus for the community since 1918. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 37 Desert Ash and Elms

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Tatyoan Railway Station Complex	
Address	Tatyoan Road TATYOON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Station Building	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

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Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[24]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[25] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

By 1900, the Western Plains were encircled by railways, but crossed by none. In 1908, investigation for the construction of a railway across the plains commenced to connect the Ararat-Hamilton line to either the Geelong-Ballarat or Geelong-Colac line. Routes from Bannockburn, Moriac or Winchelsea were considered.[26]

In December 1908, the Winchelsea Railway League wrote to the Premier of Victoria, Sir Thomas Bent, requesting that a

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flying survey be made for the proposed Willaura to Geelong Railway to connect at Winchelsea. It was argued that there would be no engineering difficulties and that a saving of thousands of pounds in construction costs could be made. Most of the route would cross first class agricultural land suitable for wheat, oats and barley growing.[27]

The final agreed route for the Western Plains Line was from Gheringhap, via Inverleigh, Cressy, Lismore and Derrinallum to Maroona, which served as the junction between this line and the branch line to Portland. The construction of the line was advanced by the need to find an alternate route to the Western Line, which was steeply graded in crossing the Great Dividing Range, between Ararat and Bacchus Marsh; plans to make Geelong the primary port for the export of bulk grains; and attempts to develop Portland as a major frozen lamb export point.[28]

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria. Construction, heading west from Cressy, commenced on 27 September 1910, and from Maroona in an eastwards direction in March 1911. Goods were hauled for the public between Maroona and Tatyoon from April 1912 and Westmere from September 1912. Tracklaying over the full distance was completed on February 22 1913 and some regular public train services commenced.[29] The line was officially opened on 8 August 1913 with construction undertaken to the standards and designs provided by Victorian Railways.

A standard Victorian Railways timber portable station office building was erected at the Tatyoon Railway Station ca. 1913. It was a staff and ticket station.[30] It is likely that two railway houses were erected near the railway station at some stage; both have since been removed.[31]

The stationmaster's role was removed in August 1931.[32]

A steel Murphy silo with annex was erected at the station in the 1960s.

In 1967, automatic electric staff instruments and trailable facing points were installed and safeworking staff withdrawn.[33]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down.

The station was reduced to a 'no one in charge' status from 1978.[34]

It is believed the station building at Tatyoon was re-clad ca. 1989.

The Gheringhap-Maroon railway line was converted to standard gauge in 1995.

Today the Tatyoon railway complex comprises a station building, platform, weighbridge, and steel silo complex.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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Thirty Years 1964-1994, 49.

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[22] Ibid., 88.

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[24] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.

[25] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[26] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.

[27] Ibid.

[28] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.

[29] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."

[30] Ibid. D. C. McLean, *Gheringhap to Maroonah Railway: A Brief History* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1973), 17.

[31] From information supplied by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[32] Information supplied by Andrew Ward, May 2014.

[33] McLean, *Gheringhap to Maroonah Railway: A Brief History*, 17.

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Description

Physical Description

Today the Tatyoon railway complex comprises a station building, platform, weighbridge, and steel silo complex.

The station building is a small rectangular, timber framed building with a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The original cladding is vertical timber boards but these are only extant on two sides; on one long elevation and one end elevation. The other two elevations have horizontal cement sheet cladding. There is a central single door on the trackside elevation and another door on one of the end elevations. The other long elevation contains two timber framed openings that have been boarded up and the other end elevation is a blank wall but may have previously contained a window opening.

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The weighbridge office is a timber framed square planned building with corrugated sheet cladding to the walls. The building has a skillion roof and a louvre window facing the weighbridge and a single door in one side. The weighbridge has a concrete frame with iron platform.

The silos are cylindrical forms in a cluster of four with differing widths and metal sheet cladding and conical roofs. A cylindrical grain elevator is also connected to the silos.

A concrete retaining wall associated with what may have been a goods platform is also extant.

Physical Condition

The station building was in poor condition in November 2013.

The silos and weighbridge were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Tatyoon Railway Station Complex consisting of the timber station building, concrete retaining wall, silos and weighbridge and office located on Tatyoon Road, Tatyoon, The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Tatyoon Railway Station Complex is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Tatyoon Railway Station complex is of historical significance for its ability to demonstrate the coming of the railway to the closer settlement areas in the district and the important role it played in supporting the wheat and wool industry on the Western Plains. The station is also of historical significance for marking the location of the second incarnation of the Tatyoon township. The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona was officially opened in August 1913 and it was as a result of the construction of a station at Tatyoon that the original 1870s Tatyoon settlement was relocated closer to and around the Railway Station. (Criterion A)

The Tatyoon Railway Station remnants are aesthetically significant as an evocative reminder of the once important rail network in the area and as an indicator that Tatyoon was a more populous and productive township around the beginning of the 20th century. The station building, erected around 1913 is a representative example of a small portable Victorian Railways station building from the early 20th century. The silos, erected in the 1960s are of aesthetic significance for their landmark value and for their demonstration of the importance of wheat growing to the livelihood of the district. The weighbridge and office are typical intact examples of their building type. (Criterion B)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Water Tower	
Address	Tatyoan Road TATYOON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Water Tower	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poora districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogan was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogan, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogan in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogan area with farmers taking up land for the

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogon settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poora, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poora Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960,[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poora settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogon and Yalla-y-Poora districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:

In preparation for the opening in 1913 of the Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona with a station at Tatyoon, a railway reservoir was excavated at Tatyoon in 1912 and was fed from adjoining dams. The reservoir was enlarged in 1945 at a cost of £2186. The water from the reservoir was used to supply the boilers of steam trains until the 1950s when, across Australia, diesel-electric locomotives began to take over.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The water tower at the Tatyoon township is believed to have been erected by Ararat Shire engineer, J. Muntz, who purchased a number of redundant Victoria Railways water tanks and boilers and used them to supply rural areas in the municipality, such as Rossbridge, Tatyoon, and Traveller's Rest, over the 1967-68 drought.[24]

As part of a reticulated water supply scheme, the elevated water tank at Taytoon, a former boiler to which water from the reservoir was pumped, was erected ca. 1967 to enable gravitation to township buildings and the Tatyoon Recreation Reserve. The tower also incorporated a standpipe from which stock and fire brigade water was supplied.

The water tower and standpipe continue to supply water today.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[21] Ibid., 31.

[22] Ibid., 88.

[23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[24] Information supplied by Rossbridge resident George Robertson, Personal Communication, 13 October 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The water tower comprises two cylindrical steel boilers laid side by side, horizontally mounted at the top of a tall square plan steel frame with a concrete pillar foundation at each corner post. There is a steel access ladder at one corner of the structure and pipes from each tank connecting into a single pipe at the top and connecting into the ground. There is a standpipe with nozzle extending out from the main pipe approximately half way up the structure.

Physical Condition

The water tower was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Water Tower on Tatyoon Road, Tatyoon. The location and original form, materials and details of the tank are integral to the significance of the place.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

How is it significant?

The Water Tower on Tatyoon Road, Tatyoon is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Water Tower on Tatyoon Road, Tatyoon is historically significant for its demonstration of the methods used to supply rural areas in the district with water during the 1967-1968 drought. The water tower at the Tatyoon township is believed to have been erected ca. 1967 by Ararat Shire engineer, J. Muntz, using redundant Victoria Railways boilers. Water from the reservoir was pumped to the elevated tower to enable gravitation supply to township buildings and the Tatyoon Recreation Reserve. The tower also incorporated a standpipe from which stock and fire brigade water was supplied. The water tower is also of historical significance for demonstrating the practice of the creative re-use of surplus railways infrastructure. (Criterion A)

The Water Tower at Tatyoon is aesthetically significant as an unusual example of a water tower that uses recycled railway boilers as the tanks. The elevated tower is a landmark in the landscape illustrating the importance and methods of water supply to the rural district. (Criteria B & D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Tatyoan Hall	
Address	2712 Tatyoan Road TATYOON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

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

History and Historical Context

Contextual history

The Tatyoan, Ballyroan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogan was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogan, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogan in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogan area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogan settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poora, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poora Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poora settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poora districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:[24]

A hall for Tatyoon was proposed in December 1921. Plans for the hall were drawn up by J. S. Heard of Tatyoon in March 1922. The building comprised a hall of 24 feet by 50 feet; a stage of 10 feet by 24 feet; a supper room of 12 feet by 14 feet; and a dressing room of 12 feet by 24 feet.

Construction of the hall at the recreation reserve was begun in June 1922 and the building was finished in August of that year.

In 1935, additions to the hall, including a supper room of 16 feet 6 inches, a kitchen of 14 feet 6 inches, and a store, were made to the hall by contractor J. S. Heard. The extension, built of timber with a corrugated iron roof, dado and fibro cement sheet walls, and fibro cement ceiling, was completed by December 1935.

In 1971, new toilets, flood lighting, and water reticulation were installed at the Tatyoon Recreation Ground.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991 and a toilet block added in 1993-94 when the Ararat Shire matched \$75,000 raised by the community.[25]

The Tatyoon Hall continues to provide an important focus for local community activity today.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] *Victoria Government Gazette*.

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Thirty Years 1964-1994, 31.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[21] Ibid., 31.

[22] Ibid., 88.

[23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[24] Most of this information has come from PROV, Public Building File, VPRS 7882/P1/522.

[25] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 99.

Description

Physical Description

The Tatyoon Hall is a substantially timber framed and weatherboard clad hall. The original 1922 section of the building comprises a gable roofed hall running perpendicular to the street with a gable roofed wing to the rear north side running parallel to the street. These sections retain their gable end decoration comprising of a projecting half timbered gable end with stucco infill and timber brackets to the base and timber fretwork brackets to the corners of the eaves. The eaves are wide with exposed rafters. Most of the original openings have been altered to the original section with new aluminium windows and fully glazed double front doors. There are two original doors extant on the north side of the hall and east side of the north wing. The north wing has been reflected on the south side at a later date. This wing is clad in weatherboards and has a gable roofed entry bay to the south gable end. Windows to this wing are aluminium. The entry bay is clad in fibre cement sheet. It is assumed that this wing was the 1935 addition but it does not retain its original detailing including the fibre cement sheet cladding with dado. There is also a later gable roofed west wing connecting in to the north wing. It is assumed that these comprise the 1991 additions. This gable wing is perpendicular to the street similar to the main front hall. It is constructed of brick, which has been rendered. Windows and doors are similar to the remainder of the building using aluminium framing. The entire roof is clad in green corrugated Colorbond sheet.

Physical Condition

The hall was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Tatyoon Hall located at 2712 Tatyoon Road, Tatyoon. The location and original form, materials and details of the 1922 sections of the hall are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Tatyoon Hall is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Tatyoon Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the second wave of settlement in the Tatyoon area stimulated by the opening of the Gheringhap to Maroona railway line in 1913 and private subdivision of large estates in the area during the period 1907-1910. During 1907-8, and again in 1910, the owner of Yalla-y-Poorra privately subdivided land from that estate totalling 35,000 acres. The hall, originally constructed in 1922, is also of historical significance as it marks the second incarnation of the Tatyoon township. A village of Tatyoon developed in the 1870s however after the coming of the railway, the Tatyoon township shifted to develop around the location of Tatyoon Railway Station. (Criterion A)

The Tatyoon Hall is aesthetically significant for its demonstration of the 1920s Inter-War Bungalow style architecture as applied to a public hall. The original 1922 sections of the hall are clearly distinguishable and retain their distinctive Inter-War Bungalow style gable end detailing. These comprise of a projecting half timbered gable end decorative panel with stucco infill and timber brackets to the base and timber fretwork brackets to the corners of the eaves. (Criterion D)

The Tatyoon Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since the 1920s. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings since its completion in 1922. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Water Tank	
Address	Travellers Rest Reserve on Fiery Creek Mt William Road TATYOON	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Water Tank	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No **HI** No **PS** Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poorra districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogan west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Chalicum, 46,252 acres, taken up by G. and H. Thomson in 1846; and Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogan.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act mostly resulted in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poora runs, with small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogan Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved at Tatyoon in 1872 and 1871 respectively. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogan was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogan, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogan in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogan area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poora privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogan settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees and the cemetery.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier

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settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. One hundred and twenty former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates, including eleven men on 10,000 acres on Burrumbeep and 24 men on 18,000 acres on Yalla-y-Poora, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[18] The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[19] The Yalla-y-Poora Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1952. A recreational centre, which served as a Sunday School and Infant Welfare Centre, and accommodated religious and social gatherings, was established on the reserve in 1962 to serve the needs of soldier settler families.[20] Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 opened in 1956.

The development in wheat farming in the district in the late 1950s resulted in the construction of silos at the Tatyoon railway station in 1960.[21] however, with aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s, population in the district has decreased.

Tatyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970 and, in later years, the land was added to the recreation reserve.

In February 1977, bushfires burnt through western Victoria towards the southern coast, burning the districts of Tatyoon and Streatham.

Major renovations were made to the Tatyoon Hall in 1991.[22] Tatyoon today has a store, postal agency, hotel and substantial recreation facilities. The local football team, the Tatyoon Hawks, is a part of the Mininera and District Football League. Yalla-y-Poora State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poora settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogan and Yalla-y-Poora districts continue to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[23]

Place history:

A reserve of 137 acres for watering purposes was put aside at a deep water hole on Fiery Creek on Allotment 227 of the Parish of Tatyoon in 1869. It was located on the three-chain road (later named Mount William Road) to and from the Geelong district, which was used as a stock route by the extensive sheep stations of the area: Mount William, Burrumbeep, and Yalla Y Poora.

A letter in 1869 from local residents to the Board of Land and Works requested that the water reserve not be put up for selection because it was at a spot where the Ararat Shire was planning to build a bridge (which was subsequently built and destroyed in the floods of 1870) and was the only place where travellers with stock and selectors could get a supply of water. However, 62 acres were removed from the reserve in 1872, and a further 49 acres were removed in 1887.[24] The reserve was named after the Travellers Rest Hotel located at the same place on the west bank of the Fiery Creek crossing.

In 1882, the Travellers Rest Reserve was put under the management of the Ararat Shire.[25]

Various efforts were made over the years to excise parts of the reserve for settlement. The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, for example, wrote to the Shire of Ararat council in 1914 to urge against the granting of an application from William Hamilton for sale of 23 acres of the water reserve between Allotment 228A and Fiery Creek. Council subsequently objected to the alienation of the reserve.[26]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

It is likely that the existing steel water tank was installed by the Ararat Shire in the early 1960s by shire engineer J. M. Muntz to provide farmers with water pumped from a bore on the creek, a more reliable source than Fiery Creek itself, which, in drought years, dried up. A map of the reserve dated 1968, the year when electricity was connected to the bore to pump water to the dam on the reserve as a drought relief measure, shows the water tank in situ.[27] It is believed that the water tank was a railway tank relocated to the site. The tank water was used by local farmers for stock water and for use in chemical spraying.

The steel water tank and a nearby standpipe are no longer used. Water is now pumped from the bore on Fiery Creek to plastic tanks on the reserve for use by farmers.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

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[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130. Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[21] *Ibid.*, 31.

[22] *Ibid.*, 88.

[23] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[24] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 4, 15 January 15 1869, 96; *Victoria Government Gazette* No. 61, 6 September 1872, 1661; and DEPI Tatyoon Water Reserve File, RS 2103.

[25] DEPI Tatyoon Water Reserve File, RS 2103.

[26] 'Ararat Shire Council.' *The Ararat Advertiser*, 8 January 1914, 2.

[27] DEPI Tatyoon Water Reserve File, RS 2103.

Description

Physical Description

The water tank is cylindrical with a low-pitched conical roof and bulbous base. It is raised on concrete pylons around the edge of the tank. The tank is constructed of riveted steel sheets with a projecting riveted lip at the top. The conical lid is made of segmented flat metal sheets with raised seams where each segment is joined.

There is a yellow water gauge fixed to the exterior.

An early Victorian Railways photograph indicates that the tank would have originally been elevated on a cylindrical steel frame. The concrete pylons therefore date from the 1960s when the tank was relocated to the Travellers Rest Reserve.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Physical Condition

The tank was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Water Tank on Travellers Rest Reserve, Mount William Road, Tatyoon. The location and original form, materials and details of the tank are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Water Tank on the Travellers Rest Reserve, Mount William Road, Tatyoon is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Water Tank on Travellers Rest Reserve is historically significant for its demonstration of an early stock route in the district and as evidence of the Travellers Rest water reserve set aside for the Tatyoon district in the 1860s. A reserve of 137 acres for watering purposes was put aside at a deep water hole on Fiery Creek in 1869. It was located on the three-chain road (later named Mount William Road) to and from the Geelong district, which was used as a stock route by the extensive sheep stations of the area including Mount William, Burrumbeep, and Yalla Y Poora. The reserve was named after the Travellers Rest Hotel located at the same place on the west bank of the Fiery Creek crossing. Although reduced in size over time, the land managed to be retained as a reserve, and was put under the management of the Ararat Shire in 1882. The water tank, which is a recycled Victorian Railways tank from ca.1890 was erected on the site in the 1960s by the Ararat Shire Council to provide farmers with water pumped from a bore on Fiery Creek. It is a rare surviving example of a Victorian Railways steel riveted tank also demonstrating the practice of the creative re-use of surplus railways infrastructure. (Criteria A & B)

The Water Tank on Travellers Rest Reserve is aesthetically significant as a rare intact example of a Railway Water Tank from ca.1890. Features of note include the cylindrical form with bulbous base and conical roof, the riveted sheets and the distinctive water gauge fixed to the exterior. The tank is also an example of the recycling of railway infrastructure for use in other locations and, the steel tank with its late 19th century detailing alongside the 1960s concrete pylon base, clearly demonstrates the two different phases of use. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT





Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Warrak Recreation Reserve	
Address	1245 Buangor-Ben Nevis Road WARRAK	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Reserve	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-

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denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:

The first recorded cricket match in the Warrak district was played at Mount Cole Cricket Ground in 1864 between Mount Cole and Elmhurst. Sports and race meetings were held in the same year, as were football matches soon after.[21]

Allotment 33B, seven acres in the Township of Warrak, was put aside as a recreation reserve in 1906. Local sporting teams, including cricket and football teams from Warrak, Crowlands, Ararat, and Buangor, played regularly at the ground. The reserve was also used for sports carnivals, athletic meetings and school and church picnics.

Local man Otto Dadswell built a shed for shelter at the Warrak Recreation Reserve in 1926. With the help of Bob Hunter, two change rooms were added at either end of the shed in later years.[22] Alfred Otto Dadswell had moved to the Mt. Cole area in the 1880s and worked on district sawmills. After marrying Emma Lewin, by the early 1900s Otto had left the milling business and had become a farmer and also a carpenter and builder, constructing many farm buildings around the district. He also helped run district social events, participating in horse racing and playing cricket, and was instrumental in managing and promoting the Warrak Recreation Reserve.[23]

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In the late 1940s, Stanley Dadswell, Otto and Emma's son, was associated with the complete re-grading of the Warrak Recreation Reserve. In 1955, when new tennis courts were being constructed at the reserve, it was found that insufficient space was available to accommodate them. As Stan's property abutted the reserve, he donated a piece of land to the sports ground trustees.[24]

The Warrak Recreation Reserve continues to be used today by the community, including dressage clubs.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[4] Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.: The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for*

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Victoria 1841-1901, 470.

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] *Ibid.*, 24, 45.

[20] *Ibid.*, 24, 34.

[21] *Ibid.*, 85, 88.

[22] *Ibid.*, 90.

[23] Dadswell, Harley, *Dadswell Family*, Curtin ACT, 2014. Available <http://www.dadswell.id.au/index.html>.

[24] *Ibid.*

Description

Physical Description

Features of the Warrak Recreation Reserve include a corrugated iron clad shelter shed, a sports field, tennis courts, play ground and red brick toilet block. There are also six well established pines on the east boundary and four pines on the west boundary.

The corrugated iron clad shelter shed and brick toilet block are adjacent to one another. The corrugated iron clad shed has a gable roof and is open along one side. The corrugated iron cladding is Redcliffe brand. The building has bush pole uprights and hand adzed timber framing and trusses. There is an extension to the shed on the south side that has narrower bush pole uprights. There is a brick fireplace towards the centre of the building with a brick chimney. This appears to be a later addition. The red brick toilet block has perimeter walls with a central covered area divided into male and female sections. The roof to the central toilet is of concrete and is a butterfly form.

Physical Condition

The red brick toilet block and corrugated iron clad shed were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Warrak Recreation Reserve located at 1245 Buangor-Ben Nevis Road, Warrak. The original boundaries of the playing field, border pines, tennis courts and location, form, materials and details of the shelter shed and red brick toilet block are integral to the significance of the place.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

How is it significant?

The Warrak Recreation Reserve is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Warrak Recreation Reserve is of historical significance for its role in the recreational development of the Warrak district community from 1906. Seven acres in the Township of Warrak were put aside as a recreation reserve in 1906 and have been an important recreation ground for the local district since that time. The Recreation Reserve is of historical significance for its association with the Dadswell family. Alfred Otto Dadswell who moved to the Mt. Cole area in the 1880s and worked on district sawmills constructed the shelter shed in the Reserve in 1926. After marrying Emma Lewin, by the early 1900s Otto had left the milling business and had become a farmer and also a carpenter and builder, constructing many farm buildings around the district. He also helped run district social events, participating in horse racing and playing cricket, and was instrumental in managing and promoting the Warrak Recreation Reserve. In the late 1940s, Stanley Dadswell, Otto and Emma's son, was associated with the complete re-grading of the Warrak Recreation Reserve. In 1955, when new tennis courts were being constructed at the reserve, it was found that insufficient space was available to accommodate them. As Stan's property abutted the reserve, he donated a piece of land to the sports ground trustees. (Criteria A & H)

The Warrak Recreation Reserve is aesthetically significant for its demonstration of the principal characteristics of a rural community sports ground established in the early 1900s and in use until the present day. These characteristics include the central sports field with facilities clustered around the edge, tennis courts and border pines. The ca. 1960 toilet building is of aesthetic interest for its concrete butterfly roof form. The corrugated iron clad shelter shed is of aesthetic significance as an intact example of a 1920s shelter shed and for its construction using bush poles and hand adzed timbers. The boundary pines contribute to the setting of the place. (Criteria D & E)

The Warrak Recreation Reserve is of social significance as a community focus in the township since it was reserved in 1906. Local sporting teams, including cricket and football teams from Warrak, Crowlands, Ararat, and Buangor, played regularly at the ground. The reserve was also used for sports carnivals, athletic meetings and school and church picnics. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 6 pines on the east boundary and 4 pines on the west boundary

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Shelter Shed and Toilet Block

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

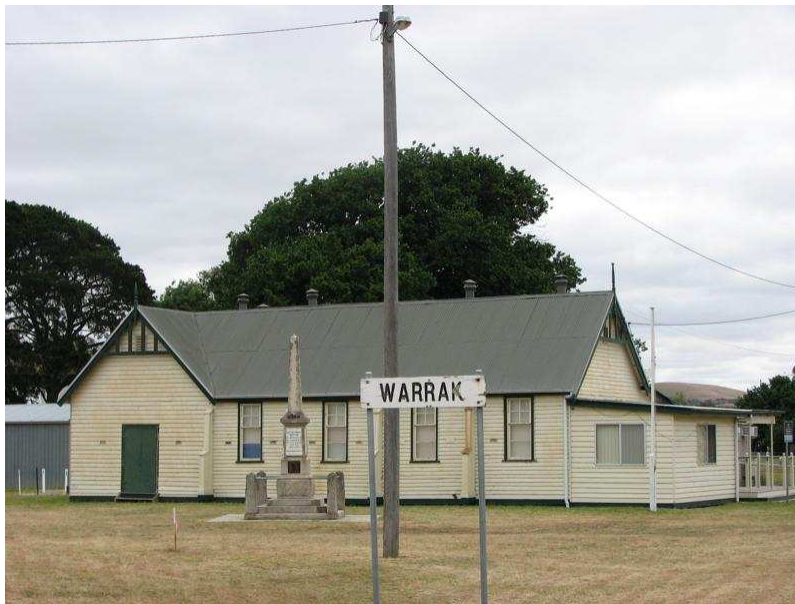




Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Warrak Hall and War Memorial	
Address	1673 Buangor-Ben Nevis Road WARRAK	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Memorial,Hall Public	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:[21]

The first hall at Warrak was that built by Alex McGuinness ca. 1888 at the intersection of the Buangor and Mount Cole/Warrak roads and adjacent to his hotel named 'The Live and Let Live'. By 1897, McGuinness's hall had fallen into disrepair and was used as a barn for storing hay and farm machinery and shearing sheep, although public events continued to be held in the rear section of the building until at least 1905.[22]

A memorial obelisk made of Mount Cole granite on a plinth of the same stone was erected by the Warrak and District Memorial Committee on land donated by A. Dadswell at Warrak in 1920 to commemorate thirteen district residents who died in World War One. The fifteen-foot high memorial was unveiled by Ararat Shire president, Councillor Vanstan. Ron Mewett's name was added to the memorial in 1946 after his death whilst serving in World War Two.[23]

In 1935, the 64-year old Mount Cole Hall, which operated as a hall, church and school and seated 100 people, was moved to Warrak near the war memorial. The hall collapsed en route to the new location, but was rebuilt.[24] When inspected by the Shire of Ararat engineer in March 1935, the hall was described as measuring 58 feet by 20 feet with a 26 feet by 15 feet supper room and a lobby and dressing room. The building featured twelve ventilators, five windows and four doors. The weatherboard Warrak Hall, lined with timber with a hardwood floor and ply ceiling, was opened in February 1935 by

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

the president of the Shire of Ararat, Councillor Vanstan.

In 1964, a 'switch on' ceremony was held at the hall to celebrate the connection of electricity to Warrak. In the same year, additions and alterations were made to the hall. Plans drawn up by Shire of Ararat engineer, J. Muntz, included extensions to the kitchen and supper room and the provision of new toilets. The alterations were opened in 1965.

In 1983, the original lobby was demolished and a new one built. A wall was opened between the hall and the supper room in 1986.

The Warrak Hall has housed a number of events over the years, including farewells, dances, concerts, wedding receptions, card games, meetings, funerals, and local elections.

The Warrak Hall continues to play an important role as a meeting place for district residents.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.: The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

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[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] *Ibid.*, 24, 45.

[20] *Ibid.*, 24, 34.

[21] Unless otherwise noted, this information is from Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882/P1/954.

[22] Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882/P1/528.

[23] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 68-69.

[24] *Ibid.*, 84.

Description

Physical Description

The World War One Memorial located to the southeast side of the hall is a grey granite obelisk on a plinth of the same stone. It has marble plaques listing the names of servicemen and servicewomen from World War One and World War Two. It is surrounded by a granite fence with a bollard at each corner and a single rail between the bollards.

Warrak Hall is a weatherboard building. The early section comprises two gable wings with the main hall at the front running perpendicular to the road and a gable wing to the rear running parallel to the road. The south east elevation of this original section is intact and contains early features such as the timber buttressing that divides the hall into four bays, each with a timber framed double hung window with four panes to the upper sash. The double vertical timber clad doors are also intact to the gable end on this side, as is the gable end timber fretwork and finial. The gable end fretwork and finial is also intact to the front gable end of the hall. There are later skillion additions to the front of the hall and along the northwest side. The main entry to the hall is through a porch attached to the front of the later northwest side addition. The windows to the front and southwest side skillions are aluminium framed. The roof to the gable wings is painted corrugated galvanised iron and the original cylindrical roof vents are located on the ridge of the hall roof. There are five of these ventilators evenly spaced across the ridge. The early weatherboards to the southeast side of the building are round edged.

Physical Condition

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Warrak Hall and War Memorial were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Warrak Hall and War Memorial located at 1673 Warrak Road, Warrak. The location and original, form, materials and details of the hall reconstructed on the site in 1935 and the War Memorial Obelisk and surrounds are integral to the significance of the place.

The later skillion roofed additions to the front, southwest side and rear of the hall do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Warrak Hall and War Memorial are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Warrak Hall is of historical significance for its important role in the civic and community life of the district. In 1935, the ca. 1871 Mount Cole Hall, which operated as a hall, church and school and seated 100 people, was moved to Warrak near the war memorial. The hall collapsed en route to the new location, but was rebuilt. The hall is of historical significance for its use as a hall, church and school from ca.1871 until 1935 and then its use as the Warrak Hall from 1935. The War Memorial Obelisk, erected in 1920, is of historical significance for its demonstration of the type of war memorials erected in rural townships to commemorate the wars. The hall and War Memorial are significant in demonstrating that Warrak was once a more populous township in the early 20th century. (Criterion A)

The Warrak Hall is aesthetically significant as an example of a community hall originally constructed in the 1870s but re-erected in the 1930s. Original features of note include the timber framed double hung windows with four pane upper sashes, timber fretwork and finials to the gable ends, timber buttressing, cylindrical roof vents, vertically clad timber double doors and round edge weatherboards. The granite War Memorial is a typical example of a memorial constructed after World War One with typical features including the obelisk mounted on a plinth form, use of granite and granite bollard surround. (Criterion D)

The Warrak Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the Warrak township since the 1930s and its use as a hall, church and school in Mount Cole prior to its relocation to Warrack in 1935. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings since its construction ca.1871. The War Memorial Obelisk is of social significance as the focus of war commemoration for the town and surrounding district and as the location of Anzac ceremonies since its erection in 1920. (Criterion G)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Warrak Uniting Church and Cypress	
Address	1688 Buangor-Ben Nevis Road WARRAK	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

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The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

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In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history: [21]

Rev. P Homan from Ararat provided church services to the sawmill population at Mount Cole and Warrak in the Mount Cole Hall building built ca. 1871. Methodist and Church of England services were held on alternative Sundays. Methodist services continued to be held in the hall building when it was moved to Warrak in 1935.[22]

As part of the Elmhurst Home Mission Station, the Warrak Methodist Church Trust made an application to erect an 'all purpose' hall in 1962 on land donated by C. McGuinness. The hall, formerly a RAAF hut, was purchased from Ballarat with funds raised by the Ladies' Guild, and comprised a building of 40 feet by 27 feet. The building was divided into three rooms; a corrugated iron anteroom and kitchen, both ten feet by ten feet, were added at the rear of the hall; and external toilets donated. The hall's walls were lined with timber with a Caneite ceiling; the anteroom and kitchen's walls and ceiling were lined with Masonite. The property was fenced and a gate donated.

The Warrak Methodist Church Hall, opened by Pastor Peter James in 1965, was used for Methodist services, Sunday school, guild and young people's activities[23]. The Warrak Methodist Church became part of the Uniting Church in 1977 and the church continues to be used today.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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- [3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [4] Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).
- [5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.
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- [10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.
- [11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.
- [12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.
- [13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*
- [14] *Ibid.*, 19.
- [15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.
- [16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.
- [17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final*

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Thirty Years 1964-1994, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

[19] *Ibid.*, 24, 45.

[20] *Ibid.*, 24, 34.

[21] Unless otherwise noted, this information is from Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882/P1/1542.

[22] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 44-45.

[23] *Ibid.*, 45.

Description

Physical Description

The hall, formerly a RAAF hut comprises a main gable roofed wing (40 feet by 27 feet) running parallel to Warrak Road with a skillion wing to the rear containing an anteroom and kitchen (both ten feet by ten feet). The walls are clad in painted corrugated galvanised iron. The eaves are wide and lined with timber boards. The doors are vertical timber lined and the windows are timber framed paired casements with two pane sashes. The front elevation contains evenly spaced openings with two windows on one side and then a door and another window to the end. One end elevation contains no openings and the other contains a central vertical timber lined door and a paired casement either side. There is a window to the rear elevation of each rear skillion room. One window has a single awning rather than the paired casement window type.

There are well established cypress plantings on the south and east boundaries.

Physical Condition

The Uniting Church Hall was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Warrak Uniting Church located at 1688 Warrak Road, Warrak. The location and original form, materials and details of the church and the cypress boundary plantings are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Warrak Uniting Church located at 1688 Warrak Road, Warrak is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Warrak Uniting Church is of historical significance for demonstrating the later development of the township of

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Warrak due to farming in the surrounding district and for the church's role in the community life of the district since 1965. As part of the Elmhurst Home Mission Station, the Warrak Methodist Church Trust made an application to erect an 'all purpose' hall in 1962 on land donated by C. McGuinness. The hall, formerly a RAAF hut, was purchased from Ballarat with funds raised by the Ladies' Guild. The Warrak Methodist Church Hall, opened by Pastor Peter James in 1965, was used for Methodist services, Sunday school, guild and young people's activities. The Methodist Church, which became part of the Uniting Church in 1977, is still in use today. (Criterion A)

The Warrak Uniting Church is aesthetically significant as an example of the re-use of an army hut as a church hall. Unusually there appear to have been little changes made to convert the building to a new use so there is nothing to distinguish its use as a church. The building is a substantially intact example of a P1 Army Hut constructed during World War Two. Original features include the gable roof with wide, lined eaves, corrugated iron wall cladding, vertical timber clad doors and paired timber framed casement windows. The boundary cypress plantings on two boundaries frame the building and provide a landmark to the important congregation place. (Criterion D)

The Warrak Uniting Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from the 1960s with special connections to the Uniting (formerly Methodist) Church congregation. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes south and east boundary cypress plantings

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Warrak State School No. 834 and Former Taytoon State School No. 1812		
Address	1663 Warrak Road WARRAK	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	School - State (public)		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

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History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836 and named both Mount Cole and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, had instructed Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[2] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by the favorable reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[3]

Four runs incorporated what was to become Elmhurst-Mount Cole-Warrak district: Decameron, 102,400 acres taken up in 1841 by Dr Imlay; Glenlogie, 145 square miles taken up in 1846 by Alexander Irvine; Woodlands, 184,000 acres taken up by W. J. T. Clarke in 1841; and Mount Cole, 48,000 acres taken up in 1840 by Alexander and Colin Campbell.[4] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

In the early 1850s, gold diggers on their way to Ararat and Pleasant Creek from Avoca or Castlemaine followed an early stock route that crossed the Pyrenees and forded the Wimmera River at Elmhurst. The police-escorted Mount Alexander-South Australian Gold Escort, which operated between March 1852 and December 1853, also crossed the Wimmera River at Elmhurst.[5]

Timber cutting in the extensive Mount Cole forests brought other white settlers to the district. Sawmills were established to meet the demands of the gold towns and agricultural areas for shingles, palings, posts and rails, and in later years sleepers for railway lines and laths for the Stawell and Maryborough gold mines. The first sawmill was set up by James Magee at Hickman's Creek on Mount Cole in 1856. Forbes and Lewin brought their engine and machinery from Glendhu and established a sawmill on the Warrak side of the range, where James McGuiness built the Live and Let Live Hotel.[6] By the 1860s, several sawmills were in operation in the Mount Cole and Warrak areas. Redgum sleepers were sawn at the Elmhurst pits, and by 1889, eight sawmills were operating within twelve miles of the Elmhurst township.[7]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, selectors took up land for farming.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres were alienated under the 1862 Act,[8] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862. As a consequence, a number of allotments were taken up in the Warrak and Mount Cole districts.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act*

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aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing, but the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[9] However some allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole districts under this Act. Selectors planted orchards in the area, and others established grazing and mixed farming on the lowlands.

Settlements were established at Elmhurst, Warrak and Mount Cole. Elmhurst was established in 1854 as a canvas town next to the ford over the Wimmera River on the road from the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) and Avoca goldfields to the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek diggings.[10] George Jones established a hotel ca. 1856, and a store was built soon after.[11] Elmhurst township was proclaimed in 1861, although land in the township was sold before this year. In 1865, Elmhurst township supported a population of 450, and comprised a post office, two saw mills and a hotel. A private school, later Elmhurst State School No. 959, opened in 1866. A recreation, cricket ground and racecourse were gazetted in 1877. In 1871, the township had a population of 145; by 1901 this had increased to 214.[12] At Mount Cole, a hotel was in operation by the early 1850s, a lock up was installed in 1854, and a police station was established in 1862. Multi-denominational church services were held in the Mount Cole Hall in the early 1860s and a post office opened in 1865.[13] Mount Cole Common School was established in 1865 in a building that was used as a church and hall.[14] A hotel opened at Warrak in 1865, a police station opened in 1873, and the Warrak Post Office opened in 1879. In 1871, the township had a population of 79; by 1881 this had decreased to 35.[15] Warrak township was proclaimed in 1885.

Farming, fruit growing and timber cutting in the district were given a boost with the completion of the Ararat-Avoca railway, with a station at Elmhurst, in 1890. Up until World War One, orchardists at Elmhurst, Mount Cole and Bayindeen exported 30,000 cases of apples and pears to England and Germany per year.[16] The opening of the railway also facilitated an increase in rabbit trapping, whereby rabbits caught in the Elmhurst district were transported to the Hamilton Rabbit Preserving Factory.[17]

By 1904, the forests of Mount Cole had been so depleted that the government closed them to commercial operators until 1947.[18] The Elmhurst Red Cross formed in 1914, and was instrumental in establishing a bush nursing hospital in Elmhurst in 1917 and funded additions to the Mechanics' Institute hall in 1929. The Warrak State School No. 834 opened in 1934 in a school building shifted from Ballyrogan, and in 1935 the Mount Cole Hall was moved to Warrak for use as its hall. The Warrak Methodist Church opened in 1962.[19]

In July 1959 the railway line between Avoca and Ararat was closed, but reopened in October 1966. In 1983, a nine-hole golf course was established on public land in Elmhurst (golf had been played in the township since 1912); in the same year, the Elmhurst Public Hall (Mechanics' Institute) was renovated and extended.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. Post offices at Warrak and Mount Cole closed in 1975. The Warrak State School closed in 1985.[20]

Farming in the area today includes cropping, the grazing of livestock for wool and meat, and the growing of wine grapes. Warrak and Elmhurst townships continue to provide services to residents of the district, with a hall, school, store, churches, the Red Cross and a hotel operating in Elmhurst, and a hall serving the Warrak community. The Avoca-Ararat railway line has not been used for a number of years. Mount Cole State Forest, Langi Ghiran State Park, Mount Buangor State Park are popular tourist destinations. Timber getting for saw logs was reintroduced in the Mount Cole State Forest in 2013.

Place history:[21]

The Warrak district served was serviced by schools at Mount Cole, Mount Cole Creek and Bayindeen.

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A common school commenced operation in the sawmilling settlement of Mount Cole in September 1865 in a building, which also housed a church and hall. A weekly average of 16 children attended. A common school site at Mount Cole was formally reserved in December 1866.

The *Education Act 1872* made attending school compulsory for most Victorian children between the ages of six and fifteen. Under the same Act, all schools came under the control of the colonial government and provision was made for the creation of a government-funded education department to oversee existing schools and the building of new schools.

Subsequently, in 1873 the Mount Cole Common School was transferred to the Board of Education and tenders were called for a new building for State School No. 834 at Mount Cole. Recommendations were made for a weatherboard building, 30 feet by 18 feet, with a shingle roof and hardwood floor. In July 1875, the school trustees agreed that a new school and residence could be built from local materials at a cost of £120. However a new building did not eventuate and, instead, the Mount Cole school was moved into the Mount Cole Hall in August 1877.

In 1877, Warrak residents petitioned the Board of Education for a school in that settlement. Although the petition was not successful, a site for a state school at Warrak was gazetted in 1878, but no building was constructed. In 1922, discussions about the possibility of moving the Mount Cole school (hall) building to Warrak were initiated. The proposal caused conflict between the two communities, with Mount Cole not wanting to lose its school, but Warrak expressing a need for one its community.

Although newspaper advertisements from 1914 list a polling place at a school located at Warrak, it was not until April 1934 that the former Ballyrogan school building (before that, used by the Mt Lonach school near Geelong and built ca.1886) was moved to Warrak and opened in the same month. It was known as the Warrak State School, and retained the Mount Cole school number of 834. A bell, with a forked stand made from a tree on Mount Cole, was removed from the Mount Cole school and re-erected at the Warrak school.

In 1935, the 64-year old Mount Cole Hall, which had operated as a hall, church and school and seated 100 people, was moved to Warrak near the war memorial.

In 1946, a residence was purchased in Warrak for use by the teacher, and a shelter shed was erected in 1953. Wrought iron gates, on which were inscribed, 'Mount Cole Warrak 1866-1966', were installed at the school in celebration of its centenary in 1966.

Warrak State School No. 834 operated until 1985. The school premises were sold soon after and are now privately owned.

The owner moved the Tattyoon school to the site in the early 1990s. Tattyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poora home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, was established as a centre for surrounding farming populations. A school site was reserved at Tattyoon in 1872 and the Tattyoon State School No. 1812, a single classroom weatherboard building, opened in 1877. On 8 August 1913, the Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tattyoon, opened. As a consequence of the planned railway, from 1911 the original Tattyoon settlement diminished with the new Tattyoon township developing around the Tattyoon Railway Station site. The former settlement site became known as Tattyoon North. In April 1914, the Tattyoon North State School was moved from its original location to the new township site and opened as a half-time school in that year. The school building was also used for social functions until the Tattyoon Hall opened in 1920.[22] Tattyoon State School No. 1812 closed in 1970.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions

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only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[3] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[4] Run details are drawn from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983); Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955).

[5] J. Flett map in Leslie James Blake, *Gold Escort* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawthorn Press, 1971). Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 32.

[6] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143-44.

[7] *Echoes of Elmhurst*, (Elmhurst, Vic.? The Centenary and Back-to-Elmhurst Committee, 1968), 5.

[8] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[9] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 143.

[11] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[12] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 62.

[13] Margaret Beattie and Bronwyn Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People* (Warrak, Vic.: M. Beattie & B. Shalders, 1990), 1; *ibid.*

[14] *Ibid.*, 19.

[15] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 470.

[16] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 62.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 33.

[18] Beattie and Shalders, *Mt Cole-Warrak: A History and Its People*, 5.

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[19] Ibid., 24, 45.

[20] Ibid., 24, 34.

[21] Unless otherwise cited, this information is from *ibid.*, 19-30. L. J. Blake, ed. *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education*, vol. 2 (Melbourne: Education Department Victoria, 1974), 32.

[22] *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education*, 49, 62-3.

Description

Physical Description

The former Warrak School consists of a tall gable roofed classroom with a large multi paned window to the front elevation and a gable roofed entry porch to one side bridging the connection between the gable roofed classroom and a skillion roofed side addition. The addition extends the length of the building. The rear gable end of the classroom also contains a large multi paned window. These windows are timber framed. They would not be the original windows to the school but they would have been altered in about the 1920s to provide more light into the classroom. There is a tripartite timber framed double hung window in the rear elevation of the skillion wing. This window is a later addition associated with the conversion of the building to a residence. There is a brick chimney approximately at the centre of the side wall of the class room that has the skillion attached. The gable roofed porch has a window to the front elevation and a side entry with a single door. The gable end of the classroom also contains a rectangular louvred vent opening and the roof which is clad in corrugated iron has evenly spaced cylindrical roof vents. There is the remnant base of a timber finial on the front peak of the gable. The walls of all sections are clad in weatherboards.

The former Tatyoon School Building is a gable roofed single classroom with weatherboard cladding. This is connected to the side of the gabled classroom of the Warrak School via a skillion roofed link which is also clad in weatherboard. The rear elevation of the classroom has a large timber framed window divided into six panes. There is a skillion corrugated iron hood over this window. There are two double hung windows along the exposed elevation of this building. There is also the base of a timber finial at the rear gable end.

Physical Condition

The former Warrak school and Tatyoon school were in fair condition in December 2014.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Warrak State School No. 834 and the Tatyoon State School No. 1812 at 1663 Warrak Road, Warrak. The original form, materials and details of these structures are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Warrak State School No. 834 and the Tatyoon State School No. 1812 are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

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The former Warrak State School No. 834 is of historical significance for its role in the provision of education and development of civic life in Warrak from 1935 until 1985. The use of the relocated Ballyrogan School as the school building in Warrak demonstrates the shifting nature of small rural populations, which grew and diminished as farming conditions changed. The Warrak School building also demonstrates the development of the Ballyrogan township in the 1880s. The school was erected in Ballyrogan in 1886 and moved to Warrak in 1935. The Tatyoon State School No. 1812 building, which was moved to the current site in the 1990s, is of historical significance for demonstrating the operation of a school in the Tatyoon township and for demonstrating the early establishment of that township. Tatyoon State School No. 1812 was erected in Tatyoon in 1877 and moved to the new railway township of Tatyoon in 1914. Both schools are rare reminders of the larger populations that once existed in the three associated townships of Warrak, Tatyoon and Ballyrogan. (Criteria A & B)

The former Warrak School building and Tatyoon School building are aesthetically significant as substantially intact examples of weatherboard Public Works Department school buildings dating from the Victorian period. They demonstrate the standard form of gable roofed classrooms, location of windows and windows types and the types of materials used including timber framed windows, weatherboard cladding and corrugated iron roofs with cylindrical roof vents. (Criterion D)

The former Warrak State School is of social significance as a focus for education in the Warrack district from 1935 to 1985. Past pupils of this school and the former Tatyoon State School No. 1812 have special associations with the buildings. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Westmere Hall, War Memorial and Gates		
Address	914 Glenelg Highway WESTMERE	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Hall Public ,Memorial		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

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

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere and Mininera districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere-Mininera district was included in the boundaries of six runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; and View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. A coach track, the main route from Portland to Melbourne via Hamilton, traversed the district, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[6]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[8] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[9] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[10] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[11] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, resulting in the establishment of the Mininera and Mininera East settlements.[12]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[13] effectively giving rise to the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway. With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[14] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[15] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the establishment of a store and post office in the same year.[16] Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[17] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned

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soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[18] boosting the population of the Westmere-Mininera district.

A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[19] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[20] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[21] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[22] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere-Mininera district.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[23]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[24] St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rourke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters General's Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rourke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[25]

The Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten opened in the Westmere Hall in August 1973. The Mininera Hall was sold in 1975 and the school closed in the same year. A large grain bunker was built at Westmere in the early 1980s, but was never used.[26] Westmere was supplied water by a pipeline from the Streatham reservoir in the early 1980s.[27] St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere closed in 1991, and Westmere State School No. 3833 closed in 1993, as did the post office.[28]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district Westmere-Mininera district. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[29] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:[30]

The original Westmere Hall was an unlined corrugated iron building erected opposite Hanson's store.

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Through the efforts of the Westmere Progress Association, plans for a new weatherboard hall with corrugated iron roof were drawn up by J. S. Heard of Tatyoon. The building comprised a 40 feet by 24 feet hall; an 18 feet by 12 feet kitchen; a 24 feet by 12 feet platform; two dressing rooms; a bio-box and porch.[31] The hall opened in May 1930 with a debt of £400. Fund raising was undertaken to pay the hall off.

An Electric Light Ball, to celebrate the supply of electricity to Westmere, was held in the hall on 30 September 1938.

A war memorial was erected adjacent to the hall on 1 May 1949 to commemorate the locals who served in World War Two.

Plans for alterations and additions to the hall were drawn up by Hugh Peck and Associates, architects of Melbourne, in 1948. Alterations included the addition of a supper room and kitchen at the rear of the hall and an extension of the committee room on the northeast. The building program was undertaken by contractor E. Brown of Westmere and completed in 1952.[32]

Films were shown in the hall from 1953.

After alterations to comply with health regulations were made to the hall, the Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten was established in the supper room in 1973. Its activities wound up in 1999.

A brick veneer toilet block adjoining the hall on the west was constructed in 1979.[33]

The Westmere Hall has hosted community functions, including meetings, dances, card nights, musical evening and films, since it opened in 1930. It continues to provide an important meeting place for the local community and district today. Anzac services are held at the war memorial.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [8] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [9] Ibid., 127.
- [10] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [12] Ibid., 129.
- [13] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [14] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [15] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3,5.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [22] Ibid., 155.
- [23] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [24] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [25] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [27] Ibid., 92-94.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.

[29] *Rural Townships*.

[30] Unless otherwise noted, information has been taken from Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 21-5.

[31] "Public Hall Westmere." Public Building Files: Public Records Office of Victoria 7882/P1/867.

[32] Ibid.

[33] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

The site contains the Westmere Hall and a War Memorial on the east side of the hall with separate entry gates. The fence to the front of the hall has cylindrical steel posts with cyclone wire mesh infill.

The Hall is a timber framed building with a T-shaped floor plan. The main hall is at the front of the building and has a gable roof running perpendicular to the street with a gable roofed front porch, also running perpendicular to the street. At the rear of the hall is a transverse wing with a double gable roof running parallel with the street. This wing extends out to the same length either side of the hall. The roofs to the rear wing connect into the hall gable roof, which ends in a hip at the rear of the building. The roof is clad in Colorbond and has metal cylindrical vents on the ridge.

The exterior walls are clad in aluminium sheet with a weatherboard profile but the walls would have originally been weatherboard and the original weatherboards are most likely under the aluminium sheeting. The windows are timber framed and double hung with two pane sashes. These are the original windows. The windows to the gable ends of the double gable wing to the rear are twin double hung windows and the windows to the front elevation of the front porch are small fixed twin pane windows. The large single doors and double doors are lined with vertical timber and are also original features. The main entry to the hall is via double doors on the east side elevation of the front porch. There is a sign stating the name of the hall above the windows on the front of the porch.

There is a cream brick skillion roofed toilet to the rear that does not contribute to the significance of the site.

The World War Two Memorial comprises a central polished red granite tablet with a rough hewn top and grey granite panels either side, also with a rough hewn top. All sections are on a single rough hewn granite plinth. The central red granite tablet contains the inscribed names of two Westmere residents who died in the war and the panels either side contain the names of those men who served in the war. Directly behind the memorial are two cypresses and a flagpole. An area around the memorial and a path leading up to the memorial are elevated on a gravel platform with bluestone edging.

Physical Condition

The place was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

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What is significant?

The Westmere Hall and War Memorial and Gates located at 914 Glenelg Highway, Westmere. The location and original form, materials and details of these structures are integral to the significance of the place.

The cream brick toilets to the rear of the hall are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Westmere Hall and War Memorial and Gates located at 914 Glenelg Highway, Westmere are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Westmere Hall and War Memorial and Gates are of historical significance for their role in the development of community and civic life in Westmere and the surrounding district. Completed in 1930, the hall demonstrates the increase in population in the area and town as a result of soldier settlement in the Mininera-Westmere district following World War One. An earlier, more rudimentary hall existed in the township prior to 1930 but the increase in population heightened the need for a more permanent community meeting place. The hall was erected due to the efforts of the Westmere Progress Association, and fund raising was undertaken to pay off the debt after the hall was completed. Extensions were added 1952. The hall is indicative of the type of efforts made by rural communities in the early to mid twentieth century in order to provide a local community meeting place. The World War Two Memorial is of historical significance for its demonstration of the type of war memorials erected in rural townships after World War Two. The absence of a World War One Memorial indicates the young age of the town at the time of World War One and the increase in population by the time World War Two had commenced. (Criterion A)

The Westmere Hall is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a community hall designed in the Inter-War period that retains a number of original features. These features include the timber framed double hung windows with twin sashes, large single doors and double doors with vertical timber lining, overall gable roof forms and metal cylindrical vents to the roof. The survival of the original timber framed windows and timber doors is rare, as community halls often undergo significant change over time and these original features are often lost. The granite war memorial demonstrates a more unusual design of a war memorial erected in rural towns after World War Two. (Criterion D)

The Westmere Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since the 1930s. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings, concerts and memorial ceremonies since its completion in 1930. The World War Two Memorial is of social significance as the focus of war commemoration for the town and surrounding district and as the location of Anzac ceremonies since its erection in 1949. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes War memorial gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	St Johns Anglican Church	
Address	916 Glenelg Highway WESTMERE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

Architectural Style	Postwar Period (1945-1965)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere and Mininera districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere-Mininera district was included in the boundaries of six runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; and View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. A coach track, the main route from Portland to Melbourne via Hamilton, traversed the district, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[6]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[8] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[9] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[10] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[11] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, resulting in the establishment of the Mininera and Mininera East settlements.[12]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[13] effectively giving rise to the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway. With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[14] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[15] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the establishment of a store and post office in the same year.[16] Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[17] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned

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soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[18] boosting the population of the Westmere-Mininera district.

A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[19] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[20] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[21] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[22] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere-Mininera district.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[23]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[24]

St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952 and a supper room was added to the Westmere Hall in the same year.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rourke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters Generals Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rourke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[25]

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Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district Westmere-Mininera district. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[29] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:

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The Anglicans of the Westmere district were first served by a minister from Cressy. Services were held in private homes, the Westmere railway station waiting rooms, at wheat stacks (using bags of wheat for seats), and at the Westmere school when it opened in 1914. From 1914, the Anglicans came under the care of the Willaura Parish.[30]

From 1915, Anglican church services were held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere on alternate fortnights until St Johns Church of England opened in Westmere in 1952.[31]

Plans for St Johns Church of England were drawn up by Southern Planning and Drafting Co, South Yarra, in 1951. The church, measuring 1448 square feet and made of brick with a tiled roof, was constructed by builder, Robert Ogden, of Caulfield and opened in 1952.[32]

On 24 August 1981, the Church of England of Australia was officially renamed the Anglican Church of Australia.

Now a part of the Mortlake Parish, services are no longer conducted at St Johns Church of England.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[6] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.

[7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[8] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.

[9] Ibid., 127.

[10] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

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- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [12] Ibid., 129.
- [13] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [14] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [15] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3,5.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [22] Ibid., 155.
- [23] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [24] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [25] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [27] Ibid., 92-94.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [29] *Rural Townships*.
- [30] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 28.
- [31] Ibid.
- [32] "Church of England Westmere." Public Building Files: Public Records Office of Victoria 7882/P1/1104.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Description

Physical Description

St Johns Anglican Church, Westmere is a cream brick church set back from the street with a matching cream brick fence to the front. A wide concrete path leads from the double pedestrian gates to the front of the church. At either side of the entry behind the fence is a pencil pine and cypress.

The church has a main gable roof, which runs parallel to the highway. At one end of the front elevation is a projecting gable roofed porch with the roof running perpendicular to the highway. The east side elevation of this porch contains the main double entry doors and the gable end, which faces the highway, contains an inlaid brick cross in a darker brick. The walls are substantially cream brick with a confetti of red bricks randomly placed throughout. The gable ends have brick corbelling at the eaves line and there is brick buttressing to the corners. The capping bricks to the gables are thinner and darker than the main wall bricks. The roof is clad in ceramic tiles. Windows are vertical rectangles with iron frames and six panes with the bottom four panes forming a hopper sash. There is a timber cross on the apex of the roof at the west end of the main gable. On the rear elevation is another entry door with a skillion porch over. The porch has two timber posts and a ceramic tile roof similar to the main roof. The marble foundation stone reads: 'AMDC St Johns Church of England. This stone was laid by the Lord Bishop of Ballarat Right Rev W H Johnson BA on May 19th 1952'

The front fence consists of a low solid brick wall with pillars that extend above the wall and support a steel bar that extends between the evenly spaced pillars. The pillars either side of the double pedestrian gates contain an inlaid cross on a darker brick than the main fence brick. This is the same detail as used in the church.

Physical Condition

The place was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Johns Anglican Church, front fence, two cypresses and two pencil pines, located at 916 Glenelg Highway, Westmere. The location and original form, materials and details of the church and fence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

St Johns Anglican Church located at 916 Glenelg Highway, Westmere is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

St Johns Anglican Church and fence are of historical significance for their demonstration of the boom in the farming community in the Mininera-Westmere district as a result of flax farming undertaken for World War Two military purposes and the second phase of soldier settlement following World War Two. The construction of a substantial brick church in the town in the 1950s demonstrates the prosperity and stable community around resulting from a surge in the farming population in the Mininera-Westmere district around the World War Two period. (Criterion A)

St Johns Anglican Church is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and unusual example of a 1950s brick

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Church in the English Cottage revival style. Key features of the period and style include the use of cream brick with confetti of red brick throughout, brick inlaid detailing, wrought iron windows, the ceramic tiled roof and brick corbelling to the eaves. The front brick fence, which uses the same brick and inlaid cross detailing as the church enhances the aesthetic significance of the site by demonstrating an integrated whole of site design. The cypresses and pencil pines also add to the setting of the place marking the entry. (Criteria D & E)

St Johns Anglican Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district since the 1950s. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes 2 pencil pines, 2 cypress
Fences & Outbuildings	No Front brick fence
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Westmere Railway Station Complex		
Address	Holdsworth Lane WESTMERE	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Railway Platform/ Station,Silo,Granary/Grain Shed		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere and Mininera districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[8] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[9] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[10] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[11] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poorra and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, resulting in the establishment of the Mininera and Mininera East settlements.[12]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[13] effectively giving rise to the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway. With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[14] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[15] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the establishment of a store and post office in the same year.[16] Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[17] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin

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A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[19] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[20] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[21] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[22] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere-Mininera district.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[23]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[24]

St Johns Church of England in Westmere was dedicated in 1952 and a supper room was added to the Westmere Hall in the same year.

Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rourke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters General's Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rourke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[25]

The Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten opened in the Westmere Hall in August 1973. The Mininera Hall was sold in 1975 and the school closed in the same year. A large grain bunker was built at Westmere in the early 1980s, but was never used.[26] Westmere was supplied water by a pipeline from the Streatham reservoir in the early 1980s.[27] St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere closed in 1991, and Westmere State School No. 3833 closed in 1993, as did the post office.[28]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district Westmere-Mininera district. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[29] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

Place history:

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The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[30]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until **1869** that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[31] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

By 1900, the Western Plains were encircled by railways, but crossed by none. In 1908, investigation for the construction of a railway across the plains commenced to connect the Ararat-Hamilton line to either the Geelong-Ballarat or Geelong-Colac line. Routes from Bannockburn, Moriac or Winchelsea were considered.[32]

In December 1908, the Winchelsea Railway League wrote to the Premier of Victoria, Sir Thomas Bent, requesting that a flying survey be made for the proposed Willaura to Geelong Railway to connect at Winchelsea. It was argued that there would be no engineering difficulties and that a saving of thousands of pounds in construction costs could be made. Most of the route would cross first class agricultural land suitable for wheat, oats and barley growing.[33]

The final agreed route for the Western Plains Line was from Gheringhap, via Inverleigh, Cressy, Lismore and Derrinallum to Maroona, which served as the junction between this line and the branch line to Portland. The construction of the line was advanced by the need to find an alternate route to the Western Line, which was steeply graded in crossing the Great Dividing Range, between Ararat and Bacchus Marsh; plans to make Geelong the primary port for the export of bulk grains; and attempts to develop Portland as a major frozen lamb export point.[34]

The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, measuring 99.76 miles in length, was constructed over a three year period at a cost of £408,410, and at the time was the longest length of railway to be built and opened at one time in Victoria. Construction, heading west from Cressy, commenced on 27 September 1910, and from Maroona in an eastwards direction in March 1911. Goods were hauled for the public between Maroona and Tatyoon from April 1912 and Westmere from September 1912. Tracklaying over the full distance was completed on February 22 1913 and some regular public train services commenced.[35] All construction was to the standards and designs provided by Victorian Railways.

The line was finally officially opened at Lismore on Friday August 8 1913.[36]

A station was established at Parupa (Westmere) where the railway line crossed the Lake Bolac-Streatham Road. A station building was erected at Westmere ca 1913 and conformed to the standard type of timber station used for small stations in the 1910 era, but with some Art Nouveau styling. A 1918 map shows that the station complex consisted of a parcels office, a booking hall, station office, general waiting room, ladies waiting room and ladies toilet. At the Maroona end of the platform was a lamp room and men's toilets. At the Melbourne end of the station was a van goods shed.[37]

In 1918, a goods platform with a small goods shed was in existence on the east side of the railway line, as were eight grain stick sheds and sheep and stock yards. By the same year, there were four railway houses at the station on the west side of the railway line (none of these remain). Two gang sheds: a trolley shed and a tool shed, were constructed on the

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Melbourne end of the complex.[38] A weighbridge was in operation by 1916.

The railway line was important in facilitating the post World War One Soldier Settlement Scheme in the Westmere-Mininera district.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations from 1938, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. A three-cell Geelong 'A' type silo, with a capacity of 65,000 bushels, was opened at Westmere in 1940. The goods shed and goods platform were moved to the north to allow the construction of the silo complex.

On 14 January 1952, passenger services on the Gheringhap to Maroona line ended. At some point, part of the station building at Westmere, thought to be the parcels office, was removed and the decorative end gable used instead to support the side of the booking hall to create a verandah. This may have occurred when the passenger service was withdrawn in 1952.[39]

In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Westmere measured 408,584 bushels.[40] Two Ascom steel silos and elevator were built at Westmere in 1964 by an Italian construction team. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a Dreyfus oat shed was constructed at Westmere in 1962. A much larger Victorian Oats Pool shed was built in 1963.[41]

An additional grain shed and a superphosphate shed were added in the 1970s.[42]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down.

Two sidings, silos, a station building and platform, a grains shed and an oats shed remain at the Westmere Railway Station. Today the grain complex is managed by Grain Corp. Grain Corp has continued to build additional capacity to the site, which now handles 80 to 90 thousand tons of grain per season, including wheat, canola, barley and oats. Most of the grain is transported by road.[43]

The centenary of the Gheringhap-Marroona Railway was celebrated in 2013.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [6] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.
- [7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [8] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [9] Ibid., 127.
- [10] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [12] Ibid., 129.
- [13] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [14] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [15] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3,5.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [22] Ibid., 155.
- [23] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [24] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

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- [25] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [27] Ibid., 92-94.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [29] *Rural Townships*.
- [30] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.
- [31] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary : A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.
- [32] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013." Geelong: Geelong and District Western Rail Heritage Society Inc, 2013.
- [33] Ibid.
- [34] From research undertaken by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.
- [35] "Gheringhap-Maroonah Railway Cressy Rail Centenary Saturday, 10 August 2013."
- [36] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 98.
- [37] From research undertaken by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.
- [38] From research undertaken by Ibid.
- [39] From research undertaken by Ibid.
- [40] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 54-55.
- [41] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 10.
- [42] From research undertaken by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.
- [43] *Rural Townships*.

Description

Physical Description

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The Westmere Railway Station Complex comprises a station building, two sidings, silos, passenger platform, weighbridge and office, two pine trees, a grain shed and an oats shed. All of these elements contribute to the significance of the railway station complex.

All features are on the west side of the tracks with the station building in the centre and close to the tracks and the goods shed to the north and set further back from the tracks and the silos to the south set close to the tracks.

The station building is timber framed with weatherboard cladding. It has a gable roof with a skillion verandah over the platform to the length of the building and an end verandah formed by the main roofline. The end wall of this verandah area has the ticket window, which has been boarded up. There are timber brackets to the corners of this open area. There are two doors and a window on the platform elevation and two windows on the elevation facing the access road. All windows have been boarded up. There are two pine trees on the road side of the station building.

The silos to the south end of the station consist of a tall concrete silo comprising three cells with a corrugated iron clad hipped roof with the grain elevator extending out the top and two shorter steel silos with conical roofs and separate corrugated iron clad grain elevator.

The sheds at the north end of the station building are steel framed with corrugated metal sheet cladding. The steel framing is exposed on the exterior of the sheds with the wall cladding on the inside of the frame. The oat shed has a more steeply pitched roof. The gable end of the grain shed contains the wording: 'Louis Dreyfus Agent J. Renkin & Co Ltd Ph' painted above the entrance.

The weighbridge is elevated on a steel frame with open steel steps up the end entry to the weighing office. The building is clad in corrugated metal sheet and has a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron. This is a more substantial and unusual weighbridge type than those usually seen at rural stations.

Physical Condition

The station building was in poor condition in November 2013. The remainder of the complex was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Westmere Railway Station Complex consisting of the 1913 station building, two sidings, silos, passenger platform, weighbridge and office, two pine trees, a grain shed and an oats shed. The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Westmere Railway Station Complex located on Holdsworth Lane, Westmere is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Westmere Railway Station Complex is of historical significance to Ararat Rural City Council for its ability to demonstrate the coming of the railway to the closer settlement areas in the district and the important role it played in

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facilitating the post World War One Soldier Settlement Scheme in the Westmere-Mininera district. The Western Plains Line, from Gheringhap to Maroona, was officially opened at Lismore in August 1913 and demonstrated the growing need for rail transport services on the Western Plains due to the expanding farming community at that time. The grain stores and silos erected at the station from the late 1930s (weigh bridge and concrete silo) until the 1960s demonstrate the establishment of the Victorian Grain Elevators Board in 1935, which introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat to railway stations. The steel silos installed in the 1960s to accommodate surplus grain demonstrate the bumper grain crops experienced in the 1950s and 1960s. (Criterion A)

The Westmere Railway Station Complex is aesthetically significant as a collection of railway station related features illustrating the components, appearance and design of a rural railway station servicing a grain farming district in the early to mid twentieth century. The individual components such as the 1913 station building, the oats shed and grain store, silos, and weighbridge and office are substantially intact and exhibit principal characteristics of their building types and age. These characteristics include the building placement, overall form, scale and materials, opening types and placement and detailing. The 1913 station building substantially conforms to the standard Victorian Railways type of timber station used for small stations in the 1910 era, but with some Art Nouveau styling, including the roof form and the end verandah with timber brackets to the posts. The two pine trees demonstrate the practice of the planting specimen trees and gardens on railway reserves. The gardens around station buildings were often a feature of the early twentieth century period. The elevated weighbridge office in operation by 1916 is significant as an early and more unusual example of its type. (Criteria B, D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes 2 cypress
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Westmere State School No. 3833 and Teachers Residence		
Address	18-28 School Road WESTMERE	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	School - State (public), Shelter Shed, Staff housing		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere and Mininera districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[18] boosting the population of the Westmere-Mininera district.

A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[19] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[20] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere.

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under the scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[21] Two soldier settler blocks were excised from the original Westmere township site of 1000 acres.[22] This phase of settlement brought a further wave of farming families to the Westmere-Mininera district.

During World War Two, farmers grew flax for use by the military in webbing straps, uniforms, rope and canvas. The flax was processed at a mill opened at Lake Bolac in 1942. Considerable acreages of flax were planted in the Lake Bolac and Westmere districts to supply the mill, which processed the crop yield from 3,000 acres until its closure in 1959.[23]

Rural fire brigades were formed in 1944 and 1948 in Westmere and Mininera respectively.[24]

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Westmere played an important role in the development of the radio communications network for fire control and suppression. H. M. O'Rourke MBE, a signaller during World War One and Captain of the Westmere Bush Fire Brigade, worked with a small number of fellow radio enthusiasts to form the Westmere Radio Group. The Post Masters Generals Office supported their work and the first authorised and licensed radio transmission for rural fire fighting purposes took place on 19 December 1946 at the home of Hugh O'Rourke. Today the CFA radio communication network is recognised as a major tool in fire fighting.[25]

The Lake Bolac and District Kindergarten opened in the Westmere Hall in August 1973. The Mininera Hall was sold in 1975 and the school closed in the same year. A large grain bunker was built at Westmere in the early 1980s, but was never used.[26] Westmere was supplied water by a pipeline from the Streatham reservoir in the early 1980s.[27] St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Westmere closed in 1991, and Westmere State School No. 3833 closed in 1993, as did the post office.[28]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district Westmere-Mininera district. Today, a twice-daily V-Line service operates from Westmere to Hamilton and Ballarat. Other services include those provided by the Westmere Hall, Westmere General Store, St John's Anglican Church, Westmere Fire Brigade and Westmere Red Cross.[29] Mininera's community hub is its recreation reserve. The Mininera Post Office continues to operate. The Streatham-Mininera-Westmere (SMW) Rovers are a part of the Mininera and District Football League. The main industry of the district is agriculture, including the growing of canola, lupins, wheat, oats, triticale and barley, sheep, fine wool and meat. Cattle are also a product of the area.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Place history [30]

After the arrival of the railway line in 1913, the subdivision of the Nerrin Nerrin estate and the survey of the Westmere township site, a number of families, including railway employees, arrived in Westmere and district.

As a consequence, Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914 with an enrolment of 22 pupils on the north side of the Glenelg Highway on a five-acre site surveyed as part of the Westmere township in 1912. The original school building was a portable structure with a lift-up canvas side opening on the north wall.

The school committee began a program of planting pines and eucalypts to provide shelter and shade for the students soon after the school was established.

The tender of £158 10s by J Kenny, Lake Bolac, was accepted for alterations to the school in January 1916 and repairs were made later in the same year.[31] It is likely these alterations and repairs included the turning of the school building to the east to provide shelter from the prevailing north winds, and the fitting of a permanent wall.

A cloakroom was added in 1933.

In May 1935, it was reported that the government had decided to build a school residence at Westmere.[32] The decision resulted in the removal in 1936 of a residence from Berringa and its re-erection in the Westmere school grounds by F N Wilson, Ballarat East, for a sum of £388 13s.[33]

Alterations were made to the school and residence in 1949.

Additional windows were installed at the school in 1960, a new roof was built in 1965, and a new floor in 1969.

A portable classroom was re-located to the school in 1973 to alleviate the congestion for the 33 pupils taught in the single 20 feet by 30 feet school building.

After the closing of the school at Mininera in 1975, students from that district attended Westmere State School.

Westmere State School No. 3833 closed on 17 December 1993 with a barbeque evening with past staff and students. Over its time, enrolments at the school fluctuated from 11 to 42 students.

Both the school building, the original building with additions, and school residence are now privately owned.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [6] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.
- [7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.
- [8] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.
- [9] Ibid., 127.
- [10] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [12] Ibid., 129.
- [13] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [14] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [15] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3,5.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [22] Ibid., 155.
- [23] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [24] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [25] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [27] Ibid., 92-94.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [29] *Rural Townships*.
- [30] Unless otherwise noted, information has been taken from Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [31] "Tenders." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 8 January 1916, 2.
- [32] "Ararat." *The Argus*, 8 May 1935, 12.
- [33] "Public Works Tenders Accepted." *The Argus*, 22 February 1936, 26.

Description

Physical Description

This place comprises the school, storage building and shelter shed and an adjacent teacher's residence on a separate, adjacent site.

The school site contains a timber framed, weatherboard clad single room classroom building. It has a gable roof and a gabled roof porch to one side of the front gable end elevation. The other half of the front gable end contains a large multi-paned timber framed window with a bank of three double hung windows. The front elevation of the porch contains a small multi paned window and the entry door is to the side elevation. The weatherboards are square edged with corner strapping. At the centre of one side elevation is a brick chimney and the other side elevation is a blank wall with no openings or features.

There is a store building located adjacent to the classroom building. It has a gable roof and lattice timber gable end vents. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. On one side elevation is a wide vertical timber lined door with an air gap at the top and bottom.

The shelter shed is a standard design being a simple rectangular building with a skillion roof and a rectangular opening on the taller long elevation. The walls are clad in square edged weatherboards and the roof is clad in galvanised corrugated iron.

The school site also contains a metal sheet clad toilet block. The metal sheet has square edge corrugations running vertically. This building is steel framed and has a skillion roof, which is also clad in metal sheet. There is wire mesh ventilation between the top of the walls and the underside of the roof.

The residence is timber framed and clad in square edged weatherboards. It has a main pyramidal hipped roof with a

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

projecting gable to the front and a skillion roofed verandah. The verandah roof is a continuation of the main roof. There is a metal louver dormer vent in the front centre of the roof and a red brick chimney part way down one side of the hip. There is another chimney at the rear of the building related to the lower, skillion and gable wings to the rear. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron that has been painted red. The verandah has timber diagonal brackets to the posts and the projecting gable end has a timber finial that continues down the gable end where it connects with a horizontal member extending from the fascia line and finishes in a drip mould below the line of the horizontal member. The front gable wing contains a central multi paned timber framed double hung window and under the verandah is an entry door on the gable wing side and a timber framed double hung window.

There is a wire mesh fence to the front of the property, which is not original.

Physical Condition

The buildings were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Westmere State School No. 3833 and Teacher's Residence at 18-28 School Road, Westmere. The location and original form, materials and details of the weatherboard school building, store, shelter shed and residence are integral to the significance of the place.

The metal sheet clad toilet block is not significant.

How is it significant?

The former Westmere State School No. 3833 and Teacher's Residence are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Westmere State School Complex including the weatherboard school building, store, shelter shed and teacher's residence are of historical significance for their role in the provision of education and development of civic life in Westmere from 1914 until 1993. Due to the number of surviving original structures constructed at a similar time, including the adjacent teacher's residence (moved to Westmere from Berringa in 1936), the complex is particularly illustrative of the operation and makeup of a rural State school dating from the early to mid twentieth century. It is rare that both the school and teacher's residence survive adjacent to each other and are so intact. The establishment of an Education Department School in Westmere in 1914 is also demonstrative of a period of expansion and closer settlement in Westmere with subdivision of former surrounding pastoral runs and the coming of the railway in 1913. (Criteria A & B)

The former Westmere State School Complex including the weatherboard school building, store, shelter shed and teacher's residence are aesthetically significant as a particularly intact complex of rural school buildings dating from the early twentieth century. The complex of buildings dating from a similar period, and which retain many original features, are aesthetically significant for demonstrating the design and detailing of Public Works Department buildings and residences from the early to mid twentieth century. These features include the overall form and composition of each of the buildings related to their use, the placement and type of openings and the timber detailing to the windows and doors. The common forms and materials of the buildings dating from a similar period forms a picturesque complex of education

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

buildings designed by the Public Works Department. (Criterion D)

The former Westmere State School complex is of social significance as a focus for education in the Westmere district from 1914 until 1993. Past pupils of the school have special associations with the site. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Store and shelter shed at school

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Sunday School Hall, Fence and Pines		
Address	38 School Road WESTMERE	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Church, Sunday School		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes		
Designer / Architect	Irwin, Jas.	Architectural Style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Westmere and Mininera districts are situated on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September in what was to become the Tatyoon district and on 22 September on Fiery Creek.[2]

As they did elsewhere in the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Westmere-Mininera district was included in the boundaries of six runs: Nerrin Nerrin, 52,027 acres taken up by John McPherson in 1846; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; Yalla-y-Poora, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841; Curnong of 31,874 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside and Robert McNab in 1846; Caranballac of 70,453 acres taken up by Alexander Johnstone and James and Thomas Walton Campbell in 1841; and View Lake of 20,290 acres taken up by M. Byrne in 1846.[5] The runs contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. A coach track, the main route from Portland to Melbourne via Hamilton, traversed the district, with coach stations at Wickliffe and Fiery Creek (Streatham).[6]

In an attempt to break the squatter hold over land in the Colony of Victoria, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains. By 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[7] Agricultural areas were surveyed in the Mininera Parish, resulting in some small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in the Mininera district.

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, and, expecting a substantial migration, the Closer Settlement Board put aside a site of 1000 acres for the Westmere township; few of the Westmere township blocks sold however.[8] Sections of Nerrin Nerrin run were subsequently sold under the Act, however private subdivision played a more significant role in bringing farming families to the Westmere and Mininera districts. Tenant farmers exerted pressure to buy the land they were farming on, and in 1903, 63,000 acres of the Nerrin Nerrin estate was sold as farms.[9] In addition, Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[10] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[11] During 1907-8, the owners of Yalla-y-Poora and Menenia privately subdivided and sold parts of their estates, resulting in the establishment of the Mininera and Mininera East settlements.[12]

Wheat and wool became the primary products of the western plains area and it became obvious a rail link to the seaboard was necessary for transport of produce. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913 at a cost of £408,410[13] effectively giving rise to the townships of Mininera and Westmere (initially named Parupa), the latter of which was also the site of a large workers' tent city established to facilitate the construction of the railway. With the advent of the railway, in 1912 the Westmere township was surveyed and incorporated school and recreation reserves. On 5 March 1913, Westmere township was proclaimed.[14] A store was in operation near the railway station by 1912, and a post and telegraph office opened on 11 March 1914.[15] The Mininera settlement was established with the opening of the railway line in 1913 and the establishment of a store and post office in the same year.[16] Westmere State School No. 3833 opened on 13 May 1914, and in the same year a school opened at Mininera.[17] In 1915, a Presbyterian church opened at Westmere.

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Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. Some took up land on Nerrin Nerrin and Blythvale,[18] boosting the population of the Westmere-Mininera district.

A hall opened at Mininera in 1923 and a recreation ground was established in Mininera in 1928, where facilities were provided over the years for the playing of football, tennis, cricket, basketball and netball.[19] A new hall was built in Westmere in 1930.[20] Electricity was supplied to Westmere in 1938, and local branches of the Red Cross were established in 1939 in Mininera and in 1940 in Westmere.

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Place history:

Part of the Streatham, Westmere and Carranballac Presbyterian Church District, St Andrews Presbyterian Church at Westmere was built in 1914 at a cost of over £400. Designed by Ararat architect James Irwin, the building comprised a 35 feet by 22 feet church, 5 feet by 6 feet vestry, and an entrance porch.[30]

The church was formally dedicated and opened in January 1915 by the Rev D A Cameron, Director of Home Missions for the Presbyterian Church. A debt of £120 was paid off by community fund raising activities.[31]

The Sunday School hall was in operation by 1916.

St Andrews shared the church with the Anglicans, with each congregation holding services on alternate fortnights until St Johns Church of England opened in Westmere in 1952.[32]

St Andrews Presbyterian Church closed in 1991.[33] The church and Sunday School hall are now privately owned.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

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[6] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 2.

[7] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[8] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 155.

[9] Ibid., 127.

[10] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [11] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [12] Ibid., 129.
- [13] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.
- [14] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 37, 5 March 1913.
- [15] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 11.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 40.
- [17] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 14.
- [18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [19] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3,5.
- [20] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39.
- [21] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
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- [23] Information from Lake Bolac Historic Walking Trail plaque, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
- [24] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 3.
- [25] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 39. *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88.
- [27] Ibid., 92-94.
- [28] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 25-8.
- [29] *Rural Townships*.
- [30] "Presbyterian Church Westmere." Public Building Files: Public Records Office of Victoria 7882/P1/778.
- [31] "Westmere Presbyterian Church." *The Ararat Advertiser*, 16 January 1915, 3.
- [32] Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin*, 28.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[33] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

St Andrews Presbyterian Church is a timber framed weatherboard clad building. It has a main gable roofed nave running perpendicular to the street and a centrally placed gable roofed porch to the front gable end, also running perpendicular to the street. There is also a gable roofed wing to the rear on the west side which runs parallel to the street. The roofs are clad in corrugated iron and the ridge of the nave roof contains cylindrical roof vents. On the other side at the rear corner is a large timber buttress with weatherboard cladding. This is an unusual feature. The front porch has timber fretwork extending from the barge board and a square timber framed window on the front elevation. This window contains three trefoil shaped sashes. There is a single entry door on each side elevation of the porch with vertical timber lining. The gable end of the nave contains a round, framed vent with timber louvres. Along the east elevation of the nave are three evenly spaced timber framed pointed arch windows. They are divided into eight panes with a hopper sash at the base. On the west elevation there are four evenly spaced pointed arch windows of the same design as those on the east. There is also a single door with vertical timber lining along this elevation located between the two rear most windows. An interesting and unusual feature of the building is the dado mould below the eaves that intersects with the upper part of the pointed arch windows. This dado mould continues around all elevations of the nave and above the mould is square shingle cladding. There is also a timber drip mould at the point where the dado mould meets the pointed arch window frame and the upper pointed section of the frame is moulded also. The rear elevation of the nave contains to evenly spaced pointed arch windows but the original sashes to these have been replaced with a single fixed pane of glass.

On the east side of the church is another gable roofed weatherboard building, which was used for the Sunday School. The roof runs perpendicular to the street and has wide eaves with exposed rafters. The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron and has two metal cylindrical vents to the ridge. Attached to the rear end is a skillion room with a single entry door on the side facing the church. The door has vertical timber lining. The elevation of the main hall section that faces the church contains central double doors with vertical timber lining and a timber framed double hung window either side.

At the front of the site is what appears to be the original fence, which is clad in galvanised iron in some section and mesh in others with concrete posts. There are pine trees to the boundaries.

Physical Condition

The place was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church and Sunday School Hall, Fence and Pines located at 38 School Road, Westmere. The location and original form, materials and details of the church and hall are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Hall, Fence and Pines located at 38 School Road, Westmere are of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Why is it significant?

The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early development period of the town of Westmere and a boom period for the Mininera-Westmere district as a result of closer settlement and the coming of the railway in 1913. The construction of an architect (Ararat architect James Irwin) designed Presbyterian Church in 1914 and a Sunday School hall by 1916 demonstrates the town population and surrounding farming community was already of a significant size and on the increase in the early twentieth century. The church and hall are of historical significance for their combined use by the Presbyterian and Anglican congregations who shared the use of the church and undertook services on alternate fortnights until a new Anglican Church was constructed in the town in 1952. (Criterion A)

The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and unusually decorative example of a Federation style timber church building. The church building has a high level of timber decorative detailing including the dado mould at the upper window level, the use of timber shingle board wall cladding above the dado line, the pointed arch timber framing to the windows with drip moulds, the band of half timbering under the eaves, and the front porch gable bargeboard fretwork. This level of detail demonstrates the involvement of Ararat architect, James Irwin. The Sunday School hall is complementary to the Church with is similar form and materials but is more of a standard design with less decoration. The original fence and gate in front of the Church and pines on the boundaries are also of aesthetic significance. (Criteria D & E)

The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1914 to 1991 with connections to both the former Presbyterian and Anglican congregations of the district. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes Pines on boundaries
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes Church front fence and gate
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Cast Iron Milepost	
Address	Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road WICKLIFFE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Road Milepost/Milestone	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Narrapumelap run took in the area that became known as the Wickliffe district. Taken up by J. D. Wyelaskie in 1840, the run comprised 40,120 acres.[5] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora, Burrumbeep, Edgarley, Mount William and Narrapumelap ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[7] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[8]

Wickliffe township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852 and a post office opened in 1854. In 1857, when a denominational school opened, the township had a population of 84.[9] The ford across the Hopkins River was replaced by a bridge in 1857.

James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[10]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

In 1859, a police station was established at Wickliffe, and the township was described as 'making some progress' with a new road from Port Fairy to Ararat under construction. 'A very pretty looking' hotel stood at the bridge, the latter, a 'large and massive structure', had opened three years earlier, and a National School was in full operation in a tent.[11] Later that year, 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branxholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham, Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[12] From 1860, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, which stopped overnight at Wickliffe.[13]

In 1861, the township, officially proclaimed in the same year, was described as comprising two hotels, store, post office, Presbyterian Church and manse, blacksmith's shop, police huts, and tents for labouring men. By this time, monthly sheep sales and regular circuit courts had been established.[14]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[15] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[16] Limited settlement in the Wickliffe district took place under this Act, with fourteen allotments put up for sale in the township in 1862 and a cemetery site reserved in 1863.

A racecourse was established for picnic races, and Wickliffe had at least one cricket team from the early 1860s.

By 1865, the Wickliffe coach office offered bookings for the Belfast (Port Fairy), Ararat, Ballarat and Hamilton lines, and a carrying office coordinated the conveyancing of goods by drays to Geelong.[17]

Wickliffe State School No. 948, a bluestone building, opened in 1876.[18]

J. D. Wyelaskie, the owner of Narrapumelap run, brought 40-50 stonemasons and workmen to Wickliffe in 1873 to build an imposing bluestone homestead with a high walled courtyard and central tower; in 1878, he paid for the construction of a steeple on the local Presbyterian church.

In 1901 Wickliffe had a population of 143.[19] The police station closed in 1907.[20]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Wickliffe district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[21] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[22]

A public hall was built at Wickliffe in 1912 at a cost of £912, and extended when a part of Greenvale College was moved to the site in 1920.[23]

Part of the proclaimed area of the Wickliffe township was revoked in 1917.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the Shire of Ararat. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowagh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[24]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] Twenty-two returned soldiers were settled on Narrapumelap.[26]

A new recreation ground was built at Wickliffe in 1957, and the township was provided a reticulated water supply in 1977.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[27]

Place history:

The Central Road Board was established in 1851 to oversee the construction of a road network in the Colony of Victoria. The responsibility for road works was handed over to local districts, with support given through government grants, rates and tolls, under the *Roads Act* of 1853. Machinery was purchased for road making and toll gates erected to collect the necessary funds for road building. The Ararat Road District was gazetted on 27 August 1861 and was declared a shire on 8 March 1864; Mortlake was incorporated as a road district on 20 July 1860, and became a shire on 26 January 1864.

The Ararat to the South-Western Seaboard (Belfast - later Port Fairy) Road was constructed in 1859-60 by contractors employed by the Central Road Board, with the section between Chatsworth and Wickliffe built in the latter year.[28] After the road was completed, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Belfast (Port Fairy) and Ararat, which stopped overnight at Wickliffe.[29] Further work and maintenance of the road between Ararat and Chatsworth was undertaken by the Shire of Mortlake and Shire of Ararat from 1864. By 1865, coaches travelled weekly to Chatsworth from Wickliffe.[30]

In 1885, the Shire of Mortlake considered road works required for the 1885-86 year and, amongst them, recommended the instalment of ten mileposts on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road.[31]

Ten cast iron posts were subsequently erected on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road. They were made by Robison Bros and Co. foundry, which was established by James McFarlane Robison and his brothers in 1854, initially as a plumbing and coppersmith enterprise. The firm expanded into general engineering, boiler making, and brass, iron and steel founding, and became one of Melbourne's most important engineering firms. The company constructed railway bridges, gold mining equipment, railway rolling stock and locomotives, pumping stations, brewing vessels, and abattoir machinery. It also cast several bronze monuments for the city of Melbourne, the most notable being that erected to the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition. In 1935, Robison Bros., by then in liquidation, was purchased by Valentine Henderson of Henderson's Federal Spring Works and operated as Robison Bros. and Co. Pty Ltd until it finally closed on 4 April 1973.[32]

According to the Victorian Heritage Register, the mileposts on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road were removed and re-instated. After the fall of Pearl Harbour in 1942, many milestones were dug up and buried a few metres behind their original location; most were re-instated into their original locations in 1946. The mileposts were removed or hidden in an attempt to thwart enemy forces in the event that Australia was invaded.[33]

The cast iron milepost, one of only three remaining on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road, is a remnant representative of what was once an extensive network of mileposts.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.
- [2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).
- [3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.
- [4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.
- [5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.
- [7] *Ibid.*, 12-13.
- [8] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.).
- [9] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 483.
- [10] James Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857* (Geelong: Thomas Brown, 1858).
- [11] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.
- [12] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.
- [13] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.
- [14] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 12-13.
- [15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [17] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.
- [18] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Victoria 1841-1901, 483.

[19] Ibid.

[20] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.*

[21] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88-89.

[24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[25] Ibid.

[26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[27] Ibid., 88-89.

[28] *Victoria Government Gazette*. 25 May 1859, 1088; and 9 March 1860, 442.

[29] Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 82.

[30] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.*

[31] 'Mortlake Council.' *Camperdown Chronicle*, 7 October 1885, 4.

[32] Williams, Des. 'Robison Bros & Co. Pty. Ltd. Melbourne', n.d., 2-3.

[33] 'Cast iron mileposts H1703.' *Victorian Heritage Register*, 2014. Available http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/vhd/heritagevic#detail_places;202. Accessed 7 April 2014.

Description

Physical Description

The cast iron milepost on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road was made by Robison Brothers & Co of Melbourne. The triangular wedge shaped head of the post sits above a 100mm diameter short post. The face of the triangular wedge shaped section measures approximately 200mm x 200mm. The seams of the surfaces in the wedge shaped section appear to be welded together. The milepost reads 'Wickliffe 4' on one face of the wedge and 'Chatsworth 8' on another. The milepost is painted white with black lettering and numbers.

Physical Condition

The milepost was in good condition in November 2013.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance:

What is significant?

The Cast Iron Milepost on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road made by Robison Brothers & Co of Melbourne ca.1886. The location and original form, materials and details of the structure is integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Cast Iron Milepost on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road is of historical and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Cast Iron Milepost installed ca. 1886 on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road, Wickcliffe is of historical significance for its association with the development of early road construction in Victoria and as a rare surviving example of an early milepost. Road construction was accelerated following the economic boom of the gold rushes in Victoria and the mileposts were a direct response to this, trying to rationalise the road system of a developing colony. The milepost assists in providing a greater understanding of the development and impact of 19th century economic activity in the State and the resultant need for transport systems. The milepost is of historical importance for its ability to describe transport routes and requirements of the 1870s. The replacement of mileposts was not uncommon in the early years of Victoria's cultural history and it is not unusual to find that mileposts were replaced two or three times in one location as techniques improved and an increase in traffic necessitated upgrades. This cast iron milepost is one of only three of this design remaining in Victoria. The other two surviving example are also located on the Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road and are included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR1703). Many of the cast iron mileposts which once denoted distances between towns have since been removed or relocated to cater for the rise in motor vehicular traffic. The removal of the mileposts after the fall of Pearl Harbour during World War Two, and their respective re-instatement, is of historical significance as a demonstration of a national psychological response to a major world crisis and a reaction to particular events outside Australia's national boundaries. (Criteria A & B)

The Milepost on the Chatsworth Wickcliffe Road is of aesthetic significance as a visual reminder of the evolution of Victoria's infrastructure and the past imperial system of measurements and weights. The milepost is a rare intact example of the unusual triangular wedge shaped cast iron type of milepost. Later mileposts took different forms and were manufactured from different materials such as timber or stone. (Criterion D)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Yes

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Berrambool Farm Complex	
Address	1009 Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road WICKLIFFE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI Yes PS Yes	
Designer / Architect	Fox, James Henry	Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901) Gothic Revival

History and Historical Context

Contextual history

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[5] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[6]

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James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[8]

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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Wickliffe State School No. 948, a bluestone building, opened in 1876.[16]

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In 1901 Wickliffe had a population of 143.[17] The police station closed in 1907.[18]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Wickliffe district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[19] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[20]

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For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area.

A new recreation ground was built at Wickliffe in 1957, and the township was provided a reticulated water supply in 1977.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[23]

Today, Wickliffe consists of private residences, a recreation ground, the Presbyterian Church and the Western Hotel. The Narrapumelap property has been restored and is open to visitors.

Place history

From 1837, as in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in what was to become the Wickliffe district to graze mainly sheep. The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Geelong and Portland Bay; the latter area was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. The second wave of squatters from the north crossed the Murray River attracted by favourable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'.

One of the main squatting runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe area was Hopkins Hill, 98,000 acres on the Hopkins River, taken up by J. and A. Dennistoun and Co. in 1840 and managed firstly by Henry Gibb, then Alexander Russell.[24] The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

Scotsman John Moffat took over Hopkins Hill in 1857, and in 1859 subdivided the run into Boortkoi, Berrambool, Salt Creek and Flat Top Hill; the latter three properties he leased, with Berrambool leased to Josiah Austin, Thomas Maidment and Thomas Millear.[25] Moffatt also leased the neighbouring Lake Boloke run.

By 1860, Thomas Maidment had joined Thomas Millear and Josiah Austin in partnership. They leased Greenvale, 5,200 acres near Willaura, from James Austin, and later purchased it. They were also the owners of Audley Estate, 7,000 acres, near Hamilton, and Beulah Estate, 3,500 acres, at Glenthompson. As well as leasing Berrambool, they also leased a property near Winchelsea from Thomas Austin, of Barwon Park, Avalon, near Geelong. The partnership, which existed for 17 years, was dissolved in 1877.[26]

Designed by Hamilton architect, James H. Fox, Berrambool homestead was built in 1864 by Scottish stonemasons using stone quarried on the property. Fox had previously designed Chatsworth House for John Moffat in 1859 and is claimed to have been responsible for the design of Werribee Park. A woolshed was built at Berrambool at the same time. In 1865, under instructions from Charles Willis, Berrambool was put up for auction. It was described in 1865 as:

The beautifully situated estate of Berrambool, on the Hopkins River, 5 miles from Wickliffe, containing from 7000 to 8000 acres of open timbered and splendid grazing land, well and securely fenced, and permanently watered, independently of the Hopkins River, together with 8000 Sheep of Mixed Sexes and Ages.

The improvements consist of substantial stone dwelling house of seven rooms, pantry, school-room, kitchen, servants' room, laundry, stone store, wool shed, huts, drafting yards, horse and cultivation paddocks; in fact, every convenience and requisite for a station. A fine garden well stocked with vines and fruit trees.[27]

It appears the property was not sold, but leased instead to Thomas Maidment.

In 1868, Hamilton architect J. H. Fox called for wallers to carry out works at the Berrambool station, and in 1868 and 1871, John Moffatt called for masonry labourers for the erection of new buildings at Berrambool, which may have included the building of the stables.[28]

John Moffatt died in 1871, dividing much of his property among his brothers and sisters.

In 1876, because of the expiration of their lease, Messrs. Austin, Maidment, and Millear conducted a clearing sale of livestock and plant at Berrambool.[29] The property was advertised for lease again in 1883 after T. and C. Maidment's lease finished in that year.

An additional wing with glass-panelling, which linked the main wing to the gallery and bedrooms, was added to the Berrambool homestead in 1890 for use as a conservatory, and in the same year, the woolshed was extended to accommodate 1300 sheep and 16 Wolseley machines. It is believed that additions to the stables (an eastern wing to provide workers' quarters and a northern wing to house stalls) were also made in 1890.[30]

In 1898, William Moffat called for tenders for the leasing of the estates of Chatsworth and Hopkins Hill, Salt Creek, Leigh, Little River and Berrambool. Berrambool estate (including Towanway) was described as comprising 31,987 acres 'with large stone dwelling-house, wool-shed, stables, overseer's house, and all other necessary improvements.'[31]

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By 1899, 24,000 pure Merino sheep were shorn annually at Berrambool. The property also carried 500 head of Hereford/Shorthorn cross and Red Poll cattle, and 50 horses (a horse from Berrambool had won the Grand National Hurdle in 1866). The property was watered from underground bores, and the homestead gardens were watered by a hot air pump running from the house dam.[32]

The estate remained in the hands of the Moffatts until 1903, when the family sold it off in lots: Towanway, Chatsworth House, Hopkins Hill, Cattle Runs, Salt Creek, Flat Top Hill, and Berrambool. Berrambool, comprising 20,240 acres, was purchased by William Moffatt, John Moffatt's Scottish nephew.[33]

William Moffatt retained ownership of Berrambool until soldier settlement commenced in the 1940s after World War Two, facilitated by the assistance of Returned Servicemen Leagues (RSLs). The Willaura RSL submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley Estate, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora Estate. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burrumbeep stood vacant.[34] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burrumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. In 1947, the Berrambool estate, subdivided into ten blocks of approximately 700-800 acres, was opened for soldier settlement.

A description in the early 1960s noted that Berrambool homestead was well known for its architecture, especially the fine bluestone mouldings and moulded Gothic doorways. The description continued:

The interior features very high plaster ceilings, the centerpieces and cornices of which are picked out in gold leaf in the traditional manner. The two front rooms, the library and drawing room, are bay windowed, over thirty feet long and lead off the high ceilinged spacious hall which has beautiful plaster cornices and panelled recessed doors with high arched wooden canopies. The roof is red to link up with the red glass insets in the doors and red tonings of the Persian rugs, and is lit by a Georgian Watersord glass chandelier of great antiquity. The woodwork in the main part of the house is white and lined with gold.[36]

At the time, the garden was planted with oaks, elms and poplars and the house continued to be supplied with water from an underground bluestone and brick tank. An old grave stood in memory of Elizabeth Parker, 24, who had died from a fall from a horse in 1851. Also in existence were the shearers' quarters; wool shed; and sheep dip; as well as the stables comprising coach house, groom's quarters, single men's quarters (consisting of a cookhouse-dining room and two bedrooms), an open machinery shed at the southern end, a meat-house facing west, and wooden stalls at the northern end. The Berrambool property was restored in the 1960s by the Holyman family.[37]

Today, Berrambool, approximately 410 acres, is used for cropping. A part of the homestead is still lived in. The outbuildings stand mostly vacant, with some used for storage.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep

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and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] Ibid., 12-13.

[6] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.).

[7] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 483.

[8] James Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857* (Geelong: Thomas Brown, 1858).

[9] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.

[10] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.

[11] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

[12] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 12-13.

[13] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[15] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.

[16] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 483.

[17] Ibid.

[18] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.

[19] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[21] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88-89.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[23] Ibid., 88-89.

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- [24] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d., n.p.
- [25] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d., n.p.
- [26] "FAMOUS PASTORAL PROPERTIES." *The Australasian*, 29 November 1941, 32.
- [27] "Advertising." *The Ballarat Star*, 4 December, 1865, 3.
- [28] "Advertising." *Hamilton Spectator and Grange District Advertiser*, 8 April 1868, 3; and "Advertising." *The Argus*, 14 January 1871, 3.
- [29] "Advertising." *The Argus*, 25 November, 1876, 10.
- [30] Information from current owner.
- [31] "Advertising." *The Australasian*, 29 October 1898, 54.
- [32] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d., n.p.
- [33] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d., n.p.
- [34] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [36] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d., n.p.
- [37] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d., n.p.

Description

Physical Description

The following description has relied on photographs provided to the consultants rather than a site inspection. As a result some site elements that are known to exist, but were not photographed at the time of this citation preparation, do not have a detailed description.

Avenue and Garden

The approach to the homestead is via a tree-lined driveway from Wickliffe-Chatsworth Road and located on the south side of the homestead between the homestead and the wool shed to the south.

The garden around the homestead contains remnant oaks, elms and poplars mainly to the front of the homestead and there

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are two rows of pines providing windbreaks around the homestead and stables yard. One is located to the south of the homestead and extends north south, away from the homestead and the other is located on the south side of the stables, extending east-west.

A grave erected in the memory of Elizabeth Parker, 24, who died from a fall from a horse in 1851, is located near the banks of the Hopkins River.

The Homestead

The homestead is a single storey building constructed of bluestone with a slate clad roof. It is designed in a Victorian style with Elizabethan and Gothic style features.

The main earliest section of the homestead has a substantially rectangular footprint with twin gable wings facing the front (east) with a bridging perpendicular hip in between. There is a projecting gable wing on the northwest corner facing north and two small wings extending from the back of the homestead either side of a central yard. The wing on the northern side is a continuation of the gable on this side of the homestead and the wing on the southern side has a skillion roof. There is a wall enclosing the rear yard between these two wings.

The stonework to the homestead is highly accomplished with smooth ashlar contrasting with quarry-faced stones to highlight features. For example the main section of the walls uses quarry faced stones while the quoins to corners and openings is smooth ashlar. The two front gables and the projecting gable on the northwest corner have bluestone parapets in a highly decorative Elizabethan style with a central keystone and pointed finial to the apex and low pillars with a bauble at the base on either side. The front two gables also have castellated bay windows to the front. Between these bays is the central front door, which has a wide Gothic arch opening with glazed timber framed doors and highlight windows fitting the shape of the pointed arch. Above the door is a carved stone frieze with a stylised leaf motif. The chimneys have a quarry faced and ashlar stone base with a narrower stem of only ashlar and flat projecting capping stones.

The windows are timber framed and in pairs of long vertically folding sashes or two pairs of folding sashes. Each sash has a corresponding upper fixed square pane.

There is a concave profile verandah around the homestead on three sides. It terminates at the projecting gable on the north side and the later north-south wing on the south side. The verandah has a timber floor and slender cast iron posts with cast iron capitals and lacework corner brackets at the tops of the posts. There are cast iron framed bands between the posts forming a frieze. It is unknown if there was any additional detailing within this frieze framing. Early photographs indicate that the infill for the frieze was diagonal lattice. It is unknown if this was in timber or iron.

There is a long wing running north-south and projecting from the west on the south side of the building. It is assumed that this is the wing that was added in 1890 for use as a conservatory. This wing has a gable roof along its length as well as a skillion wing along the full length of the east side. The east elevation of this wing contains a band of timber framed double-hung windows with divided panels with coloured glass. The south gable end contains an Elizabethan style parapet with the same detailing as the parapet gables on the main wing of the homestead. This decorative parapet was relocated from the original section of the homestead to this location as part of the addition works in 1890.

The slate clad roof has two tones of slates laid in a fish scale pattern with wide bands of each colour forming stripes.

Stables

The stables building is located to the west of the homestead. As well as containing the central stables, it also contains a coach house, groom's quarters, single men's quarters (consisting of cookhouse-dining room and two bedrooms); an open machinery shed at the southern end; and wooden stalls at the northern end. The building is constructed of bluestone and

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has a long rectangular footprint running north-south, with a gable roof and a central perpendicular intersecting wing that projects slightly to the front with a corresponding gable-roofed wing on the west side. The open machinery shed at the south end has a skillion roof as do the stalls at the northern end. The current owner advises that the eastern wing containing the workers' quarters and the northern stalls wing were additions made in 1890. The gable end of the central wing perpendicular has a decorative timber bargeboard in the Victorian Gothic style, with a finial and high central Gothic arch window and solid timber double doors. Other door openings along this front elevation (facing east) have pointed arch openings with double doors. The windows are twin casements with sashes divided into six panes. Each casement has a square fixed window above with two panes. The window and door openings are timber framed.

There is a separate hexagonal meat-house facing west located on the south side of the rear central projecting wing.

Wool Shed

The wool shed is located approximately 500 metres south of the Homestead. It is substantially constructed of bluestone with a main wide hipped roof wing with bluestone walls running north-south and a central wing, also constructed of bluestone on the east side, with a gable roof running east-west. This wing is likely to be the addition made in 1890. The bluestone walls are random coursed stone. The windows and openings to the bluestone wings are timber framed. The shearing sections have a timber louvre window and double-hung window above a sliding timber chute door. There is a gable-roofed wing running north-south and projecting from the southwest corner of the building. This wing is clad in corrugated iron.

Shearers' Quarters

The shearers' quarters is a ruin located adjacent to the wool shed. Some walls are still standing, but parts have collapsed. It is a rectangular building with a gable roof clad in corrugated iron with a skillion roofed wing to the rear. The walls are quarry faced bluestone. The section under the gable roof appears to have been divided into two rooms - the larger room perhaps being a dormitory and the other being the head shearer's quarters or a kitchen. Given there is no chimney to the skillion section to the rear, this was most likely the shower room and the smaller of the two rooms in the main wing was a kitchen. There is a bluestone chimney at one end of the main gable section and a brick chimney at the other, servicing the smaller room. The windows to the building are timber framed and double-hung with multi-pane sashes.

An overseer's house is located to the east of the homestead. It is a modest timber framed building with weatherboard cladding. It is believed to pre-date the homestead.

There are also additional early outbuildings located between the stables and homestead.

Physical Condition

The Homestead, Stables and Wool Shed are in a fair condition.

The Shearers' Quarters is a ruin.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Berrambool Farm Complex, located at 1009 Wickcliffe-Chatsworth Road, Wickcliffe. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

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- . Homestead
- . Stables
- . Outbuildings
- . Hexagonal Meat House
- . Wool Shed
- . Shearers' Quarters
- . Grave site
- . Overseer's House
- . Tree lined driveway
- . Specimen elms, oaks and poplars in the Homestead garden
- . Two pine wind breaks

The original location, form, details and materials of the above features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Berrambool Farm Complex is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Berrambool Farm Complex is of historic significance as an early pastoral run, which was originally part of the Hopkins Hill Run, one of the main squatting runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe area. In 1840, the Hopkins Hill Run of 98,000 acres on the Hopkins River was taken up by J. and A. Dennistoun and Co. It was managed firstly by Henry Gibb then Alexander Russell. The run contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. Berrambool Farm Complex is of historical importance for its association with John Moffat and the Moffat family and the partnership of Josiah Austin, Thomas Maidment and Thomas Millear. Scotsman John Moffat took over Hopkins Hill in 1857, and in 1859 subdivided the run into Boortkoi, Berrambool, Salt Creek and Flat Top Hill; the latter three properties he leased, with Berrambool leased to Josiah Austin, Thomas Maidment and Thomas Millear. Moffat also leased the neighbouring Lake Boloke run.

Thomas Maidment had joined Thomas Millear and Josiah Austin in partnership by 1860. They leased Greenvale, 5,200 acres near Willaura, from James Austin, and later purchased it. They were also the owners of Audley Estate, 7,000 acres, near Hamilton, and Beulah Estate, 3,500 acres, at Glenthompson. As well as leasing Berrambool, they also leased a property near Winchelsea from Thomas Austin, of Barwon Park, Avalon, near Geelong. The partnership, which existed for 17 years, was dissolved in 1877. The Berrambool Estate remained in Moffat family ownership until the late 1940s. The Homestead and associated outbuildings, stables and shearing complex demonstrate the constituents and operation of a pastoral property primarily in the 1860 to 1890s period. The main buildings date from the 1860s and early 1890s and are important, rare examples of their type showing early methods of construction, use, layout and detailing. The constituent parts of the stables in particular demonstrate the operation and management of a homestead property from the 1860s with additions in the 1890s. The property is of historical significance for its associations with post World War Two

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Soldier Settlement when, in 1947, the Berrambool estate, subdivided into ten blocks of approximately 700-800 acres, was opened for soldier settlement. (Criteria A, B & H)

The Berrambool Farm Complex is of aesthetic significance as an early and substantially unaltered collection of buildings and features relating to a pastoral property dating from the 1860s and early 1870s with additions in the 1890s. The homestead and stables are excellent examples of the Victorian Gothic style with the homestead also featuring a number of Elizabethan style features including the shaped gable parapets and castellated bay windows. The bluestone buildings on the property demonstrate the high level of craftsmanship and skill of the Scottish stonemasons who erected them. The homestead in particular is impressive with its high level of decoration expressed primarily in the stonemasonry. Stonemasonry features of note include the Elizabethan style gable end parapets, the Gothic arch door openings, the chimneys, the use of contrasting quarry faced stone and ashlar to highlight details, the carved frieze above the front door and the castellated bay windows to the front. The stables and wool shed while less decorative, also demonstrate a high level of stonemasonry skills. The tree-lined entrance driveway, specimen oaks, elms and poplars in the homestead garden and the pine windbreaks around the homestead block contribute to the setting of the place. The homestead, stables and wool shed are excellent intact examples of the work of Hamilton architect James H. Fox, who also designed Chatsworth House (1859) and is also attributed to the design of Werribee Park Mansion. (Criteria B, D & H)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No
No
Yes Tree lined driveway, specimen elms, oaks and poplars in the Homestead garden and two pine windbreaks.
Yes stables, outbuildings, hexagonal Meat House, wool shed, shearers' quarters, grave site and overseer's house
Yes
-
No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Residence	
Address	27 Frith Street WICKLIFFE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Narrapumelap run took in the area that became known as the Wickliffe district. Taken up by J. D. Wyelaskie in 1840, the run comprised 40,120 acres.[5] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora, Burrumbeep, Edgarley, Mount William and Narrapumelap ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[7] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[8]

Wickliffe township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852 and a post office opened in 1854. In 1857, when a denominational school opened, the township had a population of 84.[9] The ford across the Hopkins River was replaced by a bridge in 1857.

James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[10]

In 1859, a police station was established at Wickliffe, and the township was described as 'making some progress' with a new road from Port Fairy to Ararat under construction. 'A very pretty looking' hotel stood at the bridge, the latter, a 'large and massive structure', had opened three years earlier, and a National School was in full operation in a tent.[11] Later that year, 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branhholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham, Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[12] From 1860, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, which stopped overnight at Wickliffe.[13]

In 1861, the township, officially proclaimed in the same year, was described as comprising two hotels, store, post office, Presbyterian Church and manse, blacksmith's shop, police huts, and tents for labouring men. By this time, monthly sheep sales and regular circuit courts had been established.[14]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which was

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surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[15] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[16] Limited settlement in the Wickliffe district took place under this Act, with fourteen allotments put up for sale in the township in 1862 and a cemetery site reserved in 1863.

A racecourse was established for picnic races, and Wickliffe had at least one cricket team from the early 1860s.

By 1865, the Wickliffe coach office offered bookings for the Belfast (Port Fairy), Ararat, Ballarat and Hamilton lines, and a carrying office coordinated the conveyancing of goods by drays to Geelong.[17]

Wickliffe State School No. 948, a bluestone building, opened in 1876.[18]

J. D. Wyeslaskie, the owner of Narrapumelap run, brought 40-50 stonemasons and workmen to Wickliffe in 1873 to build an imposing bluestone homestead with a high walled courtyard and central tower; in 1878, he paid for the construction of a steeple on the local Presbyterian church.

In 1901 Wickliffe had a population of 143.[19] The police station closed in 1907.[20]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Wickliffe district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[21] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[22]

A public hall was built at Wickliffe in 1912 at a cost of £912, and extended when a part of Greenvale College was moved to the site in 1920.[23]

Part of the proclaimed area of the Wickliffe township was revoked in 1917.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the Shire of Ararat. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[24]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] Twenty-two returned soldiers were settled on Narrapumelap.[26]

A new recreation ground was built at Wickliffe in 1957, and the township was provided a reticulated water supply in 1977.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[27]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Today, Wickliffe consists of private residences, a recreation ground, the Presbyterian Church and the Western Hotel. The Narrapumelap property has been restored and is open to visitors.

Place history:

The land on which the residence at 27 Frith Street is built was purchased by Frederick William Dodd in 1862.[28] Dodd was appointed Wickliffe's first pound keeper in 1860[29] and built his house on this allotment and established pound yards at the rear ca. 1862.

Frederick married Maria Mayes in 1861 at Wickliffe. Their son, Frederick Parkhurst Dodd, was born at Wickliffe in the same year.

Frederick Parkhurst Dodd was known as the 'Butterfly man of Kuranda'. He gave up fourteen years of bank service to devote himself full-time to his hobby of collecting butterflies and beetles. The first five years were spent collecting in Brisbane, followed by five years collecting in Townsville, then Kuranda. He also made several shorter expeditions to places including Darwin and New Guinea. Dodd quickly became a prominent entomologist, acquiring a large insect collection and has many species named after him. His two daughters Elizabeth Frances (1903-1995) and Katharine Mary (1907-1995) and four sons all followed in his footsteps.[30]

P. L. Smith was appointed pound keeper at Wickliffe in 1865.[31] It is believed the Dodd family left Wickliffe at this time.

The building today is used as a private residence.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.
- [7] Ibid., 12-13.
- [8] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.).
- [9] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 483.
- [10] James Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857* (Geelong: Thomas Brown, 1858).
- [11] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.
- [12] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.
- [13] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.
- [14] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 12-13.
- [15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [17] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.
- [18] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 483.
- [19] Ibid.
- [20] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*.
- [21] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88-89.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [25] Ibid.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[27] Ibid., 88-89.

[28] Wickliffe Township Plan and signage on site.

[29] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 71, 8 June 1860, 1085.

[30] McCarthy, G. J., "Frederick Parkhurst Dodd (1861 - 1937)". *Encyclopedia of Australian Science*, 2010. Available <http://www.eoas.info/biogs/P001883b.htm>. Accessed 11 April 2014.

[31] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 60, 2 June 1865, 687.

Description

Physical Description

This residence has been constructed in stages. The earliest section of the building is the gable roofed bluestone wing constructed ca. 1862. This wing runs perpendicular to the street and has a timber framed double hung window in the front end elevation. The west elevation (now concealed by the corrugated iron clad carport) contains a timber framed door opening with timber door and a timber framed double hung window.

Intersecting with the bluestone wing on the east side is a gable roofed weatherboard clad wing running parallel to the street. The timber framed double hung windows with multi panes either side of the panelled front door on the front elevation suggest that this wing was an early addition to the residence. The window frames use a fine timber profile common to mid Victorian style dwellings. There is a flat roofed verandah to the front of this wing, which appears to be a later change, however it is likely that there was originally a verandah across this frontage. The roofs are clad in corrugated galvanised iron that has been painted red. There is a brick chimney with cornice at either end of the weatherboard section.

The cement sheet clad additions to the east and rear of the weatherboard section and the corrugated iron clad carport to the west do not contribute to the significance of the place.

Physical Condition

The residence was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The bluestone and weatherboard Residence located at 27 Frith Street, Wickliffe. The location and original form, materials and details of the bluestone and front weatherboard section of the residence are integral to the significance of the place.

The cement sheet clad additions to the east and rear of the weatherboard section and the corrugated iron clad carport to the west do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The bluestone and weatherboard Residence located at 27 Frith Street, Wickliffe is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The bluestone and weatherboard residence is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of an early Victorian residence demonstrating the early establishment of the Wickliffe township in the mid 19th century. Frederick William Dodd purchased the land on which the residence at 27 Frith Street is built in 1862. Dodd was appointed Wickliffe's first pound keeper in 1860 and built his house on this allotment and established pound yards at the rear around 1862. The residence is of historical significance for its use as the local pound and for its association with Frederick Parkhurst Dodd, who became a prominent entomologist, acquiring a large insect collection and has many species named after him. (Criteria A, B & H)

The bluestone and weatherboard residence is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of a mid Victorian, combined bluestone and weatherboard residence. Features of note that demonstrate the Victorian period include the fine timber framing and mullions to the windows, multi pane window sashes, gable roof forms, coursed stonework, bluestone sills, red brick chimneys with corncicing and corrugated galvanised iron roof cladding. The building is an unusual and distinctive composition with its combined bluestone and weatherboard wings. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Bluestone Bridge Remains over Hopkins River		
Address	Glenelg Highway WICKLIFFE	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Road Bridge		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Narrapumelap run took in the area that became known as the Wickliffe district. Taken up by J. D. Wyelaskie in 1840, the run comprised 40,120 acres.[5] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora, Burrumbeep, Edgarley, Mount William and Narrapumelap ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[7] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[8]

Wickliffe township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852 and a post office opened in 1854. In 1857, when a denominational school opened, the township had a population of 84.[9] The ford across the Hopkins River was replaced by a bridge in 1857.

James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[10]

In 1859, a police station was established at Wickliffe, and the township was described as 'making some progress' with a new road from Port Fairy to Ararat under construction. 'A very pretty looking' hotel stood at the bridge, the latter, a 'large and massive structure', had opened three years earlier, and a National School was in full operation in a tent.[11] Later that year, 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branhholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham, Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[12] From 1860, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, which stopped overnight at Wickliffe.[13]

In 1861, the township, officially proclaimed in the same year, was described as comprising two hotels, store, post office, Presbyterian Church and manse, blacksmith's shop, police huts, and tents for labouring men. By this time, monthly sheep sales and regular circuit courts had been established.[14]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Act,[15] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[16] Limited settlement in the Wickliffe district took place under this Act, with fourteen allotments put up for sale in the township in 1862 and a cemetery site reserved in 1863.

A racecourse was established for picnic races, and Wickliffe had at least one cricket team from the early 1860s.

By 1865, the Wickliffe coach office offered bookings for the Belfast (Port Fairy), Ararat, Ballarat and Hamilton lines, and a carrying office coordinated the conveyancing of goods by drays to Geelong.[17]

Wickliffe State School No. 948, a bluestone building, opened in 1876.[18]

J. D. Wyeslaskie, the owner of Narrapumelap run, brought 40-50 stonemasons and workmen to Wickliffe in 1873 to build an imposing bluestone homestead with a high walled courtyard and central tower; in 1878, he paid for the construction of a steeple on the local Presbyterian church.

In 1901 Wickliffe had a population of 143.[19] The police station closed in 1907.[20]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Wickliffe district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[21] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[22]

A public hall was built at Wickliffe in 1912 at a cost of £912, and extended when a part of Greenvale College was moved to the site in 1920.[23]

Part of the proclaimed area of the Wickliffe township was revoked in 1917.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the Shire of Ararat. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[24]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] Twenty-two returned soldiers were settled on Narrapumelap.[26]

A new recreation ground was built at Wickliffe in 1957, and the township was provided a reticulated water supply in 1977.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[27]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Today, Wickliffe consists of private residences, a recreation ground, the Presbyterian Church and the Western Hotel. The Narrapumelap property has been restored and is open to visitors.

Place history:

The Central Road Board was established in 1851 to oversee the construction of a road network in the Colony of Victoria. The responsibility for road works was handed over to local districts, with support given through government grants, rates and tolls, under the *Roads Act* of 1853. Machinery was purchased for road making and toll gates erected to collect the necessary funds for road building. The Ararat Road District was subsequently gazetted on 27 August 1861 and was declared a shire on 8 March 1864.

A bridge, to replace the ford at Wickliffe in use from the 1840s, was built across the Hopkins River at the west end of town by the Central Road Board in 1857. James Bonwick described the bridge in that year: 'The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2,500.'^[28]

In April 1861, the Legislative Assembly put aside £1,100 for the removal of the bridge over the Hopkins River at Wickliffe to the existing site.^[29]

Later in 1861, the Ararat Road District called for tenders for the 'alteration' of the bridge. Contractor W. H. McKiernin was awarded the project in November 1861 for the fee of £994 10s, which was increased by £105 10s in February 1862.^[30] It is believed the bridge was opened to traffic in 1864.^[31]

The Ararat Shire replaced the bridge rails in 1914.

The bridge was swept away during floods in 1924, and was repaired and reopened in 1925.^[32]

The bridge was closed in 1995 when a new bridge over the Hopkins River was constructed nearby.^[33]

After floods in January 2011, in 2013 the flood damaged decking and handrails from the bridge were removed for safety reasons and to reduce future flood risk. Timbers were donated to the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.^[34]

All that remains today of the original bridge are abutments, piers and approaches.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

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[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

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[7] *Ibid.*, 12-13.

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[9] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 483.

[10] James Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857* (Geelong: Thomas Brown, 1858).

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[13] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.

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[16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

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[21] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88-89.

[24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[25] Ibid.

[26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

[27] Ibid., 88-89.

[28] Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857*.

[29] *Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser*, 22 April 1861, 2.

[30] *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 165, 12 November 1861, 2178; and No. 15, 4 February 1862, 233.

[31] Signage at bridge.

[32] Signage at bridge.

[33] Signage at bridge.

[34] David Hildebrand, Asset Management, VicRoads.

Description

Physical Description

The remnants of this road bridge over the Hopkins River comprise two rusticated coursed bluestone bridge abutments (one on each bank), two rusticated coursed bluestone piers, bluestone approaches and four timber approach posts (two on each bank). The tops of the piers and abutments have had additions of insitu concrete. One of the piers has areas of cement render and an addition of concrete on one side. The decking, bitumen road and timber handrails were removed in 2013.

The stone piers were in good condition in December 2013. The abutments, approaches and posts were in fair condition in December 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Bluestone Bridge remains over the Hopkins River on the Glenelg Highway, Wickliffe. The location and original form, materials and details of the bluestone abutments, approaches and piers and four timber posts are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Bluestone Bridge remains over the Hopkins River on the Glenelg Highway, Wickliffe are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Bluestone Bridge remains over the Hopkins River, Wickliffe are historically significant as a rare example of a road bridge constructed by the Central Road Board in the 1850s. Originally constructed in 1857, the bridge was moved to its current location in 1861 and then altered by the newly gazetted Ararat Road District later in 1861 and re-opened in 1864. It was closed to traffic in 1995 when a new bridge was constructed nearby. The bridge is a rare example of an early bridge in the Shire demonstrating that the Glenelg Highway was an early and important route through the district dating back to the 1850s. (Criteria A & B)

The Bluestone Bridge remains over the Hopkins River, Wickliffe are aesthetically significant for their illustration of stone bridge construction techniques dating back to the 1860s. The bridge remnants are a visual reminder of the early establishment of the Glenelg Highway as an important road through the district. The bridge piers, abutments and approaches demonstrate skilled stonemasonry techniques from the 1860s period, which are no longer practised. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

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

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Western Hotel and Bluestone Stables	
Address	Walker Street WICKLIFFE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hotel	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

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

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Narrapumelap run took in the area that became known as the Wickliffe district. Taken up by J. D. Wyelaskie in 1840, the run comprised 40,120 acres.[5] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora, Burrumbeep, Edgarley, Mount William and Narrapumelap ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[7] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[8]

Wickliffe township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852 and a post office opened in 1854. In 1857, when a denominational school opened, the township had a population of 84.[9] The ford across the Hopkins River was replaced by a bridge in 1857.

James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[10]

In 1859, a police station was established at Wickliffe, and the township was described as 'making some progress' with a new road from Port Fairy to Ararat under construction. 'A very pretty looking' hotel stood at the bridge, the latter, a 'large and massive structure', had opened three years earlier, and a National School was in full operation in a tent.[11] Later that year, 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branhholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham, Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[12] From 1860, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, which stopped overnight at Wickliffe.[13]

In 1861, the township, officially proclaimed in the same year, was described as comprising two hotels, store, post office, Presbyterian Church and manse, blacksmith's shop, police huts, and tents for labouring men. By this time, monthly sheep sales and regular circuit courts had been established.[14]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which was

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[15] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[16] Limited settlement in the Wickliffe district took place under this Act, with fourteen allotments put up for sale in the township in 1862 and a cemetery site reserved in 1863.

A racecourse was established for picnic races, and Wickliffe had at least one cricket team from the early 1860s.

By 1865, the Wickliffe coach office offered bookings for the Belfast (Port Fairy), Ararat, Ballarat and Hamilton lines, and a carrying office coordinated the conveyancing of goods by drays to Geelong.[17]

Wickliffe State School No. 948, a bluestone building, opened in 1876.[18]

J. D. Wyeslaskie, the owner of Narrapumelap run, brought 40-50 stonemasons and workmen to Wickliffe in 1873 to build an imposing bluestone homestead with a high walled courtyard and central tower; in 1878, he paid for the construction of a steeple on the local Presbyterian church.

In 1901 Wickliffe had a population of 143.[19] The police station closed in 1907.[20]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Wickliffe district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[21] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[22]

A public hall was built at Wickliffe in 1912 at a cost of £912, and extended when a part of Greenvale College was moved to the site in 1920.[23]

Part of the proclaimed area of the Wickliffe township was revoked in 1917.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the Shire of Ararat. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[24]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] Twenty-two returned soldiers were settled on Narrapumelap.[26]

A new recreation ground was built at Wickliffe in 1957, and the township was provided a reticulated water supply in 1977.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[27]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Today, Wickliffe consists of private residences, a recreation ground, the Presbyterian Church and the Western Hotel. The Narrapumelap property has been restored and is open to visitors.

Place history:

The land at the corner of the Willaura-Wickliffe Road and the Glenelg Highway on which the Western Hotel is built was purchased by R. Hodgson in 1863.

The first hotel, however, to exist on this site is believed to have been built in 1857 from bluestone with bluestone stables constructed at the rear. The first publican of the Western Hotel was George Connor (also Wickliffe's postmaster) until 1863. Charles Haig was the owner from 1863 to 1866. Haig's widow, Selina, married architect George Harriott, and together they ran the hotel until the early 1900s.[28] In 1916, Laura M. Jackson was the licensee, William Boyd in 1927, and Mrs. Patricia Shannon in 1935.

In 1939 the original hotel building, at the time owned by Wickliffe Hotel Pty Ltd Melbourne, was destroyed by fire that ignited the wooden shingles under the iron roof. A new hotel, the current building, was constructed later in the same year.[29]

In 1950, tenders were invited for the freehold purchase of the Western Hotel, described as 'an attractive modern single-storey wooden building containing spacious bar, bar parlours, lounge, dining-room, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms outbuildings, garage, lighting plant, sewerage.'[30]

Wickliffe Hotel Pty Ltd Melbourne took over the hotel licence in 1956.

The Western Hotel, closed in 2012, is currently up for sale.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.
- [7] Ibid., 12-13.
- [8] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.).
- [9] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 483.
- [10] James Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857* (Geelong: Thomas Brown, 1858).
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- [12] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.
- [13] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.
- [14] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 12-13.
- [15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
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- [18] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 483.
- [19] Ibid.
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- [21] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88-89.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [25] Ibid.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[27] Ibid., 88-89.

[28] Signage at front of site.

[29] Signage at front of site and "Country News." *The Argus*, 13 May 1939, 6.

[30] "Advertising." *The Argus*, 29 November 1950, 16.

Description

Physical Description

The Western Hotel is a single storey building constructed up to the street line. It is a timber framed building with weatherboard cladding to dado height and fibre cement sheet with strapping above this. The front section of the building has a hip roof running parallel with the street. The front section of the roof forms a verandah over the footpath. The verandah has broad boxed posts that are clad in fibre cement sheet with strapping. A hip roofed wing extends to the rear on the northern side and another hip roofed wing extends to the rear and is stepped back from the frontage on the south side. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheet. The entry door to the front elevation appears to be original but the windows although in their original location have been replaced with aluminium framed windows. The original windows would have been timber framed. A prominent feature at the front of the building is the expressed red brick chimney to the front wall of the recessed southern wing. The top of the chimney is stepped with a small gable to the lower step and a projecting brick band to the upper section of the flue.

There are bluestone stables to the rear of the site. The stables have a rectangular plan with a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The walls are coursed rusticated bluestone.

Physical Condition

The Western Hotel was in good condition and the stables were in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Western Hotel and Bluestone Stables located at 62 Walker Street, Wickliffe. The location and original form, materials and details of the Hotel and Bluestone Stables are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Western Hotel and Bluestone Stables located at 62 Walker Street, Wickliffe are of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Western Hotel is of historical significance as an important commercial building in Wickliffe. Constructed in 1939, the Hotel replaced the 1850s hotel, which burnt down in 1939. The bluestone stables to the rear survive as a remnant of the earlier hotel on the site and are of historical significance for demonstrating the establishment of Wickliffe in the

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

1850s. The bluestone stables are also of historical significance as a rare surviving example of stables built in the 1850s. (Criteria A & B)

The Western Hotel is aesthetically significant as an example of an Inter-War style hotel. Features of note, typical of the period, include the combined weatherboard and fibre cement sheet cladding, front verandah contained under the hipped roof, boxed verandah posts and expressed brick chimney on the front of the south wing. The bluestone stables are of aesthetic significance as an example of 1850s bluestone stables. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No bluestone stables
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Residence	
Address	18 Walker Street WICKLIFFE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Residence	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Narrapumelap run took in the area that became known as the Wickliffe district. Taken up by J. D. Wyelaskie in 1840, the run comprised 40,120 acres.[5] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora, Burrumbeep, Edgarley, Mount William and Narrapumelap ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[7] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[8]

Wickliffe township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852 and a post office opened in 1854. In 1857, when a denominational school opened, the township had a population of 84.[9] The ford across the Hopkins River was replaced by a bridge in 1857.

James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[10]

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] Twenty-two returned soldiers were settled on Narrapumelap.[26]

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Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[27]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Today, Wickliffe consists of private residences, a recreation ground, the Presbyterian Church and the Western Hotel. The Narrapumelap property has been restored and is open to visitors.

Place history:

The land on which the residence at 18 Walker Street is built was purchased by John Farrell in 1853. John Farrell, an Irishman, built a small tavern, known as Farrell's Inn, in 1843 on the west side of the Hopkins River near the ford. John's son, Alexander Farrell, was born at Greenvale in 1844 and became a publican of the inn, later called Hopkins Hotel.[28]

It is believed the bluestone cottage at 18 Walker Street was built soon after 1853 for the Farrell family. It was owned by Farrell family descendants until 1963.[29]

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

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HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [11] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.*
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- [15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
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- [25] Ibid.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.
- [27] Ibid., 88-89.
- [28] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.* Signage at the front of the site.
- [29] Signage at the front of the site.

Description

Physical Description

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

This residence is constructed up to the street line. It is a Victorian style residence with coursed bluestone walls and a hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. There is a weatherboard addition to the rear with a separate roofline. The front elevation has a symmetrical composition with a central four-panelled half glazed timber door and a timber framed double hung window either side. There is a verandah across the front with a hipped roof with a shallow concave curve. This profile of the verandah roof was only used up until about the 1870s and is a clear indicator of the age of the building. There are four evenly spaced posts at the middle section of the verandah with a more closely spaced end post. The building has an unusual decorative verandah beam, which has cut out decoration repeated between the main four posts. There are timber pickets between the two end posts and to the side of the verandah. The original timber framed double hung windows to the building are characterised by the fine timber mullions and framing typical of the early Victorian period.

There is a row of cypress trees to the north of the residence at the front of the side yard. The cypress tree closest to the residence overhangs the roof.

Physical Condition

The building was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Residence located at 18 Walker Street, Wickliffe. The location and original form, materials and details of the bluestone residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Residence located at 18 Walker Street, Wickliffe is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The bluestone residence is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of an early Victorian residence demonstrating the settlement of the Wickliffe district in the 1850s. Completed soon after 1853, the residence was constructed for the Farrell family who owned an inn in the town. John Farrell, an Irishman, built a small tavern, known as Farrell's Inn, in 1843 on the west side of the Hopkins River near the ford. John's son, Alexander Farrell, became a publican of the inn, later called Hopkins Hotel. The residence is of historical significance for its associations with the Farrell family, early and prominent settlers in the district. (Criteria A, B & H)

The residence is aesthetically significant as an excellent intact example of an early Victorian bluestone residence. Features of note that demonstrate the early Victorian period include the fine timber framing and mullions to the windows, four panel half glazed front door, the concave profile verandah roof, coursed stonework, bluestone sills and tall hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. An unusual feature of note is the verandah beam with a repeated cut out decorative pattern. (Criteria D & E)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

NB - A planning permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface.



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Store	
Address	34 Walker Street WICKLIFFE	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Shop, Post Office	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Wickliffe district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the study area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road.

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

Narrapumelap run took in the area that became known as the Wickliffe district. Taken up by J. D. Wyelaskie in 1840, the run comprised 40,120 acres.[5] The run contributed toward the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poora, Burrumbeep, Edgarley, Mount William and Narrapumelap ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

The Wickliffe settlement dates from the early 1840s when a village, known as Farrell's Inn, Ford's Crossing or Hopkins Crossing, grew around an inn constructed in 1843 beside a ford on the Hopkins River. The inn catered for the needs of travellers and carriers journeying between Portland and Melbourne and was used as a changing station on the coach route from 1845.[7] King Cobb's coach route operated between Hamilton and Ballarat, with a stop over at Wickliffe.[8]

Wickliffe township was surveyed and proclaimed in 1852 and a post office opened in 1854. In 1857, when a denominational school opened, the township had a population of 84.[9] The ford across the Hopkins River was replaced by a bridge in 1857.

James Bonwick described the town in 1857:

This township is down in the hollow of the valley, boasting of nine houses, two stores, and a well built hotel. The place is only five years of age, and is not provided with any land about it in cultivation. It is situated twenty-five miles east of Dunkeld, and twenty west of Fiery Creek. For nine miles from Dunkeld the road is through a timber and crab hole country. The remainder of the distance is over the usual basaltic plain, with scarcely a tree for miles, beyond a Honeysuckle. The bridge is a double one, allowing for the backwater of the Hopkins at the time of floods; it cost £2500. The lives of several postmen have been lost at the ford there..Some half dozen Blacks were encamped opposite the Wickliffe Hotel. I noticed them through the forenoon as being particularly noisy.[10]

In 1859, a police station was established at Wickliffe, and the township was described as 'making some progress' with a new road from Port Fairy to Ararat under construction. 'A very pretty looking' hotel stood at the bridge, the latter, a 'large and massive structure', had opened three years earlier, and a National School was in full operation in a tent.[11] Later that year, 'a first-class, four-horse covered coach' left Portland for Geelong. On the first day it passed through Heywood, Green Hills, Branhholme, Hamilton and Wickliffe; and on the second day travelled by way of Streatham, Skipton, Rokewood, Shelford and Bruces Creek.[12] From 1860, Warrnambool mail contractors ran a coach between Port Fairy and Ararat, which stopped overnight at Wickliffe.[13]

In 1861, the township, officially proclaimed in the same year, was described as comprising two hotels, store, post office, Presbyterian Church and manse, blacksmith's shop, police huts, and tents for labouring men. By this time, monthly sheep sales and regular circuit courts had been established.[14]

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which was surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862

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Act,[15] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[16] Limited settlement in the Wickliffe district took place under this Act, with fourteen allotments put up for sale in the township in 1862 and a cemetery site reserved in 1863.

A racecourse was established for picnic races, and Wickliffe had at least one cricket team from the early 1860s.

By 1865, the Wickliffe coach office offered bookings for the Belfast (Port Fairy), Ararat, Ballarat and Hamilton lines, and a carrying office coordinated the conveyancing of goods by drays to Geelong.[17]

Wickliffe State School No. 948, a bluestone building, opened in 1876.[18]

J. D. Wyeslaskie, the owner of Narrapumelap run, brought 40-50 stonemasons and workmen to Wickliffe in 1873 to build an imposing bluestone homestead with a high walled courtyard and central tower; in 1878, he paid for the construction of a steeple on the local Presbyterian church.

In 1901 Wickliffe had a population of 143.[19] The police station closed in 1907.[20]

The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904, however it wasn't government legislation that brought farmers to the Wickliffe district in the early 1900s, but private subdivision. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties who wanted to subdivide their land. Murphy subdivided a number of Willaura and Lake Bolac estates in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[21] By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation and a wide stretch of land between Wickliffe and Streatham had been put under wheat, oats and barley.[22]

A public hall was built at Wickliffe in 1912 at a cost of £912, and extended when a part of Greenvale College was moved to the site in 1920.[23]

Part of the proclaimed area of the Wickliffe township was revoked in 1917.

Discharged Soldier Settlement Acts passed in the period 1917-24, in conjunction with the Closer Settlement Acts of 1915, 1918 and 1922, formed the legislative basis for Victorian soldier settlement on the land. Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the Shire of Ararat. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[24]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. Because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Under this scheme, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large estates in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[25] Twenty-two returned soldiers were settled on Narrapumelap.[26]

A new recreation ground was built at Wickliffe in 1957, and the township was provided a reticulated water supply in 1977.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1970s has resulted in a reduction of population in the district. Wickliffe State School closed in 1987 and the post office closed in 1988.[27]

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Today, Wickliffe consists of private residences, a recreation ground, the Presbyterian Church and the Western Hotel. The Narrapumelap property has been restored and is open to visitors.

Place history:

James Pyle, grocer, draper, ironmonger and butcher, opened a timber general store ca. 1862 on land he purchased (later 36 Walker Street) in the same year. Robert Ford, who was born near Lake Bolac in 1846, took over the store in 1879. The Wickliffe Post Office was conducted from the same building from 1873 to 1909, and from 1979 to 1988. The building has since been removed.

The brick shop at 34 Walker Street was built next to the general store by Robert's son, William Haig Ford, who was born in Wickliffe in 1877. It is stated on signage at the front of the site that the building was built in 1924. However, there is evidence to suggest the store was in operation by 1915.[28] William Ford died in 1954. The business at 34 Walker Street remained in the ownership of the Ford family until 1975, closing in 1988.[29]

The building is currently used as a residence.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Ibid., 12-13.

[8] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (Lake Bolac: Lake Bolac and District Historical Society, n.d.).

[9] Angus B. Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901* (n.p.: Angus B. Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art & Design, 2003), 483.

[10] James Bonwick, *Western Victoria: It's Geography, Geology, and Social Conditions: The Narrative of an Educational Tour in 1857* (Geelong: Thomas Brown, 1858).

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- [11] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.*
- [12] Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, 209.
- [13] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 82.
- [14] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 12-13.
- [15] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [17] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.*
- [18] Watson, *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, 483.
- [19] Ibid.
- [20] *History of Wickliffe 1836-1962. Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.*
- [21] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [23] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 88-89.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [25] Ibid.
- [26] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 49.
- [27] Ibid., 88-89.
- [28] 'Store Broken Into.' *The Argus*, 15 July 1915, 10.
- [29] Signage at the front of the site.

Description

Physical Description

This building is a red brick store with a gable roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron running perpendicular to Walker

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Street. The building is constructed to the street line with a skillion roofed verandah over the footpath. The original timber posts to the verandah have been replaced with steel posts but the upper section of the post and the original verandah beam are extant. The building has two large timber framed shop front windows with six fixed sashes, either side of a central recessed entry door. The windows commence approximately one third of the way up the wall and extend to ceiling height. They have brick sills with the bricks laid on an angle. The gable end facing the street contains two rows of wrought iron signage that has corroded and is no longer readable. The brick walls have been painted, which is a later change.

Physical Condition

The former store was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Store located at 34 Walker Street, Wickcliffe. The location and original form, materials and detailing of the building are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Store located at 34 Walker Street, Wickcliffe is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Store is historically significant for its long association with commercial activities of the Wickcliffe township. Constructed in 1924, or possibly as early as 1915, the store was built next to an earlier general store operated by Robert Ford from 1879. Robert's son, William Haig Ford, opened the new brick shop at 34 Walker Street. It is one of only a few surviving premises that evidence the once busy township of Wickcliffe, which experienced a boom in the early 20th century due to the subdivision of large estates in the district. The building is of historical significance for its associations with the Ford family who operated the two main business premises in the town. (Criteria A, B & H)

The former Store is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of an early 20th century rural store. The building retains its original simple gable roofed form, skillion roofed verandah over the footpath, large timber framed shop front windows and recessed entry. The wrought iron signage to the gable end is also of aesthetic interest as an early and unusual type of signage. (Criterion D)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	St Patricks Catholic Church	
Address	24-26 Ayrey Street WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	
Designer / Architect	Ryan, Michael

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milllear family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for the reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. 1½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool,

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Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential

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services.[43]

Place history:[44]

The land on which St Patricks Catholic Church is built was first owned by T. Millear on 15 July 1868. The land was subdivided on 13 May 1902 and Millear transferred a portion of it to the trustees of the Willaura Roman Catholic Church.

In May 1909, at the conclusion of the fortnightly mass held in the public hall, a meeting of the Catholic congregation was held with Fr. O'Hare residing. The meeting decided that a new brick church of about 36 feet by 40 feet be built, however, perhaps because of a lack of funding, in 1910 a weatherboard church, designed by Michael Ryan,[45] was built instead by A. P. Daniel, contractor of Willaura at a cost of £482. The building comprised a church 56 feet by 25 feet, a vestry 10 feet by 12 feet, and entry porch 10 feet by 12 feet.[46]

St Patricks Catholic Church was blessed and opened by the Most Reverend Joseph Higgins, the Bishop of Ballarat, on 26 June 1910.

The church and land was transferred to the Roman Catholic Trust Corporation of the Diocese of Ballarat on 19 November 1920.

The small weatherboard church served Willaura for 48 years, but with increased population following the World War Two a larger church was needed. Extensions were made to the church, which doubled the size of the building, at a cost of £4678. These extensions were opened and blessed by Bishop O'Collins of Ballarat on 13 April 1958.

A new toilet block was erected in 1968.[47]

Overseen by the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, St Patricks is a part of the St Marys Parish, comprising churches at Ararat, Lake Bolac and Willaura. Church services are held monthly.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

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- [7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.
- [9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.
- [10] Ibid., 72-3.
- [11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount William Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).
- [12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.
- [15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.
- [18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.
- [19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.
- [22] Cited in Ibid., 76.
- [23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).
- [24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.
- [25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.
- [26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [28] Ibid., 235.
- [29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.

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[30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.

[31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.

[33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.

[34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.

[35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.

[36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.

[38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.

[41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.

[42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

[43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[44] Most of this information has been taken from Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 172.

[45] Miles Lewis and Terry Sawyer, *Australian Architectural Index* (Miles Lewis, 2013 [cited 10 September 2013]); available from <http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html>.

[46] "Roman Catholic Church Willaura." Public Building Files: Public Records Office of Victoria 7882/P1/278.

[47] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

St Patricks, Willaura is a timber framed church with weatherboard wall cladding to most of the building and block front

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panelling to the front porch and front elevation. The church consists of a gable roofed nave running perpendicular to the street, a centrally placed porch to the front, and a lower and narrower gable roofed room to the rear, which intersects with a side gable roofed wing that runs parallel to the street. The front porch design is highly unusual and has a Dutch gable roof and a hexagonal turret on each front corner. The turrets are clad in block front paneling and have a band of half timbering at the top and a conical roof clad in corrugated iron with a cross at the apex. The gable end in the Dutch gable has timber louvres and a cross at the apex. There are double pointed arch doors in each side elevation of the porch. The doors have vertical timber lining. The front elevation of the porch has a centrally placed timber framed pointed arch window. The front gable end elevation of the nave has a grid of half timbering and timber fretwork extending from the bargeboard. The block front panelling to the front elevation includes faux quoining at the front corners. The finial and one of the curved members to this fretwork is missing. The timber finial at the rear end of the nave is missing, as is the finial on the end of the rear gable wing. The side elevations of the church have a band of half timbering directly under the eaves and evenly spaced pointed arch timber framed windows and a centrally placed double pointed arch door in place of one of the windows. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheet and the eaves are wide with exposed rafters. There are conical metal roof ventilators either side of the ridge to the nave roof. The windows and door to the rear wing are rectangular and timber framed. The original door has been replaced and the double hung windows have been boarded up.

Physical Condition

The church was in fair condition in November 2013. Some timber elements are missing (primarily finials) and timber repairs are required to ensure there is no more loss of significant features.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Patricks Catholic Church located at 24-26 Ayrey Street, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the church are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

St Patricks Catholic Church located at 24-26 Ayrey Street, Willaura is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

St Patricks Catholic Church, Willaura is of historical significance for its associations with the development of Willaura as a community and service centre for the booming farming district in the early twentieth century. Completed in 1910, the church was constructed at a time when Willaura's population was increasing due to the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act*, subdivision of large pastoral properties in the district and the establishment of share farming on large estates such as Edgarley and Mount William. The site is of historical significance for its associations with Thomas Millear of Edgarley who donated the land for the church in 1902. The extension of the church in 1958 to almost double its size is of historical significance for demonstrating another surge in the Willaura population due to good farming conditions and Soldier Settlement following World War Two. (Criteria A & H)

St Patricks Catholic Church, Willaura is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and highly unusual and decorative example of an early twentieth century timber church. The church was originally meant to be of brick, but due to lack of funds, only a timber church could be built. Designed by Michael Ryan, this is perhaps why the timber church uses block front panelling and employs turrets on the front porch: two unusual features that give the building more of a

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masonry appearance. The other features of note are typically suited to a timber building such as the half timbering under the eaves and to the gable end as well as the timber fretwork and finials to the gable ends. The employment of decoration typical for two different types of materials makes the composition of the building highly unusual and architecturally distinctive. Other original features of note include the pointed arch timber framed windows and doors, the exposed rafters to the eaves, and the cylindrical ventilators to the roof ridge. (Criteria D & E)

St Patricks Catholic Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1910. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Wongalee Residence, Pines and Canary Island Palm		
Address	334 Back Bolac Road WILLAURA	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Homestead Complex		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

Architectural Style Postwar Period (1945-1965)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Willaura district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milllear family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for the reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. Â½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool,

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Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

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services.[43]

Place history:

The two major pastoral runs in what was to become known as the Willaura district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843. Thomas Millear, in partnership with Thomas Maidment and Josiah Austin, took over Greenvale in 1860.[44]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860 and 1862 promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, 'selectors' took up land for farming in allotments of up to 160 acres, including on the Greenvale run in the Parish of Mellier and Parish of Wickliffe North.

Several allotments in the aforementioned parishes were amalgamated in later years to form larger land holdings that enabled grazing and cropping. In 1907 Paul Gellert purchased land from the Greenvale estate and named it 'Mimosa'. The Gellert family built a double red brick house in 1908 and extended the front in 1913 with a six-room weatherboard extension. Harold and Gordon Gellert took over the property after their father's death in 1928. Lutheran church services were held at Mimosa until 1910; a Lutheran church was built nearby in 1913. The property was known for its substantial garden.

The Gellerts sold Mimosa to Linton and Norma Ritchie (nee Davies) in 1939. Linton Ritchie had moved from Melbourne in 1938 to manage the National Bank at Willaura. Linton joined the RAAF as a Leading Aircraftsman in World War Two.

In 1945, the Ritchie family sold Mimosa to James (Ray) Brain, farmer, of Willaura.[45] James married Joyce in 1947, and their children, Beverlee, Valerie, Christopher, Stephen, Philip and Tricia, were born in subsequent years.[46] The Brain family renamed the property 'Wongalee'.

The Brains sold off the front weatherboard section of the house ca. 1953 and added to the 1908 double brick section with three double brick rooms at the front to form the residence as it stands today.

The property is still owned by the Brain family.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the

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table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] Ibid., 72-3.

[11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount Wiliam Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

[18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.

[19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.

[22] Cited in Ibid., 76.

[23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).

[24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.

[25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.

[26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.

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- [28] Ibid., 235.
- [29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994 / John Mckenzie* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.
- [35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.
- [41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.
- [42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994 / John Mckenzie*, 84.
- [43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [44] Run details are provided from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).
- [45] Certificate of Title.
- [46] Headstone inscription, Willaura Cemetery.

Description

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Physical Description

The Wongalee residence is an expansive building constructed in the Moderne style. The walls are cement rendered blockwork and the roof is a series of hips clad in corrugated galvanised iron that has been painted green. The hip roofed garage is incorporated into the house at the northwest corner and is detailed in the same styling. The outer corners to the front of the residence are curved and also have curved windows. Windows are timber framed and double hung with wide central jambs to the paired double hung windows. The sills to the windows are dark glazed bricks. There is an ocular window to the front of the residence with a glazed brick border. The entry to the residence is on the north side adjacent to the garage. There is an open entry porch with a recessed entry incorporated under the main roof.

The front section of the building was newly built ca. 1953. The rear section of the building, which is also brick, was the original 1908 building that was incorporated into the ca. 1953 front additions. The brickwork of the earlier house was also rendered to blend in with the later additions.

There are two pines to the rear of the residence and a Canary Island Palm to the front of the residence on the northeast corner.

Physical Condition

The residence was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Wongalee, located at 334 Back Bolac Road, Willaura. The original form, materials and detailing of the 1953 farmhouse and garage incorporating the original 1908 house and two pines and Canary Island Palm contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Wongalee, located at 334 Back Bolac Road, Willaura, is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Wongalee is of historic significance as an intact example of a farm property demonstrating the establishment of the property in the early 1900s and the successful farming experienced in the district post World War Two. The original house was built 1908 after Paul Gellert purchased land from the Greenvale estate in 1907 and named it 'Mimosa'. The Gellert family extended the front in 1913 with a six-room weatherboard extension. The Gellerts sold Mimosa to Linton and Norma Ritchie in 1939. Linton Ritchie had moved from Melbourne in 1938 to manage the National Bank at Willaura. In 1945, the Ritchie family sold Mimosa to James (Ray) Brain, farmer, of Willaura. The Brain family renamed the property 'Wongalee'. The Brains sold off the front weatherboard section of the house ca. 1953 and added to the 1908 double brick section with three double brick rooms at the front to form the residence as it stands today. The style and scale of the ca. 1953 residence is expressive of the prosperity in the area during the post World War Two period with newcomers willing to establish substantial homes in the district. The property is of historical significance for its association with the Gellert family who established the original house, farm and garden, the Ritchie family, and the Brain

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family, who purchased the property in 1945 and altered the house to its current form ca. 1953. (Criteria A & H)

Wongalee residence is of aesthetic significance as an excellent intact example of a Moderne style farmhouse constructed in the 1950s. Particular features of note include the rendered blockwork, roof as a series of hipped roofs with wide eaves, prominent shaped chimneys with curves and glazed brick capping, curved walls with curved corner windows, ocular window, attached garage constructed in the same style and timber framed windows with glazed brick window sills. The incorporation of the original 1908 brick house into the 1953 additions and the unification of the design of the two sections are of architectural interest. The pines and Canary Island Palm contribute to the significant setting around the residence. The Canary Island Palm compliments the style of the residence and is indicative of the formerly substantial ornamental gardens on the property. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes 2 pines and Canary Island Palm

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Edgarley Bridge over Hopkins River	
Address	Delacombe Way WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Road Bridge	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	
Designer / Architect	Monash, Sir John

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[9]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[10] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[11]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[12] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant

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farmers on the property.[13]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[14] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[15] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to £45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[16] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[17]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[18] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905.

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between £6-£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[19]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[20] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[21] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[22]

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[23]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties

facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[24] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. ½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[25]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[26] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[27] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[28] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[29] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[30]

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[31] In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential services.[32]

Place history:[33]

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the Willaura district, like other large pastoral properties in the Ararat Shire, was broken up for closer settlement, changing the landscape, as the *Ararat Advertiser* put it, 'from sheep walk to thriving agricultural settlement'. [1] With closer settlement came the need for new roads, and bridges to carry the roads over the Shire's flood-prone streams. The young Shire Engineer, Robert Speed, was aware of the advantages of reinforced concrete. He had experimented with new technology himself, building a bridge with a steel girder cased in concrete.[2] It is likely that Speed opened negotiations with the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co after the

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spring flood of 1909. In November he asked for a quote for two new bridges to replace timber bridges washed away by floodwaters. He told the Company that he was satisfied that a Monier structure was the best. The Company submitted designs for the two bridges, and for two others that were required, offering a package price of £1268. Although he did not need to sell the idea of reinforced concrete to Speed, Monash did need to convince the Ararat Shire Council that it was worth spending a bit more - 'only one fifth more than timber' - to have a 'permanent structure, proof against fire flood and decay'. Speed recommended Monash's designs to his council and the firm was contracted to build four reinforced concrete girder bridges.[3]

The Company gained the confidence of Council and established a good working relationship with Speed. Several more reinforced concrete bridges were commissioned by the council over the next few years, and by the mid 1930s the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co had built 18 bridges in the Shire of Ararat. They were all small bridges of no more than three spans, situated on country roads where they provided a vital transport link for farmers taking their produce to the railway. Of these, eighteen (only four positively identified examples) were known to be still standing in 1998. The four bridges, as a collection, are useful in demonstrating the development of bridge design over a few years from 1910 to 1913, particularly showing the change from having the middle part of the girder unreinforced to providing shear reinforcing in the full span of the girder.

Edgarley Bridge (named after the Edgarley estate owned by the Millear family) was the ninth bridge constructed by the Company in the Shire of Ararat. The proposal for a bridge on one of the new roads constructed in the Willaura closer settlement wheat district prompted some opposition from those in the community who felt that there was insufficient traffic on the road to warrant the cost of the bridge. They were not heeded. Willaura had been proclaimed a township in January 1912, and the population of the district was increasing. Tenders were called for a reinforced concrete bridge in November 1912, and the Company's tender at £453, being the only one received, was accepted. Evidence suggests that John Monash was the chief design engineer for this bridge.[4]

The Edgarley Bridge was finished in January 1913, in time for the harvest. Its heavy use by the harvest traffic satisfied the local press that the expense was worthwhile, and that it was 'a decided benefit to the Shire'.[5]

A very low bridge, it was subject to frequent floodings of the Hopkins River, however it remained in use for 60 years. In 1973 a new Edgarley Bridge, was built on a raised and re-aligned road.[6] The old bridge still stands a few metres downstream.

Lesley Alves gratefully acknowledges the assistance of John McKenzie, former Ararat Shire Engineer, in researching these bridges.

Lesley Alves' footnotes

1. *Ararat Advertiser*, 22 March 1910.
2. Speed showed Lynch a sketch of the bridge, Lynch to Monash, 22 January 1910, Company records Box 68 File 761.
3. Correspondence 18 November 1909 to 7 January 1910, Company records.
4. *Ararat Advertiser*, 9 November 1912, Company records, Box 88, File 909.
5. *Ararat Advertiser*, 14 January 1913.
6. Shire of Ararat, 'Naming of Edgarley Bridge', 16 October 1973.

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Contextual and place history footnotes

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 72-3.

[10] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount William Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[11] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[14] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[15] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

[16] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.

[17] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

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- [19] Cited in Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 76.
- [20] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [22] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [23] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [24] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [25] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [26] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [27] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [28] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [30] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [31] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.
- [32] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [33] This information is directly cited from Lesley Alves, *T-Girder Bridges, Part 1 Bridges in the Shire of Ararat*, 1998.

Description

Physical Description

Edgarley Bridge over the Hopkins River is a concrete and steel girder bridge with a curved profile. The bridge deck has an asphalt finish. The bridge is in poor condition and is not in use. A new bridge, a few metres upstream, carries Delacombe Way over the Hopkins River on a new road alignment. The old bridge is a very low bridge with three spans. The middle span is 20 feet (6.10 metres) from centre to centre of the concrete piers, while the end spans measure 20 feet (6.10 metres) from the centre of the pier to the face of the abutment. The overall width is 16 feet (4.88 metres). There are four girders. This seems to be the first extant bridge in which shear reinforcement was provided over the whole span. The piers and abutments are simple concrete walls 12 inches thick (305mm). As a result there is no need for a cross-head on the columns. The bridge has considerable spalling of the concrete, which actually reveals the pattern of shear reinforcing

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in one girder. All that remains of the original iron handrails are the angle iron supports.[1]

[1] Lesley Alves, *T-Girder Bridges, Part 1 Bridges in the Shire of Ararat*, 1998.

Physical Condition

The bridge was in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Edgarley Bridge, Delacombe Way over the Hopkins River, Willaura. The location and original form and materials are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Edgarley Bridge, Delacombe Way over the Hopkins River, Willaura, is of local historical and technical significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Edgarley Bridge over the Hopkins River Willaura is of historical significance as a typical example of the many small reinforced concrete bridges built in country Victoria by the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Company in the years immediately preceding World War One. As one of only a few remaining of the 18 bridges built in the Ararat Shire by the Company, the bridge represents the willingness of a shire engineer to adopt new technology. The bridge is also historically significant as a reminder of the agricultural settlement of the district following subdivision of the large pastoral holdings. The proposal for a bridge on one of the new roads constructed in the Willaura closer settlement wheat district prompted some opposition from those in the community who felt that there was insufficient traffic on the road to warrant the cost of the bridge. The Edgarley Bridge was finished in January 1913, in time for the harvest. Its heavy use by the harvest traffic satisfied the local press that the expense was worthwhile, and that it was 'a decided benefit to the Shire'. (Criteria A & B)

The Edgarley Bridge over the Hopkins River, Willaura is of technical significance for its demonstration of a stage in the development of reinforced concrete bridge building in Victoria and is the earliest extant bridge to show the use of shear reinforcing through the full length of its span. Evidence suggests that John Monash was the chief design engineer for the bridge. (Criterion F)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Willaura District Hospital, Gates and Trees	
Address	21 Delacombe Way WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hospital, Gate, Trees of social, historic or special significance	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milllear family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for the reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. Â½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool,

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Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential

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services.[43]

Place history:[44]

Early medical services were provided to Wickliffe Road residents by Dr de Crespigny of Glenthompson who advertised in the *Willaura Farmer* that he would be in Willaura three days a week. Maternity cases were attended by local midwives.

The Willaura Progress Association was active in requesting medical services for the town. In August 1908, Dr Sydney Patterson of the Childrens Hospital in Carlton wrote to the association to inform it that he had purchased Dr Featherstonehaugh's practice at Glenthompson and intended providing medical services to Willaura.[45] After graduating in medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1904, Patterson gained his M.D. in 1907.[46]

By July 1909, Dr Patterson was residing in Willaura.[47] He practised at Willaura, Glenthompson, Wickliffe, Lake Bolac and Rossbridge. Dr Patterson also opened the Kelvin Private Hospital, comprising two double bed wards, at 7 Commercial Street, Willaura, in March 1910.

The Kelvin Private Hospital continued to provide services, particularly maternity services, but experienced ongoing financial difficulties. At a meeting called by the Farmers Union, 50 residents pledged thirty shillings a year to keep the hospital going. The meeting also agreed that the Bush Nursing Association be approached to take over the hospital. Bush Nursing Centres were introduced in Victoria from 1911 to provide essential nursing care in country areas that were isolated from regular medical services.

Sir James Barrett, founder of the Bush Nursing Hospital Association in 1910, visited Willaura and announced that a new hospital was necessary. A committee was formed and residents began the task of raising funds. Mr and Mrs Thomas Millear donated Â£1000 and James Millear provided the land for the hospital.

A report in the *Argus* of 12 April 1935 stated:

The foundation stone of a new Bush Nursing Hospital at Willaura was laid yesterday by Mrs T Millear, of Edgarley. It is to be a brick and plaster building, with accommodation for five beds and extra emergency accommodation for four beds and is to cost approximately Â£2200. About Â£1500 has been contributed locally, including a donation of Â£1000 from Mr and Mrs T Millear, and a loan of Â£350 at 1 per cent has been obtained from the central council of the Bush Nursing Association. At the laying of the foundation-stone an appeal was made for funds for a sewerage installation and the president of the hospital committee (Mr J Coad) and Mr S F Millear agreed to share the cost approximately Â£35 each, and Mr W H Millear gave Â£25 to make a dam to provide the necessary water supply. The building has been specially designed to give all the wards a north-easterly aspect, and provision has been made for a sleep-out verandah, operating theatre, sterilising-room and each of the five single wards has a fireplace. Mrs Millear was presented with a silver trowel.[48]

In a report in June 1935, the *Argus* wrote:

Between 60 and 70 men took part in a working bee on Monday at the new Bush Nursing Hospital at Willaura, and aided by trucks and a team of horses, laid out a garden, formed drains and commenced to fence in the block. The Country Womens Association of Willaura has undertaken to furnish a ward at the Bush Nursing Hospital.[49]

Lady Mitchell, president of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association, opened the Willaura Bush Nursing Hospital, the sixth bush nursing hospital built in Victoria, on 22 August 1935.

Dr Checchi and a team of nursing sisters provided medical services to the hospital. The hospital was connected to

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electricity in 1938 and to a reticulated water supply in 1949. Weatherboard nurses' quarters, funded by public subscription, were constructed in 1950. In 1959, Dr Checchi was joined by Dr Robin Handscombe.

Extensions to the hospital were made in 1959, including the building of an operating theatre and labour ward. The hospital was connected to town sewerage in 1967, and in 1976, further extensions were made to increase the building's capacity to ten beds. The hospital established a home nursing service in 1977 and provided Meals on Wheels from 1981. A doctor's consulting room was built in 1984 with funds left to the hospital in Mrs Nellie May Moreton's estate. A ten-bed nursing hostel was built in 1994.

The hospital was transferred from Hamilton to Ararat and District Hospital in 1988, and, since 1991, doctors from Ararat have provided services to Willaura hospital.[50] The hospital's centenary was celebrated in 2010.

The hospital, now known as the Willaura Health Care and Parkland House Hostel, is part of East Grampians Health Service. Willaura Health Care provides eight sub-acute and two Commonwealth high-care beds; Parkland House Hostel provides low-level care for older people.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] *Ibid.*, 72-3.

[11] *Ibid.*, 61. *Mafeking and Mount William Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

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- [13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.
- [15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.
- [18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.
- [19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.
- [22] Cited in Ibid., 76.
- [23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).
- [24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.
- [25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.
- [26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [28] Ibid., 235.
- [29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.

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- [35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.
- [41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.
- [42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.
- [43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [44] Much of this information has come from Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 150-54.
- [45] *Ibid.*, 150.
- [46] Ann Westmore, *Patterson, Sydney Wentworth* (Centre for the Study of Health and Society, 2003 [cited 11 January 2014]); available from <http://www.jnmhugateways.unimelb.edu.au/umfm/biogs/FM00081b.htm>.
- [47] Graeme and Karen Robinson and John Walter, Personal Communication, 17 September 2013. Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 150.
- [48] "Building at Willaura Ararat." *The Argus*, 23 August 1935, 3.
- [49] "Ararat." *The Argus*, 7 June 1935, 3.
- [50] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

Description

Physical Description

The Willaura District Hospital comprises a main brick building constructed over stages from 1935, a 1950 weatherboard building (former nurses' quarters) with a tiled roof construction and a nursing hostel built in the 1990s at the rear of the site. Additions to the central brick hospital building undertaken after the 1970s and other buildings constructed after this time do not contribute to the significance of the place. Other significant features include the 1970 memorial entrance gates and the two cypresses, scarlet oak and Canary Island palm in the hospital grounds.

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The original 1935 hospital is a red brick building with a gable roof running north south. The front end elevation has a gambrel roof end with the gable end filled in with weatherboards. There is a flat roofed porch entry to the front of the building with brick pillars. This is an original feature, but it has been filled in with glazing and panels at a later date. Some of the original evenly spaced timber framed windows are retained to the side walls. These windows are double hung with exposed concrete lintels above. Additions in the 1960s and 1970s have been added to the east and west at the front of the building. The granite foundation stone on entrance (south) wall reads: 'VBNA Bush Nursing Hospital. This stone was laid by Mrs Thomas Millear of Edgarley 9th April 1935'.

The 1950 weatherboard building at the front of the site has a main hipped roof running north south and a front projecting hip roofed wing with a central wide cream brick chimney. The roof is clad in ceramic tiles and the eaves are wide with exposed rafters.

The sign on scarlet oak reads 'This scarlet oak was planted by Sister E R Dunstan in commemoration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. June 2nd 1953'.

The granite memorial gate pillars with a large round bulb light mounted at the top were constructed in 1970 in recognition of Dr Cyril Checchi's 50 years of service to the community and contains an inscription commemorating his service.

Physical Condition

The buildings, gates and trees were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Willaura District Hospital including the original 1935 brick hospital building with additions, the 1950 weatherboard nurses' quarters, granite memorial gates, and two cypresses, scarlet oak and Canary Island palm, located at 21 Delacombe Way, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of these elements are integral to the significance of the place.

Additions to the central brick hospital building undertaken after the 1970s and other buildings constructed after this time do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Willaura District Hospital is of local historical and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Willaura District Hospital is of historical significance for its role in the provision of health care to Willaura and the surrounding district since the 1930s. The hospital is of historical significance as a surviving example of a bush nursing hospital erected under the auspices of the Bush Nursing Hospital Association, established in 1910. Bush Nursing Centres were introduced in Victoria from 1911 to provide essential nursing care in country areas that were isolated from regular medical services. Sir James Barrett, founder of the Bush Nursing Hospital Association visited Willaura in the 1930s and announced that a new hospital was necessary. Lady Mitchell, president of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association, opened the Willaura Bush Nursing Hospital, the sixth bush nursing hospital built in Victoria, on 22 August 1935. The hospital has important associations with Dr Cyril Checchi who provided 50 years of health services to the Willaura district

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and was the doctor in charge when the hospital opened in 1935. The granite memorial gates at the formal entry to the hospital were erected in 1970 in honour of Dr Checci's service. The hospital also has important associations with the Millear family. Mr and Mrs Thomas Millear of Edgarley donated £1000 towards construction of the hospital and James Millear provided the land for the hospital. The foundation stone was also laid by Mrs T. Millear, 11 April 1935. (Criteria A, B & H)

Willaura District Hospital is of social significance for its operation as the local hospital for the Willaura district from 1935. From 1959 after a labour ward was added, it was also the location of the birth of many local babies. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Two cypresses, scarlet oak and Canary Island palm

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes Memorial gates

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion and Oak Tree		
Address	7 Delacombe Way WILLAURA	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	Reserve, Trees of social, historic or special significance		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Designer / Architect	Irwin, Jas.

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The *Duffy Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Milllear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[28] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[29] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[30]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[31] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. Â½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[32]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[33]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[34] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised

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from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[35] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[36] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burrumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[37] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[38] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[39] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[40]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[41]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential services.[42]

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Place history:[43]

Mr T. Milliar donated land for use as a recreation reserve in 1907. Designs for improvements, including the construction of tennis courts, and a cricket, football and sports ground, plus the planting of trees, were called for in 1910.

The first Willaura Agricultural Show was held in 1916 but was temporarily discontinued because of World War One. The Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Society committee met in May 1924 and the next show was planned for 11 November of that year in the recreation reserve. It was decided that a new pavilion was needed for the show. In previous years, the Farmers Grain Shed on the railway reserve had been used. The *Willaura Farmer* reported that to build the new building with a 'floor space of sixty feet by fifty-four feet with sufficient accommodation for a refreshment room and permanent display stands', the committee had allocated £500-£600. The committee only had £200 in hand, however the community of Willaura rallied behind the project to raise the required funds.

The building project was placed in the hands of the architect Mr J. Irwin from Ararat who called for tenders. The contract for the pavilion was let to Mr B. Radley and the building was constructed at a total cost of £620. The new pavilion was opened in time for a planned gymkhana on October 24 1924 by Councillor Ray Laidlaw, president of the Ararat Shire Council. At the opening, Mr H. J. Taylor appealed for further funds by selling sheets of iron at five shillings each; he received £50 from the day's effort, which was called the 'galvanised iron treasury'.

There were 1128 exhibition entries for the show held on 11 November 1924, which were all housed in the new main pavilion. Wool exhibits were housed in a separate room adjoining the main pavilion, built to plans drawn up by Willaura Agricultural Society president S. L. Calvert in 1928 at a cost of £217.[44]

On 24 March 1936, the Recreation Reserve Committee took over the liabilities of the Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

The pavilion has been used for many years for the annual Fleece and Flower Show, and continues to be used today for recreational activities. The local rifle club uses the wool room extension.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

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- [6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.
- [7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.
- [8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.
- [9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.
- [10] Ibid., 72-3.
- [11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount Wiliam Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).
- [12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.
- [15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.
- [18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.
- [19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.
- [22] Cited in Ibid., 76.
- [23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).
- [24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.
- [25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.
- [26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [28] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [29] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.

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[30] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[31] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.

[32] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.

[33] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.

[34] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.

[35] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[36] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.

[37] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[38] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[39] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.

[40] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.

[41] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

[42] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[43] Most of this information has been taken from Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 117, 235

[44] "District Notes - Willaura." *The Argus*, 23 May 1928, 16.

Description

Physical Description

The agricultural pavilion is a timber framed building clad in corrugated iron laid horizontally with clerestory windows mounted over the ridge. The building consists of a main hall with a gable roof, a skillion wing extending along each long side and a projecting low pitched gable roofed wing attached to the north end of the west skillion wing which extends partially across the gable end wall. Square profile tray deck laid with the corrugations running vertically has replaced the original cladding on the east side, while on the west wall the original cladding survives and there is a row of evenly spaced rectangular windows under the eaves line. These have been boarded up from the inside. There is a single metal

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clad door on each end: on the north end it is located in the end of the skillion wing and on the south end it is located to the west end of the gable end wall. The gable roof is clad in zincalume. There is a rectangular timber louvre vent in the gable end at each end.

The oak tree stands in the recreation ground near the entrance from Delacombe Way.

Physical Condition

The pavilion and oak tree were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion and oak tree located at 7 Delacombe Way, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the pavilion and oak tree are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion and oak tree located at 7 Delacombe Way, Willaura is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion is of historical significance for its construction and use as the main pavilion for the Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Show from 1924. The purpose built pavilion was completed in 1924 with floor space sufficient to accommodate a refreshment room and permanent display stands. The Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Society committee raised some funds for the building and the community of Willaura rallied behind the project to raise the additional funds. On the day of the opening, Mr H. J. Taylor appealed for further funds by selling sheets of iron at five shillings each; he received £50 from the day's effort, which was called the 'galvanised iron treasury'. Wool exhibits were housed in a separate room adjoining the main pavilion, which was added to the building in 1928. The building is of historical significance as a reminder of the days when the Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural show was held until 1936, demonstrating the importance of agriculture to the livelihood of the district. The building is of historical significance for its continuing use as a recreation building. In 1936 the Recreation Reserve Committee took over ownership of the pavilion and since then it has been used for the annual Fleece and Flower Show, and continues to be used today for recreational activities. The oak tree in the recreation reserve is also of historical significance and may date to the original plantings of 1910. (Criterion A)

Willaura Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and rare surviving example of a purpose built agricultural show pavilion dating from the 1920s. Although very simple in design and clad in a single material - corrugated galvanised iron, it is an excellent representative example of a building type demonstrating the appearance and configuration of a 1920s agricultural show pavilion. (Criteria B & D)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes Oak tree

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Yooranalee Farm Complex and Oaks	
Address	831 Edgarley Estate Road WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Farm	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

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

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Willaura district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to £45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between £6-£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milllear family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for the reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. 1½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool,

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Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential

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services.[43]

Place history:

The two major pastoral runs in what was to become known as the Willaura district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843. Thomas Millear, in partnership with Thomas Maidment and Josiah Austin, took over Greenvale in 1860. When the run was forfeited in 1872, it was subdivided with Millear taking up the northern portion and naming it Edgarley.[44]

Before Millear's son, also named Thomas Millear, died in 1940, he subdivided Edgarley, retaining the homestead block of 7,300 acres for himself, and giving his sons the remainder as follows: J. A. Millear, 5,000 acres, which was named 'Karuna'; Spencer Millear 52,000 acres, which was named 'East Leigh'; and Wilfred Millear 5,200 acres, which was named 'Yooranalee'.[45]

After Wilfred Millear married Katharine Sharp in August 1937, a house was built for the couple on Yooranalee in 1938.[46] Wilfred and Katharine Millear's daughter, Margaret, continues to live in the residence.

As outlined in the contextual history (above), the Millear family has provided land and financial support for a wide range of services in Willaura, including the establishment of the Anglican church, recreation ground and hospital.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

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- [8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.
- [9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.
- [10] Ibid., 72-3.
- [11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount Wiliam Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).
- [12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.
- [15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.
- [16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.
- [18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.
- [19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.
- [22] Cited in Ibid., 76.
- [23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).
- [24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.
- [25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.
- [26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [28] Ibid., 235.
- [29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

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- [32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.
- [35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.
- [41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.
- [42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.
- [43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [44] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details are provided from Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, Spreadborough and Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters*.
- [45] 'Funeral of Mr Thomas Millear.' *The Argus*, 7 August 1937, 5.
- [46] 'Left for Victoria.' *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 October 1937, 21.

Description

Physical Description

The farm complex comprises a red brick farmhouse, corrugated galvanised iron workers' quarters, meat house, avenue of oaks lining the driveway, shearing shed and cream brick shearers' quarters.

The farmhouse is red brick and substantially made up of two hipped wings; one providing the frontage of the residence runs parallel with the driveway and a rear wing extending southwest runs perpendicular to the driveway. There are hip roofed bays projecting from these main two wings so the roof is a series of hips of differing heights. The roof is clad in

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terracotta tiles. The windows are timber framed with brick sills and soldier coursed brickwork to the lintels. The main decorative area of the house is at the southeast corner where there is an entry verandah with timber posts and a deep timber verandah beam. The roof line is dotted with red brick chimneys with soldier course brickwork capping. The most prominent chimney on the east side of the house has sloped buttresses at the base where it corrects in with the building above the verandah.

The Meat House is a small rectangular building with a gable roof form. The walls and roof are clad in corrugated galvanised iron.

The corrugated iron Workers' Quarters are located in the home paddock to the south of the farmhouse. The quarters have a brick chimney to the rear wall at one end. This rear wall also contains timber framed windows that are currently covered over with corrugated metal sheet. The front side of the quarters have a verandah across the front which is formed by a continuation of the skillion roof to the building. The rear of the building is clad in corrugated metal sheet and the sides are clad in horizontal boards.

The Shearing Shed is located to the north of the farmhouse and on the east side of Edgarley Estate Road. It has a wide hipped roof running perpendicular to the road. The slope of the gable is longer on the south side. The building is elevated on timber stumps. The roof and walls are clad in corrugated metal sheet laid vertically to the walls. There is a large sliding metal door also clad in corrugated metal sheet on the south elevation and small, evenly space louvre windows with metal frames. There is a projecting hipped wing to the rear, south corner.

The cream brick Shearers' Quarters are located north of the farmhouse on the west side of Edgarley Estate Road. The roof is one large hip form clad in corrugated galvanised iron running perpendicular to the road. The windows are metal framed and multi paned and generally evenly spaced down the long elevations. There is a single central timber door in the end elevation facing the road. The brickwork indicates that an additional bay was added to the end of the building at a later date. There is a single cream brick chimney with soldier course capping towards the front of the quarters, it is assumed, indicating the location of the communal kitchen. There is a skillion roofed amenities block to the north of the quarters, also with cream brick walls.

The driveway leading to the residence from Edgarley Estate Road is lined with an avenue of oaks.

Physical Condition

The red brick farmhouse and shearing shed were in good condition in November 2013.

The corrugated galvanised iron workers' quarters and meat house were in fair condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Yooranalee Farm Complex, located at 831 Edgarley Estate Road, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the following elements are integral to the significance of the place:

- . Red brick Farmhouse
- . Corrugated galvanised iron workers' quarters
- . Meat House

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. Entrance driveway of Avenue of Oaks

. Shearing shed

. Avenue of oak trees

How is it significant?

Yooranalee Farm Complex, Willaura is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Yooranalee Farm Complex is of historic significance as a Millear family farm derived from the Edgarley Estate, which was originally part of the Greenvale run. The two major pastoral runs in what was to become known as the Willaura district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843. Thomas Millear, in partnership with Thomas Maidment and Josiah Austin, took over Greenvale in 1860. When the run was forfeited in 1872, it was subdivided with Millear taking up the northern portion and naming it Edgarley. Before Millear's son, also named Thomas Millear, died in 1940, he subdivided Edgarley, retaining the homestead block of 7,300 acres for himself, and giving his sons the remainder as follows: J. A. Millear, 5,000 acres, which was named 'Karuna'; Spencer Millear 52,000 acres, which was named 'East Leigh'; and Wilfred Millear 5,200 acres, which was named 'Yooranalee'. After Wilfred Millear married Katharine Sharp in August 1937, a house was built for the couple on Yooranalee in 1938. The farmhouse and associated outbuildings are significant for their associations with the Millear family. The Millear family has provided land and financial support for a wide range of services in Willaura, including the establishment of the Anglican Church, recreation ground and hospital. The Homestead and collection of farm buildings demonstrate the constituents and operation of a farm complex in the 1930s to the 1960s period and demonstrate the prosperity experienced in the Willaura district during the post World War One and World War Two periods. (Criteria A & H)

Yooranalee Farm Complex is of aesthetic significance for demonstrating the key components of a farm complex established in the Inter-War period. The Homestead is of aesthetic significance as a substantially intact example of a red brick Inter-War period farmhouse. Key features of the Inter-War style residence include the terracotta roof, which is a series of hips and is dotted with tall red brick chimneys with soldier course capping and timber framed windows with soldier course lintels and brick sills. A typical feature of the Inter-War style is the use of brickwork to provide understated decoration and this residence demonstrates this practice. Each of the contributory buildings is of aesthetic significance as a representative example of its building type constructed ca.1940. The avenue of oaks lining the entrance driveway contributes to the significance of the place, adding to the grandeur of the property and is an intact example of the common practice of lining the entrance of farm properties. (Criteria D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No
No
Yes driveway avenue of oaks
Yes corrugated galvanised iron workers' quarters, meat house, shearing shed and cream brick shearers' quarters.
Yes
-
No

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Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Willaura Memorial Hall	
Address	Main Street WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hall Public ,Memorial	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended	VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection	
Designer / Architect	Walter & Auty

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milllear family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for a reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. 1½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool,

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Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential

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services.[43]

Place history:[44]

A public hall for Wickliffe Road (later named Willaura) was built in 1903.

On 11 October 1945, the Willaura Progress Association called a public meeting for the purpose of discussing a suitable war memorial for the Willaura district. Several suggestions were made, including a nurses' home, a fund to be set up for the benefit of local members of the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA), and a new public hall. The meeting decided that the most suitable war memorial would be the erection of a public War Memorial Hall. A committee was subsequently formed and called the Willaura and District War Memorial Association.

A number of fundraising functions were held during the late 1940s and early 1950s, including an annual gymkhana and Willaura Race Club events. A major appeal was conducted in 1953-54. When the sufficient monies were promised, the committee approached an architect for plans and chose a suitable site. The original architects were the Coburns of Ballarat, who were later replaced by Walter and Auty of Warnambool. Tenders were called and builders Messrs Pain and Carr of Ararat were successful with the price of Â£27,000.[45]

The 1903 public hall and the land on which it stood were sold in 1957 for Â£2400 and Â£200 respectively. The hall building was removed and used as two woolsheds. All surplus money and hall equipment were handed over to the War Memorial Hall committee.

Plans drawn up for the Willaura and District War Memorial Hall by Walter and Auty of Warnambool in 1956 showed a conite (cement stucco over wire mesh) building, with a seating plan for 374 people, housing a stage, two meeting and dressing rooms, an auditorium, a supper room, two cloak rooms with toilets, a refreshment area, a kitchen and a bio cabin. The hall exterior was constructed of stucco and brick covered by a corrugated asbestos cement sheet roof. The western exterior wall (the entrance) featured a random stone faced flower box, wrought iron balustrade, a flat iron and timber roll deck, a galvanised wrought iron flagpole and ventilators.[46]

The Willaura Memorial Hall foundation stone was laid on 18 August 1956 by the Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks, and the building was opened by the Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, on 15 November 1957. The grand opening concert and appeal saw the memorial hall opened free of debt.

The screening of films was held in the hall from 1958 until 1964 when regular screenings ceased due to the arrival of television.

In 1964 vinyl tiles were laid in the foyer and cloakrooms. Painting was arranged through drought relief funds in 1968. The regional library began operations in 1969.

In the 1980s money for the maintenance of the hall was raised through sheep drives conducted every second year together with an urban appeal. Carpet tiles replaced the vinyl tiles in the foyer in 1983 and a concrete ramp was constructed at the northern entrance. In 1984 the floor in the auditorium was replaced. From 1982, the local RSL met in the hall.

The Willaura Memorial Hall, also known as the Willaura Public Hall, comprising a supper room, meeting room and auditorium, continues to provide an important community meeting place today. Anzac Day and memorial services and meetings are held at the hall. The Ararat branch of the Central Highlands Libraries also provides weekly library services at the hall. The Lions Club has been a continuous financial support to the hall and is responsible for many improvements and new equipment.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria*

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Descriptive Report, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] Ibid., 72-3.

[11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount Wiliam Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

[18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.

[19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

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- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.
- [22] Cited in Ibid., 76.
- [23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).
- [24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.
- [25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.
- [26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [28] Ibid., 235.
- [29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.
- [35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.
- [40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.
- [41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.
- [42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final*

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Thirty Years 1964-1994, 84.

[43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[44] Unless otherwise noted, this information is from Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 147-8, 87.

[45] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 44.

[46] "Willaura and District War Memorial Hall." Public Building Files: Public Records Office of Victoria 7882/P1/1261.

Description

Physical Description

The Willaura Memorial Hall comprises a main hall, dressing rooms and supper room wing to the south end, small service wings to the rear and a long foyer and cloakroom wing to the front. The building is constructed to the street line. The main hall, south wing and small service wings are clad in conite, (cement stucco over wire mesh) on a cream brick base and the front foyer wing has a combination of cream brick walls, floor to ceiling glazing and random stone facing. Random stone faced planter boxes and a flag pole are features of the front entrance. The hall, which is the tallest wing of the building, has a low pitched gable roof, while the other wings have flat roofs. Windows are fixed and generally in a row with plain, narrow framing.

The granite foundation stone to the building reads: 'This foundation stone was laid by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria General Sir Dallas Brooks K.C.B. K.C.M.G. K.C.V.O. D.S.O. K.St.J. on 17th August 1956.'

The timber entrance plaque reads: 'This building was erected by the people of Willaura & District as a memorial to all those who served in the 2nd World War 1939-45. It was declared open on Nov. 15th 1957 by the Hon. H. E. Bolte M.L.A. Premier of Victoria.'

Physical Condition

The building was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Willaura Memorial Hall located on Main Street, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the hall are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Willaura Memorial Hall located on Main Street, Willaura is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

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Why is it significant?

The Willaura Memorial Hall is of historical significance for its role in the development of community and civic life in Willaura and the surrounding district. Completed in 1957, the hall demonstrates the increased and steady population in the Willaura district as a result of the World War Two soldier settlement scheme, which corresponded with good seasons causing a post World War Two economic boom. Constructed as a World War Two Memorial, the hall is also of historical significance as an example of the type of war memorials that were being constructed after, and in honour of, World War Two. The types of community facilities constructed as war memorials after World War Two marked a difference to the memorialisation through erection of monuments that occurred after World War One. The money for the hall was raised by the Willaura and District War Memorial Association through fund raising functions. The building was opened by the Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, on 15 November 1957 and the grand opening concert and appeal saw the memorial hall opened free of debt. (Criterion A)

The Willaura Memorial Hall is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact example of an architect designed community hall constructed in the 1950s. Through construction with typical and innovative materials from the 1950s period, the hall is very indicative of its period of construction. Features from the 1950s include the innovative stucco on mesh wall cladding, cream brick, floor to ceiling window, bands of windows and random stone facing. (Criterion D & E)

The Willaura Memorial Hall is of social significance as a community focus in the township since the 1950s. The hall has been used by the community for important civic and social gatherings, concerts and memorial ceremonies since its completion in 1957. The hall is also of social significance as the focus of World War Two commemoration for the Willaura district. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Willaura Post Office	
Address	84 Main Street WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Post Office	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[11] The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[12] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[13]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee

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country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[16] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[17] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[18] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[19]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[20] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an

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ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised £864 10/, or an average of £54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milliar family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for a reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. 1½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised

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from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burrumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential services.[43]

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Place history:

The Wickcliffe Road Station Post Office opened in January 1878 at the railway station, with the stationmaster, G. E. Dunne, appointed postmaster.[44]

To cater for increased demand brought by the rush to the Mafeking goldfields, in 1902 the post office was moved to agency premises in Main Street, with telegraph operations remaining at the railway station. As the population of the township and district increased, petitions were sent from local residents to the Postmaster General requesting more professional postal premises and staff. In June 1906, applications were called for a suitable person to manage the Willaura Post and Telegraph Office and provide a suitable building. Consequently, Kitty Kilfedda was appointed postmistress and new premises were built by Mrs Pricter adjoining her fruit shop at the southern end of Main Street. The new post office opened in September 1906, with telegraph facilities remaining at the railway station.[45]

A telephone service was connected to the Willaura Post Office in March 1907, and used by the public when not in official use, as was a telegraph service soon after. In 1908, a manual telephone exchange was installed.

In 1909, the Postmaster General's Department purchased land at the corner of Warranooke and Main streets for the construction of an official, permanent post office, and in 1910 approved the erection of a new post office at Willaura at a cost of £850.[46]

Tenders were called by the Public Works Department for the construction of the post office in May 1910. The *Argus* reported that, 'The building is to be of wood, having plastered walls and ceilings, and an iron roof. It will contain mailroom, a public lobby, a telephone bureau, and private letter-boxes. Residential quarters will be attached.'[47] There are records of two contracts, both awarded in January 1911: one to Allen and Errey of Hawthorn at a price of £844.19.9; and the other to W. Chaffer with a tender of £830.[48]

After a number of construction delays were experienced, one of the contractors, having erected the framework and attached the weatherboards, abandoned the contract because of increased costs in timber. The building was still not finished in May 1911,[49] but finally opened for business on 16 December 1911.

In 1912, the *Willaura Farmer* described the new post office as 'an inspiring structure elaborately designed, ornamental and thoroughly finished in every detail. The exterior of the office is strikingly majestic and most handsome.' To protect the trees at the front of the post office, a picket fence was built along the front of the building and gates were installed.[50]

The new building enabled the installation of a new magneto telephone switchboard capable of providing services to 45 subscribers. In 1912, Mr T. J. Anderson was appointed the first official postmaster.[51]

Internal alterations to the post office building were completed in 1963 when a new telephone exchange room was established. New equipment was also installed, including two modern switchboards capable of accommodating 400 subscribers.[52]

In 1977, the local manual telephone exchange was replaced with an automatic system.

The Willaura Post Office, incorporating a newsagency, continues to operate today in the original 1911 premises.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] Ibid., 72-3.

[11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount Wiliam Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

[18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.

[19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[22] Cited in Ibid., 76.

[23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).

[24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.

[25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.

[26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.

[28] Ibid., 235.

[29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.

[30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.

[31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.

[33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.

[34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.

[35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.

[36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.

[38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.

[41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.

[42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[44] "Gazette Notices."

[45] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 104-5.

[46] "The Commonwealth." *Bendigo Advertiser* 10 March 1910, 2.

[47] "General News." *The Argus*, 26 May 1910, 4.

[48] Miles Lewis and Terry Sawyer, *Australian Architectural Index* (Miles Lewis, 2013 [cited 10 September 2013]); available from <http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html>.

[49] "Wilaura Post Office." *The Argus*, 24 May 1911, 6.

[50] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 107.

[51] Ibid.

[52] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

Willaura Post Office is an Edwardian style weatherboard building with gable roofs clad in galvanised corrugated iron. The post office section consists of a gable roofed wing running parallel to the main street with a central projecting gable roofed wing running perpendicular to the street. The roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheet and there are three chimneys with render cornices. The front chimney to the front post office wing also has a rough stucco band to the top. Either side of the front projecting wing is a skillion roofed porch with the skillion roof continuing from the line of the gable roof behind. The building is asymmetrical with an additional bay on the south side of the building with a narrow timber framed double hung window to the front. Early photographs indicate this bay is a later addition and replaced a side entry porch to the residence in this location.

The front gable end elevation of the projecting wing is highly decorative with a recessed central window bay with twin leadlight windows with decorative timber brackets either side and in between. Either side of this bay, in line with the central window, is a similar twin timber framed leadlight window. Above the central recessed bay is a three part band of leadlight windows spanning the width of the bay only. Directly below the gable eaves is projecting gable bulkhead with stucco and half timbering and turned timber brackets below. The name of the post office is at the base of this gable detail in metal lettering. Other windows to the building are timber framed and double hung. On the gable end elevation facing Warranooke Street there is a large window containing three narrow double hung sashes with highlights above. The gable end on the north elevation has half timbering with stucco as does the skillion verandah side wall.

The residential wing to the rear has a lower double hipped roofline that runs perpendicular to the street and extends in a long wing to the rear of the site. This section of the building also has timber framed double hung windows but of more of a standard scale.

Physical Condition

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The building was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Willaura Post Office located at 84 Main Street, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the Post Office and residence are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Willaura Post Office located at 84 Main Street is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Willaura Post Office and residence is of historical significance for its association with and role in the development of the civic and commercial centre of Willaura. The construction of a new post office and residence in 1911 demonstrates the increase in the Willaura population as a result of the rush to the Mafeking goldfields at the beginning of the twentieth century and closer settlement of the large pastoral holdings in the district. The large and elaborate nature of the Post Office and residence is testament to the prosperity Willaura was experiencing at the beginning of the twentieth century. A Post Office has continued to operate from the building since its construction in 1911. (Criterion A)

The Willaura Post Office and residence is aesthetically significant as a substantially intact and particularly decorative example of a Public Works Department Post Office designed in the Federation style. Original features of particular note include the complex roof form, brick chimneys with render cornices, highly decorative front projecting wing of the Post Office section of the building with a recessed central window bay and twin leadlight windows, gable end decoration and skillion roofed side porches. (Criterion D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Bluestone Hotel	
Address	718 Maroona-Glenthompson Road WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Hotel	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Willaura district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Some of this land was taken up in the Willaura district.

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with the line built through the Kiora district and a railway station constructed at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[6] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[7]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[8]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne and thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[9]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[10] In addition, Thomas Milliar

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advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[11]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[12] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[13] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to £45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[14] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[15]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[16] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between £6-£7 an acre.

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[17] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[18]

The Milliar family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for the reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[19] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[20] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[21] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[22]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[23] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. ½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[24]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive

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support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[25] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poorra, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[26] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[27] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[28] This era brought significant wealth and growth to the Willaura district.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[29]

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of Wickliffe's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential services.[30]

Place history:

The two major pastoral runs in what was to become known as the Willaura district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843. Thomas Milliar, in partnership with Thomas Maidment and Josiah Austin, took over Greenvale in 1860.[31]

With diminishing returns of alluvial gold on the fields of the Colony of Victoria, diggers demanded that land be freed from the hold of the squatters. The subsequent Land Acts of the 1860s promoted the settlement of a new rural society of an 'industrious yeomanry'. Through a combination of leasing and purchasing arrangements, 'selectors' took up land for farming in allotments of up to 320 acres, including on the Greenvale run.

In an effort to overcome the abuses by wealthy pastoralists under the 1860 and 1862 Land Acts, the 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing. Holdings of 40-640 acres in specified 'agricultural areas' could be selected, with the selector required to reside on the land for three years and to spend £1 per acre on improvements over a seven-year lease. The Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[32] However, small allotments were taken up by genuine selectors in the Moyston, Elmhurst, Eversley and Cathcart districts,

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and larger holdings in the Yalla-y-Poorra, Watgania, Chapman, Westgarth (Langi Logan), Mount Ararat, Tatyoon, Kiora, Buangor, Middle Creek and Rhymney districts.[33]

One area designated for selection under the 1865 *Land Act* was the Kiora Agricultural Area, located on the west bank of the Hopkins River and east of Lake Buninjon on part of the Greenvale run, at the time leased by Thomas Chirnside. A township site was reserved and subdivided under the 1865 *Land Act* on the Maroona-Glenthompson Road. A common was proclaimed in 1866, a post office opened in 1867, and a school site was reserved. However, by 1875 much of the township had been abandoned.

Richard Avery Coad, whose family had emigrated from Wales, selected 506 acres under the 1865 *Land Act* at Kiora on the north side of Lake Buninjon and came to own the land freehold in June 1874.[34] Coad fenced and grazed the land and built a bluestone hotel on the property, which was in operation by 1877. He leased the hotel and land to others from the late 1870s when he moved to Moyston.[35]

Richard married Sarah Jane Turner in 1880. The couple had four children before Richard's death in 1889.

Richard's son, Herbert Richard Coad, took over the land and hotel at Kiora in 1910, by which time the building had been abandoned. Herbert undertook restoration work on the building, which became the home of his family, including his son Bert Coad. As an adult, Bert built a brick residence on the property for his own family.[36]

The bluestone hotel is used as a residence today by Richard Coad's great-grandson, Christopher. The building is all that remains of the Kiora settlement.[37]

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[7] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[8] *Ibid.*, 72-3.

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- [9] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount William Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).
- [10] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.
- [11] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.
- [12] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.
- [13] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.
- [14] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.
- [15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [16] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [17] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [18] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [19] Ibid., 235.
- [20] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [21] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [22] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [23] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [24] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [25] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [26] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [27] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [28] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [29] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.
- [30] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

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[32] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[34] Kiora Parish Plan.

[35] Personal communication with Bert Coad, 17 April 2014.

[36] Personal communication with Bert Coad, 17 April 2014.

[37] Personal communication with Bert Coad, 17 April 2014.

Description

Physical Description

This is a symmetrically designed hotel with random coursed bluestone walls and corrugated galvanised iron cladding to the roof. It is located close to the road. The building has a central hipped roof running parallel with the road and a projecting hipped wing to the front at either end and a skillion roofed verandah in between. The verandah has been recently replaced (2013). Under the verandah is a central entry door with a window either side and each projecting wing has a centrally placed double hung window. There is also an entry off the verandah into each side wing. The windows to the building are timber framed and double hung with multi pane sashes. There are rendered lintels and sills to the windows. There are three tall square red brick chimneys on the building. They have brick corbelling to the top and two other bands of projecting brick courses.

Physical Condition

The former hotel was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Bluestone Hotel located at 718 Maroona-Glenhompson Road, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the former Hotel are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Bluestone Hotel located at 718 Maroona-Glenhompson Road, Willaura is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

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The former Bluestone Hotel is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of a Victorian style bluestone hotel and the only building remaining to indicate the existence of the Kiora settlement. The Kiora Agricultural Area, located on the west bank of the Hopkins River and east of Lake Buninjon on part of the Greenvale run, leased at the time by Thomas Chirnside, was an area designated for selection under the 1865 *Land Act*. A township site was reserved and subdivided under the 1865 *Land Act* on the Maroona-Glenthompson Road. A common was proclaimed in 1866, a post office opened in 1867, and a school site was reserved. However by 1875 much of the township had been abandoned. The Hotel was constructed around 1877 for Richard Avery Coad who selected 506 acres under the 1865 *Land Act* at Kiora and came to own the land freehold in June 1874. The former Hotel is also significant for its associations with the Coad family. Richard Emery Coad emigrated with his family from Wales in the 1860s and the family has been associated with the former Hotel since its construction in the 1870s. (Criteria A, B & G)

The former Hotel is aesthetically significant as an excellent intact example of a Victorian style bluestone hotel. Features of note that demonstrate the Victorian style include the multi pane timber framed double hung windows, coursed stonework, tall hipped roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron and red brick chimneys with corbelling. The former Hotel is also of aesthetic significance for the skilled craftsmanship demonstrated in the stonework, including the random coursing to the main section of the building and the quoins to corners. With its close proximity to the road, the distinctive early building is a local landmark on the Maroona-Glenthompson Road and demonstrates early settlement in the district. (Criteria D & E)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

Internal Alteration Controls

Tree Controls

Fences & Outbuildings

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Incorporated Plan

Aboriginal Heritage Place

Yes
No
No
No
Yes
-
No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Willaura Uniting Church	
Address	6 Warranooke Street WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Church	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes	
Designer / Architect	Walter & Auty	Architectural Style Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940)

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The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

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By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[14] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[15]

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Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[21]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[22]

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A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[23] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[24]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[25]

Willaura became an important receival centre for grain, and in 1910 was the second biggest in the western half of Victoria.[26] Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[27]

The Milllear family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for the reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[28] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[29] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[30] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[31]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[32] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. Â½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[33]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[34]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool,

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Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[35] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[36] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[37] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[38] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[39] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[40] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels. Steel silos were built at Willaura in 1963. Bulk handling of oats commenced in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built in the study area, including a shed at the Willaura railway station complex in 1964.[41]

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[42]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential

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services.[43]

Place history:[44]

The first quarterly meeting of the Willaura Methodist Home Mission Station was held at the Willaura State School on 22 December 1908. The Rev. G. Cameron chaired the meeting with four members present. The number of members on the roll was stated to be nine for the whole of the station, which was served by a home missionary.

On 6 April 1909, it was resolved to write to the committee of the Willaura Presbyterian Church to seek permission for use of its church for Methodist services; permission was granted. At another meeting on 6 July 1909, it was resolved to buy a half-acre block of land for the building of a Methodist church from Mr Wileman, and in October 1909, fund-raising for the purchase began.

In 1911, the Willaura Methodist Home Mission Station decided to build a church building, and Mr Walter was asked to prepare plans for the church. The matter was held over until March 1914, however it wasn't until 1923 that the construction of a church building was again given serious consideration.

In October 1924 a suitable block for a church was purchased from Fitzgeralds. The Willaura Methodist Church Building Trust was convened on 4 October 1925 and it was moved at a meeting on 2 September 1926 that the tender by Mr Walter of £780 for the building of a church of brick and Mt Gambier stone be accepted. Plans submitted to the Department of Public Health by A. J. Temple, secretary of the Building Trust, showed a brick building with iron roof divided into a vestry of 8 feet by 24 feet; a nave 28 feet by 24 feet; and a porch 7 feet by 8 feet.[45] The foundation stone was laid by Mrs J. Rankin on 16 November 1926.

The Methodist Church was officially opened on 11 June 1927. The opening services were conducted by Rev A. Manson. It was noted that the Ladies Guild had raised £1200 towards the cost of the building, leaving the church only £100 in debt.

In 1939, the Willaura Home Mission became part of the Ararat Circuit.

The Silver Jubilee of the church was held in 1952.

The hall adjoining the church was added in 1954-55 to provide accommodation for the Sunday School, Ladies Guild and Young Peoples Club. Designed by Warnambool architects Walter and Auty, the plans for the extension to the rear of the church incorporated a brick 54 feet by 22 feet building with a corrugated iron roof featuring Mt Gambier stone to the sill line and fixed hopper window frames. The extension opened on 27 November 1955. Furnishings were donated by the John family in memory of their mother and grandmother.

Another extension on the southeast corner of the building was undertaken in 1961-62 to a design by Walter and Auty. The extension comprised a striated cement sheet building with a brick base and Oregon window frames and sills, which incorporated an 18 feet by 14 feet classroom and an 18 feet by 8 feet kitchen. R. Loeliger undertook the extensions, opened in 1962, for the sum of £1368.[46]

Discussions regarding the amalgamation of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Willaura took place in October 1961. In 1975, the United Methodist-Presbyterian Congregation was formed. The formation of the Uniting Church of Australia took place on 22 June 1977, and in Willaura, services were held from this year in the former Methodist church building, which was renamed the Willaura Uniting Church.

The Willaura Presbyterian Scots Church closed in April 1978, and all memorial fixtures were moved to the Uniting Church. The Presbyterian Scots Church building was sold in 1981 and removed.

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The Fleece and Floral Show, instigated by the Presbyterian Scots Church in 1948, and rotated between the centres of Willaura, Rossbridge and Tatyoon, continues to be overseen by the Willaura Uniting Church. Services are conducted on a fortnightly basis at the church.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] Ibid., 72-3.

[11] Ibid., 61. *Mafeking and Mount Wiliam Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[12] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[13] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[16] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[17] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

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- [18] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.
- [19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.
- [20] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.
- [21] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.
- [22] Cited in *Ibid.*, 76.
- [23] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).
- [24] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.
- [25] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.
- [26] *Rural Townships: Willaura*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.
- [27] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.
- [28] *Ibid.*, 235.
- [29] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.
- [30] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.
- [31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [32] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.
- [33] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.
- [34] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.
- [35] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.
- [36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.
- [37] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.
- [38] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.
- [39] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

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[40] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.

[41] Dorothy Dunn et al., *The History of Streatham, Westmere, Mininera and Nerrin Nerrin* (Streatham and District Historical Society, 2012), 10.

[42] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

[43] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[44] Most of this information has been taken from Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 175-85.

[45] "Willaura Methodist Church." Public Building Files: Public Records Office of Victoria 7882/P1/785.

[46] Ibid.

Description

Physical Description

The Willaura Uniting Church is a red brick building with Mt Gambier sandstone to sill height. The original 1927 building containing the nave and vestry has a gambrel roof running perpendicular to the street and a side entry porch with a gable roof towards the rear of the nave. The roof of the building has wide eaves and is now clad in zincalume sheet. The front elevation contains a central tripartite pointed arch window with stone dressings around the window. The central arch window is taller than the flanking arches. The gable end has stone infill with dentils at the base of the infill. There is a single pilaster either side of the window up to sill height and completed by an orb. The side elevations contain pointed arch windows. The side porch has double door entry to the front elevation. There is buttressing at the front corners and buttressing to the side walls dividing the side elevation into three bays.

The hall to the rear of the building was added in 1954-55 and is constructed in the same materials and has the same roof form as the earlier section. The hall also has red brick walls with Mt Gambier stone to sill height and a gambrel roof form, which is lower than the roof to the front nave. The windows to the hall are rectangular rather than arched and have double hung sashes. They are placed in pairs along the side elevations. There is a set of double doors on one of the side elevations with a wide brick pilaster either side. The width of the pilaster is a feature demonstrating the 1950s period of design. The materials and their placement are similar to the original building but the detailing to the windows and doors demonstrate the 1950s period of design so the addition is sympathetic to the original building but distinguishable as a later change.

To the rear and south east corner of the building is a 1962 kitchen and classroom addition clad in cement sheet with a brick base. The windows are timber framed and comprising of banks of modular awning components of the same size. The roof is flat with corrugated metal sheet cladding.

Physical Condition

The building was in good condition in November 2013.

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Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Willaura Uniting Church located at 6 Warranooke Street, Willaura. The location and original form, materials and details of the church and rear hall are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Willaura Uniting Church located at 6 Warranooke Street, Willaura is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Willaura Uniting Church is of historical significance for its demonstration of the post World War One boom in the area due to good farming conditions and advances in farming technology. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district. In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. The construction of an architect (Mr Walter) designed Methodist Church in 1927 demonstrates the town population and surrounding farming community was already of a significant size and on the increase in the 1920s to justify construction of a separate church for the Methodist congregation. Previously the congregation had shared a church with the Presbyterians. The 1955 hall addition and 1962 kitchen and classroom addition, also architecturally designed (Walter and Auty of Warrnambool), are historically significant as an indicator of the steady population in the Willaura district in the post World War Two period as a result of soldier settlement and bumper seasons in grain production. (Criterion A)

The Willaura Uniting Church is aesthetically significant as an intact and unusual example of an Inter-War style church building using a combination of red brick and Mt Gambier stone. The original building is a highly accomplished and picturesque design, demonstrating the involvement of an architect - being Mr Walter for the 1927 church and Walter and Auty of Warrnambool for the 1955 and 1962 additions. Of interest are the similarities and differences between the first two stages of the building: both use the same materials and overall forms but detailing and opening types are contemporary to the relative period of construction. The 1962 kitchen and classroom addition, while not integrated into the original design in the same way as the 1955 addition, is of note for its design by Walter and Auty and for its demonstration of the 1960s austere and modular architectural styling. Each phase of the building therefore clearly demonstrates its period of construction. (Criteria D & E)

The Willaura Uniting Church is of social significance as a focus for worship and as a community gathering place in the district from 1927 with connections to both the former Methodist and Presbyterian congregations of the area. (Criterion G)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Willaura Railway Station Complex	
Address	Wickliffe-Willaura Road WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Railway Platform/ Station,Other - Transport - Rail,Silo	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount

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Stavely. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[11] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[12]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run

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made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[13] In addition, Thomas Millear advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[14]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[15] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickliffe Road Railway Station.[16] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[17] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[18]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[19] locating Wickliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[20]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[21]

A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[22] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the

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The Milliar family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for a reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[26] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[27] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[28] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[29]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[30] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. 1½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[31]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[32]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[33] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[34] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[35] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other

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housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[36] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[37] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[38] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels.

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[39]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential services.[40]

Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[1]

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After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until 1869 that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[2] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

Tenders for the railway line from Ararat to the seaboard at Portland were called on 13 October 1875 for 66 miles of railway line. Overend and Robb successfully tendered with a price of £354,653 and the work commenced from Ararat with 526 men in February 1876. The Ararat-Portland railway was officially opened to traffic on 24 April 1877. As part of the Ararat-Portland railway line, a siding was opened at the township of Wickliffe Road. About midway between the Wickliffe Road and Greenvale (now Stavely) sidings, a branch line diverged to the south and went to ballast pits that were used during the construction of the line.[3]

The Wickliffe Road passenger station and outbuildings were constructed by contractor Ainsworth Harrison at a cost of £950 3s 9d. in 1877.[4] Built of brick, the station was adapted from a design developed for the 1864 Elmore Railway Station on the Echuca line. The station building comprised an office, a parcels office, a booking hall, general waiting room, a ladies waiting room (including a toilet) and stationmaster's quarters at the southern end. The goods platform, on the east side of the railway line, included two goods sheds to provide for the high level of wool traffic.[5]

In 1881, contractors Pritchard and Blackwood erected a goods shed at Wickliffe Road at a cost of £206 17s 4d.[6]

In 1900, Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne to join the rush at the newly discovered Mafeking goldfield, thirteen miles from Wickliffe Road. Thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[7]

The name of the railway station was changed from Wickliffe Road to Willaura on 1 August 1905.

Between June 1902 and June 1907, railway wheat freight at Willaura increased 200 per cent to 12,364 tons of grain with revenue of £8933 in 1907.[8] Railway Commissioner Tait recognised Willaura as 'one of if not the leading wheat station in the state'. In 1906 he promised a new stationmaster's residence, crane and wheat siding to deal with the increased wheat yields.[9] The goods platform was subsequently increased to a length of approximately 400 feet.[10]

Willaura railway station was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station.[11]

The replacement stationmaster's quarters was a residence constructed of two former gatehouses placed front-to-front and joined by a passage. To this was added an additional room to form a separate kitchen.[12]

In October 1907, it was reported that 'the revenue received at the Willaura railway station from all sources during each of the past two years amounted to slightly over £15,000. Prior to the advent of the farmer six years ago the railway revenue for a year totalled about £800.'[13] The *Horsham Times* reported that:

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The cutting up of the big estate around Willaura has transformed a wayside station into a busy country town. The subdivision of the large pastoral areas into small wheat growing blocks has had a great effect on traffic at the railway station.[14]

In October 1908, it was proposed to build a co-operative farmers' grain storage shed adjacent to the railway line in Willaura.[15] In 1909, passenger, goods and livestock traffic increased considerably.[16] In 1910, Willaura was the second largest wheat receival centre in the western half of the state, with 212,000 bags delivered in that year.[17]

After the Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913, wheat traffic at Willaura dropped considerably, but Willaura, nonetheless, continued to maintain a significant portion of the traffic. By 1918, the Willaura Railway Station Complex on the west side of the line consisted of station buildings, a weighbridge, the stationmaster's residence, passenger platform, a carriage dock (a facility provided at railway stations for people who wished to take their own horse drawn vehicle on a flat wagon attached to the train), two grain sheds, 14 sites for stick sheds (that were made of hessian sacking walls and corrugated iron roofs supported by saplings) for the storage of bagged wheat, and a crane. On the east side of the railway line were stockyards, a goods platform and two goods sheds.[18]

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations from 1938, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s.

Willaura received one of the first 81 concrete silos erected by the Grain Elevators Board, with work commencing on a three-cell Geelong type concrete silo in December 1939. By January 1940, the concrete foundations below ground level were completed and the silo was finished in March of that year. The silo complex incorporated an 'A' type elevator with a capacity of 65,000 bushels. The original power unit was a 35 HP Kelly and Lewis crude oil engine, which drove the elevator belts to give the capacity of 60 tons per hour. The completed silo and earthworks cost £4560.[19]

Because of the increasing use of the motor truck on the transport scene from the 1920s, by the 1940s little funding for capital improvements was allocated to the railway system. As a result, rail transport was used less frequently.

The weighbridge in use in Willaura prior to 1952 (located in front of the former butcher shop in Main Street) was controlled by the Ararat Shire and served the silo during the harvest period. The Grain Elevators Board established its own weighbridge in 1952. In 1963 an all steel Ascom silo complex was built adjacent to the concrete silo giving an extra capacity of 2000 tons for each bin with elevating gear capable of lifting 100 tonnes per hour. Another grain shed was erected in the late 1950s - early 1960s. The Grain Elevators Board estimated that the silo-shed complex intake between 1940-41 and 1982-83 (except for the 1967-68 drought) was on average 160,000-234,000 bushels of wheat per year.[20]

Bulk handling of oats commenced in Victoria in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built across Victoria, including a gable roof storage shed with a capacity of 1600 tonnes at Willaura constructed by the Victorian Oat Pool in 1964.[21]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down.

At Willaura, the railway passenger service was closed officially on 12 September 1981 and passengers are now transported by coaches. The goods yard, apart from the grain sidings, was removed in 1986.

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In 2001, a large bunker system for wheat and canola with a capacity of 80,000 tonnes was established on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road. This is now the main storage area for grain, although the silos remain in use.[22]

Today the Willaura Railway Station Complex consists of the original 1877 station building (now vacant), a store, platforms on the east and west of the line, the silo complex, the oats' shed, two fertiliser sheds and the weighbridge. It is believed that the stationmaster's residence was removed to 2 Station Street, Willaura, and remains in that location today.

Contextual history footnotes

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] Ibid., 72-3.

[11] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[12] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[13] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[14] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[15] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State

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Library of Victoria.

[16] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

[17] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.

[18] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[20] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.

[21] Cited in *Ibid.*, 76.

[22] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).

[23] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.

[24] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.

[25] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.

[26] *Ibid.*, 235.

[27] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.

[28] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.

[29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[30] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.

[31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.

[32] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.

[33] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.

[34] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[35] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.

[36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[37] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

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[38] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

[40] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>

Place history footnotes

[1] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.

[2] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary: A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[3] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 97.

[4] "Successful Tenders." *The Argus*, 3 March 1877, 6.

[5] Information provided by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.

[6] "Victorian Government Gazette". Vol 60, 30 June 1881, 1857.

[7] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 61. *Mafeking and Mount William Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[8] *Willaura Farmer*, 20 September 1907, cited in Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 99.

[9] *Ibid.*, 98.

[10] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[11] Cited in Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 76.

[12] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[13] "Western Plains Development." *Camperdown Chronicle*, 15 October 1907, 1.

[14] "General News." *Horsham Times*, 7 August 1908, 8.

[15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*.

[16] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[17] Signage information provided by Heather Fleming. Heather Fleming, Personal Communication, 6 November 2013.

[18] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

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[19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 91-2, 100.

[20] Ibid., 91-2.

[21] Ibid., 100.

[22] Signage information provided by Heather Fleming.

Description

Physical Description

The Willaura Railway Station Complex comprises a rendered brick railway station building, a passenger platform and a goods platform, a silo complex, a store, fertiliser shed, a weigh bridge and office, and a steel grain store.

The Railway Station Building and passenger platform are located on the west side of the tracks adjacent to the main street of Willaura. The passenger platform has a brick retaining wall with a bluestone edge capping stone. The station building is brick with a smooth render finish. The building has a slate clad hipped roof and three rendered chimneys with cornices. The rear elevation of the station building facing Main Street contains a skillion roofed wing at either end. The southern wing is larger than the northern wing and they both have a timber framed double hung window to the street elevation. The roofs to these skillion wings are clad in corrugated iron and they both have low side parapets with brick corbelling to the exposed ends. On the platform elevation is a hipped verandah clad in corrugated iron with round cast iron posts and curved brackets. There are three single doors and three single windows to the platform elevation of the building. The windows have bluestone sills. The Avery parcel/goods scale is in situ on the passenger platform.

To the south of the station building is a small gable roofed store with a corrugated iron roof and new metal sheet cladding to the exterior. The interior has vertical timber lining, which would have also originally been the exterior finish. This is a rare surviving example of such a building.

Although the goods platform is on the east side of the tracks, the grain and goods buildings are on the west side of the track further south of the station building. There is a grain store with a gable roof clad in metal sheet and a steel frame to the outside and metal sheet lining to the inside of the frame. There are also two steel silos with conical roofs with a corrugated iron clad grain elevator located in between and a tall concrete silo made up of three cylindrical cells with a rectangular link between. The corrugated iron clad grain elevator sits on top of the structure. This is a Grain Elevators Board three-cell Geelong type silo.

Further south of these silos is a long corrugated iron clad fertilizer store with a gable roof also clad in galvanised corrugated iron. This shed has large double doors at both ends.

Located between the station building and grain complex is the weighbridge and office. This is located closer to the Main Street adjacent between the Main Street and the service road leading to the grain store and silos. The weighbridge has a concrete base with iron plate deck and the small square office has a gable roof clad in corrugated iron sheet. The walls of the weighbridge office are also clad in corrugated iron and there is a single door on one side elevation and a timber framed casement window facing the weighbridge.

Physical Condition

The complex was in good condition in November 2013.

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Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Willaura Railway Station Complex consisting of the 1877 station building, store, passenger platform, silos, passenger platform, weighbridge and office, oats shed and fertiliser store, The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Willaura Railway Station Complex located on Wickliffe-Willaura Road, Willaura is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Willaura Railway Station Complex is of historical significance to Ararat Rural City Council for its ability to demonstrate the construction of the Ararat to Portland Railway line in 1877. The Wickliffe Road passenger station and outbuildings were constructed by contractor Ainsworth Harrison in 1877 and the line was officially opened to traffic in April 1877. The platform store building, although re-clad on the exterior, is a rare surviving example of a 1870s small railway store constructed with vertical timber boards. The grain handling infrastructure including the silos, weighbridge and office, fertiliser shed and oats storage shed demonstrates the importance of the railways to the grain industry prior to the development and preference for road transport. The concrete silo erected at the station in 1940 demonstrates the establishment of the Victorian Grain Elevators Board in 1935, which introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat to railway stations. The steel silos installed at the station to accommodate surplus grain demonstrate the bumper grain crops experienced in the 1950s and 1960s. The oats storage shed constructed by the Victorian Oat Pool in 1964 demonstrates the commencement of bulk handling of oats in Victoria in 1962. (Criteria A & B)

The Willaura Railway Station Complex is aesthetically significant as a collection of railway station and rail bulk grain handling infrastructure illustrating the components, appearance and design of a rural railway station servicing a grain farming district and spanning from the late nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century. The individual components such as the 1877 station building with its cast iron verandah posts and brackets, the oats shed with its exposed structure, silos and weighbridge and office are substantially intact and exhibit principal characteristics of their building types and age. These characteristics include the building placement, overall form, scale, materials, opening types and placement and detailing. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No



Ararat Rural City

Volume 3 Section 1 Citations for individual places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Former Yalla Y Poora State School No 4756		
Address	1922 Yalla Y Poora Road YALLA-Y-POORA	Significance Level	Local
Place Type	School - State (public)		
Citation Date	2015		
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke		



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Tatyoon, Ballyrogon and Yalla-y-Poora districts are located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the

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return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 21 September near present-day Tatyoon; on 22 September at Ballyrogon west of present-day Middle Creek; and on 23 September at the foot of a granite hill that Mitchell named Mount Cole.[2]

Squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the district to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in the Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The region was incorporated into the boundaries of three runs: Burrumbeep, 110,000 acres, taken up by William Kirk in 1841; Lake Boloke (Bolac), 38,400 acres taken up by Robert Patterson in 1842; and Yalla-y-Poorra, 66,493 acres taken up by J. W. Stevens and A. T. Thompson in 1841.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district. For 70 years or more, Yalla-y-Poorra and Burrumbeep ranked in the leading wool producers in Victoria.[6]

An early three-chain road, later known as the Old Geelong Road, connected Ararat and Skipton, passing en route through Ballyrogon.[7]

The 1865 Grant *Land Act* aimed to provide families of little means an opportunity of owning land through leasing allotments in 'agricultural areas', however the Act only succeeded in a further aggregation of land by squatters on the western plains; by 1871 the average size of a rural holding in the Western District was 235 hectares.[8] Agricultural areas were surveyed on Burrumbeep and Yalla-y-Poorra, resulting in small allotments being taken up by genuine selectors in these districts; in addition, all available land in the Ballyrogon Parish was taken up. By the late 1860s, between 50 and 60 families were settled in the area cultivating crops of wheat and oats[9].

Tatyoon, a small settlement of cottages, a blacksmith's, the Fiery Creek Hotel (established as Widow Ryan's shanty near the Yalla-y-Poorra home station), and a Presbyterian church built in 1870, also used as school, were established as a centre for surrounding farming populations.[10] A school site and cemetery site were reserved in 1873. A site for a Presbyterian church and minister's dwelling at Ballyrogon was put aside in 1869, and in 1872, the village of Ballyrogon, comprising nine allotments, was reserved on Geelong Road near Charley-Combe Creek. A school was built at Ballyrogon in 1874.[11]

In 1900, the owner of Yalla-y-Poorra leased sections of the estate to wheat farmers.[12] The *Closer Settlement Act* was passed in 1904 and some subdivision took place in the Tatyoon and Ballyrogon area with farmers taking up land for the growing of wheat. For the most part however, it was private subdivision that brought settlers to the area. Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided part of the Lake Bolac estate in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[13] During 1907-8, the owner of Yalla-y-Poorra privately subdivided and sold 8,000 acres of the estate,[14] and in 1910, subdivided and sold another 25,000 acres.[15]

The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line, with a station at Tatyoon, opened on 8 August 1913.[16] As a consequence, from 1911 the original Tatyoon and Ballyrogon settlements diminished and the Tatyoon township developed around what was to become the Tatyoon Railway Station site. The 1870 Tatyoon Presbyterian church and land were sold in 1917. All that is left today of the original Tatyoon village, now known as Tatyoon North, is a row of pine trees.[17]

Closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. The phase of soldier settlement

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corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[18]

In 1947, 25,000 acres of the Yalla-y-Poorra property was purchased from the executors of J. Ware's estate and opened for soldier settlement. Twenty-four settlers were subsequently allocated blocks.

The soldier settlers negotiated with the Soldier Settlement Commission to have an area of approximately 12 acres set aside for recreational purposes. The reserve was to provide land for a hall, school, health centre and sporting facilities.

The Yalla-y-Poorra Recreation Reserve was subsequently gazetted in 1952 with the Yalla-y-Poorra Progress Association, established in 1949, providing funding for the proposed facilities. Funds were raised through rabbit drives, hare shoots, sheep drives, and fleece collections. Two tennis courts and public toilets were initially established, and a pre-fabricated hut was provided by the Ararat Shire in 1949 for use as an Infant Welfare Centre.

The Yalla-y-Poorra Progress Association sowed the sports oval to oats to help finance the purchase and re-erection in 1962 of a RAAF hut from Ballarat aerodrome for use as a hall and Baby Health Centre. In 1973, the tennis courts were resealed and drainage pipes installed. By 1988, however, with farmers using facilities at Streatham and Ararat, and the high costs of maintenance, the reserve's future was in jeopardy.

The Yalla-y-Poorra district continues to produce fine wool and cereal, but farming families have also diversified into oil seeds, oaten hay, prime lambs and legumes.[19] All that remains of public buildings of the Yalla-Y-Poorra settlement today is the toilet block on the recreation reserve and the school building.

Place history:[20]

Children from the Yalla-y-Poorra soldier settlement estate, opened in 1947, initially attended school at Tatyoon. A sub-committee of the Yalla-y-Poorra Progress Association lobbied the government for a school on the estate. Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756, a timber one-room building and shelter shed, was subsequently opened in 1956. At the first Parents Committee meeting in 1956, nine families were asked to donate £9 each towards the purchase of 150 trees, which were planted on the school site boundaries in 1959-60.

A fire in 1969 destroyed the trees, wood shed, toilets and fencing. More trees were subsequently planted in that year.

In 1977, extensive brick additions, including a staff room, sickbay, storeroom and corridor were made to the school. In 1985, a portable classroom was erected.

Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 closed in 1993. The school and tennis courts were purchased by the Ararat Shire for use as a community recreation facility. There is no evidence of the original 1956 timber building.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences

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were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 50.

[7] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaly, 1974), 82.

[8] J M Powell, 'Historical Geography' in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, 86.

[9] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 109-12, 15.

[10] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31. Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat*, 78.

[11] "Victoria Government Gazette".

[12] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[13] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State Library of Victoria.

[14] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 129.

[15] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[16] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 98.

[17] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 31.

[18] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[19] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>.

[20] *Yalla-Y-Poora Soldier Settlement Commission 1948-1988 Yalla-Y-Poora State School No. 4756 1956-1988 Back-To Celebrations 10th April, 1988*, (Back-To Committee?, 1988?).

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Description

Physical Description

The former Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 comprises a cream brick classroom building constructed in 1977, a weatherboard shelter shed from the 1950s, pine trees on two borders, corrugated iron clad toilets and a flagpole.

The cream brick classroom building has a rectangular plan with a skillion roof over the classrooms and a lower flat roofed corridor and entry hall across the length of the building. The roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheet. On the corridor side of the building is a band of windows to the classrooms between the eaves and the roof of the corridor. On the same side there is also a high band of timber framed windows to the corridor. There is a recessed double door entry at either end of the corridor with the recess providing a covered entry. On the opposite side of the classrooms to the corridor there is a wall of modular rectangular windows extending from mid way up the walls to the ceiling.

The shelter shed is a standard Education Department design with a rectangular floor plan and skillion roof with extra wide eaves around the building providing shelter over the bench seats and to the front. There is a wide opening to one long side of the building with wire mesh double gates. There are timber bench seats mounted to the wall on timber brackets to the sides and rear of the building.

The cylindrical steel flagpole is located between the end of the classroom building and the front fence, behind the school sign. There are evenly spaced pine trees on the southern and eastern boundaries.

The toilet block is a rectangular building with a skillion roof. Both the walls and roof are clad in corrugated metal sheet with square edge corrugations. There is wire mesh between the top of the walls and the eaves providing ventilation to the interior. This building does not contribute to the significance of the place.

Physical Condition

The classroom building and shelter shed were in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 at 1922 Yalla-y-Poorra Road, Yalla-y-Poorra. The brick school building, weatherboard shelter shed, flagpole and boundary pine trees contribute to the significance of the place. The location and original form, materials and details of these elements are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The former Yalla-y-Poorra State School No. 4756 is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The former Yalla-y-Poorra State School including the brick school building, weatherboard shelter shed, flagpole and boundary pine trees are of historical significance for their role in the provision of education to residents of the Yalla-y-Poorra soldier settlement estate from 1956 until 1993. The Yalla-y-Poorra soldier settlement estate, opened in 1947 and

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children from the estate initially attended school at Tatyoon until a sub-committee of the Yalla-y-Poorra Progress Association lobbied the government for a school on the estate. The school was opened in 1956 and the surviving elements provide a rare reminder of the stable farming community on the estate from the 1950s up to the 1990s. The construction of a new brick classroom building in 1977 demonstrates a boom period of farming for residents in the area and a time when there was a particularly stable local community. The boundary pine trees demonstrate the practice of tree planting at schools as funded and initiated by the school families. (Criteria A & B)

The former Yalla-y-Poorra State School is aesthetically significant for the excellent intact example of a 1970s Victorian Education Department designed classroom building on the site. The simple and economically designed building is characteristic of 1970s design with its skillion and flat roofs, cream brick walls and bands and wall of modular windows. The timber shelter shed is an intact example of a typical school shelter shed constructed at Victorian schools in the 1950s. (Criterion D)

The former Yalla-y-Poorra State School is of social significance as a focus for education and community gathering on the Yalla-y-Poorra Estate from 1956 until 1993. The building continues to be used as a community recreation building. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes pine trees on the east and south boundaries

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes shelter shed

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

Yes

Rural Ararat Heritage Study
Volume 3
Heritage Place and Precinct Citations



Prepared for Ararat Rural City Council

By Dr Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke

March 2016

History in the Making

PO Box 75

Maldon VIC 3463

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1.0 Rural Ararat Heritage Study Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Rural Ararat Heritage Study was commissioned by the Ararat Rural City Council in two stages between 2011 and 2016. The study area for the heritage study was that area of the municipality of Ararat Rural City not included in the 1994 City of Ararat Heritage Study.

Dr Robyn Ballinger of History in the Making was commissioned as the lead consultant for both stages of the Study. Project team members were Samanatha Westbrooke, Heritage Architect, Tom Henty, photographer and fieldworker, and Eleanor Hambleton, who undertook data entry.

A steering committee was established to guide the study.

1.2 Project objectives

The objectives of the Rural Ararat Heritage Study Stage 1 were to:

- prepare a Thematic Environmental History of post-contact settlement and development of the study area;
- identify all post-contact places of potential cultural significance in the study area; and
- estimate the resources required to appropriately research, document and assess those post-contact places of potential cultural significance that were considered worthy of future conservation and to complete Stage 2 of the project.

The objectives of the Rural Ararat Heritage Study Stage 2 were to:

- assess and document the places of post-contact cultural significance identified as being worthy of future conservation in Stage 1 of the project;
- enter this information into the HERMES database to be provided to the client;
- review and finalise the Thematic Environmental History; and
- make recommendations for the conservation of the municipality's cultural heritage.

1.3 Assessment of cultural significance

The values used in the identification and assessment of places of cultural significance were historic, scientific, aesthetic, social and spiritual values as articulated in the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*. Detailed assessment for heritage places in the study area was developed against key themes articulated in the Thematic Environmental History and the HERCON criteria. Thresholds applied included 'State Significance' and 'Local Significance'.

1.4 Community consultation

Community consultation formed an integral part of the Heritage Study, with consultants facilitating and attending community meetings; working with local historical societies; organising fieldtrips with residents to identify places of heritage interest; inviting feedback on the Thematic Environmental History from community members; seeking input into priority places for assessment in Stage 2; and incorporating community feedback on place and precinct citations into the Study. The community engagement program was vital to documenting the municipality's unique history and heritage.

1.5 Study results

1.5.1 Individual places

The following table provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations for the 103 individual places assessed in Stage 2.

Recommendation	Number of places
Recommended for inclusion in the Ararat Planning Scheme	103 places
Recommended that assessment documentation for places already in the Heritage Overlay be incorporated in the Ararat Planning Scheme	2 places
Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory	5 places

1.5.2 Heritage precincts

A total of 3 heritage precincts in Willaura were identified, assessed and documented in Stage 2 and recommended for the Heritage Overlay.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Adoption of the Rural Ararat Heritage Study

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council adopt the Rural Ararat Heritage Study.

1.6.2 Statutory protection

It is recommended that the individual places identified, assessed and documented in the Rural Ararat Heritage Study be included in or nominated for the following statutory registers:

- 103 places (outside of heritage precincts) recommended for inclusion in the Planning Scheme.
- 5 places recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

It is recommended that assessment documentation for 2 places already in the Heritage Overlay of the Planning Scheme be adopted.

It is recommended that the 3 precincts identified, assessed and documented in Willaura be included in the Planning Scheme.

It is recommended that an amendment to the Planning Scheme that makes changes and/or additions to the Heritage Overlay to incorporate the recommended places and precincts, as well as assessment documentation provided for places already in the Heritage Overlay, be prepared and implemented as soon as practicable.

It is recommended that the specific heritage policies and objectives detailed for the recommended heritage precincts (Heritage Overlay Areas) be implemented by Ararat Rural City Council.

1.6.3 Public awareness program

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council consider ways to promote the rich and diverse heritage values of the municipality.

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council consider ways to provide assistance and advice to property owners affected by the amendment to the Planning Scheme.

1.6.4 *Heritage Strategy*

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council prepare a four-year Heritage Strategy as per Heritage Victoria's information guide titled *Local Government Heritage Strategies*.

1.6.5 *Further work*

It is recommended that Ararat Rural City Council:

- reviews the 8 historical archaeological sites identified in the Heritage Study;
- reviews the places already listed in the Heritage Overlay of the Ararat Planning Scheme to ensure they have the required level of documentation; and
- continues the process of assessment according to the priority place lists provided in Stage 1.

1.7 *Study format*

The Rural Ararat Heritage Study comprises four volumes, introduced by the Executive Summary:

- Volume 1 Key Findings and Recommendations;
- Volume 2 Heritage Precinct Policies;
- Volume 3 Heritage Place and Precinct Citations. This volume is divided into three sections: Section 1 - Citations for places recommended for the Planning Scheme; Section 2 - Citations for places already on the Planning Scheme; and Section 3 - Citations for Heritage Precincts; and
- Volume 4 the Thematic Environmental History.

2.0 Introduction to Heritage Place and Precinct Citations Report

The Heritage Place and Precincts Citations report is divided into three sections:

- Section 1 – Citations for places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme, including places recommended for the Victorian Heritage Register and Victorian Heritage Inventory;
- Section 2 - Citations for places already on the Ararat Planning Scheme; and
- Section 3 – Citations for Heritage Precincts.

2.1 Section 1 – Citations for places recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme, including places recommended for the Victorian Heritage Inventory

The table below provides an index by township/district to Section 1. (HO=Heritage Overlay; VHI=Victorian Heritage Inventory)

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Buangor Railway Station and Railway House	Railway Reserve Buangor Road and 19 Buangor Road	Buangor	HO	1
Former Buangor Public Hall	52 Challicum Road	Buangor	HO	10
'Yerabin' Farm Homestead and Canary Island Palms	388 Charleycombe Road	Buangor	HO	16
'Buangor Park' Farm Complex	25 Dip Road	Buangor	HO & VHI	23
Bluestone Ford Over Charleycombe Creek	Dip Road	Buangor	HO	33
Buangor Store Complex	19 Main Street	Buangor	HO	40
'Challicum South' Farm Complex and Cypress Tree Avenue	199 Webbs Road	Buangor	HO	46
Avenue of Honour	Western Highway	Buangor	HO	55
Road Bridge over Denicull Creek	Denicull Creek-Moyston Road	Cathcart	HO	61
Cathcart Cemetery	Phillips Flat Road	Cathcart	HO	64
'Callemondah' Farm Complex and Cypress Trees	327 Tatyoon North Road	Dobie	HO	72
'Kooringa' Farm Complex	342 Tattyoon North Road	Dobie	HO	80
Church of St Mark Anglican and Uniting Church, Bell, Memorial Gates and Trees	20 Green Street	Elmhurst	HO	90

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Tree Avenues	Hotel Street and High Street	Elmhurst	HO	97
Elmhurst Mechanics' Institute	34 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	103
Elmhurst Store, Residence, Outbuildings and Oak Tree	66 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	110
Former CBC Bank and Residence	71 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	116
J. Strain Butcher Store	76 High Street	Elmhurst	HO	122
'Fintry' Farm Outbuildings Complex	1554 Back Bolac Road	Lake Bolac	HO	128
Former Lake Boloke Station	1979 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO & VHI	139
Lake Bolac General Store, Bulk Store and Pepper Trees	2124 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO	152
Lake Bolac Hotel, Stables and Elm Tree	2127 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO	160
Bluestone Residence	2151 Glenelg Highway	Lake Bolac	HO	170
Scots Uniting Church, Sunday School Hall, Fence, Gate and Stone Pine	139 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	178
Bluestone Residence	149 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	187
Bluestone Residence, Stables and Blacksmith	161 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	195
Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, War Memorials and Pepper Trees	172 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	203
Bluestone Residence	199 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	212
Former Lake Bolac State School No. 854, Teacher's Residence and Kurrajong and Pepper Trees	205-211 Montgomery Street	Lake Bolac	HO	220
Lake Bolac Flax Mill Remains	South Beach Road	Lake Bolac	HO & VHI	229
Former Lake Bolac Flax Mill Shed	Frontage Street	Lake Bolac	HO	229

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Avenue of Honour	Mortlake-Ararat Road	Maroona	HO	239
Maroona Railway Complex	Railway Reserve, Mortlake-Ararat Road	Maroona	HO	245
Former Maroona Railway Station Master's House	7344 Mortlake-Ararat Road	Maroona	HO	245
Former Minirera Post Office, Store and Associated Residence	1-5 George Street	Minirera	HO	254
Minirera Railway Complex	George Street	Minirera	HO	262
Mount Cole Reservoir	Reservoir Road	Mount Cole	HO	271
Avenue of Honour	Ararat-Halls Gap Road	Moyston	HO	276
Moyston Hall and War Memorial	12 Brooke Street	Moyston	HO	283
Residence and Former Store	18 Brooke Street	Moyston	HO	292
'Stonehurst' Farmhouse	19 Decker Road	Moyston	HO	299
Moyston Cemetery	15 Moyston Cemetery Road	Moyston	HO	306
Moyston Christ Church and Pines	14 Moyston-Dunkeld Road	Moyston	HO	314
Barton Station Shearing Shed	531 Moyston-Dunkeld Road	Moyston	HO	322
Former Moyston Reservoir	Old Moyston Reservoir Road	Moyston	HO	329
Former Moyston Presbyterian Church	14 Presbyterian Church Road	Moyston	HO	336
Stone outbuildings	864 Rocky Point Road	Moyston	HO	343
'Mt Hamilton' Farm Outbuildings Complex	Woorndoo-Streatham Road	Nerrin Nerrin	HO	351
Former Nerrin Nerrin Public Hall	Woorndoo-Streatham Road	Nerrin Nerrin	HO	360
'Springfield Hill' Farm Complex and Hedge	172 Rhymney Road	Norval	HO	367
Dare's Culvert Over Unnamed Creek	Salvation Gully Road	Norval	HO	375
Spring Lead Cemetery	Spring Lead Road	Norval	HO	379
'St Day's' Residence	3285 Ararat-Halls Gap Road	Pomonal	HO	387

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
'Fernside' Residence	Librarian Road	Pomonal	HO	394
Tobacco Kiln	163 Springwood Hill Road	Pomonal	HO	401
Tobacco Kiln	3444 Ararat-Halls Gap Road	Pomonal	HO	401
'Adair' Residence	220 Cherry Tree Road	Pomonal	HO	408
Tunnel and Pumphouse Remains, Stawell Water Supply System	Tunnel Road	Pomonal	HO & VHI	415
Oak Trees	639 Tunnel Road	Pomonal	HO	419
Pura Pura Public Hall	Darlington-Carranballac Road	Pura Pura	HO	425
Pura Pura Railway Station, Pines and Sugar Gums	Nerrin Nerrin-Pura Pura Road	Pura Pura	HO	433
Stone Wine Cellar	857 Moyston-Great Western Road	Rhymney	HO	442
Brick Farmhouse and Canary Island Palm	Pentland Creek Road	Rhymney	HO	450
Stone Residence	149 Pentland Creek Road	Rhymney	HO	458
Brick Farmhouse and Hedge	69 Pentland Creek Road	Rhymney	HO	465
Rocky Point Hall and Pines	730 Moyston-Rocky Point Road	Rocky Point	HO	473
Former Inn and Pines	6869 Mortlake-Ararat Road	Rossbridge	HO	480
Streatham Memorial Hall	30 Campbell Street	Streatham	HO	486
Former Streatham State School No. 844 Teacher's Residence	31 Campbell Street	Streatham	HO	494
St Columbas Catholic Memorial Church	50 Campbell Street	Streatham	HO	501
'Bowmont' Farm Complex and Canary Island Palms	1331 Helendoite Road	Tatyoan	HO	509
'Yeronga' Residence, Garage and Trees	900 Helendoite Road	Tatyoan	HO	517
Avenue of Honour	Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	523
Tatyoan Railway Station Complex	Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	529
Water Tower	Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	537

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
Tatyoan Hall	2712 Tatyoan Road	Tatyoan	HO	543
Water Tank	Travellers Rest Reserve on Fiery Creek, Mount William Road	Tatyoan	HO	549
Warrak Recreation Reserve	1245 Buangor-Ben Nevis Road	Warrak	HO	557
Warrak Hall and War Memorial	1673 Warrak Road	Warrak	HO	564
Warrak Uniting Church	1688 Warrak Road	Warrak	HO	571
Former Warrak State School No. 834 and Former Tatyoan State School No. 1812	1663 Warrak Road	Warrak	HO	577
Langi Ghiran Reservoir	Reservoir Track	Warrak	HO	271
Westmere Hall, War Memorial and Gates	914 Glenelg Highway	Westmere	HO	584
St Johns Anglican Church	916 Glenelg Highway	Westmere	HO	592
Westmere Railway Station Complex	Holdsworth Lane	Westmere	HO	599
Former Westmere State School No. 3833 and Teacher's Residence	18-28 School Road	Westmere	HO	608
Former St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Sunday School Hall, Fence and Pines	38 School Road	Westmere	HO	616
Cast Iron Milepost	Chatsworth-Wickliffe Road	Wickliffe	HO	623
'Berrambool' Farm Complex	1009 Wickliffe-Chatsworth Road	Wickliffe	HO & VHI	631
Residence	27 Frith Street	Wickliffe	HO	643
Bluestone Bridge Remains Over Hopkins River	Glenelg Highway	Wickliffe	HO	650
Western Hotel and Bluestone Stables	62 Walker Street	Wickliffe	HO	657
Residence	18 Walker Street	Wickliffe	HO	664
Former Store	34 Walker Street	Wickliffe	HO	671
St Patricks Catholic Church	24-26 Ayrey Street	Willaura	HO	678

Place name	Address	Tship/district	Recommendations	Section 1 page no.
'Wongalee' Residence, Pines and Canary Island Palm	334 Back Bolac Road	Willaura	HO	688
Edgarley Bridge over Hopkins River	Delacombe Way	Willaura	HO	698
Willaura District Hospital, Gates and Trees	21 Delacombe Way	Willaura	HO	707
Agricultural and Horticultural Show Pavilion and Oak Tree	7 Delacombe Way	Willaura	HO	718
'Yooranalee' Farm Complex and Oaks	831 Edgarley Estate Road	Willaura	HO	728
Willaura Memorial Hall	Main Street	Willaura	HO	740
Willaura Post Office	84 Main Street	Willaura	HO	750
Former Bluestone Hotel	718 Maroona-Glenhompson Road	Willaura	HO	760
Willaura Uniting Church	6 Warranooke Street	Willaura	HO	768
Willaura Railway Station Complex	Wickliffe-Willaura Road	Willaura	HO	779
Former Yalla Y Poora State School No. 4756	1922 Yalla Y Poora Road	Yalla Y Poora	HO	791

2.2 Section 2 – Citations for places already on the Ararat Planning Scheme

The table below provides an index by township/district to Section 2.

HO no.	Place name	Address	Tship/dist	Section 2 page no.
HO136	Yarram Park	2994 Moyston-Dunkeld Road	Willaura	1
HO128	Willaura Railway Station Complex	Wickliffe-Willaura Road	Willaura	10

2.3 Section 3 – Citations for Heritage Precincts recommended for the Ararat Planning Scheme

The table below provides an index to Section 3.

Precinct name	Precinct Address	Section 3 page no.
Willaura Anglican Church Heritage Precinct	14-20 Delacombe Way, Willaura	1
Willaura Main Street Residential Heritage Precinct	96-110 Main Street, Willaura	14
Willaura Town Centre Heritage Precinct	40-78 Main Street and 49-65 Main Street, Willaura	30



Volume 3 Section 2 Citations for individual places already on the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Yarram Park Farm Complex	
Address	2994 Moyston-Dunkeld Road WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Pastoralism	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

The Willaura district is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

Mitchell travelled through what was to become the municipality of Ararat Rural City in July and September 1836. On the return to Sydney, Mitchell's expedition made camp on 19 September 1836 to the west of a hill Mitchell named Mount Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

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Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

From 1834, squatters in the Port Phillip District (later the colony of Victoria) took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) to graze mainly sheep. In 1837, in an effort to control illegal pastoral expansion, Governor Richard Bourke introduced the *Crown Lands Occupation Act*, which disallowed depasturing of lands beyond the 'limits of location' (defined by the Nineteen Counties centred around Sydney) unless they were taken up under an annual lease or licence costing £10. In addition, the Act imposed penalties for the illegal occupation of land. Squatter licenses, however, were not granted until July 1838 when the first full-time Commissioner of Crown Lands was appointed.

Place history:

This history of Yarram Park is an edited version of the history included in a citation developed for the property by Michael Taylor and Peter Mills.

Squatters Robert Muirhead and Edward Parker were the first licensees of the Yarram Yarram run, in what was to become the Willaura district, from 1844 to 1855. The run of 32,000 acres was estimated to carry 13,000 sheep. From 1855, Muirhead held the run on his own until his death in 1862. In 1856 the Yarram Yarram (or Yairam Yairam) run was carrying 13,130 sheep, 256 cattle and 10 horses. In 1857, Muirhead retired to his mansion, Osborne House, in Geelong.[3]

An Order in Council passed in 1847 divided land in the Port Phillip District into settled, intermediate and unsettled areas, with pastoral leases of one, eight and fourteen years respectively. However, because of the discovery of gold, instead of the promised fourteen-year leases, yearly tenure only was approved by an Order in Council in 1850. The 1847 Order also allowed the take up of pre-emptive rights (the right to purchase up to 640 acres of the run at £1 per acre) to those in occupation. As a consequence of the Order, Robert Muirhead purchased the pre-emptive right to Yarram Yarram on 25 March 1862.[4]

After his death on 15 March 1862, the run was taken over by Muirhead's nephews, John and Alexander Muirhead.[5]

Brothers James, John and Thomas Robertson took over the run in February 1864 and managed it until its license was cancelled in 1873 under the 1869 *Land Act*. [6] Earlier in 1862, a *Land Act* had been introduced to break up large holdings into smaller allotments for farms. As a consequence, much of the land originally comprising the Yarram Yarram run and its surrounds was declared Agricultural Areas and opened up for selection. In the next ten to fifteen years, through various means, including dummyming, the Robertsons obtained freehold of almost the entire area of the original Yarram Yarram run.[7]

John Robertson sold Yarram Yarram to Edward J Simmons in 1886. By the time of the sale of the property, it appears that John Robertson was the sole owner of the 25,000 acres of freehold land that then made up Yarram Yarram.[8] With the wealth gained from investments in Stawell gold mining companies, Simmons purchased and successfully ran a number of other grazing properties.

Yarram Yarram was renamed Yarram Park during Simmons's ownership. Use of this title first appeared in newspapers in accounts of wool sales in December 1891.[9] The quality of the wool from Yarram Park was considered as among the highest in the world. At the 1902 spring show of the Ararat Agricultural Society, Simmons took the championship for rams and ewes.[10]

Simmons sold Yarram Park to his son-in-law George Hobbs, also from Stawell, in late 1905 or early 1906.[11] Hobbs too was an investor in Stawell mining, being one of the principal owners of the Magdala-cum-Moonlight mine. Hobbs

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immediately engaged a manager, Adam Linton, and soon sold the property to John J Duncan in 1907.[12] The estate had been earlier offered for sale by Hobbs to the Closer Settlement Board, which had inspected the property before Duncan's purchase, but Hobbs's asking price was too high.[13]

Sir John James Duncan, born in Scotland in 1845, was a South Australian pastoralist and member of parliament. He owned South Australian stations including Hughes Park near Watervale and Gum Creek near Burra, as well as grazing leases as far north as Lake Eyre.[14] Duncan made improvements to Yarram Park to the value of £5000, including the building of a six-room brick overseer's cottage (extant) on the site of an earlier homestead, the brick men's quarters (not extant) and 'timbered paddocks'.[15]

Following closer settlement initiatives established by the Victorian government from the early 1900s, in 1910 Duncan undertook a major subdivision of the property, then 26,224 acres in extent. Yarram Park was subdivided for sale into 55 lots varying in size from 152 to 1,272 acres. Presumably the latter included the homestead block.[16] Ultimately the sales totalled only around 3,650 acres. When Duncan died in 1913, the property comprised 22,572 acres in extent with a mortgage on another 236 acres, and was carrying 15,673 sheep, 105 cattle, 41 horses and 3 pigs. The property, including livestock and farming implements etc., was valued at just over £75,000.[17] Yarram Park retained the dimensions of its squatting run origins, a feature which would ensure its continuing ownership by wealthy pastoralists.

After Duncan died in 1913 his executors put the property up for sale in two lots, the homestead block of 19,479 acres, and another discrete block of 3,329 acres of 'wheat lands', 278 acres of which were leased at £12 6d per acre. The Yarram Park wool clip was described as 'one of the favourites of the favourite brands of the Geelong market'. While none of the grazing land was as yet improved, the advertisement indicated that the swamps on the southern part of the property, which to date had been looked upon as having the least carrying capacity, might be drained to provide crops of rape and lucerne.[18]

In late 1913 Yarram Park was sold to Francis Edward Cobbold, a prominent Queensland pastoralist, who undertook extensive works at Yarram Park.[19] At the time of Cobbold's purchase, Yarram Park was carrying 13,071 sheep, 118 cattle and 41 horses,[20] and the property was divided into 23 paddocks. Four-fifths of the property, which was open undulating and flat red-gum country, was devoted to grazing. The 'all-round' carrying capacity was said to be one sheep to 1.5 acres. Around 1,200 acres of land on the open plains to the east of the property was leased out for wheat-growing for three year periods, one of fallow and two of cropping. It appears that the remainder of land, which had previously been cultivated, was being brought back to grass.[21]

Cobbold sold Yarram Park to his nephews the Cain brothers, Walter, William and Robert, in early 1915.[22]

In ca.1923 the partnership of the Cain brothers was dissolved, and as a result Yarram Park was put up for sale. It appears that Walter C Cain bought the property. In 1932, 13,000 to 15,000 sheep were being shorn on ten machines in the woolshed at Yarram Park.[23]

Walter Cain moved to Melbourne ca.1948, and was found drowned in the Yarra at Toorak in 1949. In his will he bequeathed Arthur Streeton's oil painting 'The Land of the Golden Fleece' to the National Gallery.[24] It is generally agreed that, although Willaura is written as a location on the painting, it was painted on a visit to the Cains at Yarram Park in 1926.

The newly registered Western District Pastoral Company purchased Yarram Park in 1948.[25] The company was owned by the Baillieu family, the Melbourne finance and grazing dynasty. At the time of purchase, the property was said to be in a run-down condition: pastures were unimproved, there was no storage of fodder, and the water supply was inadequate.[26]

Moves were soon made to establish a Hereford stud with Hereford cattle obtained from Eynesbury station (Melton) in

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1950 and from Colly Creek (NSW) in 1952.[27] A merino stud was established in 1957. Pastures were improved and fodder grown and stored. As a large property with increasingly intensive farming taking place, staff numbers increased, and it became necessary to construct a number of staff houses in the vicinity of the homestead. Compared to the pre-1950s, the sheep carrying capacity increased around six-fold.

Currently Yarram Park runs 26,000 fine-medium wool merinos, 2,100 cattle, and grows 1,500 hectares of oil seed and cereal crops.[28]

Yarram Park homestead history:

While many of the long-established squatting families of western Victoria built substantial homesteads after the 1847 Order in Council enabled the purchase of 640 acres on runs, neither Robert Muirhead or the Robertson brothers established a permanent base at Yarram Yarram and so a homestead of any consequence was not established.

A ca.1900 photograph from a series held by the current owners of Yarram Park shows a group of small buildings surrounded by a picket fence in the position of the overseer's cottage that was built between 1907 and 1913. These buildings are likely to be the homestead group surviving from the Robertson era and provide evidence that the early homestead was clearly a humble affair.

During his ownership of Yarram Park over twenty years from 1886 to 1906, Edward J Simmons made substantial improvements to the station, including the construction of a new woolshed at the foot of the rise where the homestead stood. Simmons also had a 'town house', believed to have been designed by Robert McMurtie, constructed on the property in 1893. It was 'a replica of one which took his fancy, in South Yarra or some other Melbourne suburb'.[29]

Under the ownership of John James Duncan, a 1910 newspaper advertisement for the Yarram Park subdivision sale read:

The homestead is an ideal country home. It is a fine brick structure, cemented, containing 12 rooms (plastered throughout); hot and cold water laid through the house, servants quarters, dairy, fruit and vegetable gardens. About 200 yards distant from homestead are two extensive stables, overseer's cottage of six rooms, recently built; men's hut of brick, to accommodate 15 shearers; machine shed, woolshed fitted with machines and Ferrier press. The whole of the improvements are in perfect order, the buildings being of quite recent date.[30]

In 1913, the homestead area was described as having an 'ornamental' garden in addition to the fruit and vegetable gardens.[31]

When Francis Edward Cobbold acquired the property in late 1913, he undertook extensive works at Yarram Park, including an 'enlargement in brick' to the homestead, which was built by a Mr C. Phillips. The additions were nearing completion by August 1914, and included 'a complete water and lighting system', a number of rooms and a large garage, the latter because Cobbold was an enthusiastic motorist.[32] The brick garage is extant. The extra rooms are likely those in the pavilion on the southwest corner of the homestead. These additions probably also included the extant laundry building, and the large bay window on the west side of homestead, which provides clear views of Mt Abrupt. The bay window is not visible in the ca.1900 photographs of the homestead, but it is also possible that it was built during the Duncan ownership. Cobbold also created a large reservoir to supply the homestead and gardens.[33] This is probably the dam in the northeast corner of the pre-emptive right block.

The Cain brothers made a number of improvements to Yarram Park after they purchased the property in 1915, including landscaping the homestead area. Their additions included 'a long avenue of English and indigenous trees to improve the approach from the high road'.[34] This is the existing avenue which is comprised of two main parts: an avenue of sugar gums leading west from the entrance off the Dunkeld-Moyston Road, and the avenue of elms which connects the sugar

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gum avenue to the turning-circle of the homestead garden.

By 1917, a newspaper article about the property advised that none of the buildings from the Robertson occupation remained standing, but that the site of the 'old homestead' had been utilised for the six-room overseer's cottage built by John Duncan ca.1910.[35]

An advertisement for the sale of Yarram Park in a Queensland newspaper in 1923 described the features of the property at the time:

Commodious brick homestead, with every modern convenience; flower and vegetable garden and orchard, electric light, sewerage, telephone (continuous service), hot and cold water laid on, brick men's quarters, fine brick overseer's residence, brick garage, stables, engine-shed, implement shed, buggy-shed, chaff house, boundary rider's cottage, first class woolshed of 12 stands, three sets of drafting yards and concrete sheep dip, horse and cattle yards .

At the time, the domestic water supply was supplied from 'a large underground well' by a windmill to three 200-gallon overhead tanks. Additional domestic and garden supply was from a 6000-gallon overhead tank filled by windmill from a large excavated tank.[36] The underground tank is probably that still covered by a rendered brick dome at the southwest end of the homestead. The small tanks were probably mounted on the extant steel and timber stand visible in the rear courtyard of the homestead, and the large tank was probably either carried on, or in the position of, the steel-framed stand in the oak grove to the east of the homestead.

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 146; R. V. and Kenyon Billis, A. S., *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip* (Melbourne: Stockland Press, 1974), 117-18.

[4] Watganja Parish Plan. *The Age*, 30 April 1956, 5.

[5] Will of Robert Muirhead, PROV, VPRS 7591/P1, Unit 15.

[6] Spreadborough and Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 146; Billis, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, 117-18.

[7] Watganja and Parrie Yalloak Parish Plans.

[8] *The Argus*, 2 July 1886, 4.

[9] *Geelong Advertiser*, 3 December 1891, 4.

[10] *The Australasian*, 22 December 1894, 11. *The Australasian*, 4 October 1902, 12.

[11] *Horsham Times*, 13 February 1906, 3.

[12] *Horsham Times*, 13 February 1906, 3; 20 February 1906, 4. *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4.

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- [13] *Camperdown Chronicle*, 19 March 1907, 4. *The Argus*, 24 June 1907, 8.
- [14] Molly Huxley, 'Duncan, Sir John James (1845-1913)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Australian National University. Available <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/duncan-sir-john-james-1171/text5273>. Accessed 12 October 2014.
- [15] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4.
- [16] *Horsham Times*, 18 October 1910, 6. *The Australasian*, 22 October 1910, 60.
- [17] John J Duncan's will and probate papers. PROV, VPRS 28/P3/132/607, Unit 421.
- [18] *The Australasian*, 15 November 1913, 1197. *Horsham Times*, 5 December 1913, 4.
- [19] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4. *Horsham Times*, 3 February 1914, 6.
- [20] *The Argus*, 27 December 1913, 7.
- [21] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4. *Hamilton Spectator*, 6 February 1914, 5.
- [22] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4. *The Argus*, 24 January 1936, 6.
- [23] *Australian Worker*, 9 November 1932, 20.
- [24] *The Argus*, 30 November 1949, 8.
- [25] *The Argus*, 28 May 1948, 2.
- [26] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 65.
- [27] *The Farmer and Settler (Sydney)*, 20 January 1950, 8.
- [28] Yarram Park website. Available <http://www.yarrampark.com/yarram-park-history/> Accessed 12 October 2014.
- [29] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4.
- [30] *Horsham Times*, 18 October 1910, 6. *The Australasian*, 22 October 1910, 60.
- [31] *The Australasian*, 15 November 1913, 1197. *Horsham Times*, 5 December 1913, 4.
- [32] *Ararat Chronicle and Willaura and Lake Bolac Districts Recorder*, 4 March 1914, 2; 5 August 1914, 2.
- [33] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4.
- [34] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4.
- [35] *The Australasian*, 20 October 1917, 4.
- [36] *The Queenslander*, 27 October 1923, 17.

Description

Physical Description

This description of Yarram Park is from a citation developed for the property by Michael Taylor and Peter Mills.

The 1893 homestead, originally of twelve rooms, is largely intact, with few external alterations and minor external additions. The building is designed and decorated in a Victorian style, combining elements of the Victorian Italianate style in the masonry and eaves with Victorian Filigree style in the front verandah.

The single-storey homestead is brick with ruled-ashlar rendering externally. The roof over the front rooms is broken-backed, behind which are two hipped pavilions on an east-west axis over the other main rooms. A bay window on the west, which gives views to Mt Abrupt, was probably constructed ca 1914 during the Cobbold additions.

The roofs are clad in slate with a single band at mid-line in a lighter colour. Photos ca 1900 indicate that ridge ends were originally decorated with metal finials. The top of the wall features a frieze of rendered vermiculated panels and rosettes, separated by paired timber brackets. The soffit is pierced with cross-shaped decorative fretwork.

The front facade features bay windows either side of the main entrance, the walls of which are continued up above the verandah and crowned with faceted roofs. Window openings feature Italianate stilted segmental-arch mouldings, linked between windows by a string-course moulding.

The front and half-side verandahs are supported on cast-iron posts with iron lace decoration. The skillion verandah features a small central gable that hints at Queen Anne style. The verandah is paved with tessellated tiles with deep slate bull-nosed edging. This slate is also applied to the flaring entry steps and side steps. Two urns that once graced the end plinths of the sidewalls of the steps remain on the property.

Two hip-roofed wings at the rear enclose an informal rear courtyard. These wings are minimally decorated. The eastern wing was probably the staff quarters and features a small cellar at the south end. The western wing housed the kitchen and pantry, and possibly the farm office. Another pavilion to the south of this wing probably dates from the Cobbold additions ca 1914. A small separate pavilion to the south of this addition probably dates from the same works and may have been a laundry.

There was probably an original narrow verandah on three sides of the rear courtyard. This is evidenced by the original corbelled masonry on the west side wall which carries a timber lintel for the verandah roof, with that timber in turn showing the same detailing as other external timbers of the 1893 homestead. Although some early fabric in this area has been lost or is now concealed, it is likely that this was an open verandah with a raised floor, possibly of timber, on a masonry plinth with three sets of steps as approaches. The steps approaching the verandah floor at the rear of the main body of the house feature similar slate treads to the front-entry steps. It is most likely that this was an open functional verandah, as evidenced by the exterior-wall detailing of the doors (including bluestone thresholds) and windows of the masonry wall behind. This verandah was later enclosed with fixed glazing on slender hardwood mullions, with original heavy posts removed, indicating origins in the post-World War Two period. The raised steel and timber platform for water tanks on the west side of the courtyard was probably constructed during the Cobbold occupancy ca 1914.

The existing avenue of trees comprises two main parts: an avenue of sugar gums leading west from the entrance off the Dunkeld-Moyston Road, and an avenue of elms which connects the sugar gum avenue to the turning-circle of the homestead garden. Little trace of the early ornamental gardens remains, and the current garden is heavily simplified.

A number of outbuildings exist in paddocks adjacent to the homestead.

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Physical Condition

The homestead was in good condition in December 2014.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Yarram Park Farm Complex, located at 2994 Moyston-Dunkeld Road, Willaura. The original location, form, materials and details of the 1893 homestead, including additions to the homestead up to 1914 (including the garage), outbuildings, and elm and sugar gum avenues are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Yarram Park Farm Complex, 2994 Moyston-Dunkeld Road, Willaura is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

Yarram Park Farm Complex is of historic significance as a remnant of the original Yarram Yarram run taken up by squatters Robert Muirhead and Edward Parker in 1844. Brothers James, John and Thomas Robertson took over the run in February 1864 and obtaining freehold after the 1869 *Land Act*. John Robertson sold Yarram Yarram to Edward J Simmons in 1886. Yarram Yarram was renamed Yarram Park during Simmons's ownership and it was in 1893, during his ownership between 1886 and 1903, that the homestead was erected. The property is of significance as an important and prosperous grazing property in the district, associated with a number of pioneers and prominent landholders. The homestead is significant for its associations with Edward J. Simmons who gained his wealth from investments in Stawell gold mining companies and purchased and successfully ran a number of other grazing properties. The property is also important for its associations with Sir John James Duncan, who was born in Scotland in 1845 and was a South Australian pastoralist and member of parliament. He owned South Australian stations including Hughes Park near Watervale and Gum Creek near Burra, as well as grazing leases as far north as Lake Eyre. Duncan purchased the property in 1907 and owned it up until his death in 1913. (Criteria A & H)

Yarram Park homestead is of aesthetic significance as an excellent intact example of a Victorian style villa combining elements of the Victorian Italianate style in the masonry and eaves with Victorian Filigree style in the front verandah. Key features of the building include the ruled ashlar finish of the external render, bay windows, window openings feature Italianate stilted segmental-arch mouldings, linked between windows by a string-course moulding, verandahs with cast-iron posts and iron lace decoration, tessellated tiled verandah floors, and brackets and moulding under the eaves. The elm and sugar gum avenues contribute to the setting of the property. (Criteria D & E)

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Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes sugar gum and elm tree avenues

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes outbuildings including garage

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

Yes



Volume 3 Section 2 Citations for individual places already on the Ararat Planning Scheme March 2016

Name	Willaura Railway Station Complex	
Address	Wickliffe-Willaura Road WILLAURA	Significance Level Local
Place Type	Railway Platform/ Station,Other - Transport - Rail,Silo	
Citation Date	2015	
Assessment by	Robyn Ballinger and Samantha Westbrooke	



Recommended VHR No HI No PS Yes
Heritage Protection

History and Historical Context

Contextual history:

Willaura is located on the traditional lands of the Tjapwurong Aboriginal peoples.[1]

Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, instructed Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to finish tracing the course of the Darling River to the Murray River, to survey the Murray to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, and then to follow the southern bank of the Murray back to the settled parts of New South Wales. After crossing the Murray River near present-day Boundary Bend, Mitchell ignored his official instructions and explored instead the northern and western areas of the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria), a region he titled 'Australia Felix'.

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Stavelly. Mitchell named the Hopkins River on the same day. The expedition set up camp on 20 September, south of today's Willaura, at the eastern end of a line of 50 salt lakes, which Mitchell called Cockajemmy Lakes.[2]

Mitchell's exploratory expedition through the area is marked by the names he gave to the country and by a cairn on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road erected by the Willaura and District Historical Society and unveiled in 1986.

As in other parts of the Port Phillip District, squatters took up large tracts of Crown land (public land) in the area to graze mainly sheep from 1837.[3] The first squatters came from Van Diemen's land via Geelong and Portland Bay, which was occupied by the Henty family in 1834. Soon after overlanders from north of the Murray River arrived. This second wave of squatters was attracted by favorable newspaper reports of Mitchell's 'Australia Felix'. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the pioneer settlers in Western Victoria were from Scotland; nearly all were Lowland farmers.[4]

The two major runs in what was to become known as the Wickliffe Road (Willaura) district were Mount William, 38,000 acres taken up by Thomas Chirnside in 1842; and Greenvale, 56,880 acres taken up by Robert Adams in 1843.[5] These runs contributed to the establishment of a significant wool growing industry in the district.

The Duffy *Land Act*, passed in June 1862, put aside ten million acres of land in designated 'agricultural areas', which were surveyed into 40-640 acre allotments. Over 1,888,000 acres in the Colony of Victoria were alienated under the 1862 Act,[6] but mostly into the hands of the squatters. Approximately 250,000 acres between Ararat, Streatham and Wickliffe, and 107,500 acres between Fiery Creek and the Hopkins River, were made available in 1862.[7] Allotments were taken up in the district of what was to become Wickliffe Road (Willaura).

The Ararat-Dunkeld section of the Ararat-Portland railway line opened in 1877 with a railway station at Wickliffe Road (Willaura). The Wickliffe Road Railway Station Post Office opened in January 1878.[8] One of the first businesses established in the Wickliffe Road settlement was the Junction Hotel, opened in 1878. The inhabitants of the Wickliffe Road district petitioned for a school in August 1879. However a school was not opened until June 1885, when Wickliffe Road State School No. 2662 started part-time operation with Watgania State School No. 1384.[9]

Salt for stock was extracted by Henry Wileman from the Cockajemmy lakes south of present-day Willaura from 1866 to 1889. By 1883, two salt factories had been established. So large was the working population at the lakes, a school was petitioned for in 1885. The Biggins family took over the industry in 1889 and operated it through until the 1980s.[10]

In 1883, the Wickliffe Road settlement, on the Ararat-Portland railway line, had a population of 30, two salt factories to the south, a hotel, a part-time school, a store, a few cottages, and a railway station. In 1890, Wickliffe Road State School had 55 pupils in attendance.

With the advent of share farming from 1897 on Mount William and Edgarley, rapid progress was made in the district. The Wickliffe Road State School was enlarged to about three times its original size and the Colonial Bank opened a branch in the township.

In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Mafeking rush. The rush to Mafeking was short lived, and buildings established in the township were moved to other locations. The Willaura Hobby Boutique in Willaura, for instance, was moved from Mafeking, and the hotel at Mafeking was moved to a farm near Willaura and used as a private residence.[11] In 1901, the population of Willaura consisted of four families belonging to two railway gatekeepers, the stationmaster and the schoolmaster.[12]

By the 1890s, children of selectors in the Colony of Victoria wanting to take up farming were left with only the Mallee country. As a consequence, pressure was applied to the government to make existing large land-holdings available as small farms. Planning for the 1904 *Closer Settlement Act* provided further impetus for the owners of large pastoral properties in the municipality to introduce their own closer settlement schemes. The owners of the Mount William run

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made 100 to 300-acre blocks for cultivation available to share and tenant farmers in 1897, with a further 18,000 acres released in 1902. The owners of Greenvale offered tenant farmers three-year leases.[13] In addition, Thomas Milliar advertised land for sharefarming on Edgarley (a subdivision of Greenvale) in 1899, and by 1910 there were 23 tenant farmers on the property.[14]

Arthur Murphy, an Ararat businessman, operated as an agent for the owners of pastoral properties. Murphy subdivided a number of properties in the Lake Bolac and Wickliffe Road districts in the early 1900s for the owners, and recruited settlers from the northern districts of the Colony of Victoria with experience in wheat farming to take up the land.[15] In 1902, Murphy sold 16,000 acres of Greenvale and subdivided it into allotments of about 320 acres. Some of the land adjoined the Wickcliffe Road Railway Station. In June of the same year, Murphy sold another 9,000 acres of Greenvale for Charles Ayrey, who had purchased the land with a view to subdivision. This land included a township site, which was later named Willaura, close to the Wickcliffe Road Railway Station.[16] As part of this development, land situated opposite the Wickcliffe Road railway station was subdivided into township blocks. Buyers from Melbourne, Bendigo and the Wimmera paid up to Â£45 for one quarter of an acre facing the railway reserve.[17] Before the end of the month, builders were erecting shops and houses. Ayrey wanted to name the town after himself, but this never eventuated.[18]

By 1903, 75,000 acres of former grazing land in the Lake Bolac-Willaura district had been brought under cultivation[19] locating Wickcliffe Road township at the centre of a substantial wheat-growing district.

Wickliffe Road township was renamed Willaura on 1 August 1905 and a police station was established in the township in 1906.

The newspaper, the *Willaura Farmer*, commenced operation on 1 June 19 1906, and described Willaura at that time: 'It includes the Junction Hotel, Incledon's coffee palace, dining rooms, three blacksmith's establishments, two fruiterers [and] three general stores'.[20]

The sale of Mount William estate in October 1906 resulted in further subdivision with farms sold at between Â£6-Â£7 an acre. Thomas Wileman also subdivided his land to the north of Warranooke Street, Willaura, into quarter acre lots and sold the blocks in the period 1906-08. Land sales and leasing of land to farmers in the district transformed Wickcliffe Road into a busy township.

Willaura was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

Business houses which have been erected during the past twelve months include a general store, a baker's shop, a butcher's shop, a bootmaker's shop, two fruit palaces, two millinery and dressmaking establishments, two machinery depots, and a fertiliser shed. This, it must be admitted, is a wonderful record for a township which in 1900 was comprised of five families. During the past year Willaura has gained a new post office. The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. A police station is now in course of erection, and the time is not far distant when the police court will be held locally. Saleyards were established locally during the year, and stock sales are now conducted regularly in the town. The drainage of the town has been sadly neglected, and a windmill has been erected presumably to annoy the townspeople. The drainage question is still demanding the attention of the Shire Council, which is being spurred into action by the Public Health Department at the instance of the Progress Association.[21]

A horseracing club was formed in 1907. As the township was located near a large swamp, drainage in the town posed an ongoing problem.

Gold mining was taken up on a small scale in the Willaura district at Half Way Gully in July 1906. Miners cut through a sandstone bar on the Hopkins River to divert water for the washing and sluicing of gold.[22] The Kiora Gold Mining Company was formed in 1907, and in 1914, after Willaura district residents petitioned the Minister for Mines, the

Director of the Geological Survey visited the area to report on the advisability of testing for gold leads. It seems little prospecting activity took place after his visit.[23]

In 1909, eighty allotments were made available by the sale of ten acres of Thomas Wileman's land on the north side of the township. The sale realised Â£864 10/, or an average of Â£54 per acre.[24]

Field trials of H V McKay farm equipment were held in the Willaura and Westmere districts from 1907 until 1953, including, in 1907, trials of the Sunshine Push Harvester, so called because the machine was pushed by eight horses attached to the rear.[25]

The Milliar family donated farming land for a recreation reserve. In 1910, a committee placed a notice in the *Willaura Farmer* calling for designs for a reserve including tennis courts, cricket, football and sports ground with grandstand and tree plantings.[26] By 1911, the township included two banks, police station, courthouse and a weekly newspaper.[27] Willaura Township was proclaimed in 1912.[28] A golf course opened in 1913.

After fires in 1912 and 1916 burnt down buildings in Willaura, residents formed a fire brigade to protect the township.

Approximately 90 returned soldiers from World War One took up portions of five estates in the municipality. The largest settlement was on the Narrapumelap and Cowaugh estate, where 14,000 acres were divided into 37 farms, including land in the Willaura district on Back Bolac Road. However, because of the small size of allotments allocated, less than 50 per cent of the original soldier settlers made a success of their farms.[29]

Farmers and graziers in the area were well placed to take advantage of the economic boom conditions of post World War One. By the 1920s, crop rotation techniques, the use of superphosphate and the introduction of improved wheat varieties facilitated a marked increase in wheat yields in the district.[30] In addition, wheat was cultivated on an extensive scale with tractors and the motorised header-harvester - a machine that was able to reap a crop before it was fully ripe, harvest a knocked down crop, and separate straw and grain. Wool also reached high prices in the 1920s. Wool from Yalla-y-Poora, for instance, made a world record of 51s. 1½ d. in 1924, which stood as an Australasian record for twenty years.[31]

The *Willaura Sun* newspaper closed in 1921. Premises to house the Willaura fire station were constructed next to the post office in 1922. The Willaura Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1933. From 1938, Dr Cyril Checchi, who had arrived in Willaura in 1920, led a movement to get a water supply for the township, which at that stage relied on dams and rainwater tanks. A bush nursing hospital was opened at Willaura in 1935. Electric light was connected to the township in 1938. On January 14 1944, a fire from the Grampians travelled towards Glenthompson and Lake Bolac. Three homesteads and 8,000 sheep were lost in the Willaura police district in the blaze.[32]

For the most part closer settlement as an active government policy was wound down from 1938, however another phase of soldier settlement commenced after World War Two. In the municipality, because of larger blocks and more intensive support and training, this scheme was more successful than that which followed World War One. Soldier settlement was facilitated with the assistance of Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial Leagues (RSSAILAs). The Willaura RSSAILA Sub-Branch submitted a list of properties totalling 25,600 acres that it deemed suitable for settlement, including land on Edgarley, Narrapumelap, Yarram Park and Toora. It was also noted that homesteads at Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep stood vacant.[33] Subsequently, 120 former servicemen settled on 80,000 acres excised from eight large properties in the Willaura-Streatham-Wickliffe area: Burrumbeep, Narrapumelap, Berrambool, Yalla-y-Poora, Blythvale, Edgarley, Nerrin Nerrin and Bushy Creek, where they mostly took up grazing and mixed farming.[34] In addition, a portion of the Edgarley, 5,101 acres near the Willaura township, was subdivided in 1946 into eight allotments. The land was described as suitable for sheep grazing, mixed farming and cereal growing by the Soldier Settlement Commission.[35] A Soldier Settlement office was established in Willaura to facilitate the settlement. Berrambool, Narrapumelap and Burumbeep homesteads provided temporary housing for settler families whilst other

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housing was constructed. Today, plaques mark soldier settlement estates at Berrambool, Edgarley, Burrumbeep, Trawalla South and Nerrin Nerrin.

The phase of soldier settlement corresponded with good seasons, the post World War Two economic boom, and, from 1940, 'ley' farming (where crop planting is alternated with a forage legume for grazing, such as clover), which greatly increased wool production and wheat yields per acre.[36] This era brought significant wealth and growth to Willaura. The Moyston-Willaura Road became known locally as 'Toorak Road' because of the substantial homes and farms established there during this period.[37] With the economic boom and growth in district population following World War Two, a number of projects were undertaken in Willaura: a reticulated water supply was established in 1949; the Country Fire Authority built a new fire station in 1956; the Willaura Memorial Hall opened in 1957, and new classrooms, staffroom and office were constructed at Willaura State School in the same year, with another classroom added in 1964.[38] An Infant Welfare Centre opened in 1959. A scout hall was built in the early 1960s.

Tamara Beggs and Malcolm Fraser, later Prime Minister of Australia, were married at the All Saints Anglican Church in Willaura in 1956.

In the 1962-63 season, wheat deliveries at silos at Tatyoon measured 271,711 bushels; at Westmere 408,584 bushels; and at Willaura 350,218 bushels.

The construction of a six million gallon service basin, named the Checchi Reservoir, was undertaken in 1962 to improve water supplies to Willaura and other townships. A swimming pool opened in 1965. Willaura was connected to sewerage in 1966. Housing Commission Elderly Citizen flats were erected in 1973.[39]

Major extensions to the hospital were undertaken in 1976 and the nursing hostel was built in 1994.

Fires occurred in the Grampians in 2006, when 26 homes, 129,000 hectares of land, thousands of stock and fences were burnt. Begun by a lightning strike on 19 January 2006, on 22 January the fire spread rapidly in a southerly direction towards Dunkeld, reaching the outskirts of Willaura before a strong wind took the fire back in a northward direction, affecting a number of small communities along the eastern side of the Grampians. A man and his son died between Moyston and Pomonal when they were caught in the fire. A memorial has been erected near the place they died. In Willaura, the cenotaph was refurbished in memory of the 2006 fire.

In recent years, Grain Corp has established grain bunker facilities at Willaura.

Aggregation of farms into larger holdings from the 1960s has resulted in an ongoing reduction of population in the district. With the removal from Willaura of major employers such as the PMG, the railways, and the Ararat Shire depot from the 1970s, this trend has continued. Today cropping and wool growing are still the district's mainstays, and while many of the town's shops and former businesses have closed, there remains a strong community and a range of essential services.[40]

Place history:

The construction of railway lines in the Colony of Victoria for the most part followed the spread of settlement, with the first railway lines built with private capital. Surveyor General, Captain Andrew Clarke, was authorised to undertake surveys for railways throughout the central portion of the colony in the 1850s. By the end of 1855, sixteen survey parties had completed surveys for lines, including the Main Trunk Lines from Melbourne to the Murray River at Echuca, opened in 1864, and Geelong to Ballarat, opened in 1862. The building of railway lines led to the establishment of commercial ventures such as sawmilling, brickmaking, quarrying and specialist foundries.[1]

After the heavy expenditure of the construction of the main lines, railway building resumed in the 1870s with lower and cheaper standards. Earlier in 1862 the Ararat council had requested a government survey of a railway line from Ballarat to Ararat. But it was not until 1869 that Thomas Higginbotham, Engineer-in-Chief of Victorian Railways, submitted a series of proposals to provide railway links to towns in western Victoria to cater for increasing populations and wheat yields. The routes were: the 'Black Line', from Geelong to Colac, Terang and Hamilton; the 'Green Line', from a point mid way along the line between Geelong and Ballarat to Skipton and Hamilton; the 'Pink Line', an extension of the Ballarat line to Ararat, then to Hamilton; and the 'Blue Line', from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat and Hamilton.[2] The Pink Line was approved in 1871, and the Ballarat to Ararat line subsequently opened in 1875.

Tenders for the railway line from Ararat to the seaboard at Portland were called on 13 October 1875 for 66 miles of railway line. Overend and Robb successfully tendered with a price of £354,653 and the work commenced from Ararat with 526 men in February 1876. The Ararat-Portland railway was officially opened to traffic on 24 April 1877. As part of the Ararat-Portland railway line, a siding was opened at the township of Wickliffe Road. About midway between the Wickliffe Road and Greenvale (now Stavely) sidings, a branch line diverged to the south and went to ballast pits that were used during the construction of the line.[3]

The Wickliffe Road passenger station and outbuildings were constructed by contractor Ainsworth Harrison at a cost of £950 3s 9d. in 1877.[4] Built of brick, the station was adapted from a design developed for the 1864 Elmore Railway Station on the Echuca line. The station building comprised an office, a parcels office, a booking hall, general waiting room, a ladies waiting room (including a toilet) and stationmaster's quarters at the southern end. The goods platform, on the east side of the railway line, included two goods sheds to provide for the high level of wool traffic.[5]

In 1881, contractors Pritchard and Blackwood erected a goods shed at Wickliffe Road at a cost of £206 17s 4d.[6]

In 1900, Premier of Victoria Thomas Bent issued free railway passes to the unemployed of Melbourne to join the rush at the newly discovered Mafeking goldfield, thirteen miles from Wickliffe Road. Thousands of men arrived at the Wickliffe Road railway station from where they made their way to the diggings across the wheat crops of sharefarmers on the Mount William run.[7]

The name of the railway station was changed from Wickliffe Road to Willaura on 1 August 1905.

Between June 1902 and June 1907, railway wheat freight at Willaura increased 200 per cent to 12,364 tons of grain with revenue of £8933 in 1907.[8] Railway Commissioner Tait recognised Willaura as 'one of if not the leading wheat station in the state'. In 1906 he promised a new stationmaster's residence, crane and wheat siding to deal with the increased wheat yields.[9] The goods platform was subsequently increased to a length of approximately 400 feet.[10]

Willaura railway station was described by the *Willaura Farmer* on 1 June 1907:

The Railway Department has not been slow to recognise Willaura's progress. A new shunting line and siding for wheat stacking has been established to cope with the increased grain traffic. The department has given further evidence of its firm belief in the stability of the district by erecting a new and commodious dwelling for the stationmaster, and will shortly convert the old residence into an up-to-date railway station.[11]

The replacement stationmaster's quarters was a residence constructed of two former gatehouses placed front-to-front and joined by a passage. To this was added an additional room to form a separate kitchen.[12]

In October 1907, it was reported that 'the revenue received at the Willaura railway station from all sources during each of the past two years amounted to slightly over £15,000. Prior to the advent of the farmer six years ago the railway revenue for a year totalled about £800.'[13] The *Horsham Times* reported that:

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The cutting up of the big estate around Willaura has transformed a wayside station into a busy country town. The subdivision of the large pastoral areas into small wheat growing blocks has had a great effect on traffic at the railway station.[14]

In October 1908, it was proposed to build a co-operative farmers' grain storage shed adjacent to the railway line in Willaura.[15] In 1909, passenger, goods and livestock traffic increased considerably.[16] In 1910, Willaura was the second largest wheat receival centre in the western half of the state, with 212,000 bags delivered in that year.[17]

After the Gheringhap to Maroona railway line opened on 8 August 1913, wheat traffic at Willaura dropped considerably, but Willaura, nonetheless, continued to maintain a significant portion of the traffic. By 1918, the Willaura Railway Station Complex on the west side of the line consisted of station buildings, a weighbridge, the stationmaster's residence, passenger platform, a carriage dock (a facility provided at railway stations for people who wished to take their own horse drawn vehicle on a flat wagon attached to the train), two grain sheds, 14 sites for stick sheds (that were made of hessian sacking walls and corrugated iron roofs supported by saplings) for the storage of bagged wheat, and a crane. On the east side of the railway line were stockyards, a goods platform and two goods sheds.[18]

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board, established in 1935, introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat; in the 1939-40 season the Board commenced operations as the sole bulk handler of wheat. Concrete silos and weighbridges were erected at railway stations from 1938, followed by steel silos constructed by the Grain Elevators Board to handle the bumper crops of the 1950s and 1960s.

Willaura received one of the first 81 concrete silos erected by the Grain Elevators Board, with work commencing on a three-cell Geelong type concrete silo in December 1939. By January 1940, the concrete foundations below ground level were completed and the silo was finished in March of that year. The silo complex incorporated an 'A' type elevator with a capacity of 65,000 bushels. The original power unit was a 35 HP Kelly and Lewis crude oil engine, which drove the elevator belts to give the capacity of 60 tons per hour. The completed silo and earthworks cost £4560.[19]

Because of the increasing use of the motor truck on the transport scene from the 1920s, by the 1940s little funding for capital improvements was allocated to the railway system. As a result, rail transport was used less frequently.

The weighbridge in use in Willaura prior to 1952 (located in front of the former butcher shop in Main Street) was controlled by the Ararat Shire and served the silo during the harvest period. The Grain Elevators Board established its own weighbridge in 1952. In 1963 an all steel Ascom silo complex was built adjacent to the concrete silo giving an extra capacity of 2000 tons for each bin with elevating gear capable of lifting 100 tonnes per hour. Another grain shed was erected in the late 1950s - early 1960s. The Grain Elevators Board estimated that the silo-shed complex intake between 1940-41 and 1982-83 (except for the 1967-68 drought) was on average 160,000-234,000 bushels of wheat per year.[20]

Bulk handling of oats commenced in Victoria in 1962 and a number of oats storage sheds were built across Victoria, including a gable roof storage shed with a capacity of 1600 tonnes at Willaura constructed by the Victorian Oat Pool in 1964.[21]

The depopulation of rural areas in conjunction with the development of roads resulted in a decrease in railway domination, leading inevitably to the withdrawal of passenger services and the curtailment of whole sections of line. Following Henry Bland's watershed *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System* of 1971-72, a severe reduction in rail services in rural areas was implemented. Eventually much of the infrastructure required to provide a traditional rail transport system in the Shire of Ararat was closed down.

At Willaura, the railway passenger service was closed officially on 12 September 1981 and passengers are now transported by coaches. The goods yard, apart from the grain sidings, was removed in 1986.

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In 2001, a large bunker system for wheat and canola with a capacity of 80,000 tonnes was established on the Willaura-Wickliffe Road. This is now the main storage area for grain, although the silos remain in use.[22]

Today the Willaura Railway Station Complex consists of the original 1877 station building (now vacant), a store, platforms on the east and west of the line, the silo complex, the oats' shed, two fertiliser sheds and the weighbridge. It is believed that the stationmaster's residence was removed to 2 Station Street, Willaura, and remains in that location today.

Contextual history footnotes

[1] Aboriginal clan boundaries are taken from Ian Clark in *Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Descriptive Report*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Land Conservation Council, January 1996), 25. These are generalised descriptions only and bear no relation to current Native Title Claim boundaries. Aboriginal clan names are those used by present-day Traditional Owner groups.

[2] *The Major Mitchell Trail: Exploring Australia Felix*, (Melbourne, Vic.: Department Conservation and Environment, 1990).

[3] The term 'squatter' first applied to those pastoralists who took illegal possession of land before depasturing licences were introduced in 1836. Its meaning was broadened in later years to refer more generally to those who undertook sheep and cattle grazing under license on large tracts of land.

[4] Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890* (Melbourne, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1962), 14, 36-9.

[5] The exact years of the first take up of the runs in the Port Phillip District is difficult to ascertain. Run details in the table provided are drawn from Lorna L. Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat* (Melbourne, Vic.: F. W. Cheshire, 1955), Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson, eds., *Victorian Squatters* (Ascot Vale, Vic.: Red Rooster Press, 1983).

[6] Stephen Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement* (South Melbourne, Vic.: Macmillan, 1968), 257.

[7] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 105-7.

[8] "Gazette Notices." *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express*, 12 January 1878, 3.

[9] William Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985* (Willaura, Vic.: Willaura School Centenary Committee, 1985), 10, 15.

[10] Ibid., 72-3.

[11] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[12] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[13] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 125.

[14] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 67.

[15] Lorna L. Banfield, "Moyston Mechanics Institute Papers, 1859-1932." Manuscripts MS 8529 Box 993/4: State

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[16] "Closer Settlement-Successful Private Enterprise." *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, 21 November 1903, 4.

[17] , *The Argus*, 24 May 1902, 3.

[18] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 74.

[19] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 126-7.

[20] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 62,76.

[21] Cited in *Ibid.*, 76.

[22] *History of Wickliffe Reprinted by the Lake Bolac and District Historical Society*, (n.p., n.d.).

[23] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 93-6.

[24] "Land and Property Sales In the Country ", *The Argus*, 14 May 1909, 8.

[25] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 8.

[26] *Ibid.*, 235.

[27] Lorna Lamont Banfield, *Green Pastures and Gold: A History of Ararat* (Canterbury, Victoria: Mullaya, 1974), 99.

[28] "Victoria Government Gazette". no. 18, 31 January 1912.

[29] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[30] Monica Keneley, "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on the Pastoral Economy of the Western District of Victoria, 1890-1930," *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History* (1 November 1999), www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/pdf/keneley.pdf.

[31] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 131-2.

[32] Lorna L. Banfield and John McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994* (Ararat, Vic.: Shire of Ararat, 1995), 30.

[33] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 143.

[34] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 130.

[35] Subdivision of Portion of 'Edgarley' Estate Parishes of Kiora and Willaura County of Ripon, Victoria Soldier Settlement Commission, 1948? in "Millear Family Papers." Manuscripts MS MC 7 DR 3: State Library of Victoria.

[36] Banfield, *Like the Ark...The Story of Ararat*, 136.

[37] Information from Ararat Rural City Heritage Study Stage 1 Community Meeting, Willaura, 30 May 2012.

[38] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 25.

[39] Banfield and McKenzie, *Shire of Ararat 1864-1994. The Centenary Years 1864-1964 / Lorna L. Banfield. The Final Thirty Years 1964-1994*, 84.

[40] *Rural Townships*, (Ararat Rural City Council, [cited 3 September 2013]); available from <http://community-recreation.ararat.vic.gov.au/townships/index/town/10>

Place history footnotes

[1] Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance: Historic Places on Public Land in Victoria* (Melbourne, Vic.: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1992), 28.

[2] Lorna L. Banfield et al., *The Ararat Railway Centenary: A History of the Ballarat to Ararat Railway and Lineside Guide* (Melbourne: Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, 1975), 4-5.

[3] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 97.

[4] "Successful Tenders." *The Argus*, 3 March 1877, 6.

[5] Information provided by Ian Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division, October 2013.

[6] "Victorian Government Gazette". Vol 60, 30 June 1881, 1857.

[7] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 61. *Mafeking and Mount William Gold Rush*, (Ararat, Vic.: Ararat and District Historical Society, 1964).

[8] *Willaura Farmer*, 20 September 1907, cited in Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 99.

[9] *Ibid.*, 98.

[10] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[11] Cited in Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 76.

[12] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[13] "Western Plains Development." *Camperdown Chronicle*, 15 October 1907, 1.

[14] "General News." *Horsham Times*, 7 August 1908, 8.

[15] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*.

[16] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[17] Signage information provided by Heather Fleming. Heather Fleming, Personal Communication, 6 November 2013.

[18] Information provided by Jenkin, Australian Railway Historical Association Victoria Division.

[19] Goeman et al., *The History of Willaura and District 1835-1985*, 91-2, 100.

[20] Ibid., 91-2.

[21] Ibid., 100.

[22] Signage information provided by Heather Fleming.

Description

Physical Description

The Willaura Railway Station Complex comprises a rendered brick railway station building, a passenger platform and a goods platform, a silo complex, a store, fertiliser shed, a weigh bridge and office, and a steel grain store.

The Railway Station Building and passenger platform are located on the west side of the tracks adjacent to the main street of Willaura. The passenger platform has a brick retaining wall with a bluestone edge capping stone. The station building is brick with a smooth render finish. The building has a slate clad hipped roof and three rendered chimneys with cornices. The rear elevation of the station building facing Main Street contains a skillion roofed wing at either end. The southern wing is larger than the northern wing and they both have a timber framed double hung window to the street elevation. The roofs to these skillion wings are clad in corrugated iron and they both have low side parapets with brick corbelling to the exposed ends. On the platform elevation is a hipped verandah clad in corrugated iron with round cast iron posts and curved brackets. There are three single doors and three single windows to the platform elevation of the building. The windows have bluestone sills. The Avery parcel/goods scale is in situ on the passenger platform.

To the south of the station building is a small gable roofed store with a corrugated iron roof and new metal sheet cladding to the exterior. The interior has vertical timber lining, which would have also originally been the exterior finish. This is a rare surviving example of such a building.

Although the goods platform is on the east side of the tracks, the grain and goods buildings are on the west side of the track further south of the station building. There is a grain store with a gable roof clad in metal sheet and a steel frame to the outside and metal sheet lining to the inside of the frame. There are also two steel silos with conical roofs with a corrugated iron clad grain elevator located in between and a tall concrete silo made up of three cylindrical cells with a rectangular link between. The corrugated iron clad grain elevator sits on top of the structure. This is a Grain Elevators Board three-cell Geelong type silo.

Further south of these silos is a long corrugated iron clad fertilizer store with a gable roof also clad in galvanised corrugated iron. This shed has large double doors at both ends.

Located between the station building and grain complex is the weighbridge and office. This is located closer to the Main Street adjacent between the Main Street and the service road leading to the grain store and silos. The weighbridge has a concrete base with iron plate deck and the small square office has a gable roof clad in corrugated iron sheet. The walls of the weighbridge office are also clad in corrugated iron and there is a single door on one side elevation and a timber framed casement window facing the weighbridge.

Physical Condition

The complex was in good condition in November 2013.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Willaura Railway Station Complex consisting of the 1877 station building, store, passenger platform, silos, passenger platform, weighbridge and office, oats shed and fertiliser store, The location and original form, materials and details of these features are integral to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

The Willaura Railway Station Complex located on Wickcliffe-Willaura Road, Willaura is of local historical and aesthetic significance to Ararat Rural City Council.

Why is it significant?

The Willaura Railway Station Complex is of historical significance to Ararat Rural City Council for its ability to demonstrate the construction of the Ararat to Portland Railway line in 1877. The Wickcliffe Road passenger station and outbuildings were constructed by contractor Ainsworth Harrison in 1877 and the line was officially opened to traffic in April 1877. The platform store building, although re-clad on the exterior, is a rare surviving example of a 1870s small railway store constructed with vertical timber boards. The grain handling infrastructure including the silos, weighbridge and office, fertiliser shed and oats storage shed demonstrates the importance of the railways to the grain industry prior to the development and preference for road transport. The concrete silo erected at the station in 1940 demonstrates the establishment of the Victorian Grain Elevators Board in 1935, which introduced bulk-handling facilities for wheat to railway stations. The steel silos installed at the station to accommodate surplus grain demonstrate the bumper grain crops experienced in the 1950s and 1960s. The oats storage shed constructed by the Victorian Oat Pool in 1964 demonstrates the commencement of bulk handling of oats in Victoria in 1962. (Criteria A & B)

The Willaura Railway Station Complex is aesthetically significant as a collection of railway station and rail bulk grain handling infrastructure illustrating the components, appearance and design of a rural railway station servicing a grain farming district and spanning from the late nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century. The individual components such as the 1877 station building with its cast iron verandah posts and brackets, the oats shed with its exposed structure, silos and weighbridge and office are substantially intact and exhibit principal characteristics of their building types and age. These characteristics include the building placement, overall form, scale, materials, opening types and placement and detailing. (Criterion D)

Recommendations 2015

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No