

Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Barwon Bank, VHR H0425

35-43 Riversdale Road, Newtown, Greater Geelong City

Wadawurrung Country



Executive Director recommendation

I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that Barwon Bank, located at 35-43 Riversdale Road Newtown (Geelong) in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) be amended. The category of registration is recommended to be Registered Place.

In accordance with section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* (**the Act**), I suggest that the Heritage Council determine:

- to include additional land in the VHR (section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act).



STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Date of recommendation: 20 May 2026

The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41)

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its [website](#) for a period of 60 days.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body may make a written submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#).

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46, 46A and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place, object or land in the VHR or amend a place, object or land already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to conduct a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if a submission requests a hearing, and that submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land.

If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places, objects and land (sections 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D and 43)

The owner of a place, object or land which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place, object or land.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place, object or land before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at the end of this report.

History

Statement of Country

The Wadawurrung people have an unbroken connection to the land and waters around Geelong from time immemorial.

Wadawurrung Country encompasses an area of over 10,000 square kilometres, starting at the Werribee River and taking in the Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast in the south, and extends as far north as Ballarat, and westward towards Aireys Inlet and the eastern portion of the Otway coast.

The Yoorrook Justice Commission (2025) has recorded how colonisation caused irreparable damage to First Peoples in Victoria through the dispossession of Country, massacres, the introduction of diseases, confinement on missions and reserves, forced labour, the separation of families, and ongoing policies and practices that have resulted in systemic injustice.¹

The Wadawurrung continue to live, work, practise culture, and manage land and waters around Geelong.

Barwon Bank

Barwon Bank is located on the southern bank of the Barwon River, hence its name 'Bank'. The land on which Barwon Bank is situated was first purchased in 1839 by John Hodgson. The land was sold again in 1846 to Andrew Love, and again in 1850 to John Alexander Gregory who was responsible for the construction of a residence and outbuildings. John Alexander Gregory had arrived in Geelong in 1858 and practiced as a solicitor. In 1851, the land was recorded as having no buildings. By April 1853, a stone building was present though not yet finished, as well as a brick outhouse, a coach house and stables.²

On the 1854 Surveyor General's Department plan of 'Chilwell Irish Town Geelong' the completed residence is shown, as well as the large outhouse, and several smaller buildings. This outhouse is also partially visible in the 1855 photo of the southern elevation, though it is connected to the residence by a colonnade that is not shown on the 1854 plan so was likely added after. The brick outhouse and other outbuildings shown on the 1854 plan have been demolished, though they remained extant until at least the 1930s.

The residence has two storeys, with the upper floor being an attic storey that is partially concealed by a high parapet. The exterior walls are of coursed quarry-faced ashlar bluestone, with vermiculated voussoirs above the windows and quoining in contrasting Barrabool sandstone. The design of the house was by local architect Thomas Yabsley.³

The bluestone for Barwon Bank is likely to be locally quarried. An advertisement for subdivided lots within the Barwon Bank estate in 1853 suggests that the bluestone quarry on site would save prospective purchasers in building costs.⁴ Physical evidence of this bluestone quarry remains in the steep embankment to the north of the property.

The north elevation of the house features a Tuscan porch with square piers. The southern elevation overlooks the Barwon River and features two bay windows with battlemented parapets. To the eastern elevation a conservatory was constructed in the 1990s, and to the western elevation is the kitchen wing and a reconstruction of the earlier colonnade.

In 1855, the lot with the residence was sold to John Adams, whose widow retained the house until her death in 1890, when it was then purchased by William D. Hughes.⁵ In 1888 Hughes had been made the first manager of the recently formed Victorian Manufacturing Company Ltd paper mill at Geelong (Barwon Paper Mill, VHR H0743). After the mill was sold in 1890, Hughes purchased Barwon Bank and commenced construction of the Austral Paper Mill on the adjoining land. The mill was never used for paper making and by 1893 the buildings and land were offered for sale by auction and sold a year later.

¹ Yoorrook Justice Commission. *Truth Be Told*. 2025.

² National Trust of Australia (Victoria). *'Barwon Bank', Riversdale Road, Marnock Vale, Chilwell, Geelong. Historic Structures Report*. 1980.

³ Lorraine Huddle. *Architects in Geelong in the 1840's and 1850's*. 1979.

⁴ Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer. *Advertising – Sales by Auction, the Barwon Bank Estate*. 2 November 1853. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86414678>.

⁵ National Trust of Australia (Victoria) *'Barwon Bank', Riversdale Road, Marnock Vale, Chilwell, Geelong. Historic Structures Report*. 1980.

Selected bibliography

Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer. Advertising – Sales by Auction, the Barwon Bank Estate. 2 November 1853. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86414678>.

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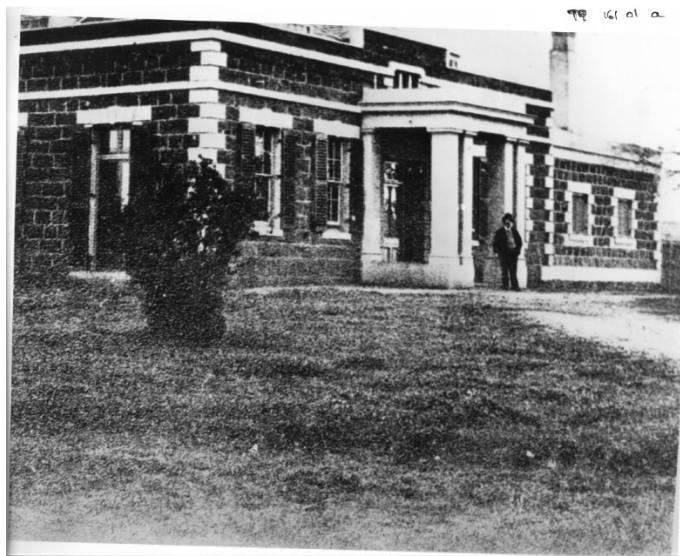
National Trust of Australia (Victoria). *File B2082: Barwon Bank*.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria). *'Barwon Bank', Riversdale Road, Marnock Vale, Chilwell, Geelong. Historic Structures Report*. 1980.

Historical images



1855. Barwon Bank southern elevation, note outbuilding to the left (now demolished). Source: National Trust file B2082.



1855. Barwon Bank northeast corner. Source: National Trust file B2082.



1863. Area around Barwon Bank with bluestone quarry. Source: PROV.



ca. 1926-ca. 1936. Barwon Bank viewed from the west, prior to outbuildings and brick outhouse being demolished. Source: SLV.



1866. The residence of Mrs. Adams [Barwon Bank photographed by John Norton]. Source: SLV.



1854. Roll39B3; CHILWELL IRISH TOWN-GEELONG (Barwon Bank shaded in pink). Source: PROV.



2025. Barwon Bank northern elevation. Source: HV.



2025. Barwon Bank southern elevation. Source: HV.



2025. Driveway entrance to Barwon Bank from Riversdale Road. It shows land proposed for inclusion in the registered extent. Source: HV.



2025. Land beneath the steep embankment on Riversdale Road proposed for inclusion in the registered extent. Source: HV.

Further information

Registered Aboriginal Party information

Barwon Bank is located on Wadawurrung Country.

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place is in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity associated with the Barwon River.

(April 2026)

Integrity

The integrity of the place is very good. The cultural heritage values of Barwon Bank can be easily read in the extant fabric.

The place is still legible as an early private residence on the Barwon River that has associations with Geelong's Barwon River.

(April 2026)

Intactness

The intactness of the place is good.

The place is mostly intact. Changes internally have supported the place's long-term use as a private residence. In c.1995 a conservatory was added to the eastern elevation.

(April 2026)

Condition

The condition of the place is fair.

The place is well maintained, though the Barrabool sandstone dressings and quoins are in poor condition. The sandstone to the portico is also crumbling around the cornice and the column capitals.

(April 2026)

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place or object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high cultural heritage significance. Alternatively, a place or object may be in excellent condition but be of low cultural heritage significance.

Condition, intactness and integrity images



2026. Crumbling Barrabool sandstone to portico and mouldings.
Source: HV.



2026. Deterioration of sandstone around bay windows to the southern elevation. Source: HV.

Amendment recommendation

State-level cultural heritage significance of the place

The State-level cultural heritage significance of Barwon Bank was recognised in 1977 by its inclusion in the Register of Historic Buildings.

Interim Protection Order

On 18 May 2026 the Executive Director made an Interim Protection Order for the land on the northern boundary of the property that was not included within the extent of registration in 1977. The title for this land has since (1994) been consolidated into the Barwon Bank parcel.

Assessment of additional land and summary of significance

The information below is provided under s.40(3A)(c)(i)(ii) and s.40(4)(c)(i)(ii) as part of the Executive Director's Statement of recommendation.

The Executive Director recommends that the Heritage Council amend this registration because it is his view that:

- The State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed [s.40(3A)(c)(i)].
- The additional land surrounds the place and is important to the protection or conservation of the place; or contributes to the understanding of the place [s.40(3A)(c)(ii)].

The Executive Director notes that:

- The current extent relates to the boundary of a cancelled title. The land proposed for inclusion in the registered extent was consolidated with the Barwon Bank parcel in 1994.
- The current extent:
 - excludes the driveway, which provides present day access to Barwon Bank
 - does not allow for a continuous physical connection between the residence and Riversdale Road.
- The land proposed for inclusion both is currently and has been used in conjunction with the place since John Alexander Gregory's period of ownership between 1850 and 1855, which is over 170 years.
- While the subject land was excluded from the extent of registration in 1977 it was the subject of an adverse possession claim in the 1990s that demonstrated use of the land in conjunction with Barwon Bank for a period exceeding 30 years.
- Prior to the adverse possession claim and subsequent consolidation of titles, the subject land to the north had no recorded dealings on the title for over 100 years. The last registered owner was John Alexander Gregory, an early occupant of Barwon Bank, until the sale of the Barwon Bank parcel in 1855.

The Executive Director is of the view that:

- If any of the additional land proposed for inclusion in the registration were developed, depending upon the nature of the proposal, there is potential for the development to impact upon the place and substantially reduce its State-level cultural heritage significance.
- The proposed inclusion of additional land, particularly the land to Riversdale Road and driveway access, will enable works that could potentially impact on the setting of the place to be managed through an approval process.
- Barwon Bank was designed with two facades, facing south to the Barwon River and facing north to Riversdale Road. The additional land to Riversdale Road is vacant and underneath an embankment, however if it were developed depending on the height and scale of the development, would interrupt views towards the north from the primary façade.

Amending the Heritage Council Criteria

This place is currently registered on the basis of the following Criteria:

The current Statement of Significance was last updated in 1999 and does not apply the Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines (2013). However, the existing text suggests that the place is of architectural significance as a fine example of a colonial regency style mansion, and historical significance due to the association of its occupants with Barwon River industries.

The Executive Director recommends that the place is registered on the basis of the following Criteria:

Criterion A (Historical Significance)

Criterion D (Architectural Significance)

Change of name

Not applicable.

Statutory requirements under section 40

Terms of the recommendation (section 40(3)(a))

The Executive Director recommends that the registration of Barwon Bank in the VHR is amended.

Information to identify the place or object or land (section 40(3)(b))

Number: H0425

Category: Registered Place.

Name: Barwon Bank

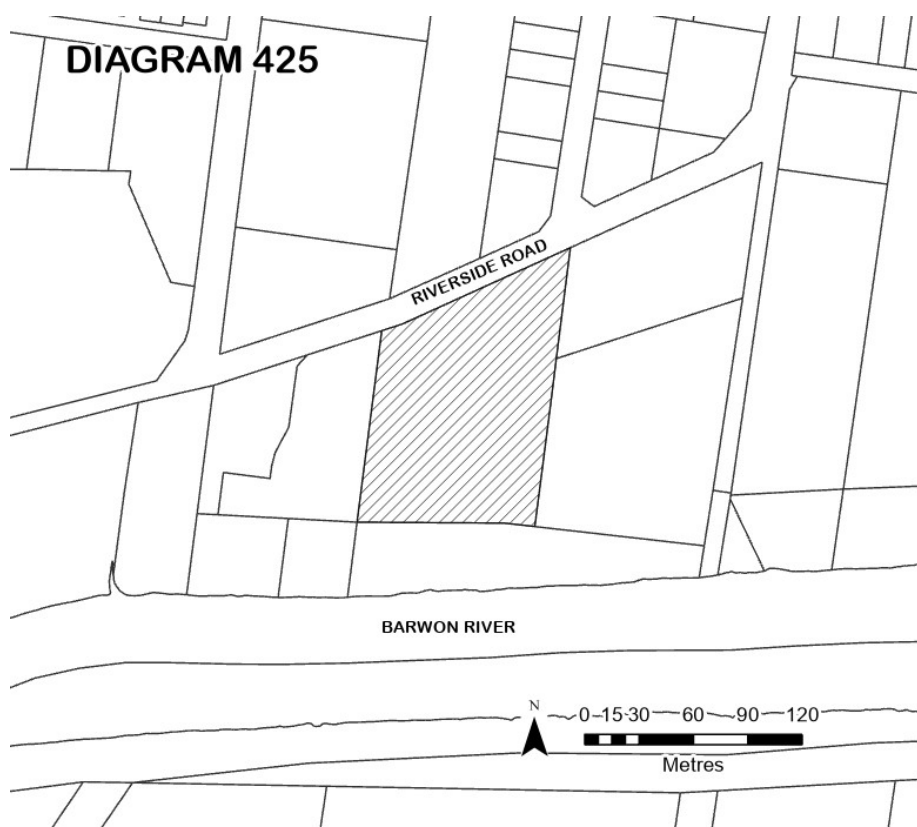
Location: 35-43 Riversdale Road Newtown

Municipality: Greater Geelong City

Proposed extent of registration

The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for Barwon Bank be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 425 encompassing all of PC356198.



Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

Aerial photo of the place showing proposed extent of registration



Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

Rationale for the proposed extent of registration

The recommended extent of registration comprises all elements and features of State-level cultural heritage significance, including the house and extant brick wall of a now demolished outbuilding.

This extent of registration has been chosen to match the existing title boundaries of the property and ensure that driveway access is within the extent of registration. The additional land is currently and has historically been used in conjunction with the place, with the last owner prior to the adverse possession claim being John Alexander Gregory, the owner responsible for the construction of the house.

The recommended extent of the registration is the same as the Interim Protection Order.

It should be noted that everything included in the proposed extent of registration including all of the land, all soft and hard landscape features, plantings, and all buildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures) is proposed for inclusion in the VHR. A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation.

Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4))

Statement of significance

Barwon Bank is located on Wadawurrung Country.

What is significant?

Barwon Bank, a bluestone residence built for Geelong solicitor John Alexander Gregory to a design by architect Thomas R. Yabsley between 1853 and 1856. The house is a two-storey building, the second being an attic storey concealed behind a high parapet. The northern elevation is comprised of a Tuscan portico, and the southern elevation features two bay windows with battlemented parapets. The exterior walls are of coursed quarry-faced ashlar bluestone, with vermiculated voussoirs above the windows and quoining in contrasting Barrabool sandstone. The residence sits within a large land parcel, with mature exotic trees to the north, and sited to overlook the Barwon River.

How is it significant?

Barwon Bank is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Why is it significant?

Barwon Bank is historically significant as an early mansion house in Geelong. Barwon Bank's first owner was John Alexander Gregory, a noted Geelong solicitor, and the house is reflective of his wealth and prominence in Geelong society at this time. Later occupants were associated with Barwon River industries, including the neighbouring Austral Paper Mill. [Criterion A]

Barwon Bank is architecturally significant as a fine example of a Colonial Regency-style mansion, and one of the few documented works of Geelong architect Thomas R. Yabsley. The building is constructed of locally quarried bluestone with contrasting dressings in Barrabool sandstone. The mature tree plantings and generous land parcel overlooking the Barwon River contribute to the fine qualities of Barwon Bank. The house features two primary façades, one facing Riversdale Road from which the residence is entered, and the other facing the Barwon River. [Criterion D]

Recommended permit exemptions under section 38

Introduction

A [heritage permit](#) is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are [exempt from a heritage permit](#), if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

Permit Policy

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is utilised to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Permit Exemptions

General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the VHR. General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which do not harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Appendix 1: Important information for owners and interested parties

Heritage Council determination (section 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its [website](#) under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#). The owner can also make a submission about proposed permit exemptions (Section 40(4)(d)).

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

(1) The Heritage Council must consider—

- (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
- (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.

Conduct of hearings by Heritage Council in relation to a recommendation (section 46A)

(1) The Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a recommendation under section 37, 38 or 39 in any circumstances that the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

(2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if—

- (a) a submission made to it under section 44 includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
- (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land that is the subject of the submission.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

(1) After considering a recommendation that a place, object or land should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing, the Heritage Council may—

- (a) determine that the place or object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ab) in the case of a place, determine that—
 - (i) part of the place is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ac) in the case of an object, determine that—
 - (i) part of the object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (b) determine that the place or object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

- (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place or part of the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
 - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority or the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider the inclusion of the place or part of the place in a planning scheme in accordance with the objectives set out in section 4(1)(d) of that Act; or
 - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place or part of the place; or
 - (ca) in the case of a recommendation in respect of an object nominated under section 27A, determine that the object, or part of the object, is to be included in the Heritage Register if it is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land nominated under section 27B, determine that the additional land, or any part of the additional land, is to be included in the Heritage Register if—
 - (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place, or part of the place, would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
 - (ii) the additional land or any part of the additional land surrounding the place, or part of the place, is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
- (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
 - (b) if any hearing is conducted, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
- (3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a), (ab), (ac), (ca) or (d)—
- (a) may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to a place, object or land, or part of a place, object or land, for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, object or land; and
 - (b) must include a statement of the reasons for the making of the determination.
- (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place, or part of a place, in the Heritage Register, the Heritage Council may also determine to include land that is not the subject of a nomination under section 27B in the Heritage Register as part of the place if—
- (a) the land is ancillary to the place; and
 - (b) the person who owns the place, or part of the place—
 - (i) is the owner of the land; and
 - (ii) consents to its inclusion.
- (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
- (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners (section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D)

42 Obligations of owners—to advise of works, permits etc. on foot when statement of recommendation given

- (1) The owner of a place, object or land to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given; and
- (b) if the place, object or land is a place or additional land, any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or any application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit, that has been made in relation to the place or additional land but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
- (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given.

(2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.

42A Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of permits

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of any of the following is given a statement of recommendation—
 - (i) a place or object nominated under section 27;
 - (ii) an object nominated under section 27A;
 - (iii) land nominated under section 27B; and
- (b) any of the following occurs within the statement of recommendation period in relation to the place, object or land—
 - (i) the making of an application for a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (ii) the making of an application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (iii) the grant of a planning permit or building permit;
 - (iv) the grant of an amendment to a planning permit or building permit.

(2) The owner must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) the making of an application referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii), within 10 days of the making of the application; or
- (b) a grant referred to in subsection (1)(b)(iii) or (iv), within 10 days of the owner becoming aware of the grant.

42B Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of activities

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period it is proposed that activities that could harm the place, object or land be carried out.

(2) The owner, not less than 10 days before carrying out the activities, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42C Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of proposal to dispose

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land.

(2) The owner, within 10 days after entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding for the disposal of the whole or any part of the place, object or land, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42D Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—requirement to give statement to purchaser

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) the owner proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land within the statement of recommendation period.

(2) Before entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land during the statement of recommendation period, the owner must give a copy of the statement of recommendation to the person who, under the proposed agreement, arrangement or understanding, is to acquire the place, object or land or part of the place, object or land.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place, object or land who is subject to an obligation under section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C or 42D must comply with that obligation.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;
 In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.

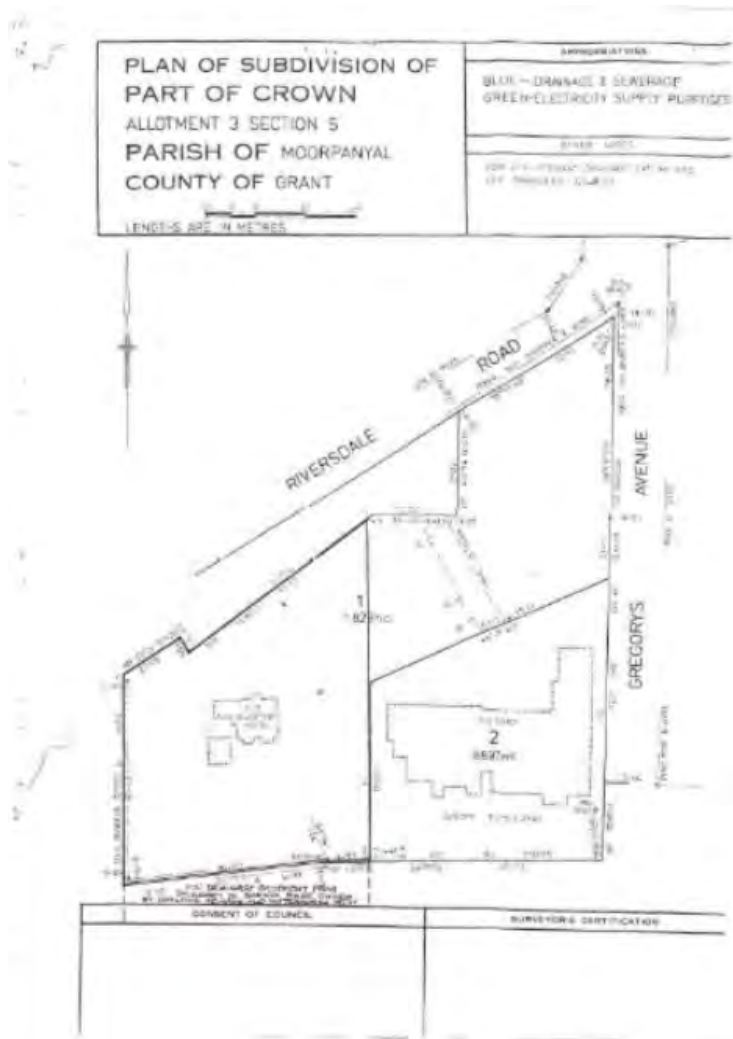
Appendix 2: Existing registration details

Existing extent of registration

No. 425. Barwon Bank (to the extent of the buildings and area of land within and defined by the red line indicated on the plan held at the office of the Historic Buildings Preservation Council), Riversdale Road, Marnock Vale (Chilwell), Newtown, Geelong.

[Victoria Government Gazette No.110 December 14, 1977 p.3911

Existing extent diagram



Existing statement of significance

Between the years 1853-1856, Geelong solicitor John Alexander Gregory built the 18 room stone mansion 'Barwon Bank' in extensive gardens on the high northern bank overlooking the Barwon River at Marnockvale, Geelong. TR Yabsley was the architect for this colonial regency style single storey attic house, built of basalt with contrasting Barrabool freestone dressings and dominated by a massive Doric portico and battlemented bay windows.

'Barwon bank' is an important early Victorian mansion house and one of few documented works in Victoria of the virtually unknown, but accomplished architect Thomas R Yabsley. Upon completion in 1856, this comparatively rare example of the colonial regency style mansion in Victoria was considered to be "the finest specimen of architecture in the western district". John Gregory, a noted Geelong solicitor occupied the mansion only until 1856, later occupants were associated with Barwon River industries.

source:

Register of the National Estate Citation

Existing permit policy and permit exemptions

Nil.