

HERITAGE COUNCIL DETERMINATION

Determination Date	7 February 2019
Place/Object Name	Warrock
Location	826 Warrock Road, Warrock
VHR Number	H0295
Category	Registered Place

At a meeting of the Heritage Council of Victoria on 7 February 2019 it was determined that, in accordance with Section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Victorian Heritage Register entry for the above place should be amended. This decision was reached having considered the assessment against the Heritage Council's criteria and other information, including the proposed amendments contained in the attached report and submissions received in response to the Executive Director's recommendation.

The Heritage Council endorses and adopts the attached report for the purposes of making its decision.



Professor Stuart Macintyre AO
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria

Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under Part 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017*



Name	Warrock
Location	826 Warrock Road, Warrock, Glenelg Shire
Date Registered	9 October 1974
VHR Number	VHR H0295
VHR Categor(ies)	Registered Place
Hermes Number	247



Warrock, 2018

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

To amend the existing registration for VHR H0295 in accordance with s.62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* by:

- Clarifying the extent of registration.
- Adding a permit policy and permit exemptions.
- Reformatting the Statement of Significance.

Reasons for the proposed amendment:

The registration of Warrock was gazetted in 1974 in the Historic Buildings Register. No land was able to be registered under the *Historic Buildings Act* and only buildings are included in early registrations. Early registrations are currently being updated to reflect this change. Under s.49(1)(d) of the *Heritage Act 2017* the Heritage Council may include additional land to registered places. The Permit Policy and Permit Exemptions will be revised to provide clarity around conservation works.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Avery'.

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

Recommendation Date: Monday 19 November 2018

Advertising period: Monday 26 November 2018 – Monday 21 January 2019

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.37 of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

AMENDMENT BACKGROUND

An application to amend this registration was made and accepted by the Executive Director on 14 November 2018.

Adding Land

The registration of Warrock, which was gazetted in 1974 in the Historic Buildings Register, requires updating. No land was able to be registered under the *Historic Buildings Act* and only buildings are included in early registrations, not the land on which they sit or an appropriate curtilage. Places registered since this time include both buildings and land. Early registrations are currently being updated to reflect this change. Under s.49(1)(d) of the *Heritage Act 2017* the Heritage Council may include additional land to registered places.

Updating Permit Policy and permit exemptions

The Permit Policy and Permit Exemptions will be revised to provide clarity around conservation works which do not require a Permit Application.

What is not proposed in this amendment

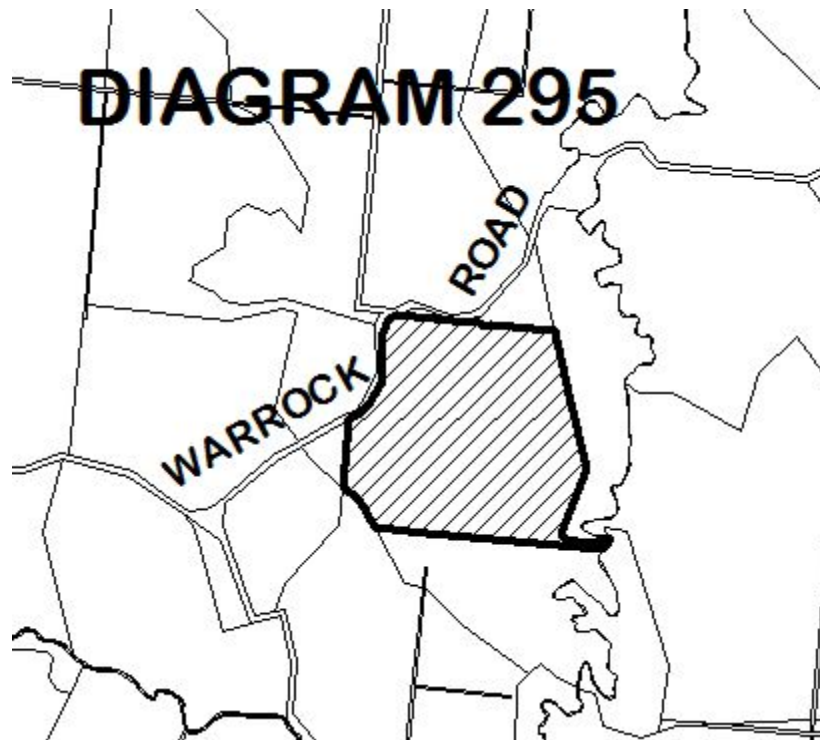
Warrock has an extensive collection of farm machinery and equipment, building tools and materials, and household items for which an inventory was prepared in 1992. It will take considerable time and resources to review the inventory and it is anticipated that this part of the amendment may occur at a later date.

CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Registered Place.

EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 295 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 885580.



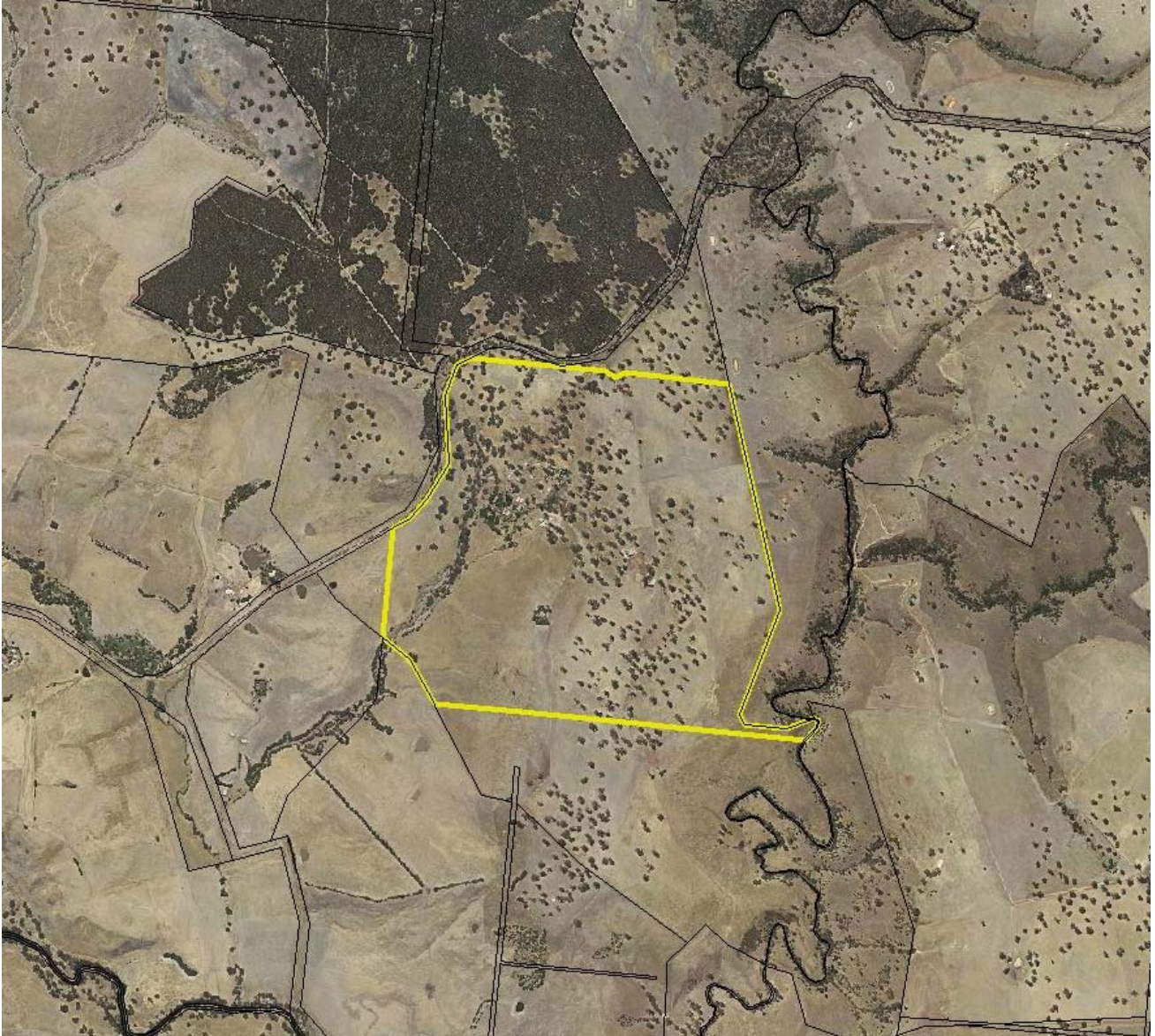
The extent of registration of Warrock in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 295 including the land, all buildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures), trees, garden and landscape elements, brick lined wells and other features. The registration also includes all fixtures attached to the buildings at the time of registration.

The recommended extent is the same as the nominated extent.

RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The recommended extent of registration comprises most of the original pre-emptive right. It includes the gully Warrock is located in and extends well beyond the ridgelines. It provides sufficient land to protect the cultural heritage values of the place.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION



Name: Warrock
VHR number: VHR H0295
Hermes number: 247

BACKGROUND

WHAT IS AT THE PLACE?

Warrock is located near Casterton in the Western District of Victoria and is a farm complex comprising fifty-seven buildings. They were constructed by George Robertson from 1844 and are arranged in functional groups around an area known as 'the Green'. They are constructed in Gothic style, mostly of local timber and are decorated with finials, brackets, bargeboards and narrow lancet louvred windows. The complex is located in a gully with expansive views to the south and surrounded by mature River Red Gums. The buildings in the domestic precinct include Robertson's original hut (1844), the homestead (1848-1853), detached toilets, a dairy and storeroom (c.1845) a grain store (c.1844) a cottage (1840s, originally used as a shepherd's hut and moved to its present site in the 1860s) a conservatory (1850s) and propagation houses, a bacon smoking house, stables (late 1840s, with a Stephenson screen for meteorological measurements under the verandah), a meat house and a coach house. The homestead garden and some of the early plantings survive, including a Laurustinus hedge, a rare Hybrid Trumpet Creeper, *Campsis x tagliabuana*, Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*), Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*), and Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*). Remnants of specimens of Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*), Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) which were both lost in 2008 are also evident along with a tennis court to the north of the precinct. Between the domestic and farm precincts are a workshop (late 1840s), bachelors' quarters (early 1850s), and a blacksmith shop (1850s). Further east of the homestead are buildings associated with sheep handling: the original woolshed (c1845, collapsed during a recent storm), a large woolshed (c.1865), shearers' toilet, branding shed and foot dip, a slaughter house and skin drying shed. The farm precinct north of the house includes a larger workshop (late 1850s - 1860s, including a brick-lined sawpit), a bullock byre, pigsties, a brick store, draught horse stables (1844 - 1847), dog kennels, a hay barn, a hay shed, a cow bail, and men's quarters and implement shed. Between the west and south clusters are the buildings used for the accommodation of the workers: a station hands' cottage, two shearers' quarters (one from 1846), men's bathroom and toilets, a brick men's dining room and kitchen, and a belfry (c.1864) for calling the men to work and meals. Rainwater is stored in fifteen underground brick-lined tanks.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE?

Warrock was established by Scottish cabinet maker George Robertson in 1844. Before leaving Scotland, Robertson had purposefully educated himself in many aspects of agriculture and architecture. On arrival in Victoria in the early 1840s, he worked for his cousin John Robertson at Wando Vale, before acquiring the license for the nearby Warrock station in 1844. He then proceeded to put into practice his agricultural, architectural and social ideals, inspired by the agrarian and egalitarian reforms of nineteenth century Britain. The first buildings constructed on the property were a timber woolshed and a one-roomed hut of split palings from Tasmania with a roof covered with local Blackwood shingles. The hut was moved on skids to the present homestead site in 1846, and before his death in 1890 Robertson had built a largely self-sufficient village. The arrangement of the buildings, their relationship to the site, and the use of a simple picturesque Gothic style reflect the writings of Scottish botanist, designer and author, J C Loudon. The modest scale, form and style of the buildings reflect Robertson's ecclesiastical leanings and modest, hard-working Christian way of life. Unlike other successful Western District pastoralists, he was not concerned with social prestige, and did not build an extravagant mansion as his fortune increased. Robertson and his wife, whom he married in 1853, had a great interest in gardening, and developed a formal garden around the homestead, which included a wooden sundial and a gabled lych-gate, a croquet lawn and later a tennis court. Robertson had no children and after his death the property passed to a nephew, George Robertson Patterson. It remained in the Patterson family for five generations, until 1992. Edna Walling's landscaping business was employed c.1935 to alter the garden's Victorian-era formality. The collection of buildings, farm equipment, furniture, documents and other family possessions, including Robertson's wood-working tools, which he had

brought with him from Scotland and used to build the complex, remain on the station. Warrock has recently changed hands and is currently in private ownership.

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY(IES) FOR THIS PLACE?

This site is part of the traditional land of the Gunditjmara people. The Registered Aboriginal Party is Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Warrock including the land, all buildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures), trees, garden and landscape elements, brick lined wells and other features. The registration also includes all fixtures attached to the buildings at the time of registration.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Warrock 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 B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects 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?

Warrock is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Warrock is historically significant as an outstanding and largely intact example of a pastoral property established in the 1840s. It comprises fifty-seven mostly timber buildings grouped according to function, in a landscape of mature River Red Gums and nineteenth century plantings. The conservatory is significant as the earliest known surviving private conservatory in Australia. Warrock is also significant for its association with the early European settlement of the Western District of Victoria, and as a property owned by the same family for almost 150 years. [Criterion A]

Warrock is a unique example of a place which demonstrates the nineteenth century reformist social, aesthetic and religious values of the owner and builder, George Robertson. It is the only known pastoral complex in Victoria which conforms so closely to the picturesque farm layout espoused by theorists such as J C Loudon. Warrock is a rare example of a place which retains thousands of household objects, farm equipment and building tools which were used by the family at the place. [Criterion B]

Warrock is architecturally significant as the most comprehensive and intact group of nineteenth century farm buildings in Victoria, and for its intentionally consistent and harmonious architecture. It is significant as a notable and fine example of a complex of nineteenth century timber buildings constructed using local materials. Warrock demonstrates the principal characteristics of a nineteenth century farm complex through its multiple buildings with singular functions which are grouped according to use, and a domestic precinct separated from the working farm and containing exotic plantings. [Criterion D]

PERMIT POLICY

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of Warrock in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 295 including the land, all buildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures), roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. The registration also includes all fixtures attached to the building at the time of registration. Under the *Heritage Act 2017* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.49(3) of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.92) of the Heritage Act). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans

A Conservation Study (five volumes) was prepared for Warrock in 1992 by Lorraine Huddle. An inventory of objects and fixtures (42 volumes) was prepared at the same time. All works to the place should generally be carried out in accordance with the Conservation Study. It is now 25 years since the Conservation Study was completed and it is recommended that it is updated.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

Any works that may affect historical archaeological features, deposits or artefacts at the place is likely to require a permit, permit exemption or consent. Advice should be sought from the Archaeology Team at Heritage Victoria.

Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of Warrock lies in its significance as the most comprehensive and intact pastoral property of its kind in Victoria.

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.92 of the Heritage Act).

General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Condition 2

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3

All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

Maintenance, safety and conservation

- All works required to maintain, secure and make safe buildings and structures including the removal of broken glass, the temporary shuttering of windows and covering of holes as long as this work is reversible and does not have a detrimental impact on fabric.
- Maintenance of a building or other feature to retain its condition without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance. This includes:

- Removal of built up earth around the base of the buildings to allow drainage away from the buildings.
- Replacement of damaged, deteriorated or missing exterior weatherboards, like with like.
- Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour provided that preparation or painting does not remove all early paint finishes or other decorative schemes.
- Replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric.
- Removal of non-original items such as wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good in a manner not detrimental to the fabric.
- Erecting, repairing and maintaining signage (directional signage, road signs, speed signs). Signage must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage heritage fabric and must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the place. The development of signage must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials.

Landscape

- The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead shrubs and replanting the same species or cultivar, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- Repairs and maintenance to hard landscape elements, such as driveways, paths, gutters, drainage and irrigation systems, in a manner which preserves the cultural heritage significance of the place.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety and to protect buildings and structures, provided a report is submitted to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria within 21 days of completion of works.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-2007. Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services outside the Tree Protection Zone of significant trees in accordance with AS4970.
- Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.

Agricultural activities

- Cultivation, cropping, harvesting, grazing stock, and other agricultural, and pastoral activities.
- Maintenance, repair or removal of any non-original fence, gate, dam or structure necessary for the continuation of agricultural or pastoral activities.

Fire suppression duties

- Fire suppression and fire fighting duties provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant features.
- Fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction burns, and fire control line construction, provided all significant fabric is appropriately recognised and protected. Note: Fire management authorities should be aware of the location, extent and significance of heritage places when developing fire suppression and fire fighting strategies. The importance of places listed in the Heritage Register must be considered when strategies for fire suppression and management are being developed.

Public Safety and Security

- Public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant fabric.
- The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features
- Development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Local Government Authority	Glenelg Shire
Heritage Overlay	HO 132
Other Overlays	Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO3)
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register	Yes (also places of cultural heritage sensitivity associated with waterways)
Other Listings	National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY(IES) FOR THIS PLACE?

This site is part of the traditional land of the Gunditjmarra people. The Registered Aboriginal Party is Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

HISTORY

Warrock is located near Casterton in the Western District and is a pastoral complex dating from the 1840s. It was settled by Scottish cabinet maker George Robertson, who purposefully educated himself in many aspects of agriculture and architecture before immigrating to Victoria in 1840. He gained experience by working for his cousin John Robertson at Wando Vale and acquired the license for nearby Warrock station in 1844. He proceeded to put into practice his agricultural, architectural and social ideals, inspired by the agrarian and egalitarian reforms of nineteenth century Britain. Before his death in 1890, Robertson had built a small largely self-sufficient village consisting of fifty-seven mostly timber buildings arranged regularly around an area known as 'the Green'. Robertson had no children, and after his death the property passed to a nephew, George Robertson Patterson. Warrock remained in the Patterson family for five generations, until 1992. It has recently changed hands and is in private ownership.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Architect name/builder:	George Robertson
Architectural style name:	Gothic
Construction started date:	1844
Construction ended date:	c.1860s

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Warrock is located in a remote pastoral area of the Western District of Victoria set amidst old River Red Gums. It comprises fifty seven buildings constructed in a Gothic style, mostly of local timber. The complex is located in a gully with expansive views from the homestead (1848-1853) at the south of the site. To the north of the homestead are multiple buildings including Robertson's first home (1844), a detached brick privy (early 1850s), dairy and storeroom (c.1845), grain store (c.1844), a cottage (1840s), conservatory (1850s) and propagation houses, bacon smoking house, stables (c. late 1840s, with a Stephenson screen for

meteorological measurements under its verandah), meat house and coach house. Alongside these are Robertson's workshop, which later became his office (c. 1840s), bachelors' quarters (early 1850s) and a blacksmith shop (1850s). Further east of the house are the buildings associated with the handling of sheep: the old woolshed (c. 1845) (destroyed in a storm and lying on the ground); a new woolshed (c. 1865); shearers' toilet; branding shed and foot dip; a slaughter house; and a skin drying shed. The farm precinct north of the house includes a larger workshop (late 1850s and 1860s, which includes a brick-lined sawpit), a bullock byre, pigsties, a brick store, draught horse stables (probably built between 1844 and 1847), dog kennels, a hay barn, a hay shed, a cow bail, and men's quarters and implement shed. Between the east and south clusters are the buildings used for the accommodation of the workers: a station hands' cottage; two shearers' quarters (one from 1846); men's bathroom and toilets, a large brick men's dining room and kitchen; and a belfry (probably 1864-5) for calling the men to work and meals.

INTERIORS

The interiors of some buildings contain wallpaper, painted decoration to walls and ceiling and early paint finishes. All buildings contain objects which are identified in the 1992 Inventory. These are not currently included in the registration.

LANDSCAPES, TREES & GARDENS

The garden and some of the early plantings survive, including a Laurustinus hedge, a rare Hybrid Trumpet Creeper, (*Campsis x tagliabuana*), Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*), Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*), and Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*).

ARCHAEOLOGY

There is no identified archaeology of State level significance at this place.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness – The intactness of the place is excellent. Apart from the earliest woolshed (which was demolished in a storm), all remaining buildings survive.

Integrity – The integrity of the place is excellent. The cultural heritage values of the place can be easily read in the extant fabric. (August 2018).

CONDITION

The place is in good/fair condition. Most buildings have decaying, damaged or missing elements due to the fragility of the handmade bricks, and weathering of timber elements.

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

Huddle, Lorraine (1992) *Conservation Study, Warrock* (5 volumes)
 Huddle, Lorraine (1992) *Inventory of objects and fixtures, Warrock* (42 volumes)
 Summerton, Michelle (1997) *Warrock*, Heritage Council Victoria

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



2018, View to the south west.



2018, View to the south east.

Name: Warrock
VHR number: VHR H0295
Hermes number: 247



2018, Woolshed.



2018, Conservatory.

Name: Warrock
VHR number: VHR H0295
Hermes number: 247



2018, Homestead.



2018, Interior, Workshop.



1968, View to the south west.
Source: State Library of Victoria



1900, Homestead.
Source: Museum Victoria



1900, Woolshed.
Source: Museum Victoria

Objects at the place



2018, Objects from the Homestead.



2018, Buggy in outbuilding.

Name: Warrock
VHR number: VHR H0295
Hermes number: 247

ATTACHMENT 1

PREVIOUS REGISTRATION DETAILS

SUPERSEDED BY THE FOREGOING RECOMMENDATION

PREVIOUS CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Heritage place

PREVIOUS EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Shire of Glenelg. No.295. Warrock, Warrock Road, Casterton.

[Victoria Government Gazette No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3649]

No extent diagram accompanies this registration.

PREVIOUS STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

Warrock near Casterton is an outstanding nineteenth century Western District pastoral complex, developed from the 1840s. It was settled by Scots cabinet maker George Robertson, who purposefully educated himself in many aspects of agriculture and architecture before immigrating in 1840. He gained experience by working for his cousin John Robertson at Wando Vale, before acquiring the license for the nearby Warrock station in 1844, and proceeded to put into practice his agricultural, architectural and social ideals, inspired by the agrarian and egalitarian reforms of nineteenth century Britain.

The first buildings he constructed on the property were a one-roomed hut for himself, of split palings from Van Diemens Land with a roof covered with local Blackwood shingles, and a timber woolshed. The hut was moved on skids to the present homestead site in 1846, and around it Robertson built, before his death in 1890, a small largely self-sufficient village consisting of fifty-seven mostly timber buildings arranged regularly around an area known as 'the Green'. This included workers' accommodation far superior to that on most other properties at the time. Rainwater was stored in fifteen underground brick-lined tanks.

The arrangement of the buildings, their relationship to the site, and the use of a simple picturesque Gothic style, are all important features of the property, and reflect particularly the writings of J C Loudon. The modest scale and form of the buildings, and their style, reflect Robertson's ecclesiastical leanings and modest, hard-working Christian way of life. Unlike other successful Western District pastoralists, he was not concerned with social prestige, and did not build an extravagant mansion as his fortune increased. Robertson and his wife, whom he married in 1853, had a great interest in gardening, and developed a formal garden around the homestead, which included a wooden sundial and a gabled lych-gate, a croquet lawn and later a tennis court. Robertson had no children, and the property passed after Robertson's death to a nephew, George Robertson Patterson, and remained in the Patterson family for five generations, until 1992. Edna Walling's landscaping business was employed c1935 to alter the garden's Victorian-era formality. The collection of buildings, farm equipment, furniture, documents and other family possessions, including Robertson's wood-working tools, which he had brought with him from Scotland and used to build the complex, remained on the station during that period, and is still substantially intact.

The complex of fifty seven buildings at Warrock, mostly of local timber, is in a Gothic style, and many are decorated with finials, brackets, bargeboards and narrow lancet louvred windows. They were constructed by

18

Name: Warrock

VHR number: VHR H0295

Hermes number: 247

Robertson from 1844 and are arranged in functional groups. Robertson's 1844 hut is at the rear of the homestead which he began in 1848 and extended when he married in 1853. A detached privy is next to it. West of the rear corner of the house is a cluster of buildings closely associated with the functioning of a nineteenth century homestead: a dairy and storeroom (probably 1845); a grain store (probably 1844); a brick privy (early 1850s); a cottage (1840s, originally used around the run as a shepherd's hut and moved to its present site in the 1860s as a cottage for a gardener, housekeeper, cook or governess); a conservatory (1850s) and propagation houses (essential for the garden); a bacon smoking house; stables (probably late 1840s, with a Stephenson screen for meteorological measurements under its verandah); a meat house; and a coach house. Alongside these, forming a buffer between the domestic and farm precincts are a workshop for Robertson, which later became his office (begun in the late 1840s), bachelors' quarters (early 1850s), and a blacksmith shop (1850s). Further west of the house are the buildings associated with the handling of sheep: the old woolshed (c1845); a new woolshed begun 1865); shearers' toilet; branding shed and foot dip; a slaughter house; and a skin drying shed. The farm precinct south of the house includes a larger workshop (late 1850s and 1860s, which includes a brick-lined sawpit), a bullock byre, pigsties, a brick store, draught horse stables (probably built between 1844 and 1847), dog kennels, a hay barn, a hay shed, a cow bail, and men's quarters and implement shed. Between the west and south clusters are the buildings used for the accommodation of the workers: a station hands' cottage; two shearers' quarters (one from 1846); men's bathroom and toilets; a large brick men's dining room and kitchen; and a belfry (probably 1864-5) for calling the men to work and meals. The garden and some of the early plantings survive, including a Laurustinus hedge, a rare Hybrid Trumpet Creeper, *Campsis x tagliabuana*, and particularly fine specimens of Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*), Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) [both lost in 2008], Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*), Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*), and Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*). The complex has a spectacular setting amidst old River Red Gums, which are now relatively unusual.

How is it significant?

Warrock is of historical and architectural significance to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Warrock is historically significant for its associations with the early European settlement of western Victoria, and as an outstanding demonstration of the way of life on a nineteenth century pastoral property. It is significant as a unique example of the application of nineteenth century reformist social, aesthetic and religious ideals applied to the development of a colonial farming enterprise. It is significant as a memorial to its owner and builder, George Robertson, and his excellent craftsmanship, his vision, and his Protestant beliefs in the virtues of hard work. It is significant as an example of a property owned by the same family for several generations, which valued and preserved the fabric of the place. The artefacts and documents still at Warrock are a remarkable link to its history.

Warrock is architecturally significant as the most comprehensive and intact group of nineteenth century farm buildings in Victoria, and for its intentionally consistent and harmonious architecture. It is significant as a demonstration of fine nineteenth century timber building techniques adapted to local materials. It is the only known such pastoral complex in Victoria which conforms so closely to the picturesque farm layout espoused by British theorists such as J C Loudon. The conservatory is significant as the earliest known surviving private conservatory in Australia.

Warrock is scientifically/horticulturally significant for its surviving nineteenth century plantings, particularly the *Campsis* and the early plantings of conifers, which are typical of the plants used in the 1860s and 1870s. It is significant for the particularly good examples of these nineteenth century trees, and also for its setting amidst a now unusual landscape of mature River Red Gums.

PREVIOUS PERMIT POLICY

There is no permit policy.

PREVIOUS PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.
4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

Minor Works: Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.