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# Dry Stone Wall, Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road cnr Swamp Road



019-a Bacchus Marsh -  
Geelong Road.jpg



019-b Bacchus Marsh -  
Geelong Road.jpg



Drystone fences, Swamp  
Road

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## Location

Swamp Road & Geelong Bacchus Marsh Road BALLIANG, MOORABOOL SHIRE

## Municipality

MOORABOOL SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO134

## Heritage Listing

Moorabool Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 1, 1995

Drystone fences, probably part of the boundary between the squatter pastoralists Thomas Chirnside (Werribee Estate ) and Simon Staughton (Staughton Vale Estate), built c 1870, with post and wire added after 1908.

They are of local historical significance as early surviving examples of drystone fences and as evidence of the boundary between the early pastoral runs, indicating the earliest local settlement pattern.

They are also of local architectural significance, in demonstrating the skilled craftsmanship and techniques of the stone-waller's trade, including their use of the knapping hammer.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moorabool - Bacchus Marsh Heritage Study 1995, Richard Peterson and Daniel Catrice, 1995;
Hermes Number	116221
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The group of drystone walls at the junction of Ripley, Swamp and the Bacchus Marsh - Geelong Roads demonstrate a variety of construction styles.

The largest section of a continuous style is that along the south side of Ripley Road. It is a drystone wall between whole log posts, with two strands of heavy gauge black wire. The wall is built of battered boulders forming rubble fill, and topped and capped with wide flat boulders. It is located on the south side of Swamp Road and Ripley Road and on both sides of the Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road. The south-east corner forms the boundary of Spring Park and the south-west corner has remnant vegetation. This wall is 1.15 metres high with a regular cope of large flat stones set on their edges. The faces of the wall are smoothly finished, with considerable use of the knapping hammer to shape the stones to fit. Small broken pieces have been used to plug gaps. The wall has few through-stones and coursing is irregular or absent. The wall west of the Geelong Ballarat Road is similar, is probably contemporary, and may have been erected by the same waller. There is some variation to the western end where large flat stones have been used as through-stones about halfway up the wall. These project from both sides of the wall and are at one to two metre intervals.

Another fence is on the north side of Swamp Road and the east side of the Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road. At the base of the fence is a line of boulders. This is a split timber post and wire fence, with 5 strands of heavy gauge black wire and a top strand of barbed wire.

## Intactness

Very good, On the south boundary of Ripley Road, the black wire has been replaced with barbed wire.

## Physical Conditions

Very good. Swamp Road is a dirt track. Ripley Road is an unformed fire access road only, un-named on site.

## Historical Australian Themes

Pastoralism

## Usage/Formal Usage

USE: Drystone fences.

*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/>*