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# Farm Worker's Block & Idiot Ward - Former Mont Park Asylum



B6939 Farm Workers Block

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## Location

Wattle Avenue,, MACLEOD VIC 3085 - Property No B6939

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1019

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 26, 2004

The Farmworkers Block and Idiot Block, completed in 1912 and 1914 respectively, and designed by S. Brittingham, Chief Architect PWD, are of Regional historic, social and architectural significance. Historically, the former Farmworkers Block and Idiot Block are significant as the earliest buildings of what eventually became the Mont Park Lunatic Asylum, the most advanced and largest mental institution of the early 20th century. They also demonstrate the new therapeutic model for mental patients, involving fresh air and farm work, which



was developed by Dr W. E. Jones, head of the Victorian Lunacy Department from 1905 to c.1940. Dr Jones pioneered the major reform of the treatment of mental patients in Victoria, moving patients gradually from incarceration (mainly in large 19th century asylums) into a therapeutic and medical model.

The original buildings are architecturally significant for their "pavilion" layout, arranged in a formal manner that surrounds a pair of rear airing courts. The style of the buildings is in a simple roughcast Edwardian style, typical of the Public Works department of the period. Developed with projecting bays, attached timber verandahs and walkways, and overhanging eaves, the complex is formal, yet spacious and picturesque.

Classified: 03/08/1998

See also B6647, B6660, B6789, B2418, B6794, B6937, B6938, B7042, B7024

Hermes Number 64431

Property Number

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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/>*