

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY



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SOHE 2008



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1 school of forestry water
street creswick front view

Location

4 WATER STREET CRESWICK, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO20

VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 28, 2004

What is significant?

The School of Forestry, the first of its kind in Australia, was established in Creswick in 1909 on a site adjacent to the Victorian State Nursery and Plantation at Saw Pit Gully. Creswick developed as a town after gold was discovered in the vicinity in 1851, and deep lead mines were worked there from the 1870s. Such activity led to the destruction of much of the forest in the Creswick area by gold miners and timber splitters, and resulted in the protection of forest land in Creswick in 1871. By the late 1880s Creswick forest land was placed under the control of the forester, John La Gerche, who began experimental plantings in Creswick and established a State nursery at nearby Saw Pit Gully in 1888. In the 1890s land around this nursery was used for experimental pine plantations, and in 1908 it was established as the Victorian State Nursery and Plantation.

The School of Forestry commenced in an existing residence built in 1884 for Dr John Tremearne, the resident medical officer at the Creswick Hospital from 1872 to 1888. In 1912 the school acquired the nearby hospital building. Land for this hospital was reserved at Eastern Hill, overlooking the township of Creswick, as early as 1857, and the foundation stone for the building was laid on 20 February, 1863. Designed by local architect, Frederick Poeppel, it was one of several goldfields hospitals established in the 1860s.

Designed in a Tudor style, the original red brick hospital building with bluestone footings and slate roof, was rendered in the 1870s. The building comprises a two storey central section with parapeted gable and flat pointed arches, with emphasis given to the main entrance by the use of receding concentric pointed arches. Single storey wings, which flank the central section, incorporate similar parapeted gable ends to alleviate the flatness of the overall facade. Surface decoration is limited to label mouldings, while at roof level a profusion of chimneys and vertical elements give the building a picturesque character.

The former residence, Tremearne House, is a two storey, polychromatic brick house with double height verandah and overall asymmetrical facade.

How is it significant?

The School of Forestry, Creswick is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The School of Forestry is of historical significance as the first of its kind developed in Australia and as an important part of the forestry industry in Creswick. Since 1909 it has been in continuous use as a forestry school. Together with the State Nursery and pine plantations, the School of Forestry forms part of an important precinct in an area that became central to Victoria's forestry industry, and important to Australia's forestry industry, in the

twentieth century.

The School of Forestry is historically significant due to its original use as a regional hospital and associated residence in the gold rush period. Together these buildings illustrate the need for such a facility in a country location, particularly considering the dangers associated with mining in the 19th century.

The School of Forestry is of architectural significance due to the presence of two important buildings on the site in Creswick. Both remain as intact examples of nineteenth century hospital-related buildings. The hospital itself is of unusual Tudor design and is a substantial picturesque building which appears to dominate its setting. The associated residence is of typical Victorian design, however it is a particularly large residential building within the Creswick township.

[*Online Data Upgrade Project 2004*]

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](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding

all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates 1863, 1884, 1909,
Architect/Designer Burgoyne & Poeppel,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Other Names CRESWICK HOSPITAL, TREMEARNE HOUSE,
Hermes Number 326
Property Number

History

A site inspection and further research are required to determine the horticultural and archaeological significance of the site.

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The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. A site inspection and further research are required to determine the horticultural and archaeological significance of the site.

Sources were as follows:

J. A. Graham. *Early Creswick: the First Century*. Melbourne 1942
C. McConville & Assoc P.L. *Cultural Landscape Study of Creswick Goldfields Area*. 1989
Lester Tropman & Assoc. *Creswick Shire Heritage Study*. 1990
T. Hubbard and K. Olsen. *Conservation Plan for Old State Nursery Office, Creswick*. 1995

Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings
Creswick Shire
Former Creswick Hospital (now School of Forestry), Walter Street, Creswick.
[Victoria Government Gazette No. G39 12 October 1988 p3088]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

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/>