

WENHAMS TRACK HOMESTEAD

Location

WENHAMS TRACK WANGARATTA, WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Municipality

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8125-0003

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	<p>The location and lack of information is consistent with a relatively ephemeral bush settlement; such as a logging or pastoral camp. The presence of the garden and the well tentatively suggests the potential for associated remains (sub-surface) of a dwelling or a camp.</p> <p>At the same time, the site comprises various features and material that is difficult to date; including vegetation and the well which appears to be built from industrial bricks. Most of the portable rubbish, however, is likely to date to the early 20th century.</p>
Archaeological Significance	<p>The site is of medium archaeological significance, comprising a range of surface features and a potential for further archaeological remains below the surface.</p>
Historical Significance	<p>The site is of significance in association with the settlement of the more remote areas of Wangaratta Shire and potential through its association with forest based activities, such as logging.</p>
Other Names	<p>WARBY RANGES 1,</p>

Hermes Number 10823

Property Number

History

According to the Warby Ranges State Park brochure (Parks Victoria):

Major Mitchell originally named the Warby Ranges 'Futters Range' during his travels through the area in 1836. It was later renamed after Ben Warby, who took up the Taminick Run of 9300ha in 1844.

And the area is believed to have been used by the Kelly Gang.

The Argus in 1880 prepared a special report on the effectiveness of the 1869 Land Act in relation to land selections. They reported that the Warby Ranges on the outskirts of Wangaratta was largely selected by pastoralists but that there were still large tracks of land that had been identified as unavailable. The reporter noted that prior to the Land Act the area was thinly populated and now there were many homesteads and fenced paddocks.

Warby Ranges and especially the well drained lighter soils at the foothills were suited to fruit trees and vines and many settlements planted these in the 1870s (Jones 1995:79).

However, there is little specific information regarding the land on which the site is located within general histories or within parish plans. The location is relatively isolated, and Friends of Warby Ranges have constructed an adjacent Arboretum and a 4km walking track. The information brochure boxes at each end of the track do not document the history of the locale in any detail.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>