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# Robertson's Property (Former)

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## Location

456 Belgrave-Hallam Road,NARRE WARREN NORTH, Casey City

## Municipality

CASEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO119

## Heritage Listing

Casey City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 6, 2005

This site, with buildings located on two properties has high local significance as an historic site that was part of district squatter James Robertson's large Watwillroon cattle run, once covering much of the present day Narre Warren North. The older house, although altered and rebuilt, may still contain elements of Robertson's pre-1862 four-roomed home. The home built at the top of the hill, now subdivided onto a separate title, requires investigation, but is believed to be historically and architecturally significant also. Located on a hill containing a rocky outcrop and established cypress plantings, the former St. Leonards is an important feature in the historic landscape .

Heritage Study/Consultant	Casey - Casey Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Casey - Heritage of the City of Berwick, Context Pty Ltd, 1993;
Other Names	Robertson's Pre-Emptive Right,
Hermes Number	63061
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Originally a simple weatherboard cottage, the house is said to be in poor condition, with Hardiboard cladding over the original walls, collapsing floor and deteriorated footings. The building is sited on a rocky outcrop with established cypresses which distinguish the site in the surrounding landscape of grassy undulating hills.

When the house was rebuilt, an L-shaped plan replaced the original symmetrical design. It is difficult to determine from observation of external surfaces of the building, whether any original Singaporean fabric remains. All structural timbers in the roof appear to date from the 1940s reconstruction. It is possible that some of the weatherboard pieces are very old. There is a mix of materials used to clad the exterior, including sheet metal, cement sheet, timber and brick to the rear. The bathroom is attached as a skillion to one end of the house and has a thick rubble wall on one side with part constructed of handmade bricks matching those in the twin fireplace. This section could relate to the brick building in the 1922 photograph.

The old Robertson house is considerably altered and rebuilt (possibly using some early material), and is surrounded now by a large collection of disused Army machinery assembled for museum purposes.

A second house, built on the property in 1907 and known as St. Leonards, still stands on the hill overlooking the older house.

## Physical Conditions

Poor

## Intactness

Unknown - Further investigation required.

*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/>*