

# WARRACKNABEAL LOCK-UP



Warrack Lock-up April 2023 1 LOCK-UP SOHE 2008



1 lock up devereux street  
warracknabeal front elevation  
jul1984

## DIAGRAM 1537

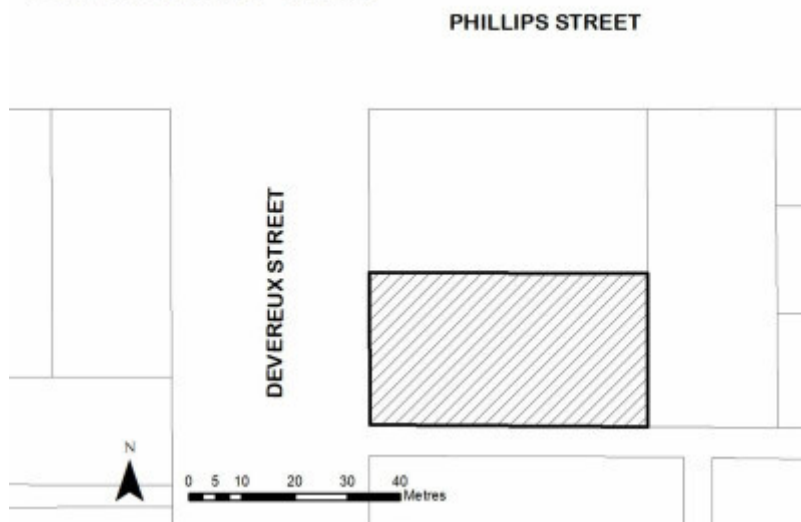


DIAGRAM 1537

### Location

31 DEVEREUX STREET WARRACKNABEAL, YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE

### Municipality

YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE

### Level of significance

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1537

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO64

## **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

## **Amendment to Registration**

August 17, 2023

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - September 1, 2025

Warracknabeal Lock-Up is located on Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Country.

# **What is significant?**

Warracknabeal Lock-up constructed in 1872 of rough-hewn red gum logs to a design of the Public Works Department.

# **How is it significant?**

The Warracknabeal Lock-up is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

### **Criterion A**

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

### **Criterion D**

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

# **Why is it significant?**

The Warracknabeal Lock-up is of historical significance for its ability to demonstrate the operation of the police force in Victoria in the mid-nineteenth century. It allows the treatment of those detained by the police in this period

to be readily appreciated. The intactness of the log lock-up allows police administration in remote areas of Victoria such as the Wimmera in the mid-nineteenth century to be well understood.  
(Criterion A)

The Warracknabeal Lock-up is historically significant as a notable example of a lock-up. Constructed in a vernacular style from readily available materials it demonstrates the practical and economical approach of the Public Works Department to providing required buildings in remoter locations in this period. Its construction represents a skilful use of local red gum timber and simple construction techniques.  
(Criterion D)

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

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

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

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

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

## Theme

### 7. Governing Victorians

Construction dates	1872,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	WARRACKNABEAL LOCK UP, WARRACKNABEAL LOCKUP, LOCK UP, LOCK-UP,
Hermes Number	1187
Property Number	

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## History

Warracknabeal is a regional town on Wotjobaluk country in the northern Wimmera region of Victoria. During the process of colonisation, the district was settled in 1845 by the brothers Andrew and Robert Scott who took up two pastoral runs either side of the Yarriambiack Creek. As further settlement occurred in the Wimmera and across the colony, the Public Works Department commenced the construction of civic buildings, such as police stations, courts and lock-ups. It is recognised that many places connected to the operation of the police force and legal system in Victoria may have had a role in the detention, mistreatment and abuse of Aboriginal people and other groups.

A 'lock-up' is a building or structure used for the temporary confinement or restraint of people accused of committing a criminal act, awaiting trial or apprehended for drunken or disorderly behaviour. This [building type](#) has been in existence in Britain and Europe since the 1500s. Since that time, lock-ups have been built to different designs with various materials to suit local conditions, including in the British colonies. Lock-ups were often built adjacent to police stations or courts to facilitate the easy transport, charging and trial of prisoners.

From the 1870s, there was a population boom in the northwest of Victoria. In June 1871, a contract with builder Frederick Dann was approved for a log hut police station on the site for £142. In December 1871, a contract with Thomas Crerar of Stawell was approved for the construction of a log lock-up for £140. During 1872, construction was complete, and the first permanent policeman was stationed in the town.

The Warracknabeal Lock-up is one of a number of similar structures built throughout Victoria. The construction of solid timber vernacular structures provided the most practical approach to building secure lock-ups for prisoners to prevent their escape. In regions of Victoria where timber was readily available, the centuries-old technique of building with interlocking horizontal logs offered a relatively cheap and quick construction option.

The Warracknabeal Lock-up is located 270 metres from the Warracknabeal Court House at 30 Woolcock Street (HO60) which was constructed in 1890. The lock-up remained in use until the mid-twentieth century.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion

The Warracknabeal Lock-up is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

### Criterion A

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

### Criterion D

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

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 2017**, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1537

Category: Registered Place

Name: Warracknabeal Lock-up

Location: 31 Devereux Street, Warracknabeal

Municipality: Yarriambiack Shire

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1537 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 1K Section 12 Township of Warracknabeal Parish of Werrigar.

Dated 17 August 2023

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

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*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/>*