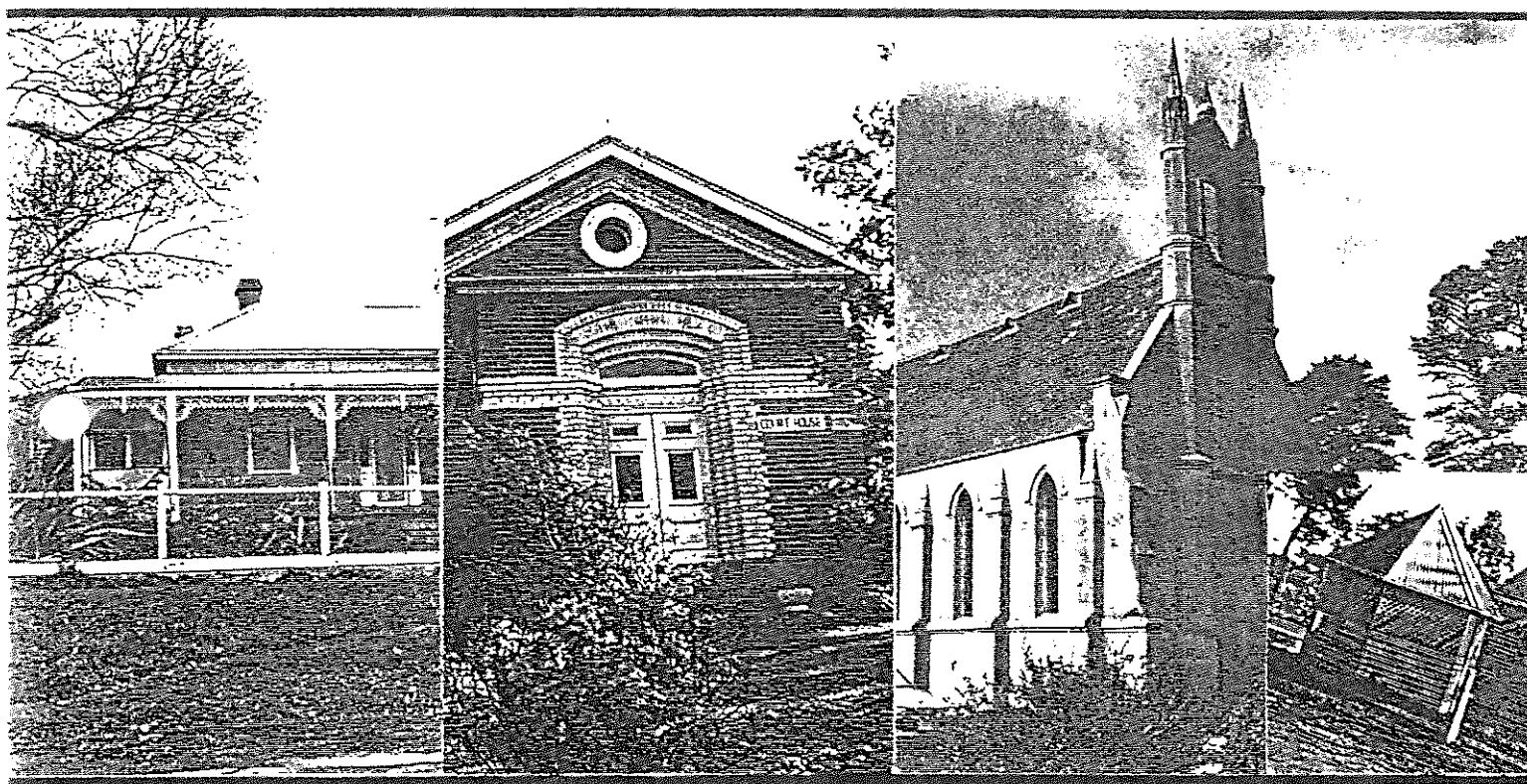


# SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY

VOLUME 4

BUILDING CITATIONS  
FARADY - TARADALE



December 1994

Karen Twigg and Wendy Jacobs  
Suite 2, No.6 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat 3350  
Telephone 053 329 182      Facsimile 053 324 409



# THE PYRENEES SHIRE METCALFE SHIRE HERITAGE STUDY

The Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study was commissioned by the National Estate Committee (Victoria) and the Shire of Metcalfe in 1992. The consultants reported to a Steering Committee comprised of representatives of the Shire, National Estate and the local community.

## STUDY TEAM

The Metcalfe Heritage Study has been researched and compiled by the following consultants:

Wendy Jacobs - Architect and Heritage Consultant  
Karen Twigg - Historian

Sub-consultant:  
Francine Gilfedder - Landscape Architect and Horticulturist

## VOLUMES

The Metcalfe Heritage Study is divided into four volumes.

**Volume One** - contains the Environmental History of the Shire of Metcalfe. This is structured around key themes that provide an historical explanation for the present appearance of the Study area.

**Volume Two** - contains planning and other heritage recommendations for individual sites and heritage areas.

**Volumes Three and Four** - contain documentation on individual sites which reflect themes outlined in the Environmental History. These sites are recommended for protection under the Local Planning Scheme or the provisions of the Historic Buildings Act. The sites are arranged by geographical location alphabetically and within these locations, again, alphabetically by road name.

## INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study was commissioned by the National Estate Committee (Victoria) and the Shire of Metcalfe in 1992. The study was prepared by consultants Karen Twigg, Historian and Wendy Jacobs, Architect. Landscape information was prepared by Francine Gilfedder.

The study is in four volumes. The first volume contains an environmental history. The second volume contains planning and other heritage recommendations. The final two volumes contain information on individual sites. These two volumes are organised by geographical location alphabetically and within these locations, again, alphabetically by road name.

The Shire of Metcalfe is located in central Victoria, 130 kilometres north west of Melbourne. Two major rivers, the Coliban and the Campaspe, flow through the Shire and the district is networked with water courses, several of which mark the north and east boundaries of the Shire. Mount Alexander forms the most dramatic landscape feature, rising to a height of 741 metres from a long, low range. The rest of the district is elevated but undulating, broken occasionally in the east by the weathered forms of volcanic hills.

There is a marked difference in character between the centre, the east and the west of the Shire. The landscape in the centre and eastern part of the Shire is largely grazing land, dominated by rolling grassy plains. It has been extensively cleared although mature river red gums and yellow boxes survive on the large freehold estates in the centre of the Shire. There are few settlements and relatively few roads. By contrast, two major transport routes - the Melbourne to Echuca Railway and the Calder Highway - run through the west of the Shire, the Shire's three major townships are located here (Chewton, Harcourt and Taradale) and the area is more closely settled. The landscape is characterised by forests of red stringy bark reserved as State Forest, alternating with areas of cleared land divided into farms. In the far north west, the landscape is dominated by apple orchards.

The explanation for these differences, becomes apparent when the built and natural landscape is examined. In the west of the Shire the visitor quickly realises that this is a landscape that was shaped by gold mining activity. Throughout the bush, shafts, tailings, dams, machinery footings plot the course of quartz mining activities. The scoured flats and gullies demonstrate the effects of shallow alluvial mining, sluicing and dredging. Mullock heaps stand as the visible evidence of extensive deep lead mining in the south west of the Shire. The temporary nature of many early gold rush workings is witnessed by isolated ruins or a cluster of buildings which once formed a small settlement. By contrast the two townships which survive from this period still retain the layout, the commercial street design and many of the residences and solid public buildings of their prosperous gold field origins.

In the centre and east of the Shire, the grassy plains, neatly divided up by fences (sometimes made of stone) and interrupted periodically by a huddle of buildings - a stable, a dairy, a shearing shed - centring around a farm house, indicate a long history

of agricultural enterprise. The settlements are characterised by buildings of practical design and a wide central street allowing the easy passage of stock and farm equipment. In many of these, the key buildings crucial to a nineteenth century agricultural community - a church, a school, a hall- still survive.

It is clearly farming country but within this broad designation there are also differences. The broad acres, the retention of mature trees, the busy bird life and park like appearance of the central area of the Shire, are the legacy of the pastoral era and the country continues to be held by a small number of landowners. By contrast, the basaltic plains flanking the Campaspe in the east of the Shire were largely taken up by immigrant farmers or successful miners who chose to invest their gold in land. Here the farm buildings are commonly constructed of bluestone, the land has been extensively cleared of trees and is often rocky.

The buildings and street design of townships throughout the Study area give indications of a more prosperous past and the explanation can be quickly found in the piles of earth and collapsed shafts, the huge white shapes of mullock heaps and the banks of dredged earth that suggest the extent of mining activity in the Study area in the nineteenth century. At the same time old farm sheds, displaying a wide variety of early construction techniques, dot the landscape leaving the visitor in little doubt of the district's strong farming heritage.

These observations suggest the key role played by both miners and farmers in shaping the history and physical fabric of the Shire and many of the themes explored in the following pages will relate to the influence of these two activities. Ultimately farming superseded mining as the primary economic force in the Shire in the twentieth century; yet much of the present character of the Shire continues to have its origin in the mining and farming activities which took place in the Shire in the nineteenth century.

It is interesting to note that the differences between these two activities, which have left such a clear mark on the physical environment, also had their effect on social relations. At official Shire dinners in the 1870s it was a point of contention whether a toast should be proposed first to the Mining Interest leaving the Agricultural Interest to be proposed second or whether the order should be reversed.

The Shire of Metcalfe is also unusual in that it does not possess a major town since it is located in the centre of a triangle, with the large towns of Kyneton, Castlemaine and Bendigo at each apex. Rail links were established with each of these towns as early as 1862, drawing residents away from the Shire for major purchases and sales. Yet settlements within the Shire continued to provide basic commodities and employment opportunities and many flourished during the nineteenth century. It was not until the twentieth century that increased mechanisation and the new mobility supplied by motor transport triggered an era of decline. As the numbers employed in agriculture fell several settlements disappeared almost without a trace, leaving the identity of the locality to attach itself to isolated buildings - a derelict school or a church. Others struggled to continue providing services to a declining population.

The most significant trend in the Shire in the last decade has been an influx of city dwellers - seeking rural family homes, weekenders and retirement houses. This has

dramatically reversed the Shire's declining population and created a new demand for land, housing stock and services of all kinds. This trend is currently having a significant impact on the environment of the Shire and can be expected to have an even greater influence in the future.

The following pages will seek to explore how the various phases of occupation and activity in the Shire of Metcalfe can be traced in the existing physical environment. In doing so it will seek to focus on the words, actions and experiences of past and current residents of the Shire.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The consultants are extremely grateful for the assistance they have received throughout the course of the Study. First and foremost they would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee who have provided timely advice and direction and have facilitated the completion of the Study. The members of the Steering Committee were:- Geoff Austin, David Bick, Ian Cochrane (chairman), John Court, Silas Ellery, Barbara James, David Letts, G. McWhinney, Ray Maltby, Brian Ross, Mary Sheehan, Dot Smith, Maurice West.

They would also like to record their special thanks to Council staff and in particular to Joan Bath and Lyn Purton. Their patience and good humor has been much appreciated.

Special thanks to Katrina Kimpton for pasting-up, proofing, and general assistance and to Simon Hepper who designed the covers.

Many people have participated in the Study and their contribution has been invaluable. In many cases they have provided insights into aspects of the Shire's heritage which might otherwise have been overlooked. The consultants would like to thank:- Elaine Appleton, David Bannear, Marilyn Bennett, Chris Clarke, Noel Davis, Joseph Dorman, Dawn Felstead, Jack Gray, Sybil James, Cameron Lang, Stan Leversha, Peg McEwan, Rex McKindley, Douglas Mactier, George Milford, Agnes Mudford, Dot Pollard, Olive Penno, Jack Ross, Mary Thompson, Rex Warren, Bruce Warren, Kathleen. Warren, David Wells, Stuart Williamson, Clive Willman, Maisie Wilson.

The consultants had the opportunity to view a fascinating video series on the history of the Chewton area and the consultants would like to particularly thank the producer, Elaine Appleton, for permission to use material from the series in the Study.

The consultants would also like to acknowledge the work of ALPA (Alexander Land Protection Association) in support of the Heritage Study both in initiating and following up the idea and in fundraising. Most of the photographs in the Environmental History have been obtained from the ALPA Metcalfe Photograph Collection. ALPA holds copies of many early photographs taken in the Shire which are available for sale.





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Volume One

Introduction  
Acknowledgements  
History  
Bibliography

## Volume Two

Introduction  
Acknowledgements  
Summary of Recommendations  
Criteria and Methodology  
Planning Scheme Recommendations:  
    Heritage Areas  
    Individual Sites  
Recommendations for Statutory Registers  
Recommendations for non-statutory Measures  
    Bibliography of heritage literature  
List of Architects

## Volume Three

Introduction  
Index  
Coliban Water Supply  
Historic Mining Sites  
Mt Alexander - Murray Valley Railway  
Mt Alexander  
Individual Site Information Sheets  
    Barfold/Langley  
    Barkers Creek  
    Chewton/Golden Point  
    Elphinstone

## Volume Four

Introduction  
Index  
    Faraday  
    Green Hill/East Metcalfe  
    Harcourt  
    Metcalfe  
    Redesdale  
    Sutton Grange  
    Taradale

## Appendices

Study Brief  
Landscape Consultants Report



# Metcalfe Heritage Study

## Volume 4

### Index

Page No.

#### **Faraday**

F1	Faraday School	Calder Hwy	1
F2	Bible Christian Church	Calder Hwy	3
F4	Boyles House	Calder Hwy	5

#### **Green Hill/East Metcalfe**

G3	Fassway Farm	Hodges Rd	7
G4	Green Hill Cemetery	Old Goldfields Rd	9
G8	Hodges Farm Complex	Kyneton - Metcalfe Rd	11

#### **Harcourt**

H4	Packing Shed	Thompsons Rd	13
H7	Primary School, Harcourt	Market St	15
H12	Granite Rail Bridge	Blackjack Rd	17
H16	Bridge Abutments	Bridge St.	19
H21	Harcourt Uniting Church	Buckley St	21
H26	Quillendale	Calder Hwy	23
H28	Craigelven	Calder Hwy	25
H31	Glenhope	Calder Hwy	27
H33	Blume House & Bakery	Calder Hwy	29
H34	ANA Hall	Calder Hwy	31
H36B	Harcourt Cemetery	Calder Hwy	33
H43	Jennings/Blight House	Coopers Rd	35
H47	Teurong - Douglas House	Craigie St East	37
H50	Eagle House	Danns Rd	39
H57	Ely House	Danns Rd	41
H58	Cairnwarren	Danns Rd	43
H62	Williams House	Danns Rd	45
H74A	Oak Forest	Mt Alexander	47
H77	Hampson House	High St	49
H78	Harcourt Post Office	Cnr High & Wright Sts	51
H80	Stanley Park	Cnr High & Market Sts.	53
H81	Harcourt Hotel	Cnr High & Bridge Sts	55
H82	Langdale	Lang's Rd	57
H83	Tarran Court	Market St	59
H93	Trigonometrical Station	Mount Alexander	61
H94	Blight's Granite Quarry	Mount Alexander	63
H95	Silk Worm Farm	Mount Alexander	65
H96	Lang's Lookout	Mount Alexander	67
H102	Harcourt Railway Station	Station St	69
H108	Railway Bridge	Woodbrook Rd	71
H109	Barkers Creek Reservoir	North Harcourt	73

**Metcalfe**

M2	The Ranch	Cascades Rd	75
M5	Stratford Lodge	Coliban Park Rd	77
M8	Rose Hill	Off Ford Rd	79
M12	Metcalfe Shire Hall	Kyneton-Metcalfe Rd	81

**Redesdale**

R3	Bible Christian Church	Lyell Rd	83
R9	Ford Across Campaspe River	Old Ford Rd	85
R15	Riverbend	Redesdale Rd	87
R16	Penarth	Redesdale Rd	89
R17	Waldon	Redesdale Rd	91
R18A	Pine Trees	Redesdale Rd	93
R21	Redesdale Hotel	Redesdale Rd	95
R22	Redesdale Police Station	Redesdale Rd	97
R23	Redesdale Store & Post Office	Redesdale Rd	99
R25	St Laurence Catholic Church	Redesdale Rd	101
R28	Mia Mia Bridge	Heathcote-Redesdale Rd	103
R33	Braeside Stone Enclosure	Off Redesdale North Rd	105
R35	Riverslea	Redesdale North Rd	107

**Sutton Grange**

S4	Breadalbane	Bendigo - Sutton Grange Rd	109
S9	Sutton Grange Uniting Church	Chewton - Sutton Grange Rd	111
S10	Sutton Grange State School	Chewton - Sutton Grange Rd	113
S11	Sutton Grange Bridge	Chewton - Sutton Grange Rd	115
S17	Grange Vale Farm	Harcourt - Sutton Grange Rd	117
S27	Myrtle Creek School	Myrtle Creek Rd	119
S29	Coliban Estate	Sutton Grange-Redesdale Rd	121
S30	Glenara	Richards Rd	123

**Taradale**

T2	Road Bridge	Boundary Rd	125
T4	Tunnel No. 1	Calder Hwy	127
T6	The Falls	Boundary Rd	129
T12	State School No.614	Calder Hwy	131
T13	Taradale Public Hall	Cnr Calder Hwy & De La Beche St	133
T16	Post Office	Calder Hwy	135
T18	Taradale Mechanic's Institute	Cnr Calder Hwy & Roderick St	137
T20	Pemberton's Bridge	Off Calder Hwy	139
T22	Cemetery	Calder Hwy	141
T23	Phoenix Co. Crushing Battery	Calder Hwy	143
T23A	North Phoenix Mine	Back Rd	145
T25	Golden Gate Mine Tailings	Calder Hwy	147
T29	Nener House	Charles St	149
T31	Swiper's Bridge	Conlan's Rd	151
T31A	Italian Gardens	Conlan's Rd	153
T32	Berry Cottage & Stables	Davy St	155
T33	Holy Trinity Anglican Church & Hall	Davy St	157
T36	Maltby House	De La Beche St	159
T37	Belnie	De La Beche St	161
T41	Stables	Cnr Old Drummond Rd & Roderick St	163

T46A	Catch Drains		165
T46B	Creek Crossings and "goes over" drain		167
T46C	Brick Lined Tunnel		169
T49	Solicitor's Office	Cnr Roderick & Faraday Sts	171
T50	Court House	Faraday St	173
T51	Police Residence	Faraday St	175
T60	Taradale Viaduct	Back Creek	177
T61	Memorial Oaks/ Botanical Gardens	Metcalfe-Taradale Rd	179
T62	Todd's Bridge	Metcalfe-Taradale Rd	181
T65	Ham House	Murchison St	183
T69	Park Bridge	Pethybridges Rd	185
T77	Mineral Springs	Roderick St	187
T80	Methodist Church	Roderick St	189
T81	St. Patrick's Catholic Church	Roderick St	191
T82	Penno House	Station St	193
T84	Taradale Railway Station	Station St	195



**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No. Gov. Build. Reg.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Faraday  
**NAME:** Faraday School  
**ADDRESS:** Calder Highway and Golden Point Rd.  
**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 589 963

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Faraday Common School - designed by the Metcalfe Shire Engineer, constructed of local granite and erected partially by volunteer labor - reflects the commitment of the early Faraday community to education. The school's continuing social value is indicated by its later use as a local function centre and meeting place for the Faraday community, in the absence of a hall. It is one of only two schools in the Shire to remain substantially intact from the period before the 1872 Education Act and its design is suggestive of the educational policy and classroom arrangement of the period. The other school, of comparable design, is at Sutton Grange and these are the only two schools in the state built of granite.. The school has state significance as the site of a dramatic kidnap attempt in 1972.

State Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing), Register of the National Estate, Historic Buildings Council Register

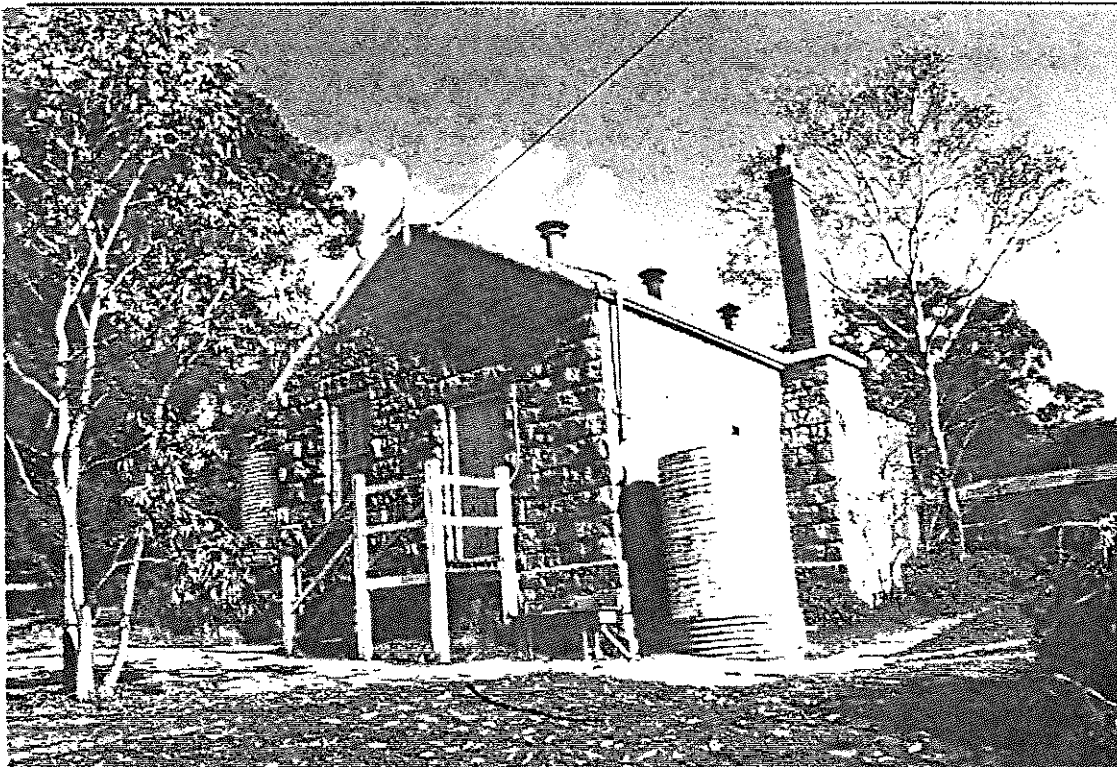
---

**THEMES**

Community Life (Schools)

**BUILDING DATE**

1869



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 10/22  
DATE 24.6.92

---

## HISTORY

In 1868 residents of Faraday made an application for a Government Grant of £70 to build a school at Faraday. Men of the district worked as unskilled labour to raise enough money to match this amount.

A grant was achieved and an Education History Service file records that construction initially began under the supervision of Gibson, the resident government engineer of the local water works (the Coliban Scheme). However work was halted when it was found an error had been made when surveying the land. After long delays the original building contractor sued for his money and left. A second builder, W. Peucker was engaged to complete the building with the assistance of Thomas Muntz, surveyor for the Shire of Metcalfe. Thomas Muntz was responsible for the final design of the building.

The new school room was built of local granite with a shingled gable roof running east and west and three windows built in the southern wall. Local residents assisted in construction and in carting building materials to the site. This reduced the cost of the building to £140. The granite was quarried by a William Salathiel from a local property belonging to John Musselwhite.

In August 1869, Faraday Common School No 797 was finally opened for use. The school opened with an enrolment of 31 and the first teacher was John Fleming who had been an Inspector of Schools in Ireland for eleven years. Until the school came under the control of the Education Department in 1872, students were charged nine pence a week for classes.

The school site of one acre rapidly proved too small and an additional acre was acquired for use as a playing ground. The school ground was fenced by William Salathiel in 1874. In the following year the chimney was extended and the fireplace rebuilt to prevent smoking. When the shingle roof began to leak badly it was replaced by an iron roof in 1881. The windows on the southern wall also proved a heat trap and in 1908 they were bricked over and new windows inserted in the east and west ends of the building.

The school was flourishing in 1910 when thirty two households signed a petition for a residence to be built for a teacher. The children established an extensive garden around the school and in 1918 it won a prize for the best flower garden in the inspectorial district of Castlemaine. In the absence of a hall, the school became a social centre and meeting place for the Faraday community and was the venue for dances, parties and concerts. In the early 1900s, mail was distributed from the school after being collected from Mrs Robb at the Northumberland Arms at Golden Point.

By 1948 attendance had dropped to just six and the school was closed for a short time. It was closed again in 1951 but reopened and remained in operation for another two decades.

The school became the focus of state attention in October 1972 when a teacher and six children were kidnapped from the Faraday School and imprisoned in a panel van near Lancefield. A one million dollar ransom was demanded for their release. The drama concluded only after Mary Gibbs, the teacher, was able to kick through the door of the panel van and lead the children to safety.

The Faraday School was officially closed in 1976. It is now used to provide school camp facilities and is part of a 100 hectare Education Area recommended by the Land Conservation Council of Victoria.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The school follows the suggested specification for a single room school from the Board of Education. This plan is similar to standard plan No. VIII which was derived from the English Series and generally measured 30 by 18 feet (9 by 5.5 metres). Windows were located behind the pupils and no ornamentation was permitted. The fireplace was in the opposite wall and did not project into the room. In this case no porch was provided. Over 50% of all these schools were masonry. The Faraday school actually measures 36 feet long. This and the Sutton Grange School are the only two in the state built of granite.

The school is substantially intact, the major alteration being the addition of large gable windows and other windows sealed. The small weatherboard shed in the grounds adds to the character of the site.

---

## REFERENCES

Education History File, School No. 797 Faraday  
*Castlemaine Mail*, October 1982  
Lou Thomas, *Faraday School Centenary*, 1969

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993



**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
 HBC No.  
 NATIONAL TRUST   
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
 OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Faraday  
**NAME:** Bible Christian Church  
**ADDRESS:** Calder Highway  
**FORMER NAME:** Faraday Methodist Church

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 589 962

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This red brick church has strong communal associations and reflects Faraday's growth as a flourishing agricultural community, adjacent to the goldfields, in the 1860s and 1870s. Its simple design suggests the distaste of the Bible Christians for exaggerated display and ornamentation. The church's transferral to this site from Elphinstone six kilometres away, is of technical interest for, although it was a common nineteenth century practice to transfer timber buildings from place to place, it was less common for a brick building to be treated in the same way.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

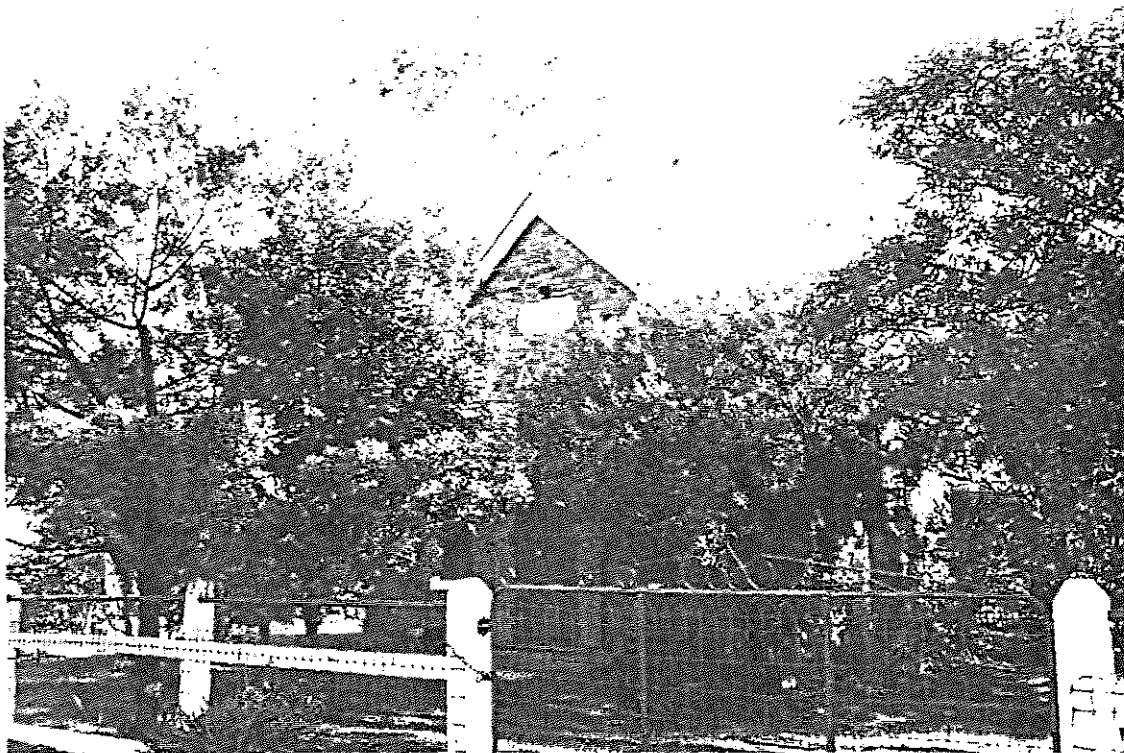
**THEMES**

Community Life (Churches)

**BUILDING DATE**

1876

PHOTOGRAPH  
 FILM No. 10/23.  
 DATE 24.6.92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

This church was originally erected in Elphinstone. It became redundant and was purchased by the Faraday Bible Christian community. It was dismantled brick by brick and rebuilt on its present site, in 1876. It cost in total £116/4/6 and the land was donated free of charge by a local resident, John Thomas.

The first trustees were J. Boyle, R. Waite, John Kimber, Josiah Ellery and R. Jamenen. By 1882 the church was free of any debt and in 1885 the Trustees erected stables for the horses which had often been driven long distances to church.

The Bible Christian church became the Methodist church in 1902 after the Methodist Union Act. From 1910, Sunday School was taught in the church and in 1956 a small general purpose weatherboard building was added to the rear of the church.

The church is now closed and the building is used as a private residence.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The church is of face brick with a gable roof. The front has a pair of pointed arched windows flanking the pointed arch and centrally placed entry door. The door is marked as a shallow porch by the brick chitrave but is only one brick in depth. The gable barge boards terminate in a circle. The brick walls would appear to be braced with tie rods through the length of the building as "S" shaped iron pieces are placed on the facade.

Shutters have been added to the front windows and additions made to the side of the building when it was altered for use as a residence. Plantings of native trees have also been made around the house. The existing fence is shown in an early photograph and would appear to have been renewed recently. Although the fence type is of the type constructed in the early twentieth century it is appropriate for the building.

The building still retains much of its original fabric and is readily identifiable as a church and is one of the few former community buildings in the Faraday area.

---

## REFERENCES

Lou Thomas, *Faraday School Centenary*, 1969  
Information from Silas Ellery

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Faraday

**NAME:** Boyle House  
**ADDRESS:** Calder Highway

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 597 943

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This building is one of only a handful of farm houses in the Shire which date back to the earliest phase of farming activity in the Shire. This activity was generated by the goldfield's demand for food and largely preceded the Land Acts. The building's highly visible position on the Calder Highway has given it status as a community landmark.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1860



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 19/4  
DATE 27.8.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

John Boyle purchased thirty acres from the Crown for £3.12.0 in 1854 and he is rated for a stone house and dairy on this allotment in the early 1864 ratebooks. The nearby goldfields generated an enormous demand for agricultural produce of all sorts and John worked as both a dairyman and general farmer. The house was known in the district for its large cellars used to keep the dairy produce cool. The cellars were also used as smoke houses. Boyle's farm became a focal point for the district and local farmers came here for horseshoeing and shearing and dipping sheep. Wheelwrighting services were also offered.

John Boyle built an inn at the back of the house, consisting of a kitchen, beer room and two guest rooms. He also built a lockup which it is said was designed to cater for police escorting prisoners through the area. The lockup, which still exists, consists of small cell below ground level, complete with bars on the door and a more comfortable room on top for the guards. In 1870 the management of the Faraday Post Office was awarded to John Boyle and in the same year he also took out an official beer licence. The only other local hotel in the area - the Butcher's Arms Hotel - was situated almost opposite the Bible Christian Church but it was burnt down in February 1870.

John Boyle's stone house was originally two-storey and is said to have been built using Cornish building techniques. However the second storey was later dismantled. By 1895 the property had passed to Josiah Ellery. Josiah kept a large number of pigs and used the cellars to cure bacon.

Both Josiah Ellery and John Boyle were trustees of the Bible Christian Church when it was rebuilt in 1876.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The building is of local granite with a hipped roof that extended with a flatter pitch to form the roof of the deep return verandah. The north side of the verandah has been filled in by building which appears to be of later date.

The remains of the old sheep yards, pig pens and the blacksmith's shop are all extant, as is the old lockup.

---

## REFERENCES

Borough of Chewton Rate Books and Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books

Lou Thomas, *Faraday School Centenary*, 1969

Information from Silas Ellery

Information from A. and L. Hough, current owners, who hold a photograph of the building when it had two-storeys.

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: G 3

CURRENT LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Green Hill  
NAME: Fassway Farm  
ADDRESS: Hodges Road-Turpins Falls Road  
FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Edgecombe  
MAP REFERENCE BU 751 836

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Fassway Farm - comprising a weatherboard and stone house, a well, a stone stable, dry stone walling and stone hay stack bases - is one of the few farming ensembles in the Shire which so clearly exhibits the way in which local bluestone was utilised as a building material in the nineteenth century. Fassway also demonstrates the physical layout of a farm during this period. (Note: since damaged by fire)

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1850s

---

PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 7/10B  
DATE 20.8.92



---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90,  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The original title holders for this site appear to be C. R. H. and J. Kennedy who purchased 143 acres on the 30 April 1855. In 1884 this acreage was held by John Flynn, a farmer, who by the 1890s was leasing it to David Matson.

The 143 acres on the Campaspe passed to the John Rogerson between 1891 and 1895. John Rogerson died about 1910 and the property passed to Isabella Rogerson until her death in the late 1920s.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The farm is a collection of stone and timber buildings. The stone is local basalt. The use of basalt in this area contrasts with the use of granite in the Harcourt area and sandstone in the Chewton area. One of the major features of this complex is the bases constructed of bluestone which were used annually to protect the base of the haystacks.

The main house has a gable roof with chimneys at each side. The shed near the main house is of horizontal slab construction.

The farm complex is sited in a picturesque bend of the Campaspe River and the main buildings are marked by mature exotic planting.

The building was substantially damaged by fire in 1994.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Maisie Wilson, Dot Smith and Douglas Mactier  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**FILE No:** G 4  
**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Green Hill

**NAME:** Green Hill Cemetery  
**ADDRESS:** Goldfields Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Edgecombe  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 737 859

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Green Hill cemetery is the only site which now provides evidence of the substantial population which once resided in the environs of Green Hill. Its value to the community is witnessed by a voluntary community group which has taken responsibility for its maintenance.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Community Life

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1860s



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 16/33  
DATE 20.8.92

---

## HISTORY

Balliere's Victorian Gazetteer of 1865 describes Green Hill as a postal village located at the foot of the north east slope of the volcanic Green Hill and half a mile east of Snodgrass Gully Creek. The population in the immediate area stood at about 250 in number, including miners.

During this period the area was the scene of much gold prospecting and some isolated successes. Seven quartz reefs were mined in the vicinity, with Steeds Reef proving the most profitable, yielding an average of 4oz to the ton in 1861. In the 1890s and early twentieth century renewed mining was also recorded in the area. Maisie Wilson remembers that her father worked in a mine, known as the Green Hill United, in the early twentieth century and in 1913 the Mines Department reported that "about half a dozen co-operative parties have continued work during the year at shallow levels in the ranges west of Snodgrass Gully on comparatively small reefs of good quality"

The Green Hill cemetery was probably established in the 1860s when mining had swelled the population of the area. Despite the fact that Green Hill never developed into a permanent settlement, a number of families settled in the area and the Green Hill cemetery was used by the entire locality. It is believed that up to seventy burials took place in the cemetery although the gravestone of only three survive. These mark the burials of Fanny Melon (aged twelve years), a boy named McAree and a man named Bruce who was drowned.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The cemetery is a small clearing in the bush marked by a timber gate and section of picket fence. There is one round headed grave stone and another grave marked by timber posts. The very isolation of the cemetery adds to its character.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Maisie Wilson, Dot Smith and Douglas Mactier  
Reminiscences of U. Matson, 11 Sept, 1860 (Metcalf Bicentennial Material)  
*Balliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, 1865



SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: G 8

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Green Hill  
**NAME:** Hodge's Farm  
**ADDRESS:** Kyneton-Metcalfe Road  
**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Edgecombe  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 732 839

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The stone shearing shed, stone shed and stone "shepherd's hut", have a high degree of integrity and represent some of the most intact examples of early farm buildings in the Shire. They have been in continuous use since their construction and still form part of the operating environment of the farm. A weatherboard farm house indicates the increased comfort of farm dwellings, built after the consolidation of settlement. An avenue of trees leading up to the farm is a notable feature.

Local Significance

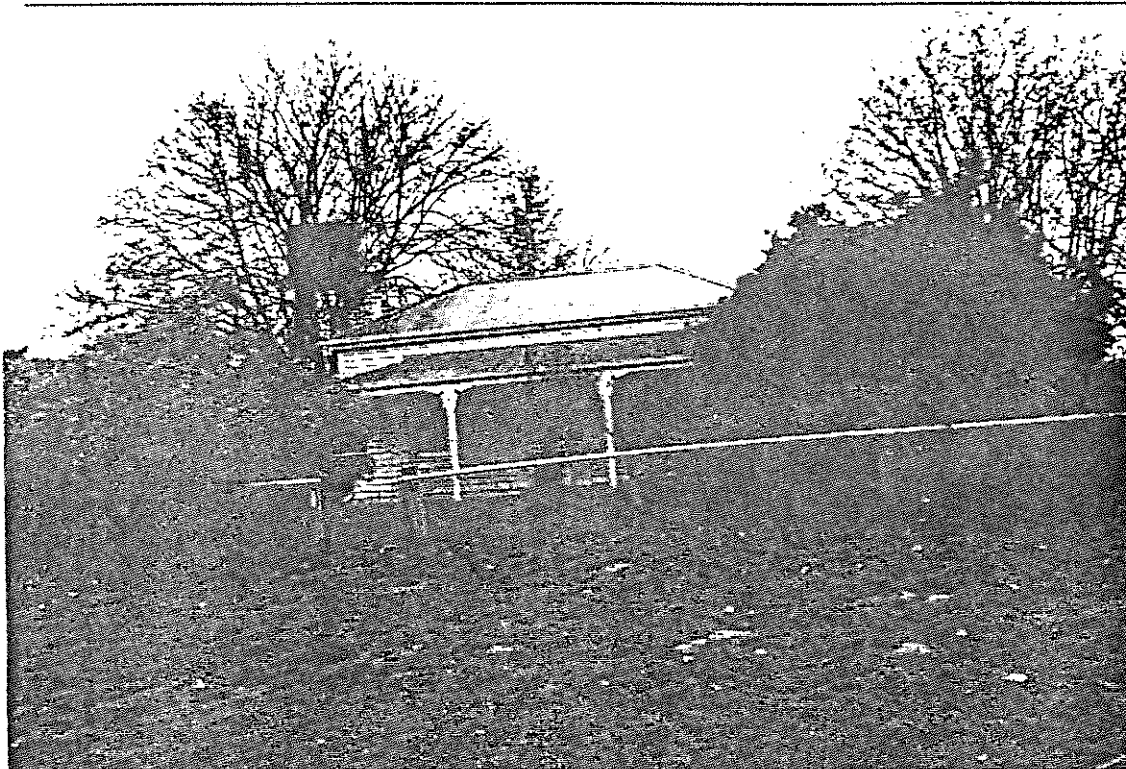
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
1874



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No.17/11-15  
DATE 20.8.92

---

## HISTORY

In 1866 William Hodges already owned some land in the Metcalfe area and was in the process of purchasing 260 acres from James McIndley. By 1874 he owned a total of 320 acres and had erected a house.

William Hodges junior began farming the land for his father in the early 1890s and became the owner between 1902 and 1905 after William Hodges senior's death. In 1920 he owned a total of 619 acres and was one of the largest land holders in the area. After his death the property continued to be farmed by his two sons, Tony and Ivan, and the farm still remains in the Hodges family.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The farm complex comprises timber farmhouse, stone shepherd's hut, stone shearing shed and stone stables and carriage shed. These are all sited around a large grassed courtyard. The property is entered by a long driveway lined with a variety of exotic trees which form an avenue. This opens into the courtyard with the house facing the driveway.

The weatherboard house had a corrugated iron hipped roof and a hipped roof verandah supported on turned timber posts with decorative timber brackets. The house has a centrally placed door with a single sidelight. Two double hung timber windows flank the door. The house would appear to date from the turn of the century. The house garden has large mature exotic trees and remnant garden plantings.

The building referred to as the shepherd's hut would appear to be the earliest building on the site. The building is very large for a shepherd's hut which were more usually a small single room. This building would appear to be two or three rooms wide. It is rectangular with a gable roof and has a stone chimney at one end. The wall facing the courtyard has only a small eight paned window of approximately square proportions. The stone work is of random rubble with very large, roughly squared stones used at the corners. The stones would appear to have been gathered from the surrounding hillside and not quarried. The stones for the chimney have been squared and laid in courses. This may have been an early house on the site.

The stables and shearing shed are of bluestone of a more even appearance. Over the door to the shearing shed, which is still in use, is the date 1859 inscribed on a stone. The buildings are in two parts with the stables lower on the site and not as high as the shearing shed. The stonework is of roughly squared coursed rubble bluestone with the building corners and openings marked by work of rock faced stones with roughly tooled margins. The main door to the shearing shed has a flat arch with a central shaped keystone instead of the more usual single stone slab lintel. The stables have a hip at one end of the roof and a gable where it abuts the shearing shed. The shearing shed has a gable roof with the apex of the front gable marked by a stone finial.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Maisie Wilson, Dot Smith and Douglas Mactier  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books

LISTINGS  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt

NAME Packing Shed  
ADDRESS Corner Bagshaw and  
Thompsons Road  
FORMER NAME Symes Packing Shed

TITLE DETAILS  
Harcourt: Sec 4, Lot 9

MAP NAME: Barker  
MAP REF. BU 571 013

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The construction of this large Packing Shed by Harold Symes, in the 1940s, represents a break from the tradition of earlier years of cooperatively owned packing sheds. The packing shed is also significant for its association with Geoffrey Thompson who played a crucial role in ensuring the survival of Harcourt orchards by introducing residents to new orcharding, packing, and marketing techniques. The simple utilitarian building is one of the larger packing sheds remaining in this important centre of apple production.

Local Significance

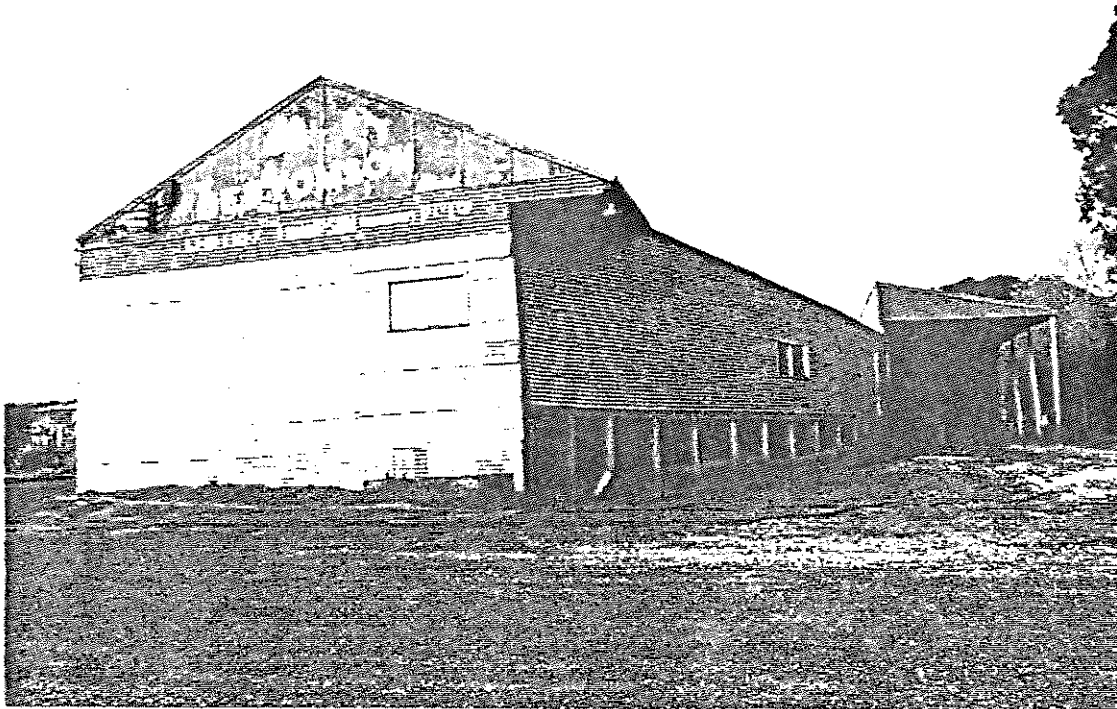
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**  
Horticulture

**BUILDING DATE**  
1940s

**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 1153  
DATE 24.6.92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90,  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The Harcourt Fruit Growers Association was formed in 1894 to enable fruit growers to pool their resources and work together on a co-operative basis. A second cooperative venture, the Fruit Supply Association, was initiated in the 1920s. Structures associated with these two cooperatives developed near the railway station - including packing sheds, a case factory, a sawmill, cool stores, and a general engineering shop. However, by the post war period, many growers were finding it more profitable to trade through agents or dealers rather than the Co-operative and there was a proliferation of privately owned cool stores and packing sheds. Harold Symes was one of a number of dealers who bought and marketed fruit for growers in the Harcourt area and he probably constructed this shed in the late 1940s.

During the 1950s, Geoffrey Thompson Harcourt Pty Ltd purchased the Symes packing shed and largely supplanted the older cooperatives - offering new export markets and fruit packing facilities to local growers. In the 1970s the company also introduced new cultivation techniques; they reduced tree spacings by half and eliminated weed growth between the tree lines by herbicides rather than by cultivation.

---

## DESCRIPTION

This packing shed and cool store reflects its strictly utilitarian background being a simple gable roofed structure clad in horizontally hung corrugated iron. This is one of the larger remaining orchard sheds in the district and is unusual as it has a skewed side wall. The floor is raised on high timber stumps. The building design reflects the use and the simple materials are characteristic of the buildings related to twentieth century orcharding.

---

## REFERENCES

Quinlan & Webb, *Greater than Gold*, 1985  
James, *Harcourt Timeline, 1894*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Information from G. Milford, Harcourt, G. W. Thompson  
Royal Commission on Fruit, Vegetables and Jam, V.P.P., 9 March 1915

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

**LISTINGS**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
 HBC No  
 NATIONAL TRUST   
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
 OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt

NAME Primary School (Harcourt)  
 ADDRESS Cnr Barker and Market Streets

FORMER NAME National Common  
 School, No 299

**TITLE DETAILS**

Section 7, State School Reserve

MAP NAME Barker

MAP REF. BU 564 017

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Harcourt Primary School with its 1875 schoolroom is one of the earlier buildings in Harcourt and reflects the strong community spirit of the area. It also has significance as a complex since it clearly demonstrates the variety of elements that comprise a school environment. The additions made to the School are indicative of the expansion of the area as an orcharding and agricultural centre.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Community Life (Schools)

**BUILDING DATE**

1875

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 11 21

DATE 24 6 92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The first Harcourt school, a National School, was a weatherboard building measuring thirty feet by fifteen feet with a shingle roof and a canvas ceiling. The local community demonstrated their support by raising £105 towards the cost of the new school and four hundred people attended the official opening in November, 1859. The school began with an enrolment of only eight boys and three girls but within twelve months, enrolments had climbed to thirty eight boys and thirty nine girls.

Small blocks of land had been surveyed and sold in the vicinity of Harcourt since 1854, and the children of small selectors increasingly swelled the ranks of Harcourt pupils. In 1862-3 the School became a Common School No 299 and the site was extended by the addition of two acres. By 1875 it was simply too small and a new school was built on the site by contractor, Martin O'Meara at a cost of £227. In 1885 a new four roomed teachers residence was built to replace the wattle and daub residence the first head teacher, Henry Haysen, had built for himself. Two shelter sheds, were constructed - in 1900 and 1925 respectively - and a second classroom in 1912. A pine plantation was planted on four acres of school property in 1926, in order to augment school funds. By 1960 the school enrolment had reached 100 and a third class room was built in addition to other improvements including the erection of playground equipment and the construction of an asphalted and level playground.

In 1984 the enrolment at the Harcourt School stood at 45 with a staff of three permanent teachers and one part time music teacher.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The existing weatherboard school building dates from 1875 when a single classroom was constructed. It would appear to have been built with a shingle roof as the roof was clad with iron in 1898. In 1912 a second classroom was added and a third in 1960. The building reflects this staged construction with the original gable roofed room with 12 paned double hung windows still recognisable within the later additions.

The 1909 hexagonal shelter shed with a weatherboard base and diagonal lattice upper walls has a steeply pitched corrugated roof and although requiring repair is a major element in the school yard. The structure is typical of simple garden structures of the early 1900s and enhances the school complex.

The 1925 shelter shed of rectangular plan with a gable roof, reflects the materials of the earlier structure with weatherboard walls and only the gable infill being of lattice.

The complex is a substantially intact complex of school buildings and grounds including the above shelter sheds. Plantings of note are *Quercus robur*, *Cedrus deodara* and *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*.

The memorial gates of local granite are a feature of schools in the Shire. The monument states "This tablet commemorates the Centenary of State School No. 299 14 November 1959". They are distinctive for their use of local material and the simple post and beam construction.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Blake, *Vision and Realisation*, 1970  
*Harcourt Primary School No 299, 125th Anniversary*, 18 November 1984  
Information from Sybil James, George Milford

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

CURRENT LISTINGS:  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
 HBC No  
 NATIONAL TRUST  
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
 OTHER

TOWN DISTRICT: Harcourt  
 NAME: Railway Bridge

ADDRESS: Blackjack Road

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Castlemaine  
 MAP REFERENCE BV 549 001

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The line was the largest of the Colony's first two trunk lines and has the greatest diversity in the design and materials of buildings and structures. Materials range from bluestone and granite to monochrome and bichrome brickwork, influenced by the natural resources of the localities. The range of bridge and viaduct designs includes girder bridges and round three centred and segmentally arched opening, whilst the scale of the viaducts compares with the Geelong - Ballarat main trunk lines. The line is important also as an expression of the importance in capturing the Murray River and Riverina trade for the Port of Melbourne and the significance of the Castlemaine and Bendigo goldfields in the 1860s. The route of the line recalls the local lobbying to have the line diverted in their interests. The line remains as the Colony's largest single endeavour of its time. The granite segmental arched rail bridge is an important element.

State Significance

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Metcalfé Planning Scheme (individual listing) Recommended as part of the Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Line to be added to the Register of the National Estate and the Historic Buildings Register

THEMES  
 Transport

BUILDING DATE  
 c1862



PHOTOGRAPH  
 FILM No 22 3  
 DATE 10/9/92

PROJECT No 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. J. G. B. K. T. 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In June of 1852 the Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company was promulgated to build a main line of railway from Melbourne to Mount Alexander and the Murray River at Echuca. Its inability to raise funds led to its purchase by the Government in 1856 and to the formation of the Victorian Railways Department during the same year. The Kyneton to Bendigo Section which runs through the Shire of Metcalfe was opened in 1862. The significance of the line is due to the extant structures and their number and diversity. The line includes the largest and most spectacular collection of early stone and iron viaducts. The use of available local building materials adds interest to these structures, the use of local granite led directly to the development of the Harcourt quarrying industry. The availability of building material determined the character of each section of line within the Shire; bluestone was used for railway structures in the vicinity of Taradale, granite and red and cream brick at Elphinstone while granite was the primary building material at Harcourt. The construction of the line was the largest building enterprise in the colony at the time. It was also the focus of the battle for improved working conditions and the venue in 1859/60 for a strike against the principle of sub-contracting, for the direct importation of indentured German masons to undercut locally established conditions and rates of pay, for a partial alliance between German and local masons and for the final collapse of the established level of wages.

---

## DESCRIPTION

This is a solid granite version of the brick and stone segmental arched bridges encountered on the Melbourne side of the railway line. This is a lower bridge than those encountered in the Chewton area. The segmental arch is marked in rough faced voussoirs springing from a corbelled capital at the top of the pilaster like quoin work which is steeped in from the abutment. Above the voussoirs is a slightly corbelled line of stones marking a cornice line above these are more smoothly dressed very large granite stones which form the parapet. These are capped with smaller rock faced granite blocks. Each end of the abutment wall steps out to form a pilaster.

The bridge is a solid element which demonstrates the use of the local material

---

## REFERENCES

- Cusack, *Bendigo: A History*, 1973, p145  
Martin, 'Bringing the Railway to Castlemaine', *CM*, 2 Mar 1944 from *MLM* 20 Aug 1862  
Ward, 'Murray River Railway', *Heritage Australia*, Spring 1985 p36

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993



**LISTINGS:**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT:Harcourt

NAME: Bridge Abutments  
ADDRESS: Bridge Street

FORMER NAME:

**TITLE DETAILS**

Harcourt: Opposite Sec A, Lot 9

MAP NAME Barker  
MAP REF. BU 562 024

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The remaining bridge abutments are significant since they indicate the original route of the Melbourne to Murray road through Harcourt. This was one of the earliest rural transport routes to be constructed by the Central Roads Board and was the first major road to be constructed through the Shire.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

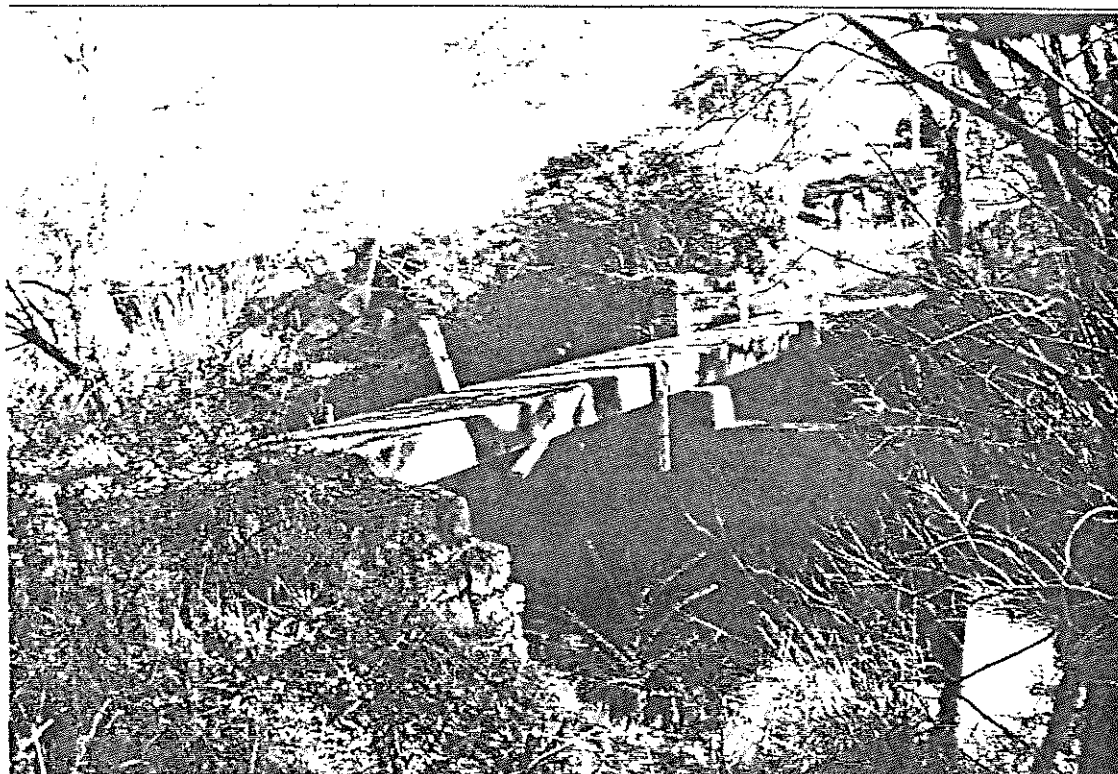
Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Transport (Bridges)

**BUILDING DATE**

c 1860



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 11/2  
DATE 24.6.92

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM 1989/90

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In 1858, William Kelly travelled from Castlemaine and Sandhurst and wrote that he passed along, "a narrow line of macadamised road, principally metalled with coarse quartz gravel leading into a spick and span town called Harcourt" This was the road from Melbourne to the Murray via the Mount Alexander gold fields which until 1860 used up most of the Central Road Board's funds. This road crossed Barkers Creek at Harcourt and the bridge was probably built at this time. Until 1874, a toll gate also operated near the bridge.

The road from Elphinstone direct to Harcourt remained unmade until the late 1920s when the rising popularity of the motor car and efforts to shorten the journey between Melbourne and Bendigo led to its construction as part of the new Calder Highway. As part of this development a new bridge was constructed over Barkers Creek in 1927-28. It was named the Calder Bridge and was erected at an estimated cost of £3,200 by contractors from Camberwell, Jose and Wilson. The growing importance attached to motor transport was emphasised by a reporter at the official opening who stressed that there were "an estimated two hundred cars present". The realignment of the road to cross the new bridge meant that the original bridge was left stranded further up Barkers Creek and came to be used primarily as a foot bridge.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The earlier crossing of Barkers Creek was by this bridge constructed of local granite abutments and central support. It would appear that the bridge structure and decking was of timber as it is no longer extant. A modern footbridge decking has been built.

The retention of the remaining parts of the bridge is important for the use of the local granite and as it shows the path of traffic in the early days of Harcourt which allows the interpretation of the remaining early buildings in the vicinity.

---

## REFERENCES

- Hedley James, *Harcourt Timeline, 1928*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Kelly, *Life in Victoria*, 1858, p183  
Priestly, *Making Their Mark*, 1984, p52

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: H21

**LISTINGS:**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt

**NAME:** Uniting Church  
**ADDRESS:** Buckley Street

**FORMER NAME:** Methodist Church

**TITLE DETAILS:**

Sec 7, Lot 7

**MAP NAME:** Barker

**MAP REFERENCE** BU 564 617

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Harcourt Methodist Church is notable for its use of local granite. It is one of the few nineteenth century buildings to survive in a township dominated by twentieth century structures and its age and rarity make it a key element within the townscape. It was a major centre of town life. It has a direct relationship with the Sunday School next door and should be viewed in the context of other nineteenth century granite buildings in the town such as the Pellas House (H77)

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing); Register of the National Estate

---

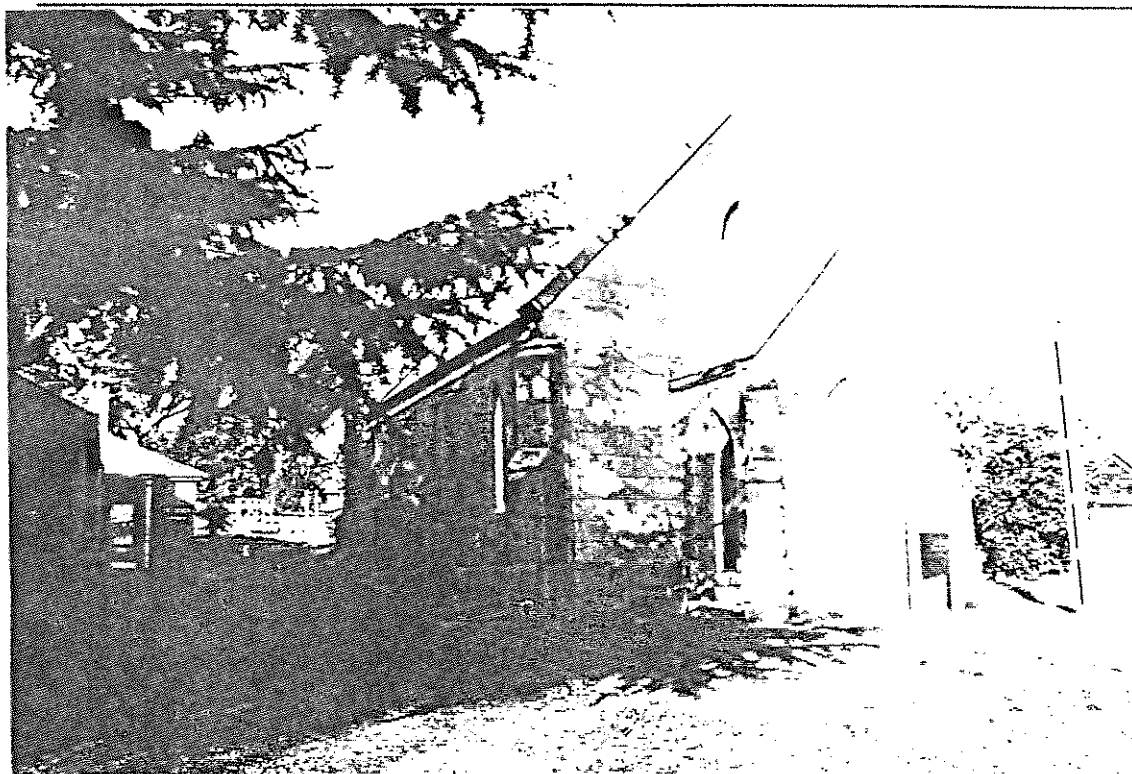
**THEMES**

Community Life (Churches)

---

**BUILDING DATE**

1864.65



---

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No. 11/27  
DATE 24.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM 1989/90

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

A large proportion of those attracted to the Victorian goldfields were of nonconformist persuasion and Harcourt's proximity to the Mount Alexander gold fields, contributed to the high proportion of Methodists (probably Wesleyan Methodists) who settled in the area

The first Methodist service in Harcourt was held in January 1860 but by June 1861 services had been discontinued. Further attempts were made in 1863 when the Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting resolved that preaching should be held at Harcourt each Sunday afternoon. It is said that these services were held in an iron building - formerly a hotel - opposite the present church and at least one preacher known as "Temperance Baker" refused to preach "behind a bar". Largely as a result of the enthusiasm of George Leech, a Castlemaine solicitor and a regular preacher at Harcourt, fund raising commenced for the erection of a church. The contractor appointed was Mr W. B. Dennis under the supervision of architect, Mr J. Kibble of Castlemaine. Stone was donated from the quarries of Mr Blight and carted to the site by members of the congregation.

The foundation stone for the new church was laid on Good Friday, April 14, 1865. The Mount Alexander Mail reported that four hundred people were present and that three bottles containing local newspapers were placed beneath the stone. Four months later on Sunday August 13, 1865, the new church was opened by the Rev. William Hill, Superintendent of the Castlemaine Circuit. The total cost of the building was £429.

No other denomination built in the Harcourt township until 1961 and many of Harcourt's social events revolved around fund raising for the Methodist church. The Good Friday tea meeting in particular became an annual event. For this occasion, a temporary bower was erected and the tables set out of doors. A number of Harcourt Methodists were also instrumental in establishing and continuing to support the Independent Order of Rechabites based in Barkers Creek.

A brick Sunday School was built next door to the church in 1924 after a former Sunday school scholar, Lou Hawkins, unexpectedly left the Church Trustees £1,000 in his estate. Tablets in the hall commemorate Lou Hawkins and also Henry Ely and Isaac James who acted as Sunday School teachers and superintendents for 43 years and 41 years respectively. Mr James was closely associated with the church since its beginning and was known behind his back as "Bishop James".

In 1954 a play centre and kindergarten were opened at the rear of the Hall.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The church is of a simple Gothic form and consists of a three bay nave with gable roof and a gable roofed porch. The nave bays are marked externally by buttresses with the corners of the nave and porch being supported by diagonal buttresses. The porch has a pointed arch recess to the street with the entries from the side

The building is predominantly of granite with east and west walls granite rubble and render marked as stone. The attached porch is of granite. Each bay has a pointed arch headed window and the only decoration on the west is a small pointed arch opening, sheeted over. The east end has a skillion roofed, granite addition with a brick chimney that would appear to date from the mid- twentieth century.

The existing galvanised iron parapet capping on the west end is unsightly and would appear to be a replacement of the former rolled capping. The leadlight and stained glass windows date from 1952

The building is a solid, simple example of the Gothic style and is important for the use of the local granite and is the most substantial church building in the area built in the nineteenth century.

---

## REFERENCES

Mount Alexander Mail, April 17, 1865; Feb 15 1933  
Harcourt Methodist Church Centenary Pamphlet, August 1965

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

**LISTINGS**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt

NAME Quillendale  
ADDRESS McQuillan Road

FORMER NAME:

**TITLE DETAILS**

Harcourt. Sec 6A, Allot 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B

MAP NAME Chewton  
MAP REF. BU 589 997

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Quillendale is notable as an early and intact granite farmhouse with outbuildings, probably built to fulfil the requirements of the 1869 Land Act. The farm's location on the granitic southern slopes of Mount Alexander, reflects early selectors' preference for sheltered land with access to water, this property has natural springs and suggests that granite used in the construction of the buildings was quarried on the property.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

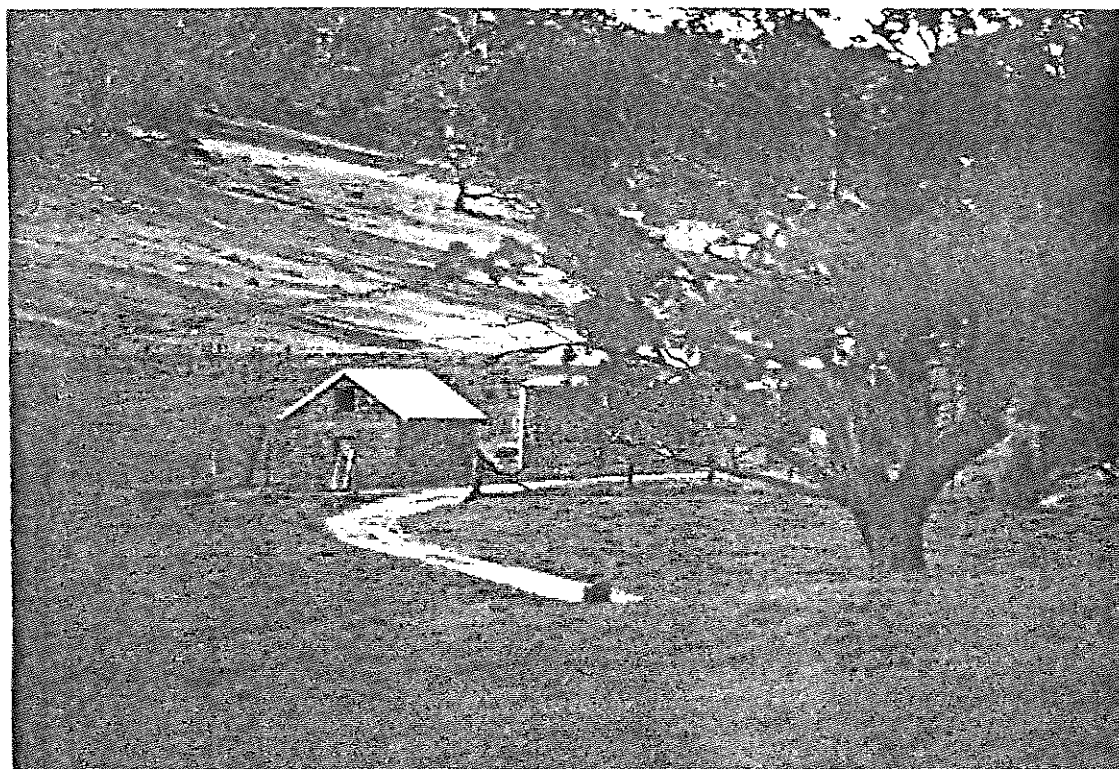
Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**

c 1870



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No 26 32  
DATE 29.9.92

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3550 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

This site was purchased by E. McQuillan in 1874, under section 19-20 of the 1869 Lands Act which allowed for the conversion of a licence or lease into freehold land. Mrs McQuillan, a widow, had been paying rates on the property since 1870. Between 1870-1874, a house was built. Mrs McQuillan married again, becoming Mrs Ward, but retained ownership of the property. In 1899 the farm passed to Bernard McQuillan, probably her son. Local residents can still remember Bernie McQuillan, who occupied the house all his life.

The present owners named the property Quillendale in deference to the original owners but use an "e" in the spelling instead of an "a".

---

## DESCRIPTION

This simple hipped roof mid-Victorian style farmhouse is significant for the use of local granite. The material has been adapted to the style of housing that was erected in many places in face brick, rendered brick, timber and other stones. The building was either simply detailed or the early decoration of cast iron or timber fretwork has not survived. The adjacent, simple, rectangular, gabled roofed granite farm buildings adds to the character of the house, this had a shingle roof until the 1970s when it was replaced with corrugated iron.

The building was originally a hipped roof stone house with only two windows, one each side of a central door. This was later extended to the west. The stone work pattern in the extension differs from the original house. The rear section of the house is under a skillion roof. Until the 1970s there was no bathroom, plumbing or power in the house.

---

## REFERENCES

Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
Information from George Milford and Rex Warren, Mrs. S. Tout, owner

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

**LISTINGS**HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER 

HBC No

NATIONAL TRUST NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER 

OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt**NAME** Craigelven**ADDRESS** Calder Highway**FORMER NAME.** Milford House**TITLE DETAILS**

Harcourt Sec 5A, Allot 6, 7.

**MAP NAME** Chewton**MAP REF.** BU 573 992**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This site is significant for the survival of three houses in chronological sequence, making it possible to trace the fortunes and living conditions of one family - the Milfords - from the time of selection in the 1850-60s to the inter-war period. The small, rectangular, stone and mud building is significant as it relates to the traditional building methods of the owners native Devon adapted to the use of local materials. The 1914 building appears substantially intact and is a good example of a timber villa of the early twentieth century. All three buildings form an important complex which interprets the change in available materials and the growing prosperity of the Milford family.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Agriculture, Horticulture

**BUILDING DATE**

c1860, c1880, 1914

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 26/28

DATE 29.9.92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

George Milford migrated to Australia from Devon, England in 1858/59, as an assisted immigrant. After fulfilling the conditions of his passage by working at a local pastoral station, he selected land at Faraday. The parish map records that he purchased two blocks of approximately twenty acres each in 1868 and 1869 respectively. In 1874 he is rated for a house and sixty acres on this property.

George Milford married Anne Kimber in 1856 in England and their first home on this site was built using local slate plastered with mud. In about 1880 a new brick house was built. In this house Anne and George brought up six children. George Milford began as a mixed farmer but increasingly specialised in apple trees in common with many other farmers of the area. In 1914, the present house was built for his son, Amos Milford, by T. Odgers and Company from Castlemaine at a cost of £250. Descendants of George and Anne Milford continue to reside in Harcourt.

---

## DESCRIPTION

A timber house, built in 1914, of intersecting hip roofs with a return verandah with a bullnosed roof and cast iron frieze work. The building has double hung timber windows and brick chimneys. The building appears substantially intact and is a good example of a timber villa of the early twentieth century.

The two earlier homes still remain relatively undisturbed at the rear of the 1914 timber house. Behind these again there are mounds reputed to be aboriginal middens.

The complex with the early stone and mud cottage built c1860 which appears to require some maintenance and the brick cottage from 1880 form an important complex which interprets the change in available materials and the growing prosperity of the family.

The small, rectangular, stone and mud building is significant as it relates to the traditional building methods of the owners native Devon adapted to the use of local materials.

The brick gable roofed, cottage has a typical symmetrical facade treatment of a central door flanked by windows. The windows are interesting as they are not of the typical vertical proportion and have very low head heights.

---

## REFERENCES

Metcalf Shire Rate Books - West Riding  
Harcourt Parish map  
Information from George Milford

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993



**LISTINGS**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER

HBC No

NATIONAL TRUST

NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER

OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt

NAME Glenhope

ADDRESS Calder Highway

FORMER NAME Bertuch, House

**TITLE DETAILS**

harcourt, Sec. 10 Lot 1

MAP NAME Chewton

MAP REF. BU 565 007

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Glenhope is significant as an expression of the prosperity Harcourt enjoyed during the early twentieth century. It's size and elegant design testify to the capital attracted to the town during this period. The size and comfort of the house also facilitated the entertaining and social activities organised by Dora Bertuch, around whom much of the social life of Harcourt revolved in the early decades of this century.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

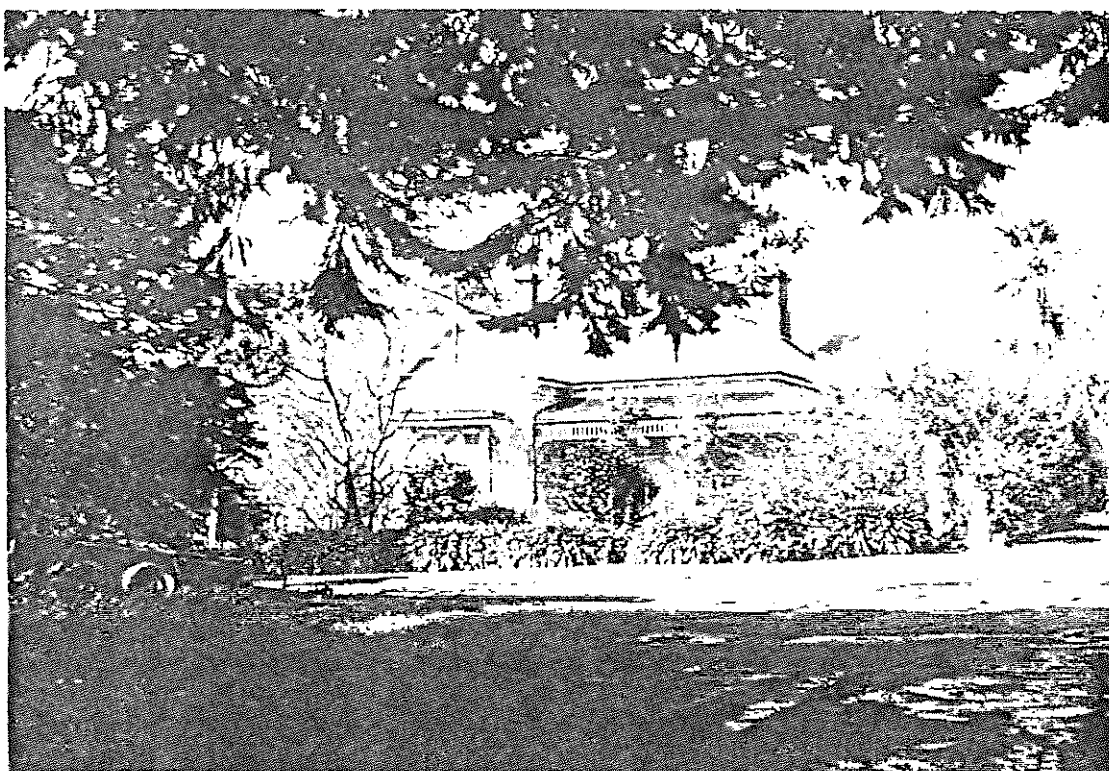
---

**THEMES**

Towns (Residential)

**BUILDING DATE**

1909



**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 26.23

DATE 29.9.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

Charles Augustus and Dora Georgina Bertuch settled in Harcourt in 1909 and built this house in the same year. Charles father, Oscar Bertuch, was said to have been a gardener for the Kaiser in Germany and Charles inherited his father's ability. He was known as a fine orchardist and was one of the first in the Harcourt area to experiment with a green manure crop - planting chick peas between the fruit trees and later ploughing them in to fertilise the soil. The Bertuchs frequently entertained and Dora Bertuch is still remembered for her consummate skill as a hostess. For many decades she stood at the heart of Harcourt's social activities and was in particular instrumental in the formation of an active Methodist Ladies Guild. The family enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle and always employed a maid.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The house is a large example of a timber villa with a design transitional between late Victorian and Federation in style. The building has a roof of intersecting gables and hips, with a return verandah with decoration consisting of a simple timber frieze. The roofs are enhanced by the brick chimneys with render cappings.

The front gable contains a square bay window protected by a window canopy supported on brackets. The main decorative element of the gables is the king truss supporting the barge boards and finishing in a turned timber finial.

The garden setting of the house adds to its character and there appears to be plantings dating from the construction of the house such as the fan palms.

The house is a well designed and substantially intact example of a large villa residence.

---

## REFERENCES

Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
Information from George Milford, Sybil James

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

**LISTINGS**  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt

HBC No  
 NATIONAL TRUST   
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
 OTHER

NAME Blume, Brick House & Bakery  
 ADDRESS Calder Highway

FORMER NAME

**TITLE DETAILS**  
 Harcourt, Sec 10, Lot 8

MAP NAME Chewton  
 MAP REF. BU 561 014

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The site is a significant example of the mix of residential and industrial use on the same allotment. The Fruit Drying Factory, although altered for use as a bakery, is one of the few structures remaining from the early developmental period of the Harcourt fruit industry and is an expression of the popularity of cooperative ventures during this time. The establishment of the bakery in Harcourt in 1921 and the solid construction of the Blume's house is indicative of the new enterprise and money that was being attracted to the orchard town in the boom era of the 1910s and 1920s. The site is a landmark in the area due to its prominent position, the substantial brick buildings and the palm trees.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**  
 Towns (Residential)

**BUILDING DATE**  
 1911, 1922

**PHOTOGRAPH**  
 FILM No 10/24  
 DATE 24 6 92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The Harcourt Fruit Drying Society was established as a cooperative venture in 1908 with the aim of turning second class apples, into a profitable product. The wastage that occurred during a heavy crop year was estimated to be between 1/5 and 1/3 of the total crop. An evaporating plant was purchased capable of drying 200 cases of fruit a week although this was considered by some to be scarcely sufficient to take full advantage of bumper crops. The compressor was a notorious fire hazard and in 1910 the factory was destroyed by fire for the second time. The present brick factory buildings were presumably constructed after the second fire. At the half yearly gathering of the Company in 1911 it was reported that "apathy pervaded the meeting" and the directors were charged with selling, leasing or finding a firm to work the Drying Factory.

In the absence of financial backing the Factory closed and in 1921, when Ernest Blume moved his bakery from Barkers Creek, the buildings were utilised as the new bakery premises. One building was fitted with wooden bread kneading troughs and another with a bakers oven. Bread baked here supplied the whole Harcourt/Barkers Creek area with the Blumes offering bread delivery by horse and cart as far afield as Sutton Grange.

Soon after their arrival in Harcourt the Blumes also erected a new brick house on the same site as the bakery. Ellis and Yolande Blume carried on the business until about 1960.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The complex consists of three main buildings; the former fruit drying factory/ bakery, brick residence and kerosene tin clad shed.

The former fruit drying factory has a main rectangular section of brick with a hipped roof of galvanised corrugated iron with a brick skillion roofed section attached. The building has been extended to the rear by the addition of two large corrugated galvanised iron clad sections with gable roofs. The complex is of a plain design without decoration reflecting its industrial use. The building appears substantially intact and is one of the more substantial and robust examples of the buildings which supported the orcharding industry. Its conversion to a bakery, which was one of the major suppliers of the district, is a significant early recycling of the building.

The residence is one of the most prominent buildings in Harcourt being at the intersection of the Calder and Midlands Highways. The brick building with its dominating hipped roof is a local landmark. The roofline is relieved by hipped sections which terminate in a gable roof over square window bays at the front and side. The roofs of the return verandahs at each side of the house are extensions of the main roof line and are supported on posts supporting curvilinear *art nouveau* capitals. The windows are multipaned casements with fixed lights above. The house is substantially intact. The decorative brick garden wall which was a major feature of the site due to its length and design has partially collapsed. The wrought iron gate of strap work still survives.

The house is enhanced by the three Canary Island palms set in the lawn of buffalo grass. This type of planting was typical of garden layout in the 1920s.

The shed at the rear of the site is of interest as it is clad in flattened kerosene cans. This technique was used in times of hardship or when other building supplies were in short supply such as during wartime. The building is a rectangular shed with a gable roof and may have been used as stables. Very few of these 'make do' types of constructions remain.

The site is a significant example of the mix of residential and industrial use on the same site. The site is a landmark in the area due to its prominent position, the substantial brick buildings and the palm trees.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, A Short History of Harcourt, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
Mount Alexander Mail

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt

**NAME:** ANA Hall  
**ADDRESS:** Calder Highway

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
Harcourt, Lots 4,5,6

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 561 015

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The building is a simple and robust rendered brick, gable roofed community hall. The Hall has stood at the centre of community life in Harcourt for much of this century and its prominent position in the main street makes it an important element in the townscape. Its construction in 1910 demonstrates the strength of the Harcourt Branch of the Australian Natives Association and the appeal of patriotism during this period before the First World War.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Community Life (Halls)

**BUILDING DATE**

1910.11



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No.10 25  
DATE 22.4.6.92

---

## HISTORY

The Harcourt Branch of the Australian Natives Association (ANA) was formed in 1908 when their first meeting was held in the Chaff room at the rear of the local store. The ANA Hall was built in 1910-11 by Mr Sutherland from Barkers Creek at a cost of £220. This was financed by means of debentures among members of the ANA.

The ANA immediately became a focal point for social functions in Harcourt since previous to its construction the closest venue had been the Rechabite Hall, at Barkers Creek. The Mount Alexander Mail records the range of functions held in the Hall including fruit growers' conferences, "Welcome Home" to returned soldiers, musical and dramatic revues - and local residents remember weekly euchre parties and Saturday night dances. In later years a back room and a kitchen were also added to the Hall. The Shire of Metcalfe assumed control of the Hall in 1970.

By 1981 it was apparent that any large function could not be accommodated in the hall. Large functions were held in Castlemaine. The Secretary and President at that time covered a series of Public meetings to canvass the possibility of a larger hall. From these meetings grew the concept of a Leisure Centre at Harcourt and after its construction the functions of the Public Hall were transferred there. The ANA Hall is now used by the Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The Hall is a simple rectangular structure of concrete rubble with a corrugated galvanised iron gable roof. The ridge is surmounted with circular capped ventilators. The street frontage has a centrally placed door with a single window to each side. The east addition is of weather board and extends the existing roof line. The recent north entry porch has a skillion roof. The building is a simple and robust community hall.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Interview with George Milford  
*Castlemaine Mail*, 28 Jan 1983  
*Mount Alexander Mail*, 17 June 1919, 21 July 1934

**LISTINGS**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt

**NAME:** Harcourt Cemetery,  
**ADDRESS:** Calder Highway

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS**

**MAP NAME:** Barker  
**MAP REF.:** BU 553 034

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

A well maintained cemetery originally gazetted in 1870, the Harcourt cemetery is significant as a register of the changing population levels and social character of Harcourt. The preponderance of early to mid twentieth century headstones reflects the area's growth during this period. The headstones are predominantly of local granite and include the headstone of J. Blight, proprietor of Harcourt's first granite quarry.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Community Life (Cemeteries)

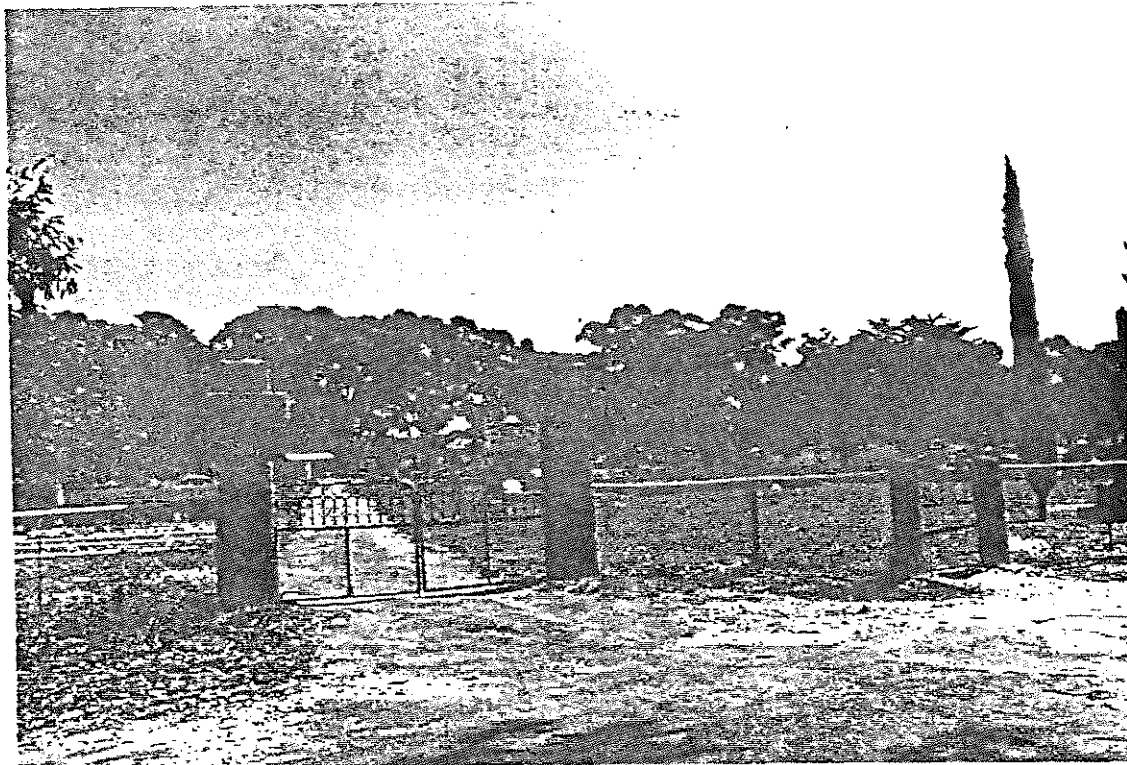
**BUILDING DATE**

1870

---

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 2746  
DATE 4.3.93



---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM 1989/90

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The first burial was that of Anna Schier in January 1870. The headstones in the cemetery give an indication of the many countries from which the early residents had migrated; Germany, England, Scotland, Wales and Finland.

In the Wesleyan section are the memorials to the four long serving state school head teachers of Harcourt, McMacking, Holloway, Stewart and Larter.

At the rear of the Cemetery is the family grave of H.R. Bastow, notable as the Architect of the majority of Victorian State Schools in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Over 1300 burials have taken place here.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The cemetery is on high ground on a relatively flat site. The main entrance is marked by two large square granite gateposts, which were erected in 1935 by the Harcourt and District Pioneers Memorial Committee as Harcourt's contribution to the centenary of settlement in Victoria. The pedestrian entrance is marked by smaller simple granite posts. Both entrances have gates of decorative wrought iron which appear to date from the 1930s.

The site was originally surveyed to be of 10 acres but has been reduced by a water supply siphon which traverses the entire eastern frontage. The front fence has been therefore set well back from the surveyed boundary.

The Lawn Cemetery was opened in 1982.

There are some plantings of conifers but the area is a relatively clear site. The cemetery has a collection of fine headstones, predominantly of local granite, including the granite headstone of J Blight, proprietor of Harcourt's first granite quarry.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, A Short History of Harcourt, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Information from George Milford.



## LISTINGS

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER 

HBC No.

NATIONAL TRUST NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER 

OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt

NAME: Blight/Jennings, Granite House

ADDRESS: Coopers Road

FORMER NAME:

## TITLE DETAILS

MAP NAME Barker

MAP REF. BU 589 040

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house has a clear association with the Harcourt granite industry which was the major supplier of granite in the colony during the last decades of the twentieth century. The house was a residence for Blight's most trusted employees and may have been originally constructed by Blight for his own use.

Local Significance

## RECOMMENDATIONS

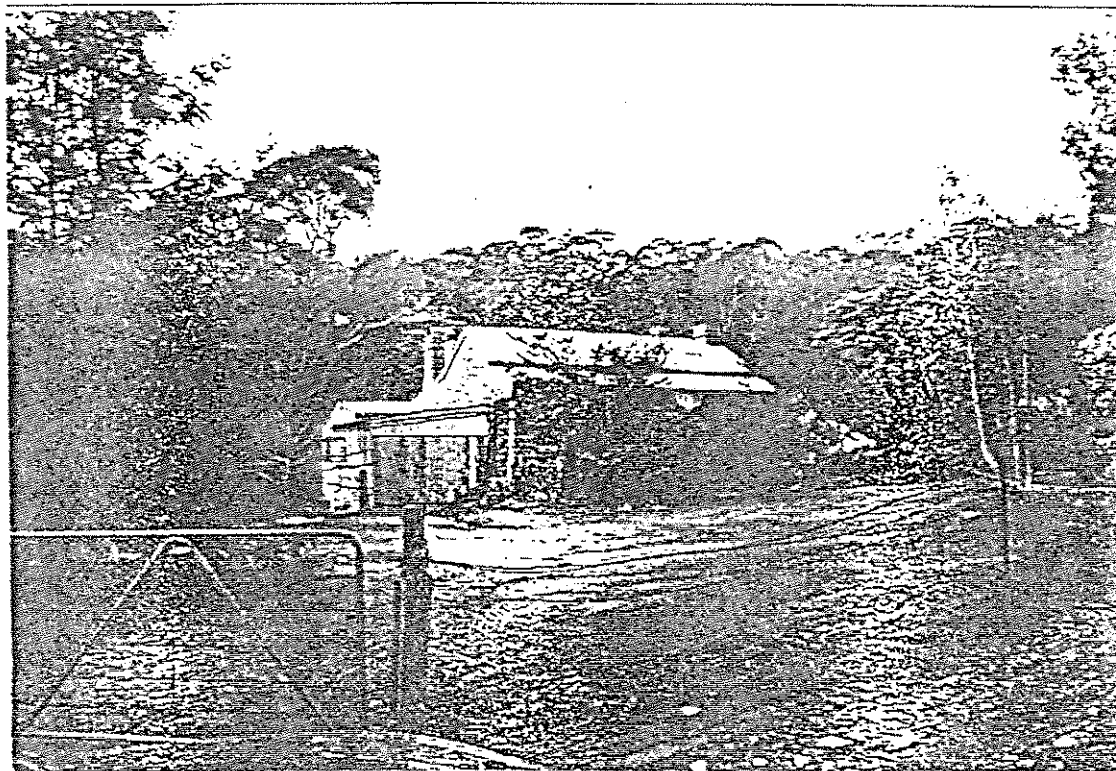
Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

## THEMES

Towns (Industry)

BUILDING DATE

c1860



PHOTOGRAPH

FILM No. 26/19

DATE 29.9.92

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM 1989/90

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

Joseph Blight came from a quarrying family in England and during the construction of the railway he formed a co-operative party to supply the contractors with surface granite. On completion of the railway he opened up deep quarries on the lower slopes of Mount Alexander. The granite obtained from these quarries rapidly gained a reputation for quality and was used for dozens of monumental and building projects in Victoria and inter state. It also gave a fillip to local granite construction.

The building may have originally been built by Joseph Blight for his own use but the first known occupants were Carrie and John Jennings in 1897. John Jennings is said to have served his apprenticeship under Mr J. Blight in the United Kingdom and he began working at the Harcourt quarry in the early 1880s. He was appointed foreman and continued working for Blight's for over forty years.

During the period after the first world war, the demand for granite soared due to the increased demand for monumental work generated by the war and a new public preference for granite rather than bluestone. Sixteen men were permanently employed under Jennings' foremanship. In the late 1920s John Jennings and his family vacated the house and Clifford Ely, quarryman, took up residency.

Mr Jennings told the present owner, Ron Layton, that the existing stone building was originally the stables and the original house was adjacent. The house was demolished to make way for a swimming pool but the chimney and a stone hut still survive as well as the stable buildings which is now used as a house.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The building has a simple rectangular plan with a gable roof. The front walls of the building are of squared rubble work with the side walls laid with the less formal random rubble treatment. The building has three squared granite chimneys and a shallow convex roofed front verandah with decorative brackets to the posts.

The building has been extended with a skillion at the rear and a side skillion of timber construction.

The building's low proportions and simple form are typical of a construction date in the late 1850s or early 1860s. The verandah was probably a later addition but is compatible with the building.

The building is significant for the use of the local granite and the stone work of the chimneys and facade. The relationship with early quarrying is significant.

---

## REFERENCES

- Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding
- Information from Rex McKindley, George Milford, Ron Layton
- MAM, Series on Local Industry, 1907
- Number of Stone Quarries in Operation in each Municipal District, Statistical Registers of the Colony of Victoria, 1871-1900
- MAM, 26 May, 1882; 11 July, 1918; 31 Jan 1922

**LISTINGS:**  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
 HBC No  
 NATIONAL TRUST   
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
 OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Teurong - Douglas House and Outbuilding

**ADDRESS:** Craigie Street East

**FORMER  
 NAME**

**TITLE DETAILS**

Harcourt: Sec 3, Lot 9

**MAP NAME:** Barker

**MAP REFERENCE** BU 574 022

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The substantial brick house dates from the earlier period of settlement and consolidation of the Harcourt area. It is notable for its long and continuous occupation by the Douglas family, one of Harcourt's most prominent and progressive orcharding and dairying families. The house gains in significance from its close relationship with other elements on the site such as the dairy, packing shed and orchard.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Horticulture, Agriculture (Dairy)

**BUILDING DATE**

1860s

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 11-9-12

DATE 24.6.92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWISS 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

John and James Douglas had arrived in Australia prior to 1850 as they worked for William Dawson on the property he leased between 1846 and 1849 at Western Port called Teurong

John Douglas purchased land in Harcourt in 1854. Sometime between 1854 and 1857 he went back to Scotland and returned to Harcourt with his family, George and Ellen and their three daughters. In 1860 John purchased this property and in the early 1860s married Mary Dawson and called the property Teurong

The earliest surviving rate books, record that John Douglas owned a farm in Harcourt in 1866. He was one of many early settlers to attempt dairying, stimulated by the demand for dairy produce generated by both the Mount Alexander and Bendigo goldfields. By 1874 he owned a house and by 1884 he had extended his acreage to 270 acres. During the 1870s he also planted his first fruit trees and when they began bearing he combined orcharding with dairying with a marked degree of success. A second house was built on the orchard block in the late 1870s or early 1880s. A photograph of this house taken in the 1890s shows that no fruit trees were grown on this block at that time.

By the early twentieth century, "Teurong", the Douglas's 25 acre orchard, was considered one of the area's model gardens and in 1909 it featured in a Weekly Times report on the orchard industry in Harcourt. The report highlighted the Douglas's success in combining orcharding with dairying, the advantages of using farmyard manure as fertiliser and the orchard's continuing high yields. It also described in some detail the Douglas's modern store house with its tiered shelving, large central shelf and a loft. Among local residents John Douglas was known for his commitment to spraying. In 1907 he sprayed his trees a dozen times and the end result of 99% clean fruit was widely cited.

Upon John Douglas's death in 1927 the control of the property passed to his son John Parnham Douglas and later again, to his other son, George Douglas. The property is presently held by George's son, Ron.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The house has an early granite section which consists of a large living room and one bedroom with a verandah on the south side. The kitchen or cool room scullery was close to that verandah. In the late 1860s or early 1870s the brick house was built. The low pitched hip roofed section at the rear of the house was built in the early 1890s as a cool room for the milk and meat and also for smoking meat. It has a large fireplace.

The front section of this building is a mid-Victorian brick house with a corrugated galvanised iron hipped roof. The building is very simple with a central front door flanked by symmetrically placed double hung windows. The verandah has a shallow pitched roof and is supported on posts with small corative brackets supporting the verandah beam. The building has had an extension to the rear but appears otherwise substantially intact.

The two storey corrugated galvanised iron clad building at the rear is probably the building described as the "modern store house with its tiered shelving, large central shelf and a loft." This building is now in poor condition.

---

## REFERENCES

Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
Information from George Milford, Stan Laversha, Ron Douglas and Douglas family.  
Weekly Times, May 15, 1909  
Mount Alexander Mail

CURRENT LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt  
NAME: Eagle House

ADDRESS: Danns Road

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Barker  
MAP REFERENCE BU 577 045

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is a representative example of a dwelling built by a second generation orchardist. It is typical of a timber villa of the 1890s with a bull nosed verandah and square window bay.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Horticulture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1890



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No 23 19  
DATE 16 9 92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. THYGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

William Eagle was one of the first to pioneer orcharding in the Harcourt area in 1857. His son, William Eagle junior, followed his father as an orchardist. As a young man he gained experience working for James Lang, a successful local fruit grower and nursery man, before purchasing 36 acres of his own near the reservoir between 1889-1894. On this property he planted ten acres of fruit trees. Earlier he had sent cases of his apples to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition held in London in 1886, winning a bronze medal and a certificate for his exhibit.

William married Miss M. M. Brown, a school teacher, from South Ravenswood. They lived all their married life in the house William built at the same time he purchased the property. The couple were very popular and a report in the local paper, written on the occasion of William's 83rd birthday, stated that the "House of Eagle" was known far and wide for the warmth of its hospitality.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The large weatherboard house is distinctive for the large steeply pitched gambrel roof, clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The roof line is relieved by a hipped roof section terminating in a square window bay under a gable roof. The house has a bullnosed roofed verandah with some cast iron decorative friezework remaining. It would appear that the original posts have been replaced with plain pipe poles. The front facade has a central doorway flanked symmetrically by pairs of double hung windows.

The house is of a design that illustrates the transition from late Victorian to Federation style of housing.

The house is an example of a large timber villa house and is enhanced by its garden setting. The garden retains many early tree plantings including a mature Bunya Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) which would appear to date from the turn of the century.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
*Castlemaine Mail*

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Ely House

**ADDRESS:** Dann's Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Barker  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 578 024

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The complex is significant as a substantial granite house and earlier granite cottage in the ownership of the Ely family.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Horticulture

---

**BUILDING DATE**  
1906



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No11/14.15  
27/18.19  
DATE 24.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

This ratebooks indicate that this site was the property of John Ely in 1884, when he paid rates on a house valued at £4.

John Malcolm Ely was probably the son of either William or Henry Ely, two brothers who pioneered orcharding in the Harcourt area. The present granite house appears to have been constructed or updated in 1906.

Hedley James, local historian states that this house was constructed by John Malcolm Ely in 1906. The Ely family owned several properties in the area and little information regarding this particular property has been located through the ratebooks.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The date of 1906 for construction or major upgrading of the house appears consistent with the style and decoration of the building. The house is of squared coursed granite with a hipped roof of corrugated galvanised iron. The bull nosed return verandah is supported on timber posts with cast iron decorative brackets and frieze.

The house is of a characteristic Victorian style with the central front door and sidelights flanked by double hung windows. The building is significant for the use of local granite.

The adjacent low ceilinged building also of granite would appear to have been the earlier dwelling on the site. The use of six paned windows and the solid construction would be highly unusual for a shed.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding



**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** "Cairn Warren"

**ADDRESS:** Cnr Dann's Road and Craigie Road

**FORMER NAME:** Ely House

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Barker  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 578023

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The house and the surrounding property have high significance for their association with the beginnings of the fruit industry in Harcourt. This industry became important not just on a local level but on a state level with Harcourt contributing 30% of the state's production of apples in 1907. The site is also a very early example of a land selection in the Shire and its location with access to Mount Alexander's streamlets and springs, is indicative of the importance of a reliable water supply before the introduction of the Coliban Water Scheme.

Local Significance

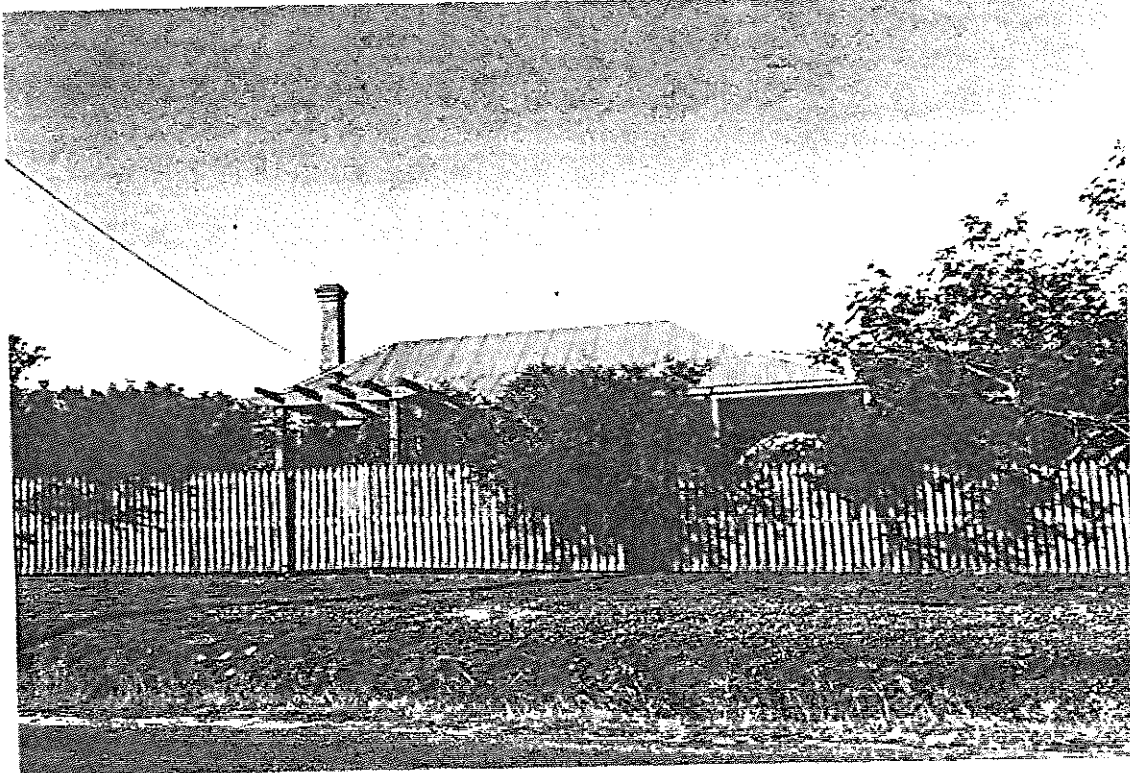
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Horticulture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1860s



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 11/16  
27/20.21  
DATE 24.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90,  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

William Eagle and William and Henry Ely migrated to Australia from England in the early 1850s and worked together on the Chewton gold fields. Abandoning the goldfields in 1857, they bought a 36 acre block at auction near the Western slopes of Mount Alexander and divided the block into three lots of 12 acres. It is on this land that the Harcourt orchard industry is said to have had its beginnings. In reality the three men were probably similar to many other small farmers who settled near the gold fields and planted a variety of fruit trees and vegetables in order to cater for the miners demand for fresh produce. The difference may have lain in William Eagle's acquisition of a large number of fruit trees from Greensborough around 1860 before these were generally available in the Mount Alexander area. By happy chance, apple trees flourished in the granitic soil and, since the Elys and Eagles had planted a sufficient quantity to prove profitable, their example was quickly imitated. The property was known as Mount Alexander Orchard.

The twelve acre block on which the present house is sited was the land originally purchased by Henry Ely. The rate books list a house on the property at least as early as 1872. Henry Ely moved closer to Harcourt in 1890 and James and Sarah Jane Warren took up residence in the house (Sarah Jane had been an Ely before her marriage). It was at this time that the house was named Cairn Warren.

James and Sarah had fifteen children and after Sarah's death in 1901, James married Annie Lang and they reared another three children. James Warren was instrumental in arranging the export of apples from the Harcourt area, working for a German exporter.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The small size of the rooms and simplicity of the interior indicates that the house was built in the 1860s or 1870s. The brick and stone house has a hipped roof clad now in corrugated galvanised iron. The roof extends to form an encircling verandah. The verandah decoration is missing.

A photograph in the possession of the present owners shows that the building was extended to accommodate the many children during the occupation of the Warren family. The extension took the form of a timber wing on the north side of the extant building. This wing was later demolished, and the granite footings of the wing are still visible in the garden.

The building is substantially intact and relates to the early period of occupation of the district.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre

Warren family history material

*Fruit World of Australasia*, July 10, 1918

*A short history of Harcourt* compiled by J. B. Warren, W. E. James and John Stewart, 1910

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Williams House

**ADDRESS:** Dann's Road (off)

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 581 012

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The house is significant as the response by Harcourt's largest fruit grower, to the prosperity generated by orcharding. The original granite farmhouse became one of the largest and most imposing houses in the area and its extension over time reflects the rising fortunes of the Williams family as they moved from dry land farming to orcharding.

Local Significance

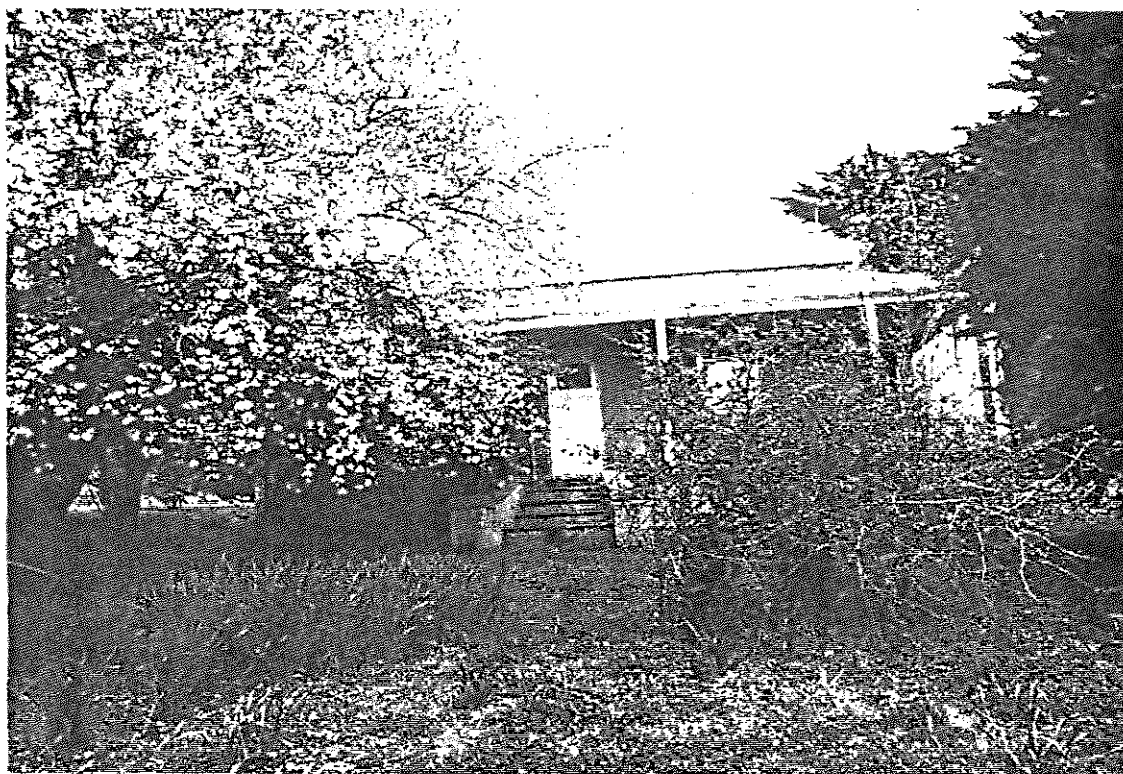
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Horticulture

**BUILDING DATE**



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No.  
23/25.26.27.28  
DATE 24.6.92

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90,  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In 1874, William Lloyd Williams is recorded as the owner of 109 acres and a house at Harcourt. During the 1880s, in common with many other Harcourt farmers, he began planting fruit trees and by 1909 W L Williams and Sons had an orchard of sixty acres - the largest in the district. At this time they provided over 300 cases weekly to the up-country market. They also grew cherries with a great deal of success.

William's sons, William junior and Ellis continued to run the orchard, after their father's death. The house was recorded as the "homestead" in the rate books and may have been extended in the early twentieth century - the beginning of a prosperous period for orchardists. It is said that granite for the house and out buildings was obtained from a quarry on the property and built by one of the Williams family. This may have been a mason by the name of Frederick Williams who was operating in Harcourt during the nineteenth century.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The main part of the granite house is similar to others constructed in the area being a basic rectangle with a hipped roof and symmetrically placed windows either side of the front door and the building protected by a verandah. The main granite section has rendered chimneys. This simple mid Victorian style takes on a local characteristic due to the granite walls.

The value of the building changed from £40 to £100 between 1900 and 1905 which would indicate that extensions were made at this time and given the detailing of the rendered wing with the bow fronted bay window, this could have been constructed during this period. The turned timber verandah posts are also characteristic of the early 1900s. There have been other additions to the granite section in weatherboard.

Adjacent to the main house is a separate granite building with a gable roof and brick chimney. This may have been a separate kitchen or an earlier house on the site. The side wall has a timber springing plate which appears to indicate that a timber framed roof structure was attached to the building. The walls have suffered from movement in the foundation material with large cracks indicating rotation of the footings.

The house is significant as the response by Harcourt's largest fruit grower, to the prosperity generated by orcharding. It is one of the largest and most imposing granite houses in the area and its extension over time reflects the rising fortunes of the Williams family.

---

## REFERENCES

Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
Information from George Milford, Stan Laversha, Rex Warren  
"Castlemaine and Districts Industries - Harcourt Fruit", Mount Alexander Mail, 1909

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt  
NAME: Oak Forest

ADDRESS: Mount Alexander

FORMER NAME

TITLE DETAILS

MAP NAME: Barker  
MAP REFERENCE BU 585028

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Oak Forest contains rare plantings of mature oak trees. It is significant as a community landmark and popular recreational area. Its creation as an experimental venture, partly aimed at investigating the commercial potential of valonia oak, reflects the concern of the Lands Department during the 1890s to develop alternative industries.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfé Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Forestry, Community Life

**BUILDING DATE**

1900



**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 209  
DATE

---

PROJECT No 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90)

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. J. JOBS AND K. THORP 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

During August 1900, the Lands Department planted several acres of oaks at the foot of Mount Alexander at a place known locally as Picnic Gully. During this period the valonia oak was receiving a great deal of publicity due to the great commercial value of its acorns for tanning purposes. Wattle bark had traditionally been used but this was becoming more difficult to obtain. The Valonia acorn was said to be superior "even to the best black wattle bark" and was in great demand at £15 - £20 a ton. It was argued locally that since the best valonia came from the mountainous country in Syria which was in many respects similar to Mount Alexander, the area should be well suited to its growth. The experimental plantation at Picnic Gully included a large number of valonia oaks but a variety of other species as well. Intermediate rows of Elms were also planted to protect the Oaks until they were of sufficient height to afford their own protection. A similar plantation was established in Myrtleford at the same time.

Eleven years later it was reported that the growth of the plantation had been very slow, many of the trees refusing to start at all. While some of the oaks had become well established, such as an oak from East China not previously cultivated in Victoria, the valonia was dubbed by many as a dismal failure. The failure was attributed in large measure to fact that Picnic Gully did not have adequate drainage. Subsequently the Forestry Department concentrated on planting the more profitable *pinus insignis* on the surrounding slopes.

---

## DESCRIPTION

Mature plantings of rare oak trees including algerian oak (*Quercus acutissima*) and bristle-tipped oak (*Quercus canariensis*) covering a large area on the west slope of Mount Alexander. Other exotic plantings are included around the main stand of oaks.

---

## REFERENCES

James, A Short History of Harcourt, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
MAM, 1900; 20 July, 1911  
Forestry Commission Tourist Pamphlet

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Hampson House  
**ADDRESS:** High Street  
**FORMER NAME:** H. McDougall General Store

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
Sec 9 Lot 5

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 561 014

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hampson house and remains of the Hampson store are important elements in the streetscape of Harcourt. The house is a characteristic early twentieth century design but is unusual because of the use of local grey granite. The slate, granite, brick and weatherboard store building links back to the 1870s commercial developments in Harcourt and the store was an important part of the commercial life of Harcourt for more than 50 years. The use of slate is unusual in Harcourt.

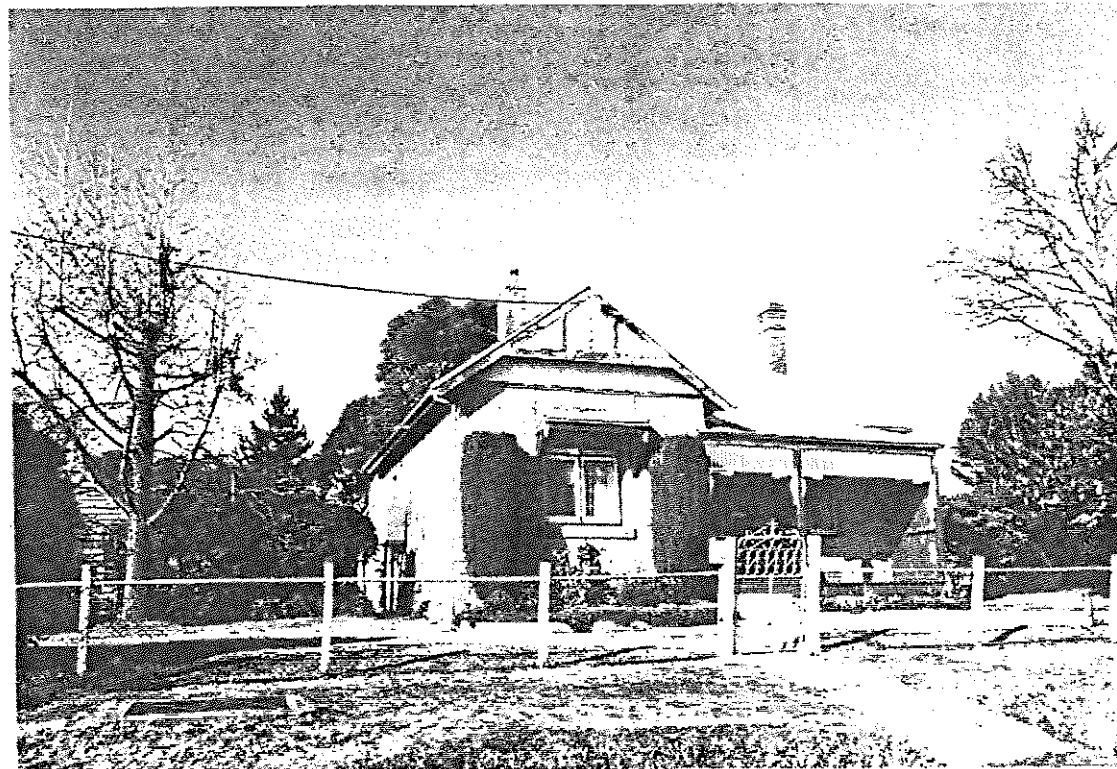
Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Community Life, Towns (Commercial)

**BUILDING DATE**  
1870s, 1900s



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 10/29  
DATE 24.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWYGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The 1872 ratebook lists John Hampson as having a store at Barkers Creek. In 1874 he has relocated to Harcourt where he is listed as a storekeeper and owner of a store. By 1888 the listing in the ratebook has altered to store and land. This description continued until 1901 when John Hampson is paying rates on the allotments adjoining the store and the shop and a dwelling have been acquired by Charles Pascoe, storekeeper. In 1906 the rates were paid by W. Baldwin as storekeeper and Charles Pascoe is the owner. In 1910 the storekeeper was John Stuart. Between 1911 and 1921 Harold McDougall was the owner and storekeeper.

George Milford relates that the store was "the" general store in Harcourt and that his grandmother Esther Peeler worked there between 1902 and 1904. The store was in front of the stone shed, next to the present house. The stone shed was used as a store house for goods.

Before World War 2 the house and store were surrounded by orchards. The land surrounding this site was only subdivided after the war.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The granite house is a design typical of the style and decoration popular in the early decades of the twentieth century. It could be the house for which rate where paid in 1901 and could possibly have been built by Charles Pascoe.

The building has a steeply pitched hip roof covering the major section of the house with a gable roof intersecting at the front. The verandah roof is a continuation of the main roof. The gable front wall is decorated with timber strapping and has a centrally placed window opening with a large granite sill. The windows are a pair of casements with fixed lights above and are protected by a window hood with decorative brackets and fascia.

The verandah roof is supported on square timber posts with carved timber brackets of a sinuous art nouveau pattern. The frieze is of plain timber slats with a beam above and below.

The chimneys are of brick with simple corbelled brick decoration.

The building is characteristic of the early twentieth century but is an unusual example as it is built of the local grey granite.

The adjoining stone shed is all that remains of Hampson's Store and its construction of slate, granite and brick indicates that it was constructed by Hampson in 1874 or may even have been on the site when he began shopkeeping in Harcourt. The end wall of weatherboards indicates that at one time it was connected to the shop or was a longer structure. The texture of the slate stone wall with the brick and granite sections is unusual in Harcourt.

---

## REFERENCES

Shire of Metcalfe Ratebooks  
Information from George Milford, Sybil James  
Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre

---

Assessed by  
W Jacobs/K Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993



**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Harcourt Post Office

**ADDRESS:** Cnr of High Street and Wright Street

**FORMER NAME:** National Bank Agency

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 561 014

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This simple rectangular rendered brick building was constructed in 1912 as the Harcourt Office of the National Bank. The building has housed the Post Office since 1943. The building is significant as an example of the commercial buildings in Harcourt

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

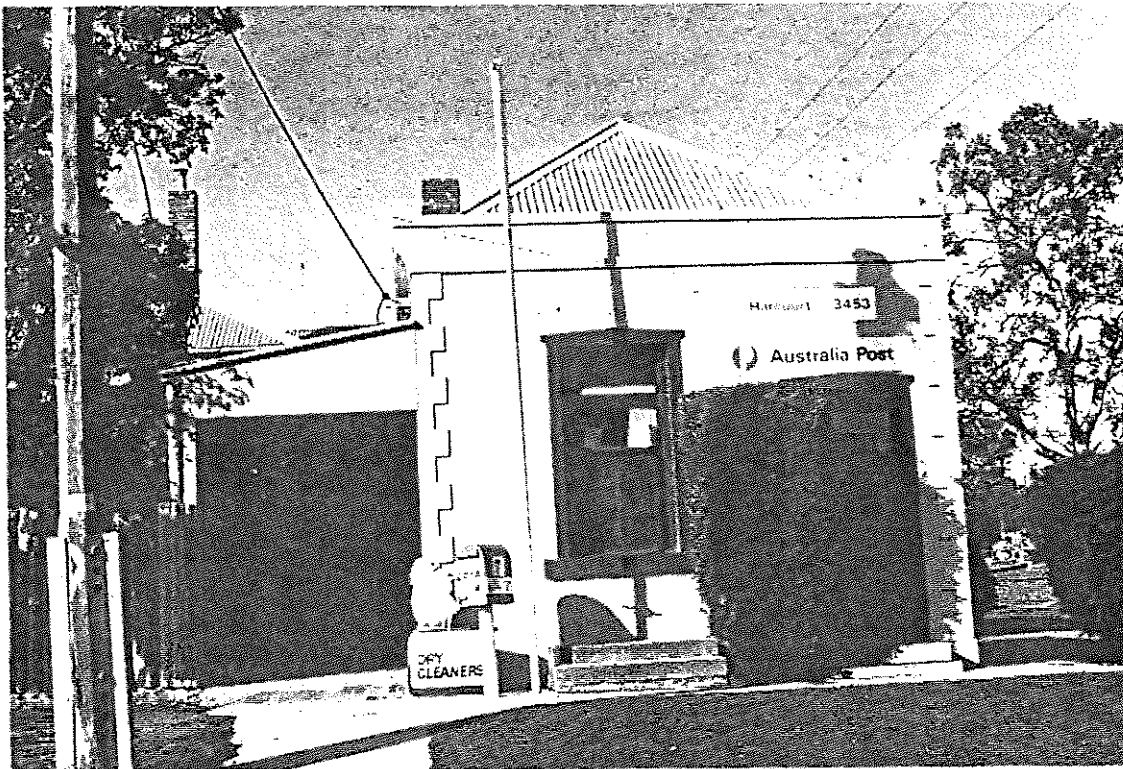
---

**THEMES**

Transport/Communications (Postal services)

**BUILDING DATE**

1912



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 10/29  
DATE 24.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

Harcourt's first post office functioned from the Talbot Inn in 1858, under the charge of Joseph Williamson. In 1861, Henry Hayden, was given permission to combine his duties as head teacher at the Harcourt School, with those of post master. A mail list for 1862 shows that mail was conveyed "To and from Kyneton Railway Station and Sandhurst by way of Malmsbury, Taradale, Elphinstone, Chewton, Castlemaine, Barker's Creek, Harcourt, Ravenswood, Big Hill and Kangaroo Flat. The service operated six times a week, the mail being carried by coach.

Around 1883 the post office was transferred to Mrs Guthrie's residence (the former Harcourt Hotel) on the corner of High Street and Bridge Street and Mrs Guthrie continued to act as post mistress until 1914. In 1915 G. McLean was appointed the new post master and a new post office building together with a residence, was erected in High Street. The Post Office operated from here until 1943 when it was transferred to the current building which had been the National Bank Branch Office since 1912. This had ceased trading and was vacant. Wilfred Smith was the first post master appointed to the new post office.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The current Post Office building is a rendered brick building with a hipped roof behind a small flat parapet. The building is constructed to the street boundary and has rendered quoins to mark the corners and simple rendered architraves around the door and window. The building appears to have been constructed in 1912 as a branch of the National Bank. Early photographs show the building sitting amongst orchards. The only changes are the removal of the raised lettering in the parapet "The National Bank of Australasia", the addition of the skillion roofed porch and the addition of the concrete steps in front of the window.

The building is a simple but solid building and its scale reflects the beginnings of growth in Harcourt in the early twentieth century when the commerce of the town required a branch bank but on a small scale.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Post Office Historian - Public Relations Section, 1973  
Information from George Milford, Sybil James

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Stanley Park  
**ADDRESS:** Cnr High and Market Sts  
**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 561 014

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

By 1914 many of Harcourt's struggling agricultural settlements had been replaced by flourishing orchards and residents were beginning to envisage Harcourt as the new orcharding centre of the State. The transformation of the "Reserve" into "Stanley Park", coinciding with the visit of the Governor of Victoria to open the Central Fruit Growers Conference, clearly illustrates this new found town pride. The Soldier Monuments and memorial tree planting mark the Park as a place where community values continued to be expressed. The segmentation of the Park has somewhat reduced its landscape significance although the Bunya Bunya pines, cedars and palms remain notable features.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

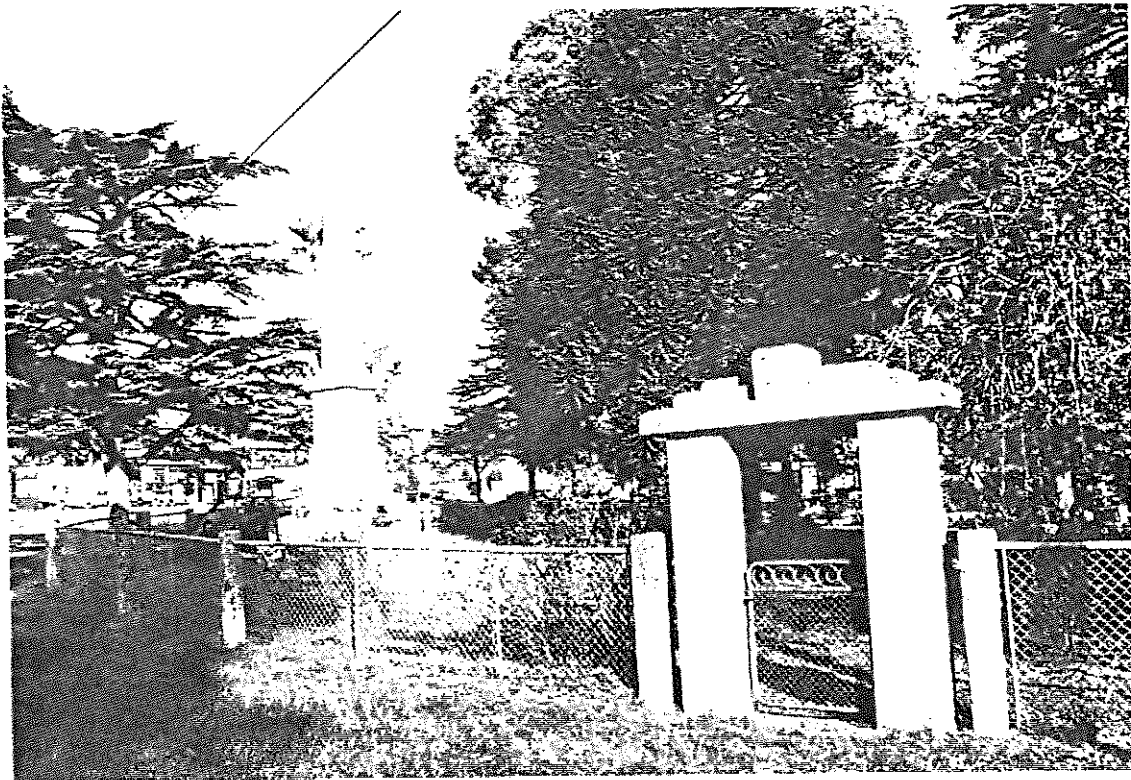
**THEMES**

Horticulture (Parks)

**BUILDING DATE**

1914

**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 10/31-2



---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

This area was initially known simply as the Reserve but in September 1914, Sir Arthur Stanley (Governor of Victoria 1914-1920) came to Harcourt to participate in the 18th conference of the Central Fruit Growers Association. Nursery man, James Lang, donated two Bunya-Bunya Pines, and these were planted in the Reserve, one by Sir Arthur Stanley and the other by the Hon H. S. W Lawson. The Reserve was renamed Stanley Park, in the Governor's honour and in officially renaming the park, Sir Arthur Stanley commented that "It was a good thing to have plenty of parks and although the country was open enough now, some day when Harcourt became a great city (laughter) they would be thankful at having preserved spaces of land". The Park was subsequently planted more extensively with a variety of plants including cedars and palms. A native gum tree, with a scarred trunk, (known locally as the canoe tree) was retained. This tree is thought to date back before white settlement.

A Soldiers Memorial was erected in the Park in 1921 after the 1914-1918 War. It was made of local granite donated by Mr Jenkin of Blight's Quarry and constructed by Wilson and Co of Bendigo. A granite gateway was later erected to honour the men of the 1939-1945 War.

The Reserve was divided into three segments when the Calder Highway's route through the town was straightened.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The reserve was initially a large area but has been divided into three sections and reduced by road works and the construction of the Harcourt Motel and ANA Hall. The plantings in the gardens which relate to the development of the reserve early in the twentieth century include the two Bunya Bunya pines (*Araucaria Bidwillii*) one of which is marked by a plaque: "These Bunya Bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) was presented by Mr. J. Lang and planted on the 15th September 1914 by the Governor of Victoria Sir Arthur Lyulph Stanley. He named this park Stanley Park the first park to be created in the Metcalfe Shire. This plaque was unveiled(sic) by the Metcalfe Shire President Cr. Ian Cochran on the 15th October 1989 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Stanley Park." There are also *Trachycarpus fortunei*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Pinus canariensis* dating from this period. The granite pillars commemorating the 1939-45 war have plantings of roses and cypress (Stumps only) associated with them. Various *Eucalyptus* are marked by small plaques relating to more recent wars. Other plantings include *Pinus* species, *Cedrus deodara*, *Cedrus atlantica*, *Washingtonia filiferax*

Stanley Park is important as the first park set aside in the Shire of Metcalfe and for the retained mature plantings and the memorial nature of the trees and objects within the park. It is a central element in the character of Harcourt.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre

MAM Sept 16 1914

Francine Gilfedder and Associates, Landscape Sites Assessment Report, Metcalfe Shire, 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Former Harcourt Hotel/ Ferries House

**ADDRESS:** Cnr High and Bridge Sts

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Barker  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 562 024

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The building, sited adjacent to the early creek crossing, is significant for its link with the gold rushes period when Harcourt was just a wayside stop for travelling diggers. The variety of uses to which the building has been put - hotel, monumental masons' yard, post office, bank, sawmill - add considerably to its interest and point to the advantages of its central location.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Towns (Commercial, Residential), Transport/Communications (Postal)

---

**BUILDING DATE**

c1850s



**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No. 11/1  
DATE 24.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The first reference to a building on this site is in 1855 when a two storeyed brick hotel is recorded on the corner of High Street and Bridge Street under the charge of publican, Edward Martin. It was a prime position for a hotel being on the main Castlemaine- Sandhurst goldfields road and opposite the bridge over Barker's Creek. A toll gate stood just over the bridge on the rise on the west side of the creek. The Harcourt Hotel was certainly one of the buildings observed by William Kelly in 1858 when he recorded that he passed through "a spick and span town called Harcourt, comprised of three large brand-new hotels only". In 1856 Thomas Reading had the license for the Hotel and by 1860 it had passed to John Slattery. Elizabeth Fisher was operating the Hotel in 1875 but by 1877 it was up for sale.

George Ferris, a monumental mason from Scotland, had established a business in Harcourt in 1875, in order to take advantage of the locally quarried granite. He purchased the Harcourt Hotel site and operated a monumental yard from the rear while living in the hotel. He established a steam cutting plant and polisher and dressed granite from Blight's quarry into a wide selection of "obelisks, tablets and columns". After George Ferris' death his sons, Duncan and Alexander, took over the business and in 1891 the firm moved to Castlemaine.

In 1892 Mrs Jane Guthrie took possession of the building and ran the post office from the front rooms until 1915. After 1920 there were several tenants and for some years the Primary Producers Bank was conducted from the old post office rooms. In the mid 1930s Ernest Martin conducted a sawmill at the rear of the building. He later sold to Harry and Mabel Guest.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The existing building is a single storeyed building of rendered brick with rendered quoin work and a hipped roof. The front of the building is now screened by large trees. The side entry door has a semi-circular fanlight. The building is of a simple mid-Victorian style and the existing building may contain the ground floor of the brick building as described in 1855 or may have replaced that building in the 1860s or 1870s.

The siting of the building on the main road between goldfields next to the creek crossing is evocative of the early days of the development in the area. The use as a hotel which ceased trading in the 1870s illustrates the change in character of the area from a staging post to the goldfields to the settled orcharding area with a strong Rechabite influence. The building is a substantial mid-Victorian element in the Harcourt Township.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, *A Short History of Harcourt*, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Hedley James, *Do You Remember?* Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding  
Information from Sybil James  
William Kelly - *Life in Victoria* 1858 p183  
MAM 26 May 1882

---

Assessed by  
W Jacobs/K Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

**LISTINGS:**  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
 HBC No  
 NATIONAL TRUST  
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
 OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt

**NAME:** Langdale  
**ADDRESS:** Lang's Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 576 984

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Langdale - comprising a granite residence, storing and packing sheds, remnant planting and a surrounding orchard - is a rare example of a nineteenth century orchard complex. The remains of a red brick storage shed are indicative of the farm's development in the early years of fruit growing at Harcourt and before the introduction of orchard co-operatives. Langdale is closely associated with James Lang, the Shire's most influential orchardist and a horticulturist of state-wide reputation. The property is also of interest as the site of Lang's Talbot Nursery which, during the 1860s, contributed to the establishment of gardens throughout central Victoria. Some early plantings which survive - an enormous liquidambar, a bunya-bunya pine and cypress pines - may date from this period.

State Significance

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing), Register of the National Estate, Historic Buildings Council Register

**THEMES**  
 Horticulture

**BUILDING DATE**  
 1874

PHOTOGRAPH  
 FILM No.26/29-33  
 DATE 29.9.92



PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3550 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

James Lang was born in Coatbridge, Scotland in 1845 and arrived in Victoria with his parents in 1852. His mother and brothers selected land at Harcourt in 1858 and in his Memoirs, James records that at this time "there were no fences from Mr D L Jones, Faraday right down to Harcourt". The present granite homestead was built in the 1860s.

In 1861 James, together with his two older brothers, Samuel and William, started the Talbot Nursery principally growing fruit trees, shrubs and flowers. Order books record sales to buyers as far afield as Echuca, St Kilda and Mysia. The Langs also sold seedlings on the goldfields. An experimental orchard of two acres was planted with plums, apples, pears, peaches and apricots and James developed a special interest in cultivating chrysanthemums and daffodils, which he retained all his life.

In 1865 William and Samuel left Harcourt leaving twenty year old James in sole charge of the property. Having observed the suitability of the soil for fruit trees, James began to specialise in orcharding. This interest was encouraged when, in 1869, he married the daughter of Henry Ely, a pioneer of fruit growing in Harcourt.

James Lang was also one of the first in the area to benefit from irrigation when, in 1881, a spur channel from the Coliban Main Channel to the Specimen Gully area, was built along the top of his orchard. By 1888, James had 25 acres under orchard. He had a clean and airy double storey storing room and an apparatus for reliable irrigation.

James Lang was influential in promoting the early export of fruit. In 1886 he (along with William Eagle and Henry Ely) sent a selection of apples to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London. The apples arrived in such good condition that Lang received a silver medal from the Royal Horticultural Society of London for the best collection of apples. This stimulated the beginnings of what was to expand into a lucrative export trade for Harcourt.

James Lang also played a leading role in the public life of Harcourt. He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1887 and was a member of the Metcalfe Shire Council for twelve years and chairman of the Harcourt Water Trust for four years. He became a director of the Victorian Orchardists Cooperative Association and was appointed to the Pomological Committee of Australia by the Victorian government. James read widely and retained his early interest in horticulture. He was a life member of the Royal Horticultural Society and frequently travelled to Melbourne to give lectures. He served as vice president for two years and was a member of the Committee of Management for twelve years.

James' horticultural knowledge led him to experiment with many different varieties of apples and at one time he admitted to having 400 varieties in his orchard. By 1907 his orchard had increased to forty acres, making him one of the largest orchardists in the Harcourt area.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The Langs selected the land in Harcourt in 1858.

The present house was built in 1874 is of local granite and in common with other granite buildings in the area is of a conservative mid-Victorian design with a central doorway with flanking timber double hung windows and a return verandah. The roof is a hipped roof of M-formation now clad in corrugated iron. The return verandah has had its original posts replaced by round metal posts and any timber or iron decoration removed. The verandah floor has been replaced with concrete. The garden around the house is not formal and there is no evidence of any formal layout. The site contains the granite house, a working orchard, a number of mature ornamental trees and outbuildings including a stable with shingled roof. The mature trees include a very tall Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) which is notable.

---

## REFERENCES

*Victoria and its Metropolis*, 1888  
*The Fruit World of Australasia*, 10 July 1918  
Information from Cameron Lang  
MAM articles

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993



**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** "Tarran Court"

**ADDRESS:** Market St

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
Harcourt: Section 3, Lot 1

**MAP NAME:** Barker  
**MAP REFERENCE:** BU 576 021

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This brick house built by a local orchardist, Jack Smith, on his marriage, expresses the prosperity Harcourt orchardists had enjoyed during the 1920s.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Towns (Residential)

**BUILDING DATE**

1932-1934

---

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No. 11/19  
DATE 24.6.92



---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

Jack Smith, a local orchardist, built this brick house when he was married in the 1920s.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The house is an intact between wars residence of face brickwork with intersecting tiled gable roofs. The verandah roof is supported on paired cast cement pillars. The brick and wrought iron fence marked with pillars and beam with the name "Tarran Court" at the driveway complement and completes the design. The use of patterned brickwork in the verandah wall and the choice of substantial materials expresses the prosperity and faith in the booming orchading industry in the years between the wars. The house is a substantial and intact example of a prosperous residence of this era.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Sybil James

---

Assessed by  
W Jacobs/K Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt  
NAME: Trigonometrical Station

ADDRESS: Mount Alexander

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Barker  
MAP REFERENCE BU 601 019

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The trigonometrical station is used for the accurate surveying of the region. It is also significant as a community landmark. The granite structure has been a sign to generations of walking parties that the top of the Mount had been reached.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Communications, Community Life

---

**BUILDING DATE**

1876

---

**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 4/29

DATE 5.6.92



---

## HISTORY

In 1876 a newspaper report stated that the geodetical survey mound, known locally as the "Flagstaff" had been erected on the top of Mount Alexander "about twenty years ago in the centre of a pile of stones". Certainly, records confirm that observations were made from Mount Alexander at least as early as 1867. The first mound was made of wood with a conical weatherboard top. By 1876 this had fallen into disrepair and was replaced by a solid granite cairn. Picnickers enjoying the Queen's Birthday holiday, took part in a small opening ceremony for the new cairn and Miss Mathews and Miss Richards assisted in laying the granite block. The centre of the new survey mound was adopted as a Trigonometrical point about the late 1930s. Local residents remember that the cairn was always a welcome sign that the top of Mount Alexander had been reached.

---

## DESCRIPTION

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, A Short History of Harcourt, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Mount Alexander Mail, May 24 1876  
Geodetic Branch Records, Department of Crown Lands and Survey

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt  
NAME: Blight's Granite Quarry

ADDRESS: Mount Alexander

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Chewton  
MAP REFERENCE BU 605 015

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This quarry is of high significance for its direct connection with the Harcourt granite industry which during the last decades of the nineteenth century was the major supplier of granite in the state. It has provided granite for such well known structures as Flinders Street Station, Parliament House in Canberra and the John Flynn Memorial in Alice Springs. At a local level, the quarry was an important employer of labor. It also encouraged the local use of granite in building and monumental construction, giving the nineteenth century built environment of the area a character distinct from any other in the Shire.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

**THEMES**

Towns (Industry)

**BUILDING DATE**

c1860



**PHOTOGRAPH**

FILM No 4/30

DATE 5.6.92

---

## HISTORY

James Blight was born into a quarrying family in England in 1834 and migrated to Victoria in 1855. During the construction of the railway from 1859-1862 he formed a cooperative party to supply the contractors with surface granite. On completion of the railway in 1862 he initially continued to quarry surface granite but opened up deep quarries on the lower slopes of Mount Alexander in 1865. The granite obtained from these quarries rapidly gained a reputation for quality and was used for dozens of monumental and building projects in Victoria and interstate, including the Burke and Wills Memorial and Flinders Street Station in Melbourne.

In 1887 it was even reported that Joseph Blight had arranged to send fifteen foot granite blocks to Aberdeen in Scotland where such lengths could not be obtained, although the success of this venture is not recorded. During the 1880s and 1890s Blight's granite quarry became the largest supplier of granite in the state. The easy availability of granite also stimulated a proliferation of granite buildings in the Harcourt area.

Initially granite was supplied to three different monumental yards in Sandhurst for polishing but in 1875 George Ferris established a monumental yard and polishing works in Harcourt. The business was taken over by Alexander Guthrie in 1892 and several hands were employed. The granite quarries offered an important source of employment for local residents but although up to fifty men could be employed for a large order - such as the tram track paving for Bendigo in 1901 - the labor force could be reduced to as little as four when orders were low. Carters were often in particular demand as the all granite had to be carted two miles to the Harcourt Railway Station. Local myth claims that it took eight weeks and sixty bullock drays and horse teams to transport a 35 ton block of stone intended for the Burke and Wills Memorial, to the Harcourt station.

Joseph Blight died in 1897 but the quarry continued to operate as J. Blight and Co under the management initially of John Jennings and then of Joseph Jenkins. The company boomed during the early 1920s with the enormous demand for monumental work generated by the war and a new public preference for granite rather than bluestone.

By the 1980s, four quarries were working on Mount Alexander.

Newspaper reports (not comprehensive) show Blight's Quarries supplying granite for:

Burke and Wills Memorial, Melbourne (1863)

Queensland trade; Memorial for Hon WJT Clarke, Melbourne (1874)

Brisbane Graving Dock (1878)

Princess Bridge (1887)

New York Insurance Company, Melbourne (1893)

Roman Catholic Cathedral, Bendigo (1897)

Mort's graving dock, Balmain, Sydney; Ball and Welch's warehouse, Flinders Street, Melbourne (1899)

Tram Track Paving, Bendigo (1901)

Flinders Street Railway Station; Burns Memorial, Sydney; Queen's Memorial, Sydney (1905)

Ballarat Soldiers Memorial (1906)

South African Memorial, Melbourne (1922)

---

## DESCRIPTION

An abandoned granite quarry, the stone discolored with age. The rectangular blocks on the floor of the quarry illustrate one of the features of Harcourt granite, which was its tendency to split readily and evenly in a vertical direction and to peel off in planes approximately parallel to the ground surface. Thus from an apparently solid mass of granite, rectangular blocks could be readily prepared. Joseph Blight estimated that although he paid twice the wages of his counterparts in Aberdeen, he could deliver the granite at one quarter of their price due to the ease of splitting and squaring the Harcourt granite.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, Do You Remember?, Harcourt Heritage Centre

Mount Alexander Mail

The Granite Industry, MAM, 1907

Article by Joseph Jenkins, MAM, 1925

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

LISTINGS:  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
 HBC No  
 NATIONAL TRUST  
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
 OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt  
 NAME: Silk Worm Farm

ADDRESS: Mount Alexander

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS

MAP NAME: Chewton  
 MAP REFERENCE BU 607 009

---

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These ruins are significant as the site of one of the most unusual enterprises pursued in the region during the nineteenth century - that of silk worm farming. The venture was also unique in that it was headed by a woman and was intended to be run by women, providing respectable employment for them outside the home. The site has strong aesthetic qualities and is considered a community landmark.

State Significance

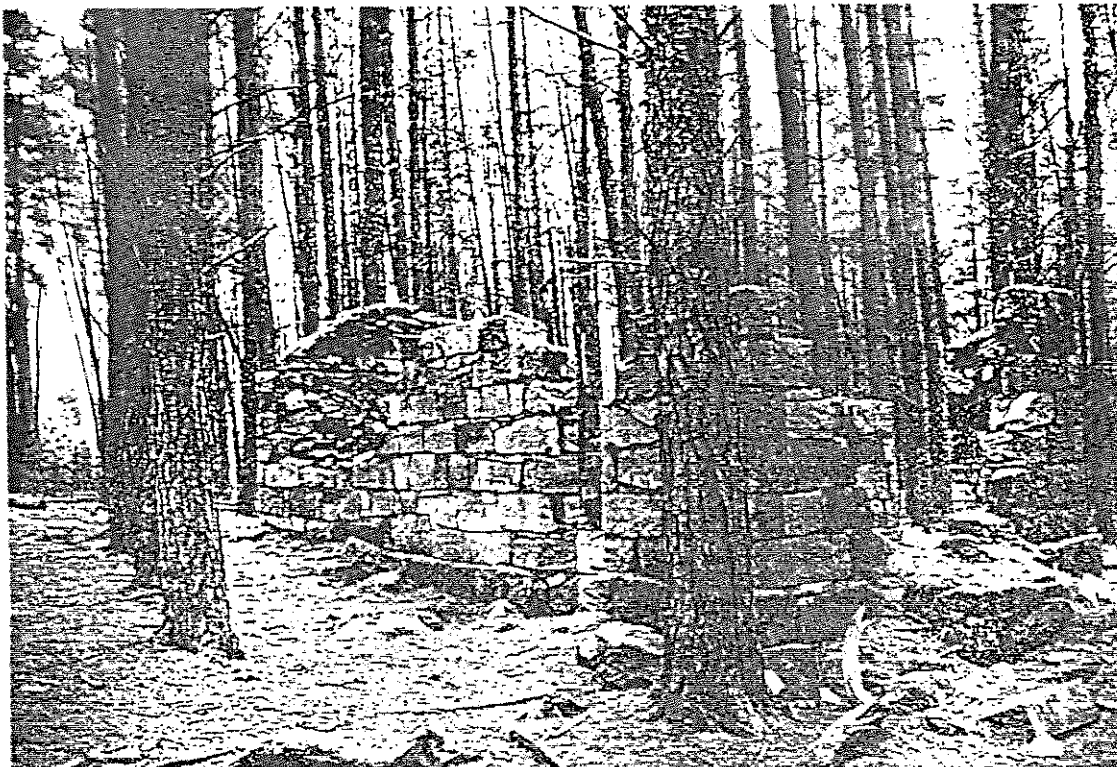
### RECOMMENDATIONS

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing), addition to the Register of the National Estate and the Historic Buildings Register

---

THEMES  
 Horticulture

BUILDING DATE  
 1873/74



PHOTOGRAPH  
 FILM No  
 DATE

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME (1989/90)  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. JACOBS AND K. TROTT 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In 1873 Mrs Bladen Neill was a wealthy English woman who was widowed in Melbourne where her husband was killed by a fall from a horse. She had a strong commitment to the development of a silk worm industry offering gainful employment to women and she established the Victorian Ladies' Sericulture Company Limited. The venture had the support of the Victorian government which, in 1865, had voted £5000 to be spent on the encouragement of new industries including that of silk production and had also heard the potential of a sericulture industry as outlined in a 1871 Royal Commission on Foreign Industries.

The Company, with 300-400 shareholders, was granted two reserves - one on the slopes of Mount Alexander and the other near the Harcourt Reservoir. These were gazetted in September 1873 and totalled 1000 acres. However initially only ten acres on the slopes of Mount Alexander were fenced and planted with mulberries. A "pretty" cottage was erected for the lady manageress of the farm, with various outbuildings and to the west of the cottage a magnanerie was built for the feeding and breeding of silkworms (after the failure of the Sericulture Farm the magnanerie was shifted onto McMahon's farm at Sutton Grange and used to house sixty milking cows).

However the venture quickly encountered difficulties. Local residents objected to Commons land being alienated for what they considered a foreign and foolish enterprise and there were accusations that wood was being sold from the reserves and the land used for purely speculative purposes. The roads to the Reserve were very bad and the Metcalfe Shire Council would not immediately improve them. Most importantly, at the Sericulture Farm, workers were finding that the granitic soil and the harsh winter frosts were not suited to the growth of mulberries. In February 1877, the Sericulture Farm was abandoned. Not to be defeated, Mrs Neill moved the mulberry trees and silkworms to the outskirts of Corowa, establishing another silk worm farm but with as little success. She died from the result of burns from upsetting a kerosene lamp in 1884 at the residence of Dr. Barker in Melbourne.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The Sericulture Reserve has been overplanted as a pine plantation and all that remains of the enterprise are the ruins of the two granite buildings, the ruins of a brick chimney, granite paving and some remnant garden plantings. The more intact of the ruined buildings is rectangular shaped building constructed from local Harcourt granite with a gable roof. The entry door was to one side of the building with two windows in the same facade looking down the slope of Mount Alexander. There are the remains of a large fireplace at one end and the remaining gable wall opposite has a small window opening suggesting that there was a loft in the roof space. There was a door and window in the other long side of the building. The other ruins are only two courses of stones high and appear to have been of a two roomed granite building with an aisle on the north west side. It may have had a brick chimney. The ruins as they stand in the gloom of the pine plantation, are a romantic reminder of an exotic failed horticultural experiment.

---

## REFERENCES

- Royal Commission on Foreign Industries. VPP 1871, No 60 v 3 and 1871, No 6, Vol 3  
Board appointed to consider claims for reward or premiums VPP 1867 1st session No 2 Vol 3  
Marilyn Bennet, *An Abortive Industry of the 1870s - A Silk Worm Farm at Harcourt* - compiled from articles in the Mount Alexander Mail.  
Results of a survey at the Mount Alexander silk work farm, prepared for the Maritime and Historical Archaeology Unit, Department of Planning and Development 1993

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993



LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Harcourt  
NAME: Lang's Lookout

ADDRESS: Mount Alexander

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Barker  
MAP REFERENCE BU 605 027

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Much of the appeal of Mount Alexander has always lain in its ability to offer views of the surrounding countryside and the opportunity to place settlements and farms into their broader landscape perspective. Lang's Lookout is significant as one of the most popular vantage points on the mountain and a place of strong community identification

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Community Life (Recreation)

**BUILDING DATE**



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No 23/1A  
DATE 15.9.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM 1989/90  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In a relatively flat landscape, Mount Alexander has always been sought as a place where views of the surrounding countryside might be obtained. In 1836 Major Mitchell left the rest of his party, taking only a guide, in order to ride to the summit of this "friendly hill". He was rewarded with a splendid view and the opportunity to survey the country ahead. He wrote in his notes, "A country fully as promising as the fine region we had left was embraced in my view from that point. I perceived long patches of open plain, interspersed with forest hills and low woody ranges."

Following the discovery of gold at Forest Creek in 1851 picnic parties frequently wended their way to the top of the Mount to admire the views. A correspondent to the local paper in 1884 described the efforts of his party to walk from Harcourt to the summit of the Mount. In the end only he and a friend succeeded in reaching the summit but the "splendid" view showing "thick dense bush dotted at intervals with farms and clearings which looked just like mere brown patches in the forest of trees" was seen to have made the climb worthwhile.

A favorite place for obtaining a clear view to the north and east of the mountain was at Lang's Lookout. This point was named Lang's Lookout in 1928 after J.H. Lang who, as vice-president of the Automobile Club of Castlemaine, was instrumental in initiating the tourist road across Mount Alexander.

---

## DESCRIPTION

A relatively level piece of ground, not far from the summit. From here a clear view to the north and east may be obtained. It is possible to see Redesdale, Heathcote and Sutton Grange and on a clear day, even Bendigo may be visible.

---

## REFERENCES

Hedley James, A Short History of Harcourt, Harcourt Heritage Centre  
Information from George Milford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - West Riding

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
May-June 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
 HBC No. Government Buildings Register  
 NATIONAL TRUST  
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
 OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Former Harcourt Railway Station  
 3CCC Radio Station  
**ADDRESS:** Station Street  
**FORMER NAME:** Railway Station

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Chewton  
**MAP REFERENCE:** BU 555 009

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The line was the largest of the Colony's first two trunk lines and has the greatest diversity in the design and materials of buildings and structures. Materials range from bluestone and granite to monochrome and bichrome brickwork, influenced by the natural resources of the localities. The range of bridge and viaduct designs includes girder bridges and round three centred and segmentally arched opening, whilst the scale of the viaducts compares with the Geelong - Ballarat main trunk lines. The line is important also as an expression of the importance in capturing the Murray River and Riverina trade for the Port of Melbourne and the significance of the Castlemaine and Bendigo goldfields in the 1860s. The route of the line recalls the local lobbying to have the line diverted in their interests. The line remains as the Colony's largest single endeavour of its time.

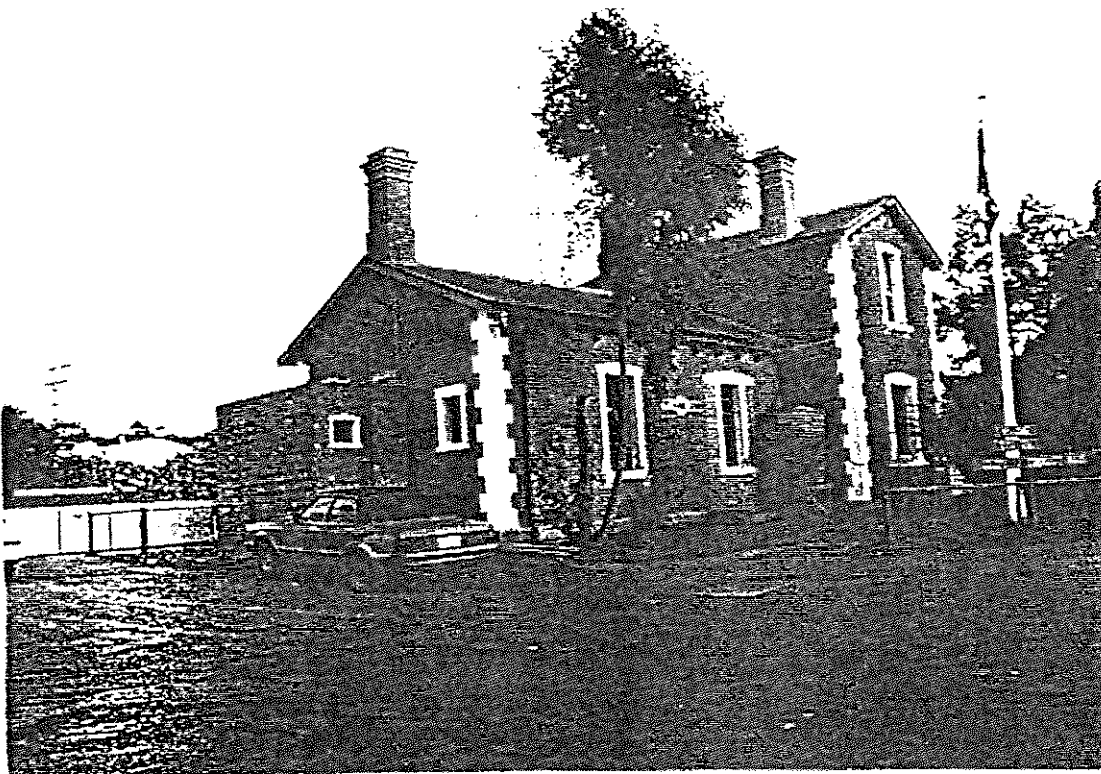
State Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfé Planning Scheme (individual listing). Recommended as part of the Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Line to be added to the Register of the National Estate and the Historic Buildings Register.

**THEMES**  
**DATE**  
 Transport/Communications

**BUILDING**  
 1863



**PHOTOGRAP**  
 FILM No. 169  
 DATE 24 18

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM 1989/90  
 FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
 BY W. JACOBS AND K. THYER 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In June of 1852 the Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company was promulgated to build a main line of railway from Melbourne to Mount Alexander and the Murray River at Echuca. Its inability to raise funds led to its purchase by the Government in 1856 and to the formation of the Victorian Railways Department during the same year. The Kyneton to Bendigo Section which runs through the Shire of Metcalfe was opened in 1862. The significance of the line is due to the extant structures and their number and diversity. The line includes the largest and most spectacular collection of early stone and iron viaducts. The use of available local building materials adds interest to these structures, the use of local granite led directly to the development of the Harcourt quarrying industry. The availability of building material determined the character of each section of line within the Shire; bluestone was used for railway structures in the vicinity of Taradale, granite and red and cream brick at Elphinstone while granite was the primary building material at Harcourt. The construction of the line was the largest building enterprise in the colony at the time. It was also the focus of the battle for improved working conditions and the venue in 1859/60 for a strike against the principle of sub-contracting, for the direct importation of indentured German masons to undercut locally established conditions and rates of pay, for a partial alliance between German and local masons and for the final collapse of the established level of wages.

In December 1862 the Mount Alexander Mail reported that contractors Dalrymple and Simmie had been appointed to complete a "a passenger station, goods shed and other works" at Harcourt at a cost of £4159/13/0. Harcourt at this time was little more than a hamlet of struggling settlers. In the first decade, traffic through the railway station was so small that in 1868 it was threatened with closure and only a public meeting organised by indignant local residents, saved it. The residents' stand was quickly justified as the easy access the railway provided to markets, made possible the rapid growth of the fruit and granite industry in the following decades. Indeed forty years later, the station was described as a hive of activity and fruit growers complained that the siding provided by the Railway Department was far too small to accommodate the trucks required. In response to these complaints £2134 was spent in 1914 effecting improvements to the Railway station.

At the turn of the century the railway formed a major centre of activity. A cool store, packing shed, general engineering shop, a case factory and sawmill clustered close to the railway, mechanical cranes for loading granite blocks stood alongside the sidings and cottages sprung up to accommodate those with railway related employment. By 1952/3 the Harcourt Railway complex was clearly the busiest station in the Shire. In that year it had 3565 passengers - more than double that of any other station in the Shire - and its revenue from goods and livestock (£15,560) was fifteen times more than other Shire stations. Despite community action to retain the Station, it was closed in 1969. The Railway Station is now used as a community radio station.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The Station building is an example of the Karlsruhe Station design group and is of brick with a render trim. This design type was used elsewhere on this line as well as on the Geelong - Ballarat line. The Complex consists of a two storey Station Master's residence attached to a single storey booking office, lamp room/ toilet block and parcel room on the western platform and a waiting shelter, fruit shed and brick crane base on the east platform.

The station building and residence are of red face brick with rendered quoins and architraves. The gable roofs are slate. The chimneys have cream brick base sections, mouldings, dentils and cappings in cream brick. The platform has a concave hipped corrugated iron roof supported on posts with a decorative timber valance at the sides. The valance has been removed at the front of the verandah. The building retains its cast iron gutters. A brick addition has been made to the north of the single storey section and the residence has been extended in timber. The lamp room/ toilets has a slate gable roof and echoes the main building in materials and detailing. The original screen wall to the toilets is now unique. The waiting shelter has a corrugated iron gabled roof and is clad in weatherboards.

The railway complex is significant for the crucial role it played in the establishment of the Harcourt granite and fruit industry. The location of the building on the axis of Station Street is important.

---

## REFERENCES

Andrew Ward, Railway Station Survey, V Line, 1982  
Information from Sybil James  
MAM, 10 Dec 1868  
Victorian Municipal Directory, 1953  
MAM, 12 Aug 1912

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
 HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
 HBC No.  
 NATIONAL TRUST  
 NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
 OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Road Bridge

**ADDRESS:** Woodbrook Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Barker

**MAP REFERENCE** BU 556 030

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The line was the largest of the Colony's first two trunk lines and has the greatest diversity in the design and materials of buildings and structures. Materials range from bluestone and granite to monochrome and bichrome brickwork, influenced by the natural resources of the localities. The range of bridge and viaduct designs includes girder bridges and round three centred and segmentally arched opening, whilst the scale of the viaducts compares with the Geelong - Ballarat main trunk lines. The line is important also as an expression of the importance in capturing the Murray River and Riverina trade for the Port of Melbourne and the significance of the Castlemaine and Bendigo goldfields in the 1860s. The route of the line recalls the local lobbying to have the line diverted in their interests. The line remains as the Colony's largest single endeavour of its time. The brick and granite segmental arched rail bridge is an important element.

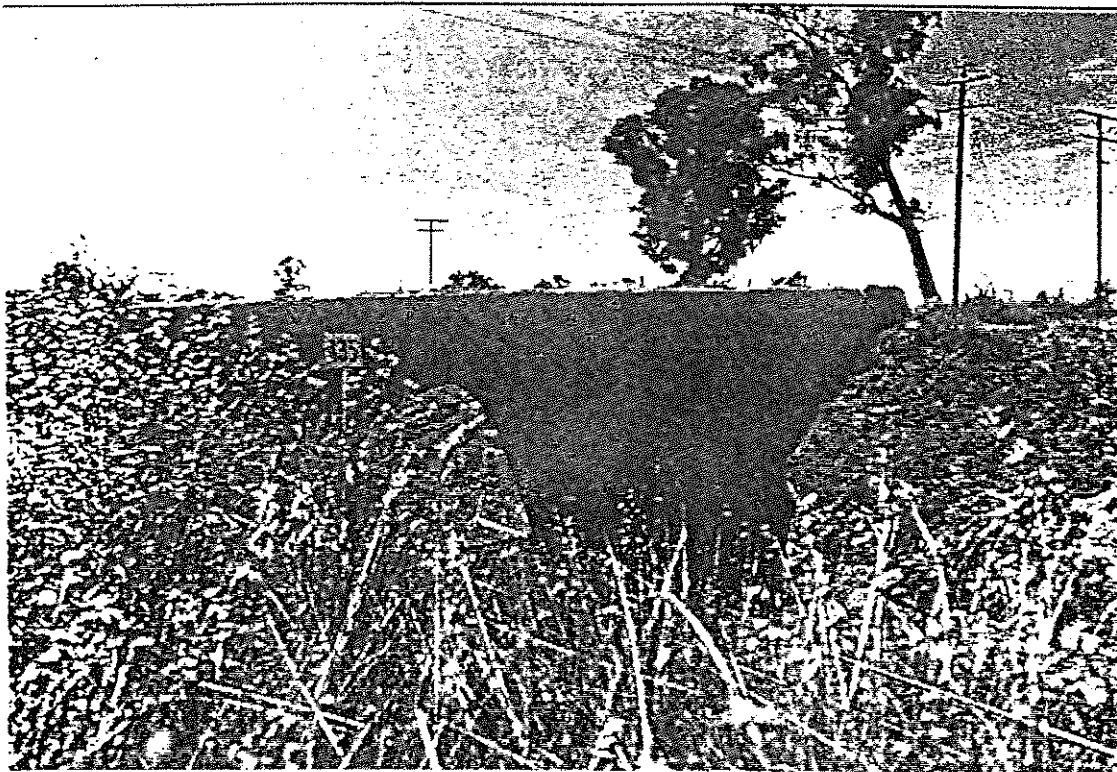
State Significance

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing). Recommended as part of the Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Line to be added to the Register of the National Estate and the Historic Buildings Register.

**THEMES**  
 Transport

**BUILDING DATE**  
 c1862



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
 FILM No. 27,9  
 DATE 4.3.93

---

## HISTORY

In June of 1852 the Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company was promulgated to build a main line of railway from Melbourne to Mount Alexander and the Murray River at Echuca. Its inability to raise funds led to its purchase by the Government in 1856 and to the formation of the Victorian Railways Department during the same year. The Kyneton to Bendigo Section which runs through the Shire of Metcalfe was opened in 1862. The significance of the line is due to the extant structures and their number and diversity. The line includes the largest and most spectacular collection of early stone and iron viaducts. The use of available local building materials adds interest to these structures, the use of local granite led directly to the development of the Harcourt quarrying industry. The availability of building material determined the character of each section of line within the Shire; bluestone was used for railway structures in the vicinity of Taradale, granite and red and cream brick at Elphinstone while granite was the primary building material at Harcourt. The construction of the line was the largest building enterprise in the colony at the time. It was also the focus of the battle for improved working conditions and the venue in 1859/60 for a strike against the principle of sub-contracting, for the direct importation of indentured German masons to undercut locally established conditions and rates of pay, for a partial alliance between German and local masons and for the final collapse of the established level of wages.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The rail bridge is a segmental arched bridge of brick and granite. The granite is used as shaped rusticated voussoirs with an enlarged keystone, as quoin work marking the arch, as a cornice line at the spring of the arch and for the parapet capping.

The bridge materials illustrates the use of the local granite in the Harcourt area.

---

## REFERENCES

- Cusack. *Bendigo: A History*, 1973. p145  
Martin. 'Bringing the Railway to Castlemaine', *CM*, 2 Mar 1944 from *MM* 20 Aug 1862  
Ward. 'Murray River Railway', *Heritage Australia*, Spring 1985 p36

---

Assessed by  
K Twigg/W Jacobs

Assessment Date  
June 1993

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No:H109

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER  
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER  
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Harcourt  
**NAME:** Barker's Creek Reservoir

**ADDRESS:** North Harcourt

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Harcourt  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 577 050

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Harcourt Reservoir was one of the first projects attempted and completed as part of the Coliban Water Supply Scheme System and its construction, on such a large scale, is a substantial engineering achievement. However its lack of utility bears witness to the inexperience of the Victorian Water Supply and the extent to which some aspects of the Scheme were not properly thought through. Harcourt Reservoir is significant now as a popular community landmark and recreation area. It played an important role in the development of orchards in south Harcourt, supplying water to two irrigation races - the Trust Race and Eagle's Channel.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Water

---

**BUILDING DATE**

1868

**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No.  
DATE

---

## HISTORY

The Coliban Scheme was a governmental response to the clamour on the Castlemaine and Bendigo goldfields for water and envisaged that water from the Coliban River be channelled by gravity to the diggings via a Reservoir at Malmsbury and three smaller distribution reservoirs at Expedition Pass, Barker's Creek at Harcourt and Bendigo. The first sod was turned at the Barker's Creek Reservoir on 27 March 1867 at a point just 800 yards from Dr Barker's old homestead. The contractor, Mr O'Keefe, completed the reservoir just twelve months later. A local newspaper described the embankment as the largest in the colony being 37 chains in extent and capable of containing 500,000,000 gallons of water with a surface one mile in length. At the conclusion of the opening celebrations a blue gum was planted with much ceremony at each corner of the reservoir.

However the Barker's Creek Reservoir quickly became known as the White Elephant. Colonel Sankey, an English engineer employed to investigate the Coliban Scheme, stated that he could find absolutely no reason for the Barker's Creek Reservoir's construction. If it had been intended to supply the miners in the Campbells Creek area as some suggested, the length of channel required clearly made the plan impractical.

Over the next decades a variety of ideas were proposed aimed at utilising the Reservoir. In 1872 Chewton residents applied to have water piped from Harcourt in place of the muddy water they received from the newly constructed Expedition Pass reservoir and in 1878 miners called upon the government to utilise the Barker's Creek Reservoir water for sluicing purposes. Both plans were unsuccessful and in the meantime the Acclimatisation Society stocked the Reservoir with fish and it was used regularly for fishing, swimming and boating. A local newspaper described the reservoir as "the fashionable fish pond". Finally in 1885, the reservoir was used to supply the Trust Race for orchard irrigation and in 1913 Eagle's Channel was also connected to the reservoir.

---

## DESCRIPTION

Notable features of the Barker's Creek Reservoir are both the large embankment and the outlet tower. The Barker's Creek Reservoir was completed in 1868. It is still in use and supplies water to irrigate the orchards at Harcourt. The embankment is 2294 feet (699 m) long and 49 feet (15 m) at its highest point. The cast iron outlet tower is original and is the same design as the one at Expedition Pass. The by-wash is at the east end of the embankment, and is partly lined with granite blocks and partly with concrete.

---

## REFERENCES

*Malmsbury and Taradale Newsletter*, July 11, 1885



**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Metcalfe

**NAME:** The Ranch

**ADDRESS:** Cascades Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Metcalfe

**MAP REFERENCE** BU 697903

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Ranch, a timber house dating from c1870, is a characteristic example of the dwellings built in the Metcalfe area in the early years of white settlement. Its simple construction is indicative of the lifestyle of many early settlers who practised a combination of subsistence farming and general labouring. The Ranch is closely associated with the Wilsons, a well known family name in Metcalfe.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1874



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 16 25-6  
DATE 20.8.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. THYGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

James Harris is listed in the first rate book of 1866 when he was engaged in purchasing a farm in Metcalfe from the Crown. By 1874 he owned 60 acres and a house in Metcalfe and he was working, possibly for the newly formed Shire of Metcalfe, as a contractor. By 1884, the property had passed to Roderick Harris. In common with most men in the Metcalfe area he combined farming on his small acreage with general labouring work.

Over the next forty years the property was sometimes rated under Roderick Harris's name and sometimes under the name of Charles Harris, both farmers and general labourers. A horizontal slab hut was built near the house to act as a smithy for blacksmithing work and an anvil still stands inside. Charles Harris owned the place in 1934 when he sold it to George and Maisie Wilson.

The Wilsons changed the name of the place which had previously been known as "Sunnyside" to "The Ranch". They also completed internal renovations to the house. They rebuilt some of the walls which had been lath and plaster or hessian and paper and they made the kitchen, which had previously been semi detached, part of the main building. The Wilsons established an extensive vegetable garden using water piped from a well on the other side of the road.

The property remains in the Wilson family.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The house is of weatherboard and originally consisted of the gable roofed house section facing the road with the gable roofed kitchen at right angles and detached. In both buildings the corrugated iron roof extends at a lower pitch to form a verandah. Each section has a face brick chimney.

The shed is of horizontal slab construction where thick slabs of eucalypt timber are dropped into vertical grooves in the large squared and round timber posts to form thick timber walls. This method of construction was used for houses, police lock-ups and sheds from the earliest settlement in Victoria. The construction is similar to the shed and kitchen at Stratford Lodge. Although the method of construction was also known in Canada, it remains the nearest thing to a distinctively local construction system. The shed has a corrugated iron roof.

The small scale of the steeply pitched gable roofed buildings and the setting among fruit trees and the timber sheds makes this farm complex a good example of the style of small scale farming taken up by many people in the central goldfields area after the first rush for gold was over.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Maisie Wilson  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books  
Miles Lewis, *Victorian Primitive*, Melbourne 1977

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993

**SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93**

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Metcalfe

**FILE No:** M5

**NAME:** Stratford Lodge  
**ADDRESS:** Coliban Park Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Metcalfe  
**MAP REFERENCE:** BU 708 920

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Stratford Lodge is an early surviving homestead in Victoria with historical connections to early pastoralist James Orr. It is the only dwelling which survives from the pastoral period in the Metcalfe Shire and it is held to be the earliest inhabited building remaining in Northern Victoria. The substantial granite house is an unusual design for this period incorporating Georgian and Colonial elements. The house is complemented by a the horizontal log construction outbuilding and a woolshed which although clad in iron retains much of its original 1869 interior. The house and garden are of state significance

State Significance

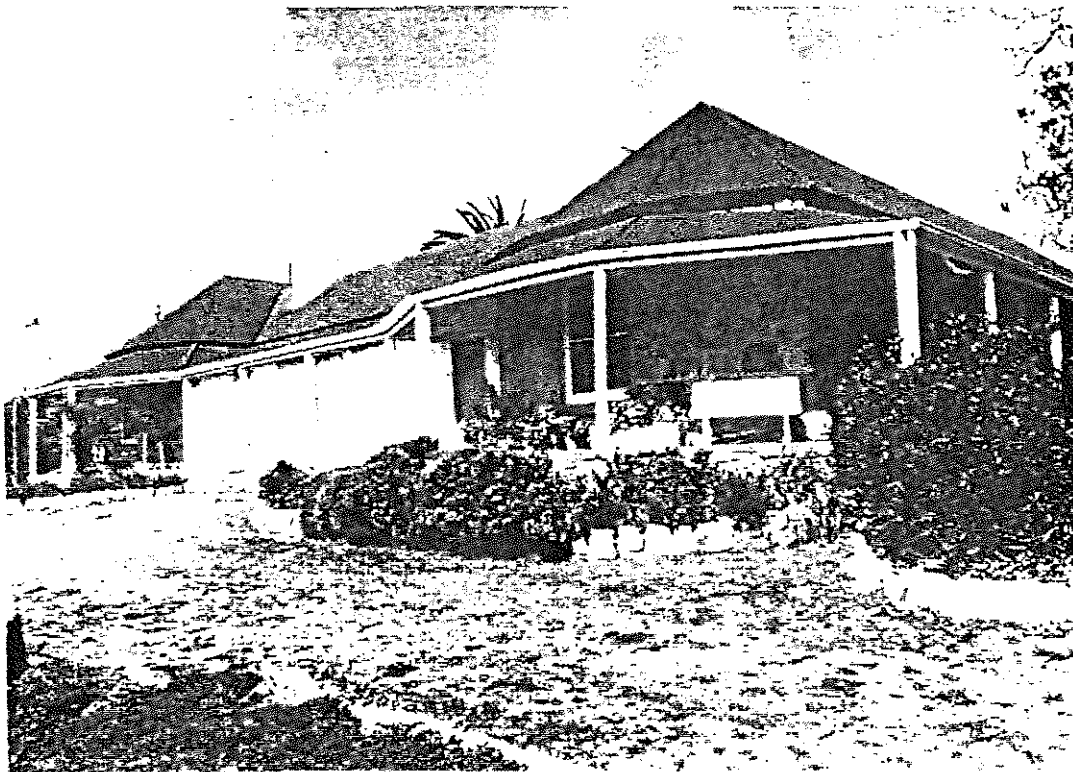
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Retain on the Historic Buildings Register and the Register of the National Estate. Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Pastoralism

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1840



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 25 13-15  
DATE 29.9.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

James Orr, a widower, migrated to Australia with his children, including nine sons, in 1839. He bought from E. W. Umphelby the lease for the southern portion of a run on the Coliban, which had been taken up by William Bowman barely two years earlier. He named his new run Stratford Lodge after his family home in Ireland.

John Randell, who conducted extensive research into pastoral stations in this area, was unable to discover the exact date Orr began building the homestead but when the Crown Lands Commissioner visited the station in December 1844 he listed a stone house so it can be assumed that at least part of the house dates from this time. In 1852 the Rev. A. M. Ramsay stayed a few days at Stratford Lodge and remarked in a letter that the Orrs "seemed to have paid much more than the average attention of Squatters to their domestic establishment. The dwelling house is a substantial building of white granite with a considerable suite of apartments and with a fine verandah and chequered palisading extending along the front... The station is on the bank of the Coliban and the garden stretches down to the river side." Two of James Orr's sons died during the 1840s and were buried here near the Coliban River although the graves are no longer visible.

In 1855 a Government surveyor began marking the Stratford Lodge leasehold off into blocks for sale and by mid 1857 almost the entire run was sold. John and Edward Orr, James' two sons, remained in residence at Stratford Lodge with a total freehold of 3,200 acres. In 1871, after a period of ownership by Hugh Glass, the Stratford Lodge homestead block was purchased by John Mactier. Since this time the Stratford Lodge homestead has remained in the hands of the Mactier family and is currently the residence of John Mactier's grand daughter.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The house is constructed of local white granite in a U-shape around a paved courtyard. This configuration was characteristic of many early squatter's houses. Original a slab kitchen closed the courtyard. The stonework is of roughly coursed, squared rubble granite with larger blocks used at the corners. The single storey granite house is symmetrical with the central section flanked by hexagonal bays which are reflected in the verandah shape. The verandah springs from just below the roof line and is of a straight pitch slightly flatter than the roof pitch. The verandah lacks any decoration. The house may have been built in stages, but if it was built originally in its present form it is an unusual design for the 1840s.

The building has undergone changes over the years. In the twentieth century the slab kitchen was demolished and rebuilt in weatherboards and in 1966 an extension in local granite was built on one arm of the U to include a new kitchen. This was over the underground tank which was filled in. In the 1950s the lathe and plaster ceilings were replaced by pine boarding and the original mud mix mortar was replaced by a cement mortar. Part of the central section of the front verandah was enclosed at this time. These alterations have not substantially altered the appearance or the character of the building.

The horizontal slab shed near the house and the woolshed constructed in 1869 add to the significance of the site. The shed is of horizontal slab construction where thick slabs of eucalypt timber are dropped into vertical grooves in the large squared and round timber posts to form thick timber walls. This method of construction was used for houses, police lock-ups and sheds from the earliest settlement in Victoria. Although the method of construction was also known in Canada, it remains the nearest thing to a distinctively local construction system. The shed has a corrugated iron roof. The woolshed, although originally built of slabs, has been gradually reclad in iron over the years and was almost entirely reclad in 1980. Only a small section of exterior slabs survive although much of the 1869 interior still remains.

The park like aspect of the pastures with many retained river red gums, the garden setting of the homestead and its siting above the Coliban River invoke a feeling of the era of pastoral settlement.

---

## REFERENCES

John Randell, *Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria* p251-269  
The Age, April 16, 1971  
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No. 1792  
Information from H. H. Munckton

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Metcalfe

**NAME:** "Rose Hill"  
**ADDRESS:** (off) Ford Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
Metcalfe, Sec 6 Allot 9,10

**MAP NAME:** Metcalfe  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 714 906

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Rose Hill is a small brick house with a steep gable roof and is a good example of a substantial farmhouse from the earliest days of farming in the Metcalfe area.

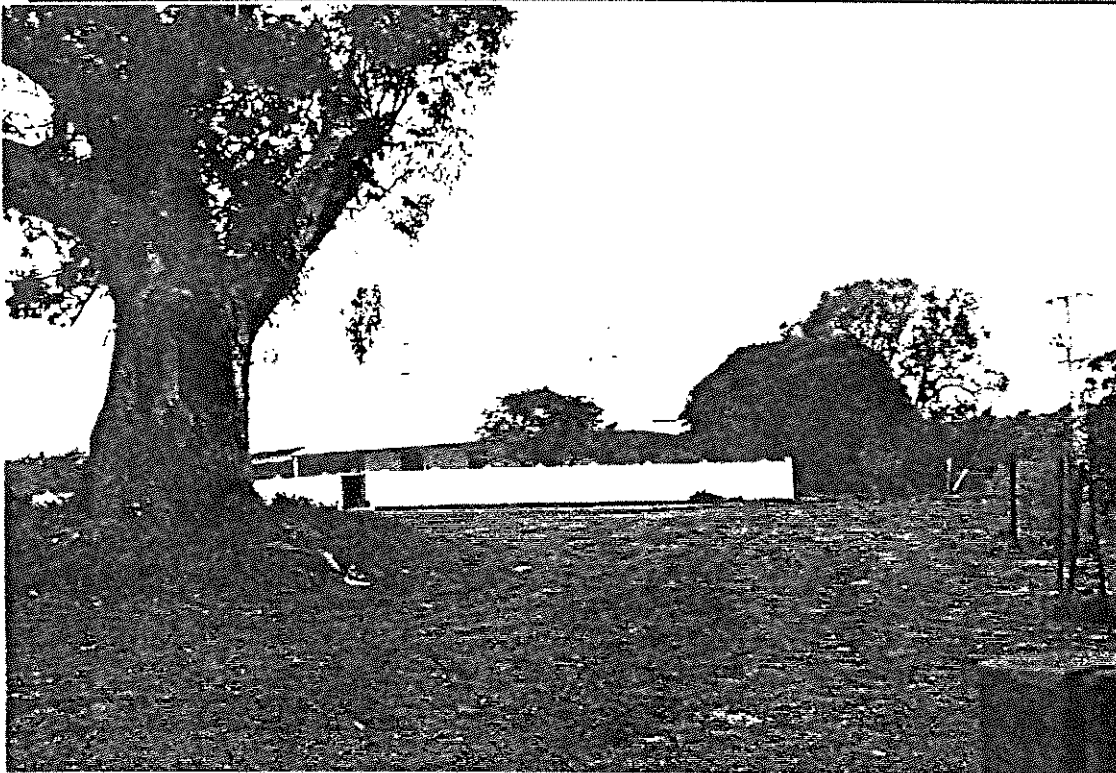
Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1870



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No.16/19  
DATE 20.8.92

---

## HISTORY

In 1866, John Bain, a farmer, was rated for a farm at Metcalfe and by 1872 the farm was defined as 237 acres. Two years later a house was listed on the property. In 1886 William Sunderland, farmer, was renting "237 acres etc" from Bain.

By 1888 the 237 acres and the house were owned by John Parnell, a teacher. In 1891-1892 the property was purchased by George Rowe, who leased it temporarily to John Hanrahan before farming it himself in 1894. Mary Francis Rowe was rated for Rose Hill from the late 1910s until the late 1930s. By 1938 the property had passed to Hugh Rowe.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The house was constructed prior to 1874 when it was first mentioned in the ratebooks. The building may date from the 1860s as it is of a simple design with a steeply pitched roof.

The house is of face brick with a steeply pitched gable roof. The straight pitched verandah roof is an extension of the main roof but has a much flatter pitch. This returns around the gable end. There is a brick chimney at each end of the building. The brickwork is now painted.

The building is sited within a fenced garden area.

Rose Hill is a small brick house with a steep gable roof and is a good example of a substantial farmhouse from the earliest days of farming in the Metcalfe area.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Maisie Wilson, Dot Smith and Douglas Mactier  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books  
Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989, p 76

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Metcalfe  
**NAME:** Metcalfe Shire Hall  
**ADDRESS:** Metcalfe-Kyneton Road  
**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Metcalfe  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU710 904

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Shire Offices and Hall have importance as the administrative centre of the Shire of Metcalfe since their construction in 1870. They also form the focal point of the village of Metcalfe, providing local employment, and in the past acting as a venue for church services, community meetings and even dances. The alteration and extension of the buildings over time reflect the increased size and needs of the municipality. The building is an amalgam of the three main eras of building with the 1953 alterations now the dominant style and little readily discernible from the street of the original building.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Local Government, Community Life

**BUILDING DATE**

1870



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No 16 17  
DATE 20.8.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

By the late 1850s, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the task of road making was beyond one central body and it was agreed that the responsibility for road works should be given to each local district, although assistance would be given through government grants. In response to amendments to the Municipal Act, the Metcalfe Roads Board District was proclaimed on August 14, 1860. The new Metcalfe Roads Board applied for a building site in the Government Reserve near what was to become the Village of Metcalfe. They considered this the "most convenient and central" location. In early 1861, a temporary reservation for a Roads Board Office was gazetted in the Government Reserve on land later owned by Mr Reeves.

However by 1870, the new Shire Council was arguing, "the growing importance of the Shire requires that more commodious and substantial offices be built." The main street of Metcalfe was suggested and in October 1870, a new reservation of land for Shire Offices was made here. This decision was not without controversy since some councillors favored a site in Elphinstone but Metcalfe was eventually chosen as being more centrally located.

The old Road Board Office site and buildings were sold to the Shire Secretary and Engineer, Mr William C. Reeves. The Shire Offices and Hall were built on the new site soon afterwards, a house added around 1910 and the present Council Chambers constructed in 1953.

The Shire Offices and Hall became the administrative centre of the Shire which was enlarged by the addition of the Borough of Taradale in 1870 and the Borough of Chewton in 1916. The buildings also served a variety of other functions. The Presbyterian Church held regular services in the Shire Hall until 1969 when it acquired its own building and in 1932 both Maisie Grady and her cousin, Jessie Gracie were married there. Dances were occasionally held in the Shire Hall and a large number of civic functions.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The Shire still holds copies of the original plans for the Shire Offices. They are of an "L" shaped building with a large council room that could be used as a hall with an entry porch and a room each for the Secretary and Contractors. The position of Secretary and Engineer was held by the same person until 1915. The contractors room was presumably used for engineering contractors. The building was of polychromatic brick work with a rendered base and quoin work. The verandah had cast iron posts and decorative brackets. The Secretary and Contractor's rooms still exist as the central section of the present building. The round headed window has been enlarged to the current rectangular window.

The residence, added in 1910, was built to the side of the Secretary's and Contractors' office and is now used as part of the Shire offices. This section of the building has a lower ceiling to the original section and is of face brick with a hipped roof. The central entry has an arched headed opening which would have echoed the main window of the contractors' office in the original building. The entry is flanked by symmetrically placed rectangular windows.

The council room was replaced by the hall and new council chamber in 1953. This is again in face brick with bands of cream brick which echoed the banding of the original buildings. The former porch area is taller than the hall parapet and is marked with a central brick motif. The roof of the building is concealed behind a straight brick parapet and the service area is marked by a lower ceiling height and lower parapet. The large square windows are protected by a cantilevered rendered canopy.

The building is an amalgam of the three main eras of building with the 1953 alterations, a late flowering of the early twentieth century Amsterdam style, now the dominant style and little is readily discernible of the original building.

---

## REFERENCES

Public Records Office, VPRS 242, Unit 45, No. 23 Research by B. James  
6 April, 1870, Metcalfe Council Minutes  
Information from Maisie Wilson (nee Grady)

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993



SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R3

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** Bible Christian Church  
**ADDRESS:** Lyell Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
Redesdale 38J

**MAP NAME:** Riverdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU778 035

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The early establishment of a Bible Christian Church at North Redesdale is one of the few remaining indicators of the substantial mining community that once worked along the nearby Campaspe and Coliban Rivers. The construction of the present bluestone church building in 1875 reflects the expansion of the population as the surrounding area was opened up for settlement. The church was an important spiritual centre, initially for members of the Bible Christian Church and after 1880, for Presbyterians. It is one of the few remaining buildings which once characterised the settlement of North Redesdale.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Community Life

**BUILDING DATE**  
1875



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 12 26  
DATE 30.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The first Bible Christian church in this locality was originally built on a site across the road. The congregation was largely drawn from those people mining nearby at Horse Shoe Bend (later known as Lyal). One of the families most influential in the church was the Jeffreys family. From 1870 the church was also used for school lessons during the week and in 1874 the church building was sold to the Government for £154 for full time use as a school. It became the Redesdale Central School No 1089 but closed in 1894. The Bible Christian congregation was left with £104 once the debt of £50 still remaining on the original building was paid.

A new church was erected in 1875 at a cost of £309/14/5. The foundation stone was laid by John Russell Munckton, the owner of Coliban Estate on the 27 April, 1875 and the church was officially opened six months later on the 14 October, 1875 by the Rev. R. Downs. At this time the local community had raised £185/10/7 toward the cost of the new church including the £104 that had been left from the sale of the old church.

In 1880 the church was sold to the Presbyterian Church for the amount of the remaining debt which then stood at £97.8.2.

The church is now used as a private residence.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The church is built of squared rubble, coursed bluestone. It is a rectangular building with a steeply pitched gable roof clad in corrugated iron. The front facade has a centrally placed gable roofed porch with a central doorway. The church which is of a basic Gothic style has windows and door with pointed arched heads and dressed bluestone voussoirs and quoins. The sills are of single bluestone blocks. The porch is flanked by symmetrically placed windows and a round window is situated above the porch in the apex of the gable. The side walls have three windows evenly placed down the facade.

Although additions have been made to the rear of the church in timber, the main section of the church is substantially intact.

The church is a robust, simple design using local basalt. It is now sited in an isolated area and is the one of the few reminders that the area had sufficient population to support a church in the nineteenth century.

---

## REFERENCES

Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
*Kyneton Guardian*

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R9

CURRENT LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Redesdale

NAME: Ford across Campaspe River  
ADDRESS: Old Ford Road

FORMER NAME: Monro's Crossing

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Redesdale  
MAP REFERENCE BU 803 006

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The remains of a ford originally called "Monro's Crossing" is a reminder of an early transport route in the Shire dating from the late 1830s.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Transport/Communications

**BUILDING DATE**

c1938



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No 147  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In 1840, George Robinson, Chief Protector of Aborigines, mentioned in his Journal that he crossed the Campaspe River at "Munro's (*sic*) Crossing." Henry Monro had established his first head station in 1838 just west of the Coliban River and very close to the present site of Coliban Estate. By 1843 he had constructed a new homestead at the eastern extremity of his run, to the east of the Campaspe River. The ford upon which Robinson commented must have been used regularly by Monro as he moved around his pastoral run. Judge Robert Williams Pohlman owned nearby Glenhope station with his brother from the late 1840s and he referred to the crossing as "Farrell's Crossing." Henry Farrell was the proprietor of the Mia Mia Inn.

In 1868 a steel bridge (R28) was built on the Campaspe River about half a mile further upstream and this became the accustomed crossing place between Redesdale and Mia Mia.

---

## DESCRIPTION

There is still some evidence of stone and woodwork at low water marking where the ford was made firm for travellers. The river can still be forded at this point and the approach roads can still be discerned.

---

## REFERENCES

Randell, John, *Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria*, Vol. 1 & 2, Melbourne, 1979 p331-334  
Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989  
Information from Jack Ross

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R15

CURRENT LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Redesdale  
NAME: Riverbend  
ADDRESS: Kyneton-Redesdale Road

FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:  
Allotment 54

MAP NAME: Redesdale  
MAP REFERENCE BU 802 962

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The variety of stone buildings at "Riverbend" is characteristic of nineteenth century farm complexes in the Redesdale area. The construction reflects the ready availability of bluestone.

Local Significance

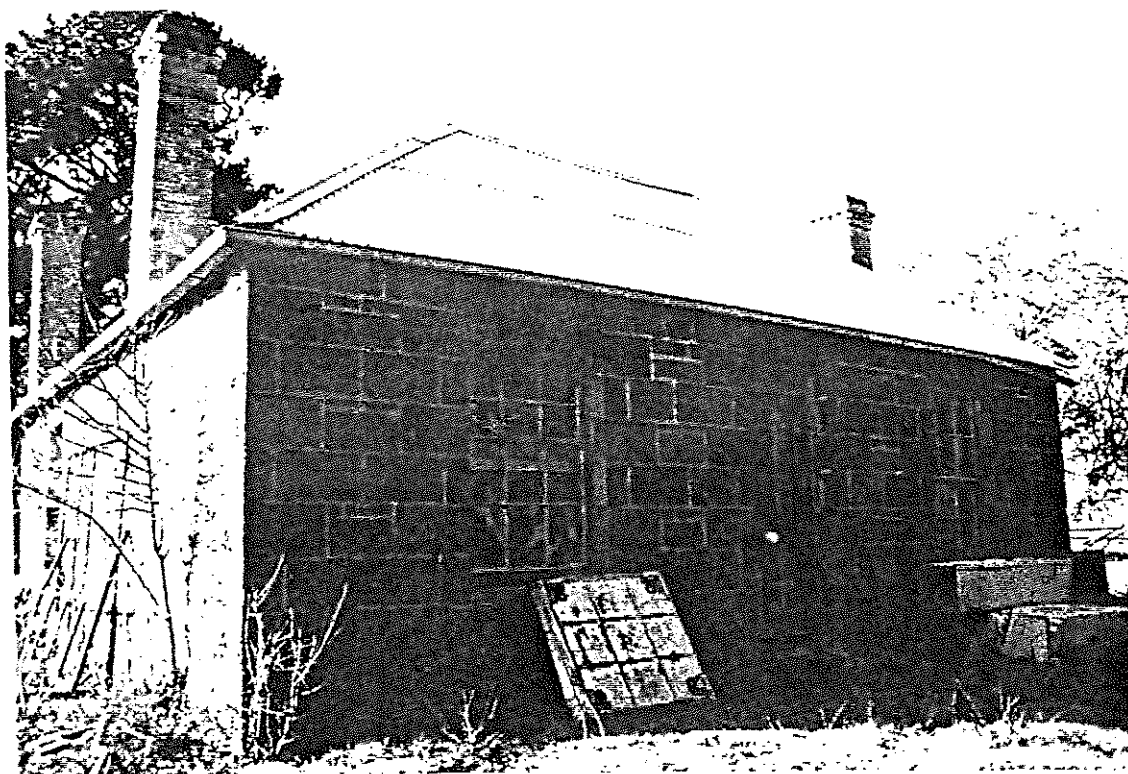
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
1874



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No13/7-11A  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

Edward Gamble was one of the early settlers in the Redesdale area. By 1870 he had already purchased 114 acres in the Redesdale area and was in the process of purchasing another 100 acres from the Crown. He is recorded as the owner of a house in 1874.

Between 1901 and 1906 a large part of the property was sold but Edward Gamble retained the house and a section of the home paddock. By 1910 the house and land had passed to Ellen Gamble, and in 1920 it was owned jointly by both Ellen Gamble and Harold Oscar Gamble. At this time the acreage had increased to 203 acres.

By 1925 the property had passed to Ralph Gamble, believed to be Edward Gamble's grandson. Ralph was a First World War veteran and was awarded the Military Cross.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The farm complex is one of a series of farms in the Redesdale area along the Campaspe River. Many, like Riverbend, are constructed from bluestone. Local tradition has it that masons who worked on the railway line moved around the local area at the completion of their contracts. Riverbend comprises a bluestone house, bluestone shed and the remains of another bluestone farm building. The buildings are now not used but still form a distinct complex.

The house is a mid-Victorian style with an M form roof now clad in corrugated iron. The walls are of squared bluestone laid in courses with alternating stretcher courses and courses where every second block is made up of three smaller blocks of stone. This gives the walls a distinctive pattern. The sills and lintels are single flat basalt pieces. The front facade has a central door with rectangular transom window over and is flanked by symmetrically placed 12 paned double hung timber windows. It appears that the building did not have a verandah. The building has four brick chimneys with decorative bands of corbelled brick work. There appears to have been an extension at the back of the house where one wing is in very roughly squared rubble stonework.

The large shed is in two parts with the smaller front section having stonework similar to that used on the house. In this case every second block in each course is made up of three blocks of bluestone. The larger two storey rear section is of roughly squared, roughly coursed stonework which gives a different texture to the walls. Both sections have gable roofs. The rear wall of the two storey section is in poor condition and now collapsed.

Completing the complex is a number of dog kennels made of hollow logs.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** Penarth  
**ADDRESS:** Redesdale Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
108 H, J

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 799 968

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

"Penarth", comprising three farm houses - two bluestone and the other weatherboard - and a stone and corrugated iron farm shed, is a characteristic farm complex showing the progression from the bluestone construction of the nineteenth century to the milled weatherboard of the twentieth century. The farmhouses are also indicative of the succession of later generations onto the land.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
1860s



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 13/15-18  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

John Took, farmer, originally bought this land from the Crown in 1863 and is listed in the rate books in 1866. By 1872 he owned 172 acres and was in the process of purchasing another 286 acres. The first stone house was built prior to 1874 when he is listed in the rate books as the owner of a house on 418 acres. Between 1895 and 1901, John Took died but his widow continued to live in the house. By 1901 the property had passed to George Took. The weatherboard house may have been built during his occupancy.

In 1920, J. J. and R. T. Hepburn purchased George Took's property. Later J. Barton owned the property for a time before selling to a Mr. Sperling.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The farm complex is one of a series of farms in the Redesdale area which are constructed from bluestone. Local tradition has it that masons who worked on the railway line moved around the local area at the completion of their contracts.

The farm consists of a hipped roofed bluestone house facing into the courtyard. What appears to be a later bluestone farmhouse with an M roof is now connected to a weatherboard house which faces into the courtyard. Behind the weatherboard section is a smaller hipped roof stone building which may have been a detached kitchen or a dairy. This has a large underground cellar entered by bluestone steps. Across the courtyard from the house is a gable roofed bluestone farm shed which appears to have been extended on both ends in corrugated iron.

The stone work on the houses, dairy and farm shed has been painted. The original shingle roof still exists under the corrugated iron on all buildings.

The hipped roof bluestone house that faces the courtyard has a verandah returning on two sides with the roof as an extension to the main roof. This is supported on timber posts. There is no decoration on the verandah. The stonework is of coursed square rubble. The front facade has a central door with two flanking, symmetrically placed timber casement windows. A timber skillion section has been added to the rear.

The later house in a mid-Victorian style is at right angles to the earlier building and has a similar facade but with taller windows and a straight pitched hipped roofed verandah. Again there is no decoration on the verandah. The building has stone chimneys with carved cornices. It also has a timber skillion section to the rear which now forms the connection to the later timber building.

The timber section of the house complex would appear to date from the 1890s and may have been moved to the site as this was a common practice. The building is of weatherboard with a hipped roof intersected by a gable roof. The verandah has a hipped roof and again no decoration. The largest room has a pressed metal ceiling.

The driveway that connects the courtyard with the road has a row of elm trees on one side.

The mature row of elm trees leading to the broad courtyard that divided the houses from the farm sheds, the use of the local stone and the successive development of the farm buildings makes this an evocative farm complex which adds to the agricultural character of the Redesdale area.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding  
Information from S. Bell, owner



**SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93**

FILE No: R17

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** Waldon  
**ADDRESS:** Redesdale Road

**FORMER NAME:** Hawthorn Farm

**TITLE DETAILS:**  
CA 59 & 60

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 806 975

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Hawthorn Farm is a nineteenth century farm complex characteristic of the Redesdale area. The hawthorn hedge which lines the farm driveway and the relatively intact stone shed are notable features. The stone farmhouse with its weatherboard extension demonstrates the way in which bluestone was superseded by corrugated iron and milled weatherboard in the twentieth century.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1874



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 13/15-18  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The parish plans shows that allotment 59 was purchased by Thomas McLaren and allotment 60 was purchased by Michael McKenna. By 1872 Michael McKenna owned 327 acres and was in the process of purchasing another 96 acres under the 42nd Section of the 1865 Land Act. He is rated for a house in 1874 and by this time he may have taken over Thomas McLaren's land. The McKenna family were very strong Catholics and were influential in the establishment of St Laurence church in the Redesdale township. Land for the church was donated by Michael McKenna and he was also an early trustee of the church.

Between 1895 and 1901 the present house and land passed into the ownership of a farmer, Michael Grady. Michael Grady died in the years before the First World War and the property passed to Margaret and Alice Grady, possibly his daughters. In 1921 the house stood on an acreage of 299 acres.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The farm complex is one of a series of farms in the Redesdale area along the Campaspe River. Many are constructed from bluestone. Local tradition has it that masons who worked on the railway line moved around the local area at the completion of their contracts.

The house is a single storey bluestone building with a hipped roof which extends at a flatter pitch to form the verandah roof. The verandah posts have all been replaced recently and there is no decorations. The building has been extended by adding a weatherboard section which was a house moved to the site. This also has a hipped roof but with a higher ridge height. There is a gable roofed timber section at the rear. The stonework has been painted. The window and door surrounds are of brick and the building has brick chimneys. This technique is not used on any other bluestone buildings in the area. The stone section has a central door with a flat brick arch over and flanking symmetrically placed timber double hung windows.

The house is separated from the farm sheds by a wide courtyard. The gable roofed farm shed or stables is of unpainted bluestone and has similar stonework to that seen at Riverbend with squared stones laid in courses but every second or third block made up of three smaller blocks. The roof extends, at a flatter pitch, over a skillion section of the building. The building has a loft reached by external timber stairs and a door in one gable end. Part of the building would appear to have been used as living quarters as there is a bluestone chimney with a carved cornice. The other gable end has a round window in the upper section of the wall.

The long hawthorn hedge which follows and protects the driveway is a feature of the local landscape.

The hawthorn edged driveway leading to the broad courtyard that divides the house from the farm sheds, the use of the local stone and the successive development of the farmhouse makes this an evocative farm complex which adds to the agricultural character of the Redesdale area.

---

## REFERENCES

Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford and Mr. Kriewaldt  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R18A

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** Pine trees

**ADDRESS:** Redesdale Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale

**MAP REFERENCE** BU

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The line of pines along the east side of the Kyneton-Redesdale road is an important community landmark and distinguishes the entry into the Redesdale township.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Community Life

**BUILDING DATE**

c1920



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No.27/2  
DATE 4.3.93

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90

FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE

BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

From the time he was thirteen, Bill Rowe, worked as a contractor for the Shire making roads and bridges with his father Henry and brother, George. This was in the early twentieth century. Later he also bought land and devoted an increasing amount of time to farming.

On one occasion he was employed by the Shire of Metcalfe to plant a line of pine trees on either side of the road along the southern entrance to Redesdale. This avenue of pine quickly became a local landmark.

One side of the avenue was destroyed when increasing traffic on the road necessitated widening the thoroughfare.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The line of mature *Pinus Radiata* is a local landmark and one of the few avenues of trees planted in the Shire. These are remarkable for not being a memorial plantation. They are an integral part of the character of the Redesdale area.

---

## REFERENCES

Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989, p79

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** Redesdale Hotel  
**ADDRESS:** Redesdale Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 804 996

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Redesdale hotel and stables, originally built of timber, was re-constructed in bluestone in the 1870s representing Redesdale's transition from a wayside stopping place to a surveyed township, fuelled by an influx of settlers onto the surrounding land. The hotel's strong communal associations make it one of the most significant buildings in the Redesdale area. The stables are a notable feature of the complex.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

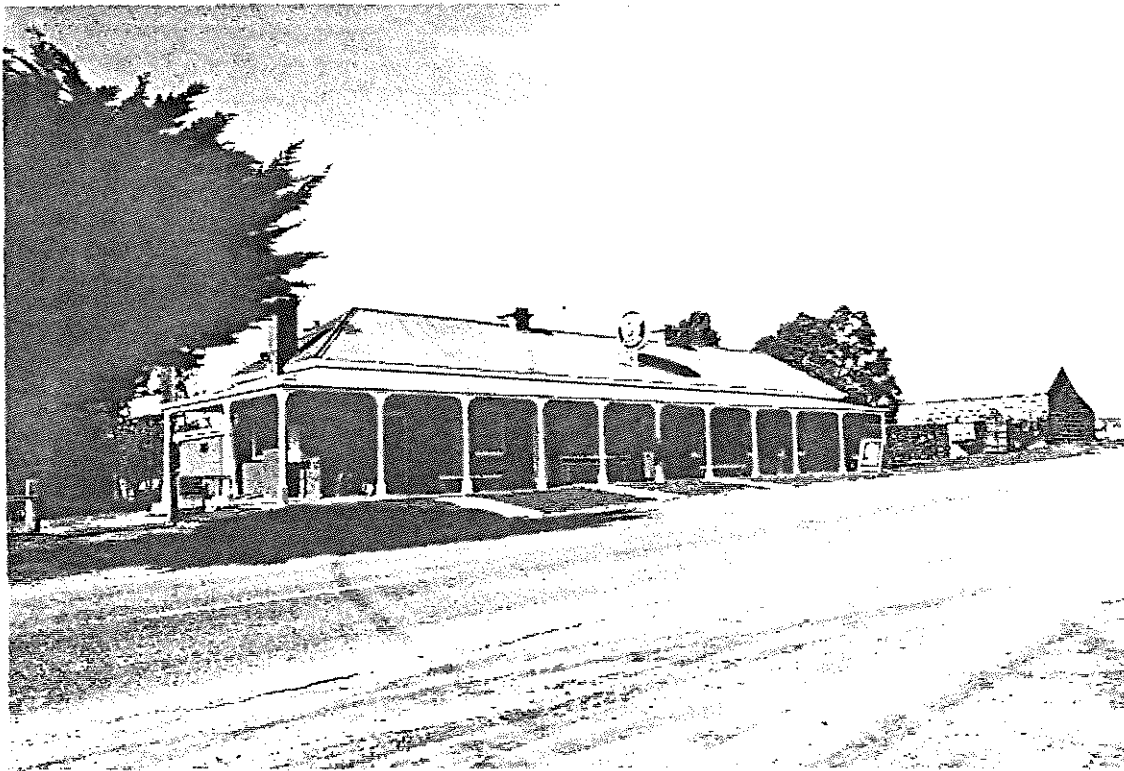
---

**THEMES**

Community Life, Towns (Commercial)

**BUILDING DATE**

1870s



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No.  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

The first scattered buildings of the township of Redesdale grew up near Monro's Crossing (Campaspe River) on the Kyneton-Heathcote Road, catering to miners en route to the Heathcote gold fields. Some gold was also found along the banks of the Campaspe in this vicinity.

John McNiff, a young man in his twenties, established a hotel here during the 1860s in order to cater for travellers and miners. This was a weatherboard structure with a shingle roof which extended to form a verandah supported on bush poles. He also acquired land adjoining the hotel and by 1866 he is rated jointly for a hotel and a farm valued at £88. By 1872, John McNiff had 106 acres adjoining the hotel and milked a large number of cows. Twelve bail stalls are said to be still in evidence in the bluestone stables next to the hotel.

More extensive settlement of the Redesdale area in the late 1860s by a predominantly Catholic group of settlers, prompted the survey of the Redesdale township and the sale of the first township blocks in 1871. This created increased business for McNiff's hotel and he is said to have converted the hotel building to bluestone in 1876. An early photograph shows the existing northern section of the building in bluestone built as an extension to the earlier timber building. Building work throughout the area was characterised by the use of bluestone, a readily available building material.

John McNiff died on the 3 March, 1901 aged 66 years old. His wife Anne, continued to manage the hotel until 1909 when it passed to Daniel McNiff, her son. From this point the licensees were as follows:

George Henley from 25/10/20	Gertrude Kilroy from 11/05/22
Francis Smith from 19/03/23	Alexander Duff from 20/8/23
George Whatman 30/9/32	Frederick Burge from 19/02/35
John Barton Brady from 29/11/39	Francis John Took from 25/11/43
Ernest Harding from 6/12/48	Fran Comer from 21/02/50
Owen Hackett from 01/02/51	Edith May and James May from 21/09/53
E G and E L Sell from 3/11/65	

The hotel licence was surrendered in March 1970 and the building was sold to Ernie and Claire Reid. The hotel was reopened for business in 1988.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The existing hotel is a single storey bluestone building with a hipped roof now clad in corrugated iron. The bluestone has been painted. The entire street front is protected by a verandah with a straight pitched roof springing from just below the building eaves line. The verandah is supported on square timber posts with small timber brackets. An early photograph of the building shows the building soon after the early timber section was replaced with bluestone. The corner bluestone section, which was built first, is of squared, coursed bluestone work and has a lower eaves line and different pitch to the later section. The later section is of squared bluestones of various sizes laid in a random rubble pattern. The new section has a verandah springing from the same place as the present verandah but supported on pairs of timber posts with a simple frieze of diagonal timbers. Therefore at some stage the roofs have been altered to the same pitch and the verandah posts changed. The original north corner had a splayed wall with a corner doorway. This was reflected in the verandah. This has been altered to a square corner. The three double hung windows at the south of the building appears to be original but the other windows and doors appear to have been altered over the years.

The bluestone stables have a gable roof which continues at a flatter pitch over a skillion section to one side. The stonework is again of coursed squared blocks with every second or third block being of three smaller blocks of stone. The gable end facing the road has a circular window within a frame of four large square blocks. The roof is now clad in corrugated iron but the timber shingles can still be seen.

---

## REFERENCES

Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989, p9 and 18  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R22

CURRENT LISTINGS:  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

TOWN/DISTRICT: Redesdale  
NAME: Redesdale Police Station  
ADDRESS: Redesdale Road  
FORMER NAME:

TITLE DETAILS:

MAP NAME: Redesdale  
MAP REFERENCE BU803 998

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This building is a substantial and important element in the Redesdale township. The building is characteristic of single storey small hotels built in this era. The bluestone material is characteristic of the area. Its prominent position addressing the main intersection and substantial appearance adds to its significance. The long association with the police presence in Redesdale from 1869 to 1941 and the association with the locally prominent Rowe family are important.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

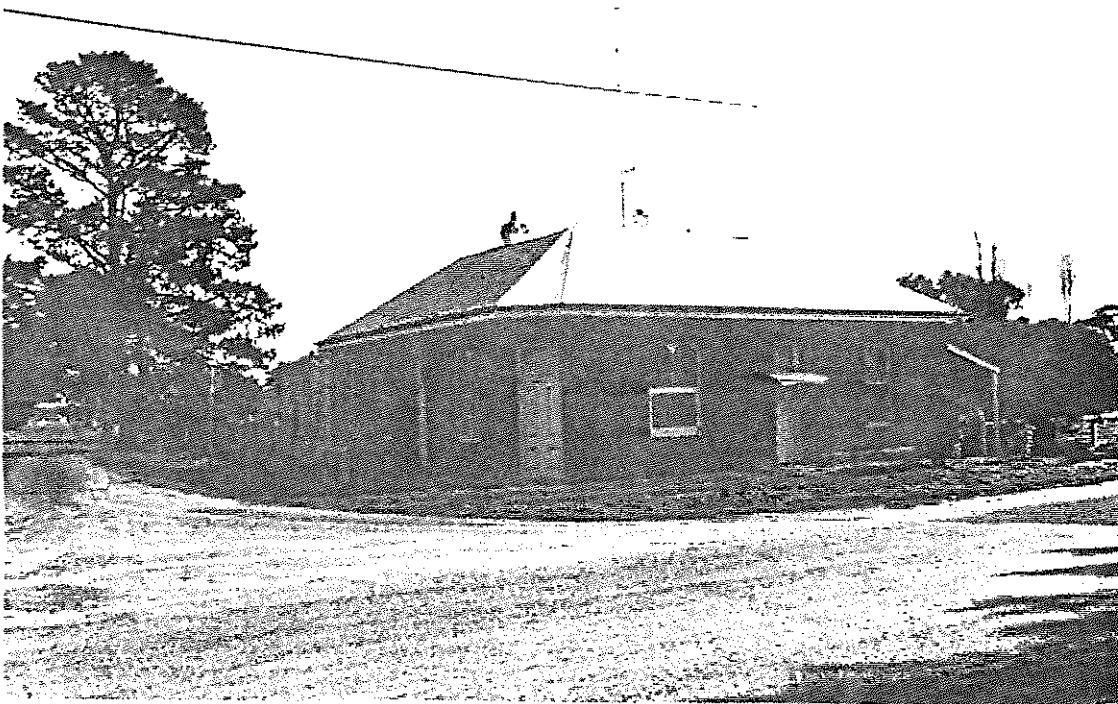
---

**THEMES**

Community Life (Law and Order), Towns

**BUILDING DATE**

c1862



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 13/28  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

This building is said to have been built as a hotel in the 1860s in opposition to McNiff's hotel on the opposite side of the road. During this period the main road between Kyneton and the Heathcote goldfields ran through Redesdale and the hotel may have been intended to attract passing trade. The building was probably owned by Robert Taylor - the only other hotel proprietor in the township in 1868 apart from John McNiff who owned the Redesdale Hotel.

The hotel does not appear on the rate books after 1869 at which time it is said to have been sold to John Took, a local farmer. In the same year John Took leased it to the Police Department for £8/10/- a month but later constructed a verandah on the north and west ends and increased the rent to £10 a month.

The building was occupied by the local policeman who was required to do a variety of jobs. Bill Rowe relates that one of these was to visit all local farmers and collect the agricultural statistics for the Government Bureau.

As the population of the district declined throughout the 1930s there was no longer a need for a police station at Redesdale and in 1941 the building was sold to Bill Rowe for £32/10/-. The building became the home of Bill and Eileen Rowe.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The single storey bluestone building would appear to have been built for use as an hotel as it has a splayed corner with doorway flanked by wide windows commonly found in commercial buildings of the era. The window joinery has arched heads but the lower sections appear to have been altered. The street facade is similar to a photograph taken between 1874 and 1876.

The building is of local bluestone squared and laid in courses. In common with the Redesdale Hotel and some other farm buildings the stones are laid with every second stone being made up of smaller blocks, in this case two smaller stones as opposed to the three found in other buildings. The stones are smaller and give a finer texture to the walls than those seen in other examples. The hipped roof is splayed over the corner. There is no evidence to suggest that the building ever had a street verandah. The building has been extended in timber and a verandah added to the north.

Its prominent position addressing the main intersection and substantial appearance add to its significance in the streetscape.

---

## REFERENCES

Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989, p10, 68, 225  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding



**SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93**

FILE No: R23

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** Redesdale Store and Post Office  
**ADDRESS:** Redesdale Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 804 998

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

A store has existed on this site since the 1870s and it represents an important focus for the Redesdale community. It has a long association with the Hahn family, one of the few non-British families to settle in the area. The many alterations which the weatherboard store and house have undergone reduces the site's integrity but are indicative of the way in which its use and function have changed over time.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**

Community Life, Towns (Commercial)

**BUILDING DATE**

c1870s



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No.13/29-30  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

It is claimed that Henry Hahn, a German immigrant, established a butchery business in Redesdale as early as 1867 and that the galvanised iron shack shown in a 1874 photograph was his shop. However the rate books suggest that he began as a butcher sometime between 1874 and 1884. In 1884 Henry Hahn is rated not only for a butcher's shop but a house, 16 acres and slaughter yards comprising three acres. The house was built at the back of the butcher's shop and accommodated Henry Hahn's large family.

The slaughter yards enabled Henry to kill his own meat for the butcher's shop. Animals for slaughter were often held and fed on the 16 acres. During 1888 he leased 90 acres of land, presumably in order to fatten cattle and sheep for slaughter. In later years Henry Hahn expanded the business, selling groceries, drapery and grains as well as meat, and from the 1920s he sold petrol from drums at the back of the store.

Between 1925 and 1930 the business passed to Bertram (Bert) Hahn, a butcher and presumably Henry Hahn's son. Although the Hahns continued to slaughter their own meat, from 1920 the rate books make no further mention of slaughter yards.

During the 1930s Bertram Hahn moved away from the area and the store was made available for lease. Some of the first lessees were Robert Green, the Sloane family and the Hislop family. Bertram Hahn resumed management of the shop for a period but later leased it again to F. Roberts.

The store also functioned as a post office and in 1953 a local resident, Agnes Mudford, began working on the mail run throughout the surrounding district. She continued the service for the next forty years. Nearby Mia Mia also received a grocery run twice a week.

During the 1960s and 1970s the store was owned by Norm Dempster

---

## DESCRIPTION

The existing store is group of three buildings. On the south is a residence with three gable roofs and a straight pitch verandah over the street. This is probably the residence described in the 1884 ratebooks. The timber verandah posts have been altered to round metal posts but the frieze of vertical timber slats and the scalloped edged boards on the side remain. The style of the verandah suggests that it was built in the early twentieth century.

The central building has a gable roof shielded by a parapet with a round central section and two scotia shaped side sections. This has been reclad in recent years with a metal siding. This section retains its timber shop front and a splayed entry.

The northern section is a gable roofed building. The gable section above the verandah has been clad in metal siding in recent years. The central and northern sections share a straight pitched verandah which has had the square timber verandah posts replaced with round metal posts. It has a valance of vertical boards with rounded ends to give a scalloped effect.

The three buildings with their street verandahs, small size and steeply pitched roofs retain the form and some details of nineteenth century buildings. They are important elements in the streetscape of Redesdale.

---

## REFERENCES

Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989, p10  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding

---

Assessed by  
W. Jacobs/K. Twigg

Assessment Date  
Sept-Oct 1993

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale  
**NAME:** St Laurence Catholic Church  
**ADDRESS:** Redesdale Road

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 804 999

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The bluestone church of Saint Laurence is indicative of the large numbers of Irish Catholics who settled in the Redesdale area, almost to the exclusion of other denominations. It is one of a number of nineteenth century bluestone buildings in the township which together give Redesdale a distinctive character. The church is a large, substantial Early English Gothic Church which bears witness to the strength of the Catholic Congregation in the Redesdale area. The chancel, transept and west porch additions of 1892 were designed by Mr. Payne, architect of Brunswick.

Local Significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalf Planning Scheme (individual listing)

---

**THEMES**  
Community Life (Churches)

**BUILDING DATE**  
1874



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No. 14/1-3  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90,  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

In the early 1860s, Father Horatio Geoghegan, established a pastorate in the Kyneton region. Extensive settlement of the Redesdale area in the 1860s by a predominantly Irish-Catholic group of settlers, prompted Father Geoghegan to encourage the erection of a bluestone building to serve as both a school and a chapel. This was completed in 1865 at a cost of £200.

However, as the population of the area continued to increase, a new and more substantial church was planned. Land was donated by M. McKenna in 1872 and on the 6 April, 1873, the foundation stone for a new church was laid by Bishop Goold, who was escorted to the site by members of the Kyneton and Redesdale Hibernian Societies.

The new bluestone church was built by a Mr Price of Malmsbury. It was dedicated and opened on 7 November, 1874, by the Very Rev. Dr Fitzpatrick, Vicar General of the Melbourne diocese. Redesdale now formed part of the Heathcote Division and Mass was said by a priest of the Division, Father Mullins.

Although the design for the building included a nave, chancel and sacristy to which a spire could be added, initially only the nave was built and people entered through a side porch. Even the cost of the nave which amounted to £1500, was £100 more than the congregation had anticipated.

The Statistical Returns to the Melbourne Diocese for 1875 shows that mass was celebrated periodically on Sundays at 11 am and the average attendance was 250. The paddock on the north side of the church was used to accommodate the horses, gigs and buggies of those attending Mass.

On the 22 August 1888 a working bee was held at the church and tree planting, painting and gravelling were undertaken. In 1891, £300 was raised through a bazaar at Heathcote and donations in order to complete the intended design of Saint Laurence. Mr Payne, an architect from Brunswick, was appointed to prepare plans and supervise the building operations and tenders were advertised in the Guardian. On the 10 April 1892, Dr Revill blessed and opened the additions after being met by the congregation at Mia Mia and followed in procession to Redesdale.

Some older residents of the area can still remember the "missions" that were held at Redesdale involving twice daily services over a whole week. This often meant night journeys by horse drawn vehicle.

During 1948 the church had extensive renovations carried out by Mr Pope from Kyneton. Steel reinforcing rods were inserted across the walls, repairs made to some of the mortar, parts of the interior were replastered and the church was repainted. In 1960 the original slate roof was replaced with galvanised iron.

In recent years the congregation of Saint Laurence had dwindled but Mass continues to be offered.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The church is built of squared snecked rubble bluestone in an Early English Gothic style. The nave and the porch were part of the original building campaign in 1873. This was a rectangular building of four bays, each bay marked by a buttress with a central pointed arched window with two pointed arch lights and a quatrefoil set in stone tracery. The windows and porch door are protected by carved stone moulds ending in square bosses. The large west window is divided into three arched panes and has three quatrefoils set in stone tracery. Above the west window is a small semicircular window in the apex of the gable. The gables are marked with stone crosses. The 1891 additions of a chancel, transept and west porch are in matching stonework with similar details but all have a lower eaves line than the original sections. The west porch sits rather awkwardly in front of and partly obscures the west window. A remnant timber fence post remains with a pyramidal top and the marks of the triangular rails still visible.

The church is a large, substantial Early English Gothic Church which bears witness to the strength of the Catholic Congregation in the Redesdale area.

---

## REFERENCES

- Bill Rowe, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989, p27  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Centenary of the Redesdale Catholic Church, 1874-1974  
Rev Walter Ebsworth, *Pioneer Catholic Victoria*, Polding Press, Melbourne, 1973, p212

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R28

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST  File No. 1541  
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale  
**NAME:** Mia Mia Bridge  
**ADDRESS:** Heathcote/Redesdale Road  
**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Redesdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 811 004

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This iron bridge is one of the most unusual and distinctive nineteenth century bridges in Victoria. The bridge is a rare example of a lattice truss bridge with stiffening arches and is most unusual for its two separate traffic lanes. The structure has an unusual early history, is an important illustration of the iron bridge building techniques of the period, now lost and is unusual in being an imported bridge. The bridge is important in the surrounding landscape. The bridge is intact and is in good condition.

State Significance

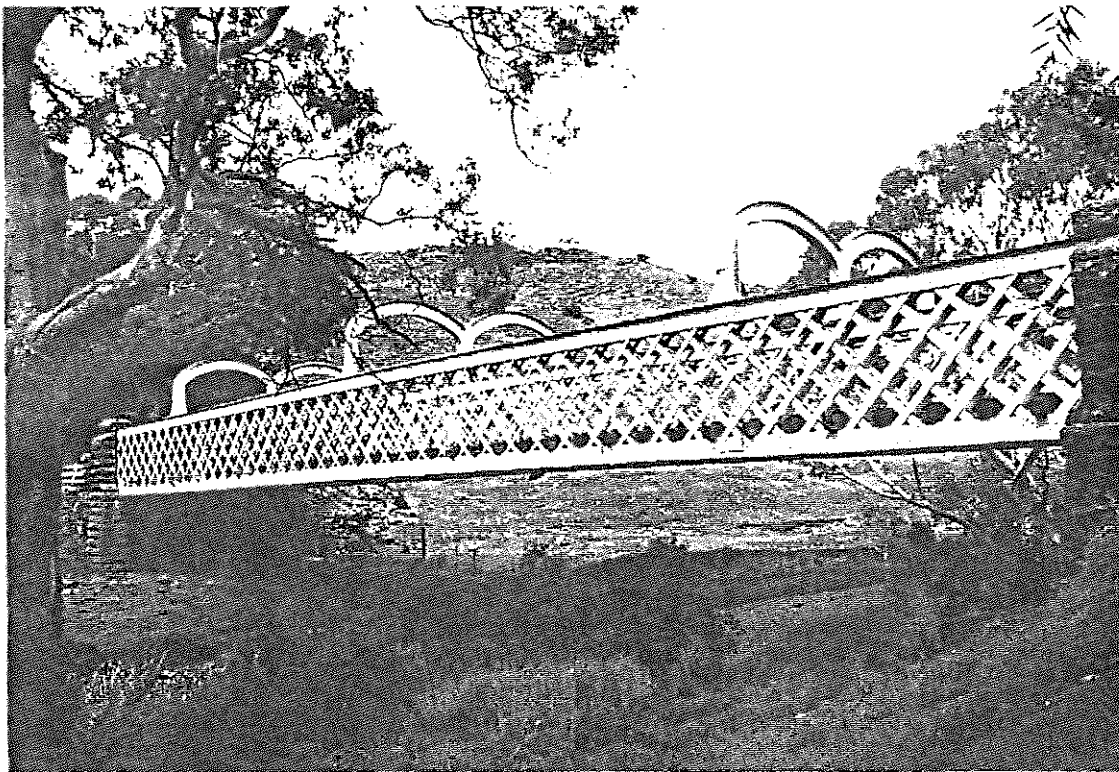
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing), Retention on the Government Buildings Register and the Register of the National Estate.

---

**THEMES**  
Transport

**BUILDING DATE**  
1868



**PHOTOGRAPH**  
FILM No. 14/5-  
DATE 22.7.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

From 1838, when Henry Monro first established his pastoral run in the region of present day Redesdale, the Campaspe was crossed by a ford which rapidly became known as Monro's Crossing. Delay in erecting a bridge was exacerbated by the fact that the Campaspe River formed the boundary between the Shire of Metcalfe and the Shire of McIvor and construction depended on agreement between the two shires.

From August, 1866, at the Metcalfe Shire's initiative, a series of meetings was held between the shires. After much discussion this resulted in an agreed location for the bridge and a commitment to sharing the cost of the approaches - much greater on Metcalfe's side. At the third meeting, Mr Muntz, the Shire of Metcalfe engineer, presented plans of a timber bridge and two of an iron girder bridge. Tenders were opened and the successful tenderer was Mr Thomas Doran, quoting £3585 for an iron girder bridge.

According to the Guardian newspaper, the iron bridge eventually acquired by Mr Muntz and Cr Morris in Melbourne, once formed portion of a bridge intended to be thrown across the Yarra at Hawthorn. However the vessel in which the bridge was being shipped caught fire in Hobson's Bay and sank. The sunken bridge was raised and taken to Sandridge where a portion of it was purchased by the Metcalfe and McIvor Shire Councils from Langlands and Co, for £1000. The girders were transported to Redesdale by bullock dray where they were scraped and oiled to remove the rust caused by their immersion in the sea. They were then erected per medium of a temporary wooden bridge.

After months of delay, the bridge was finally opened when a bottle of champagne was broken over its iron ribs on 23 January, 1868. The opening was attended by an assemblage of members of parliament, local government leaders and councillors and watched by large numbers of the general public. The official formalities and meal were followed by a ball, held on the bridge and organised by local residents.

---

## DESCRIPTION

The bridge consists of three parallel lattice girders spanning between abutments of coursed rockfaced bluestone. The bridge is of a single span and gives good clearance above the river. The trusses act as balustrades and support the timber decking. The bridge was originally only to have two overhead, arched, transverse ties but this was increased to three on the advice of Mr. Ford of the Railways Department.

This iron bridge is one of the most unusual and distinctive nineteenth century bridges in Victoria. The bridge is a rare example of a lattice truss bridge with stiffening arches and is most unusual for its two separate traffic lanes. The structure has an unusual early history, is an important illustration of the iron bridge building techniques of the period, now lost and is unusual in being an imported bridge. The bridge is intact and is in good condition.

The bridge is an important element in the surrounding landscape. The approaches, both from Redesdale and Mia Mia, are very steep and the views of the valley are dominated by the bridge.

The wooden decking has been replaced, the iron work painted several times and the approaches to the bridge widened. Apart from this the iron bridge continues to be used by motor traffic with little alteration.

---

## REFERENCES

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No. 1541  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
100th Anniversary of Redesdale Bridge, 1868-1968

SHIRE OF METCALFE HERITAGE STUDY 1992/93

FILE No: R33

**CURRENT LISTINGS:**  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER   
HBC No.  
NATIONAL TRUST   
NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER   
OTHER

**TOWN/DISTRICT:** Redesdale

**NAME:** "Braeside" Stone Enclosure  
**ADDRESS:** Gibbard's Lane

**FORMER NAME:**

**TITLE DETAILS:**

**MAP NAME:** Riverdale  
**MAP REFERENCE** BU 792 035

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The stone enclosure at Braeside, is a largely intact example of the way in which stones cleared from the land were given a practical use. The size of the enclosure is suggestive of the large number of stock kept by Gibbard.

Local Significance

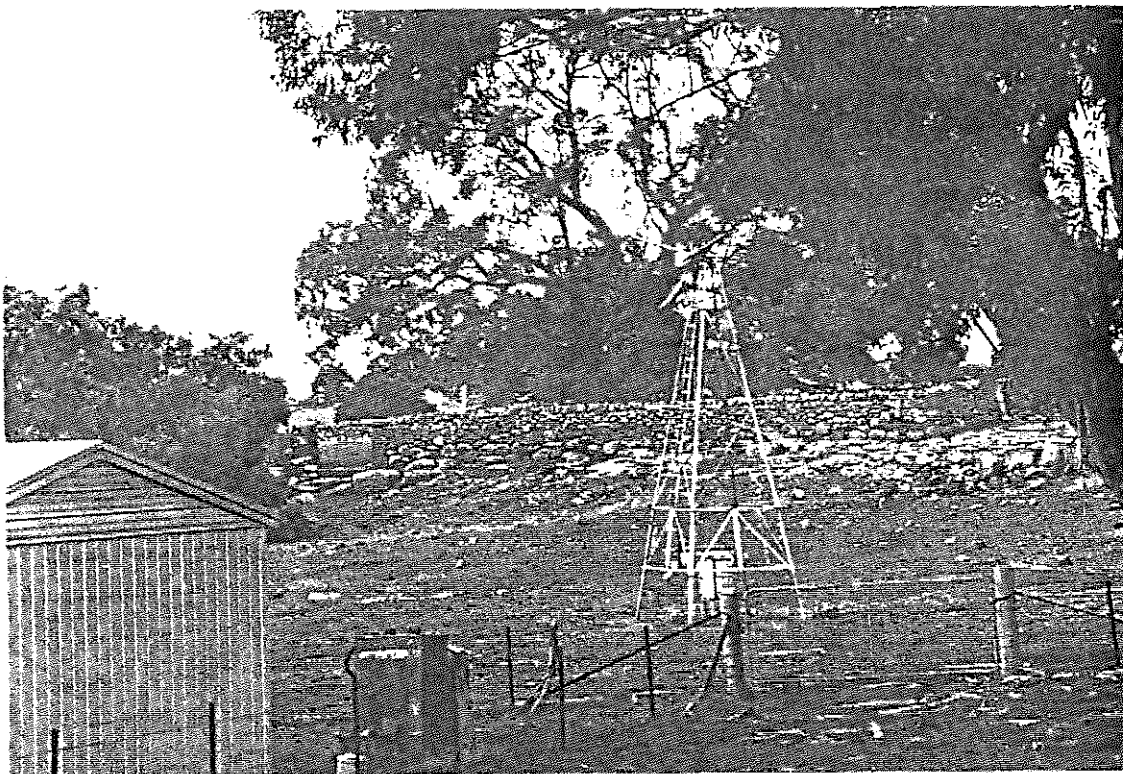
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metcalfe Planning Scheme (individual listing), Addition to the Register of the National Estate.

---

**THEMES**  
Agriculture

**BUILDING DATE**  
c1880



PHOTOGRAPH  
FILM No.12/14  
DATE 30.6.92

---

PROJECT No. 39 OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME 1989/90.  
FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE COMMITTEE (VICTORIA) AND THE SHIRE OF METCALFE  
BY W. JACOBS AND K. TWIGG 217 DRUMMOND STREET SOUTH BALLARAT 3350 TELEPHONE 053-317 115

---

## HISTORY

Thomas Gibbard is recorded as the owner of a farm of 160 acres in Redesdale in 1872. By 1884 he had relocated to North Redesdale where he owned 315 acres and resided in his own house. The land was rocky and it was probably during this period that he built the present stock yards. Thomas Gibbard kept a large number of cows and had a local reputation as a cheese maker.

In 1900 Thomas Gibbard divided most of his property at North Redesdale between Henry, Hugh and Mary Gibbard. Later the property passed to the Ellery family. The old Gibbard home no longer exists.

---

## DESCRIPTION

This is a large structure of random rubble stones built as a dry wall. The enclosure is a rectangle with very carefully constructed corners. The top of the wall which stands about 1200 mm high is capped with a row of stones. There are two entry gates. One would appear to be the connection from the now demolished house and the other from the paddocks. The enclosure may have been associated with milking sheds.

---

## REFERENCES

Rowe, Bill, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, Lithocraft, Melbourne, 1989  
Information from Jack Ross and Agnes Mudford  
Shire of Metcalfe Rate Books - East Riding