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# Heritage of the City of Berwick



City of Berwick Heritage Conservation Study  
1993

## ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

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**Cover photograph:** Harkaway State School, 1908. (Courtesy of Max Thomson)

# Environmental history

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## Introduction

The Berwick district with its rich black volcanic soil, abundant grasses and excellent water supply, became well-known as a predominantly rural area with many large and well-kept dairy farms as well as some notable cattle, sheep and horse studs. In earlier times before the British colonisation of Australia, the Berwick area was the home of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri, who hunted and camped along the Cardinia Creek and endowed the sites they inhabited with spiritual meanings. Some of these sites remain as part of the region's heritage. It is hoped that a special study will be conducted in the future to document this important aspect of Berwick's history.

After a brief squatting period, new patterns began to emerge which are illustrated in surviving buildings and other structures. A few of these historic places relate to the early pastoral era but far more are associated with the district's development as a prosperous farming area. The growth of Berwick township as a major service centre for a rich dairying and agricultural region is of particular importance in the district's history. The remaining evidence of early German settlement at Harkaway is another major theme. It has been important, also, to consider how much the traditional rural image of Berwick has been changed this century by industrial and residential development on its western side near Dandenong.

The aim of the present study has been to explore the historic themes which have helped to shape the City of Berwick's cultural landscape as it is today. An attempt has been made to determine what remains to illustrate the history of the City of Berwick in the form of buildings, other structures, ruins, sites and precincts. The heritage items (some of which are extremely rare) are precious to the City's special identity and have historic and other values. In some respects, such as the important sites associated with the first contact between Aboriginal and European cultures, and the number of surviving farming properties, the Berwick district is unusual among areas in urban growth corridors close to Melbourne.

More needs to be done, especially the exploration and assessment of the district's Aboriginal heritage. It is hoped that the present study will help to increase community awareness of the City's heritage. It is also hoped that the identification and research process begun in the study will continue and lead to the protection of important heritage places.

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## Wurundjeri heritage

Members of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong tribes were the first to make history in the area now within the City of Berwick. They hunted and camped in the district, finding ample food resources along the many creeks (and particularly the Cardinia Creek), in the swamps, on the profuse grasslands and within the forests of red gum, box, peppermint and manna gums. In earlier times there were also areas of scrubland dominated by the tea-tree, melaleuca and banksia with low-growing heath.<sup>1</sup> Greenstone was quarried and transported and traded into the territory of the Bunurong<sup>2</sup> a neighbouring tribe closely linked to the Wurundjeri by marriage and trade ties.<sup>3</sup> The Bunurong appear to have followed set paths through the Wurundjeri territory. One such path was most probably along the Cardinia Creek.<sup>4</sup>

The Aboriginal people created sites that contain important evidence of a distant past and to which they attribute spiritual meaning. Some of these sites are known to remain today and include two sites at Harkaway. One is in an area known to local whites as 'Bald Hill', where axe heads have been found.<sup>5</sup> There are reports also that a corroboree was held in 1858 on the properties of John Milne and Edward Halleur, district pioneers, on the Harkaway Road. An axehead was found years later near this site by Fred Fritzlaff, the last blacksmith in Berwick.<sup>6</sup>

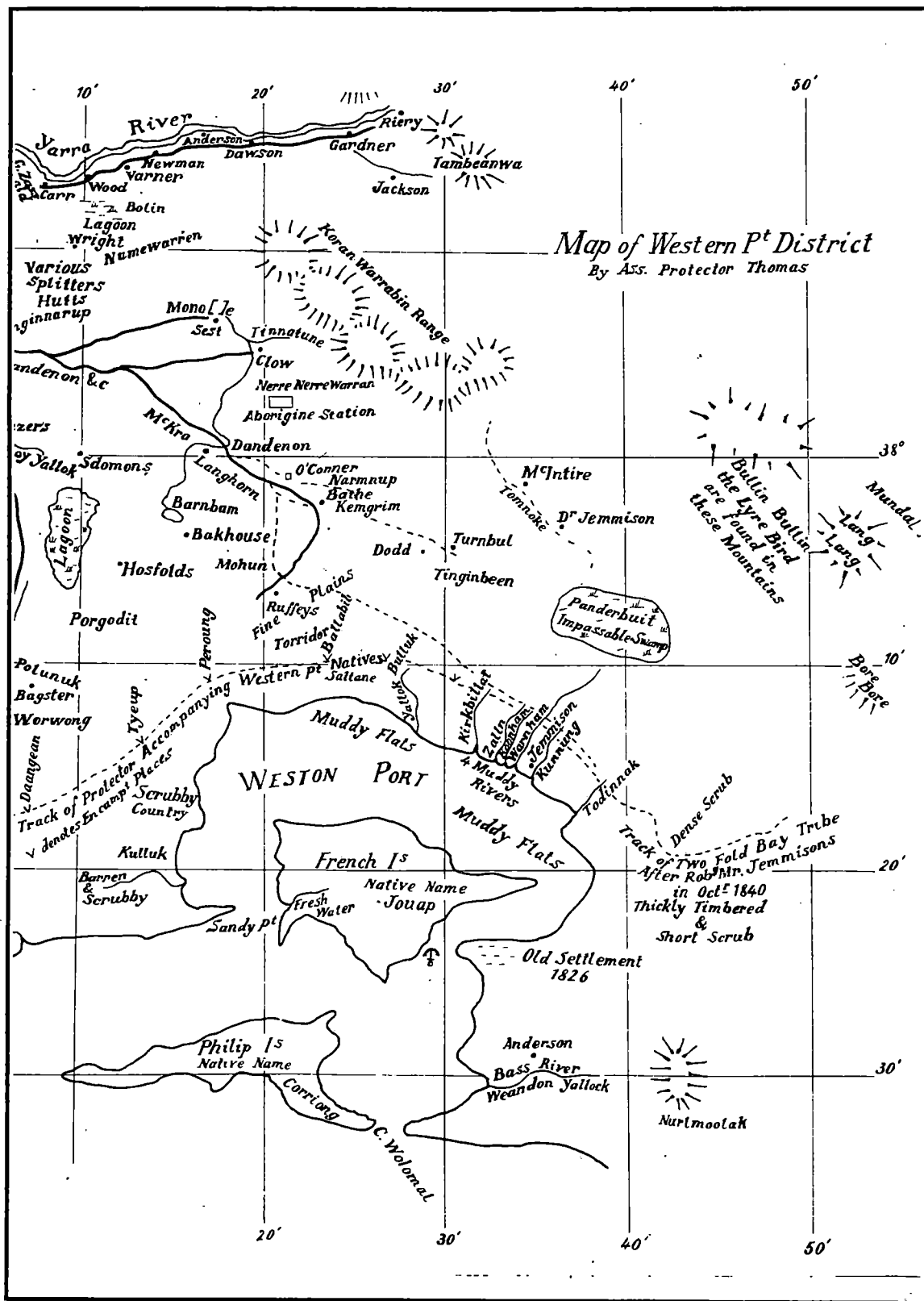
There are now one thousand direct descendants of the Wurundjeri people living in the Berwick region who are legally responsible for protecting the parts of their heritage that remain. A special study will be sought in the future, it is hoped, to fully document this important aspect of the district's history.

The present study is only concerned with the time since British settlement began. This had a profound effect on the local tribes with the introduction of European diseases, the wholesale clearing of vegetation, the introduction of hoofed animals and the subsequent disappearance of native grasses, and the drainage of flood plains and swamps, which destroyed many traditional Aboriginal food resources. Quarrying of the basalt deposits on the hills above Berwick destroyed evidence of earlier quarrying.<sup>7</sup>

Historic places which demonstrate the meeting of the Aboriginal and European cultures include the *Dandenong Police Paddocks* (or Native Police Depot and Narre Warren Protectorate Station), Churchill Park Drive, Endeavour Hills. This significant historical and archaeological place was chosen in 1837 as the headquarters of a newly-established Corps of the Native Police. In 1841, it was selected as the central station of the Westernport Protectorate formed to protect Aboriginal groups from the impact of British colonisation. At the same time it became the headquarters of the 1842 Corps of Native Police. In 1853, the area was handed over to the newly-constituted Victoria police as the site for their Stud Depot for horse breeding. It remained central to Mounted Police work until 1931 when the Stud Depot was moved to Bundoora.<sup>8</sup> During 1964 Dandenong Council demolished two of the three remaining buildings on the site - the Police Studmaster's House and granite stables. The remaining building, a dairy, was demolished about 1974.<sup>9</sup> The site is now managed by the Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve Committee of Management.

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1. Laurajane Smith, *The Berwick-Pakenham Corridor*, Victoria Archaeological Survey, 1989, pp.5-10, 16; Maria Hansen Fels, *The Dandenong Police Paddocks*, Victoria Archaeological Survey, 1990, vol 1., pp.1-2.
  2. Smith, p.13.
  3. Smith, p.16.
  4. Smith, p.16.
  5. Norman E. Beaumont, James F. Curran and R. H. Hughes, *Early Days of Berwick*, Berwick, 1979 edition, pp.94-95.
  6. Beaumont, Curran and Hughes, p.69; information supplied by Louise Reeve.
  7. Smith, p. 13.
  8. Fels, vol.2, p.1.
  9. David Rhodes, *The Dandenong Police Paddocks*, An Archaeological Survey, Victoria Archaeological Survey, 1990, p.17.





A map of the region prepared by William Thomas, Assistant Protector of the Aborigines, showing the Nerre Nerre Warran Aborigine Station, 1840

(From G. Presland *Land of the Kulin* by permission of the author)

The site of the *Police Paddocks* has particular significance for the Wurundjeri as part of the traditional clan territory owned by ancestors of the present-day Wurundjeri Aboriginal community. It also formed part of the tribal boundary of the Woiworung and Bunurong (Westernport tribes) and was probably an important meeting place. The Police Paddocks were selected by the Woiworung and Bunurong as the site of the Westernport Aboriginal Protectorate Station and the first, third, and fourth Native Police Headquarters. It is an area where ancestors of the Wurundjeri maintained contact with their traditional land.<sup>10</sup>

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## Pastoralists and farmers

### *Pastoralists*

When the first European settlers came to the Berwick region, they were attracted by the same features that made the area attractive to Aboriginal people. An 1847 survey map of the lands between Toomuc Creek and 'the Great Swamp' (that is, the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp, now drained), noted that the area was 'heavily timbered' with 'white gum, box and native hop', and that there was 'open grassy land' and 'good grassy land timbered with box, mimosa and acacia'. In the vicinity of the present Berwick and Harkaway, there was 'good black soil timbered with Acacia and Eucalyptus'.<sup>11</sup>

A few years later, when the Township of Berwick was laid out, Surveyor Robert Hoddle commented on the light sandy soil thickly timbered with Box - Gum - Cherry and Lightwood' and the 'fine agricultural land'. He also noted 'basalt' deposits near the township.<sup>12</sup> Thirty years later, although the Berwick district had been settled from the 1830s or 1840s, Andrew Garran described 'a thick jungle of ti-tree scrub extending from Hallam's Road to Narre Warren'.<sup>13</sup>

The Berwick district proved most suitable for pastoral and agricultural development. The process of pastoral licenses and later land selection resulted in the subdivision of the land, clearing the splendid red gums and other forest timber for stock, crops and for building timbers.<sup>14</sup> The changes caused by clearing and the introduction of cattle and sheep over large grazing areas altered the Berwick landscape forever and created the pastoral scene valued today and seen by many as under threat from suburban development.

From 1837 to 1846 grazing licenses were taken up in the Port Phillip area, as Victoria was known before its separation from the mother colony of New South Wales in 1851. Squatting licenses of ten pounds per year were issued for any run. Under this system almost the whole of Port Phillip (with the exception of the Mallee Scrub in the north-west), was acquired by the squatters. They held runs covering vast tracts of country. Land within the present Berwick City boundaries was in the Western Port District, one of the two squatting districts in Port Phillip.

The particular suitability of the Berwick district for grazing purposes was confirmed by the famous pioneer stockman, Hugh Peck, who declared that,

'that area...from just beyond Dandenong in the west, to the Bunyip in the east...carried a great deal of native grasses, and with its good rainfall, fattened cattle in spring and summer'.<sup>15</sup>

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10. D. Rhodes, p.4.

11. *Continuation of the Survey of the Toomuc Creek to the Great Swamp*, by W. S. Urquhart, 1847.

12. Syd. B33, *Berwick Town Plan*, Hoddle, c1852.

13. Andrew Garran, *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, Melbourne, 1886, -quoted in Paul Hicks, *Architectural Survey of the Berwick-Pakenham Corridor*, Historical Survey, 1989, p.6.

14. Beaumont, pp.2-3.

15. Hugh Peck, *Memoirs of a Stockman*, Melbourne, 1974 edition, p.178.

New regulations were gazetted in 1847 allowing squatters to purchase pre-emptive rights to their homestead blocks. Pastoral run holders who previously held grazing leases (sometimes called 'grass rights')<sup>16</sup> were able to purchase up to six hundred and forty acres of their runs before any land in the locality was made available to the general public. This privilege was given in recognition of their pioneering efforts. Pre-emptive right plans, which had to be lodged with the authorities, remain as important historical documents. They show improvements such as buildings, fences, tracks and wells.<sup>17</sup>

Under the provisions of this legislation, the colony of Victoria was divided into three districts: Settled, Intermediate and Unsettled. The City of Berwick area fell within the Settled District, which embraced all land within twenty-five miles of Melbourne with the Cardinia Creek as its eastern boundary.<sup>18</sup>

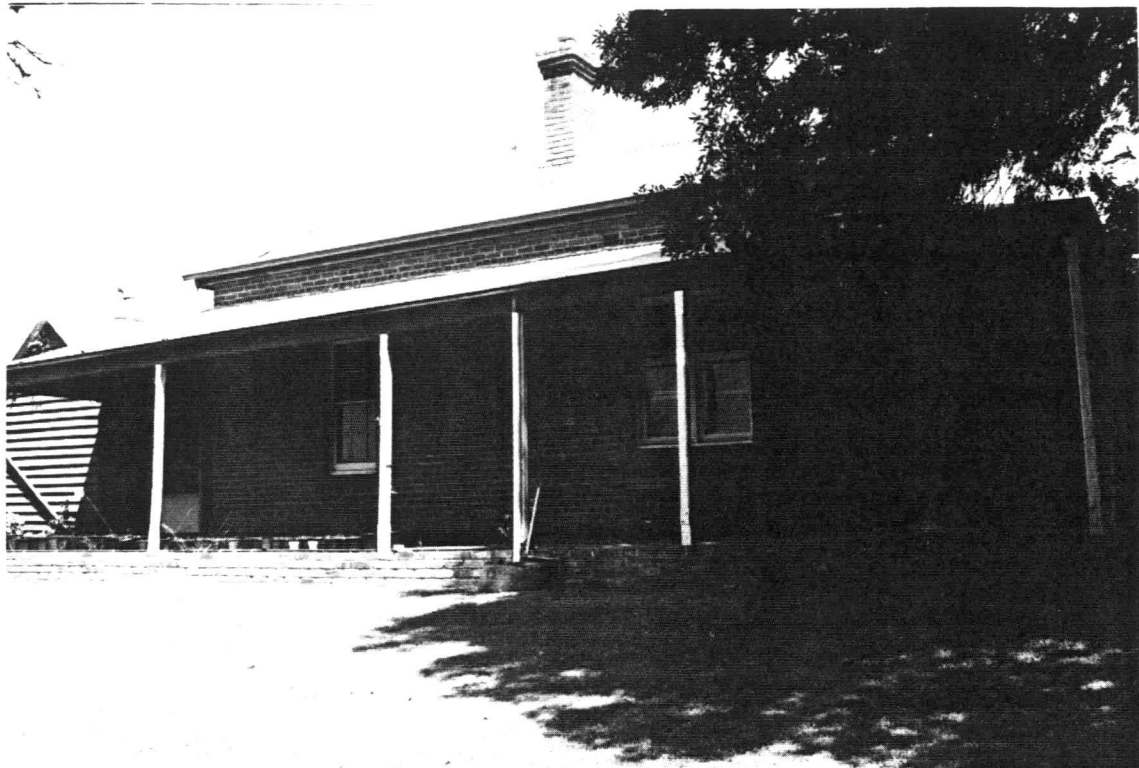
The Berwick region runs tended to be smaller than those in other pastoral areas in the colony, and to stock cattle rather than sheep.<sup>19</sup> Little evidence remains of these runs that once covered most of the Berwick region nor of the homesteads associated with them. Surviving homesteads with the possible exception of Gardiner's and James Robertson's are located outside the City of Berwick.

There has been some debate about the earliest and most important pastoral run holder within Berwick City boundaries. Lands Department and other records suggest that it was Captain Robert Gardiner, who arrived in Victoria in 1837. Early maps indicate Gardiner's Station in Crown Allotment 17 (the future site of *Edrington*), fronting Cardinia Creek and on the Gippsland Road. It is south of the Berwick Township Reserve, which was established on part of Gardiner's original Berwick run.<sup>20</sup> Gardiner reputedly built a first house about 1845-50 east of Cardinia creek and soon afterwards 'a stone house on high ground west of the creek', calling it Melville Park.<sup>21</sup> This was also on Crown Allotment 17.<sup>22</sup> It is possible that the small brick cottage and associated sandstone stables on the Edrington site was Gardiner's second home. The later history of this property is discussed in another section. After selling Melville Park and subdividing his Berwick properties, Gardiner reputedly purchased St. Enoch's Station near Skipton.<sup>23</sup>

Some pastoralists under the Pre-Emptive Right legislation took the opportunity to purchase their homestead blocks and, where possible, adjoining land. Gardiner, as well as the 120 acres in his Berwick run homestead block, also purchased seven nearby allotments. The other run-holder in the Berwick City area was the auctioneer Thomas H. Power, M.L.C., owner in the 1850s of Eumemmerring (on the site of the present-day Endeavour Hills and Doveton). Power secured part of this homestead block, 400 acres in 'Power's Paddock' and an additional six allotments. Neither Gardiner nor Power were satisfied with their purchases. Gardiner originally wanted 1280 acres and Power, 640 acres.<sup>24</sup>

Landowners who purchased Berwick allotments at this time often turned to dairying in addition to, or in place of grazing. A number of families such as the Buchanans and Wilsons already in the area bought blocks, their combined purchases giving them a solid stake in the future development of the district. Over the years these families added to their first allotments, increasing the total size of family holdings. These comparatively wealthy landowning families tended to wield a degree of influence in local organisations such as roads boards, shire councils, hospital and other committees.

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16. Lynette J. Peel, *Rural Industry in the Port Phillip Region. 1835-1880*, M. U. P., 1974, pp.49-53.
  17. P. Cabena, H. McRae and E. Bladin, *The Lands Manual: A Finding Guide to Victorian Land Records, 1836-1983*, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1989, pp.2-3.
  18. Graeme Broomfield, 'The Land and its Uses', pp.14-15.
  19. Broomfield, p.20.
  20. *County of Mornington*, Bibbs, 1866; Roll Plan 25, *Parish of Berwick*, 1850s.
  21. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.10. Gardiner's brother Abraham was also associated with this house.
  22. National Trust File No. 4461.
  23. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.10.
  24. M. Morgan, *Crown Lands Pre-Emptive Right Applications in Victoria 1850-1854*, p.19.



**Early cottage at Edrington**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1993)



**Blacksmith's shop at The Springs**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)



Their holdings and residences contrasted markedly with the smaller farm allotments and more modest dwellings of the German Lutherans at Harkaway. As Peck has commented:

Gardiner lived on the run until the days when the leases were subdivided and sold, when the Wilson brothers, the Buchanans and Gibb bought the best of the rich Berwick hills. These hills besides being noted for high-class stud stock to the present day have yielded fortunes in extensive basalt quarries.<sup>25</sup>

Maps from the 1850s onwards show these early Berwick freehold properties. Gardiner's eight allotments each contained between 300 and 600 acres with the exception of his homestead block. Three had Cardinia Creek frontages.<sup>26</sup> Gardiner, as a major local landholder, was influential within the local community. Surveyor Hoddle commented when the Berwick Township was laid out that a site for a church and schoolhouse had been chosen as 'required here by Gardiner and others'.<sup>27</sup> This site on the corner of Lyall Road and the Gippsland Road was the location chosen instead for the Berwick Hotel.

A number of buildings associated with these influential landholding families remain today as an important part of Berwick City's heritage. In addition to the early building at *Edrington*, which may have associations with Gardiner, *Quarry Hills* (Quarry Hills Drive), is significant as the home in 1854 of William Wilson. It has been described as 'the oldest house in Berwick' and was associated with a successful dairying and wheat farming property.<sup>28</sup>

Unfortunately, Wilson House, the early home of James Wilson, has gone but a venerable Moreton Bay Fig Tree marks the site.<sup>29</sup> One of the best-known examples of the homes of influential pioneer landowners is *Burr Hill* (Burr Hill Court) at Berwick, associated with Hon. James Buchanan M.L.C., a Scottish pioneer who settled in Berwick in the 1850s, growing wheat and grapes and breeding prize cattle. Burr Hill was his retirement house, dating from the 1860s with extensions in the 1880s.<sup>30</sup>

Nothing is known to remain in the present-day industrial landscape of Doveton to recall Power and his Eumemmerring run.

The finest home of early major landholders in the Berwick area is undoubtedly the historic *Springfield* (Homestead Road). Originally known as The Springs, it was reputedly built at Berwick in 1855 for William John Turner Clarke (1801?-1874), pastoralist and landowner.<sup>31</sup> After Clarke's death in 1874, it became the property of his son, Sir William John Clarke (1831-1897), stud-breeder and philanthropist, who was interested in scientific farming.<sup>32</sup> Springfield was part of a dairy farm complex with a cheese factory added in 1875, 'the most elaborate of a number of such factories in the Berwick area' and now the only surviving example. Springfield is a significant example of Sir W. J. Clarke's scientific farming methods and of his 'upgrading of properties into model tenant farms complete with the latest technology and equipment'.<sup>33</sup>

This property illustrates another important aspect of land use in the Berwick district - the holding of large areas of land by wealthy absentee landowners, who leased blocks to local farmers or employed them as managers.<sup>34</sup> Edwin Greaves was appointed as manager of Clarke's Berwick Estate. Later, Greaves bought 1620 acres of the Estate, built a new house called *The Springs* (Greaves Road) after the original homestead and the natural springs on the property, and ran sheep there. *Springfield* and *The*

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25. Peck, p.186. (cf. Hoddle plan).

26. Bibbs 1866 map.

27. Syd. B33, *Berwick Town Plan*, Hoddle, c1852.

28. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p. 12; E. C. Henry, *Six Homesteads of Berwick*, p.15.

29. Viewed with Max Thomson, 15 February 1993; Beaumont, p.36.

30. Beaumont, p.114 (early photograph).

31. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.1, pp.228-229.

32. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.3, pp.422-424.

33. Ministry for Planning and Environment File No. 603911E.

34. Beaumont, pp.17-18.

*Old Cheese Factory* (Homestead Road) property, judged of national importance, is now in public ownership and regarded as among the most significant heritage places in the City of Berwick.<sup>35</sup>

A more modest residence from the pioneer period is an old timber house at Narre Warren North. The *Former Robertson property* (Belgrave-Hallam Road) is reputedly associated with James Robertson, owner of early Crown land. Robertson had a cattle run north-east of Berwick. His nephew, George Washington Robinson, was another important pioneer farmer, and also architect, engineer and builder. He designed a number of notable local houses.<sup>36</sup>

### *Timber-getters*

Some timber-getters arrived in the Berwick district even before the pastoralists, attracted by the splendid red gum and other timbers. Living in wattle and daub huts, they 'took out thousands of feet of timber for works in the infant city of Melbourne'.<sup>37</sup> Saw-pits were set up and the timber transported back to Melbourne by bullock cart and dray. Some of the timber 'was sawn into blocks for paving the streets of Melbourne'.<sup>38</sup>

The results of these pioneer sawyers' efforts are demonstrated by the almost total disappearance of the thickly timbered areas shown on early maps as a distinctive feature of the Berwick district. Today, the City of Berwick is concerned about saving remnants of the Casuarina forest at Endeavour Hills and several specimens of indigenous River Red Gum on the Gunn's Road reserve. However, the wattle and daub huts of the timber-getters and early district timber mills have long since gone.

### *Early German farmers*

The German Lutheran families who settled in Harkaway in the 1850s are among the district's earliest farmers. Gottlab Wanke and Johann Bischoff were among the first, purchasing Crown Allotments of 640 acres and 597 acres in the 1853 government sale.<sup>39</sup> Both properties were bounded on the north by King Road (or Koenig Road as it was then called). The Bischoff property stretched to Cardinia Creek.<sup>40</sup> Two years earlier, Wanke was one of sixteen German farming families who purchased land at Thomastown from William Westgarth, designed as part of a German settlement there. Wanke almost immediately sold his Thomastown land, went gold-mining but, when he was unsuccessful, settled at Harkaway.<sup>41</sup>

Harkaway and Thomastown were only two of a number of German settlements established in Victoria between 1840 and 1860. Small groups of Germans also settled at Germantown (now Grovedale), near Geelong; at Greensborough, around Doncaster, Bulleen and Nunawading, and at Oakleigh. These settlers sometimes came to Victoria via South Australia. Groups of Germans also emigrated in large numbers during this period to other parts of the world including Texas.<sup>42</sup>

These German settlers were farming people who normally settled in rural areas outside townships. They chose undulating to hilly land in the higher rainfall areas, as at Harkaway. 'They were hard-working farmers and characteristically owned their own small farms and farmed them intensively'.<sup>43</sup>

The progress of the Harkaway German settlement followed a similar pattern. These families primarily engaged in clearing the land and growing wheat, oats and potatoes, and were 'also very active in dairying'.<sup>44</sup> Like the Doncaster Germans, they mainly came from Silesia.<sup>45</sup>

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35. Ministry for Planning and Environment File No. 603911E; E. C. Henry, *Six Homesteads of Berwick*, pp.29-34.

36. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.111; Max Thomson, *Little Hills*, 1839-1977, pp.4,5.

37. Beaumont, p.3.

38. Beaumont, p.3.

39. Registrar-General's Office Search Notes 41635, 21226. Wanke's name was sometimes spelled Gottlieb, or Johann Gottlieb.

40. Registrar-General's Office Search Notes 41635, 21226.

41. Robert Wuchatsch, *Westgarthtown*, 1985, pp.16, 27.

42. *Rural Industry in the Port Phillip Region*, p.72.

43. *Rural Industry in the Port Phillip Region*, p.72.

44. *Rural Industry in the Port Phillip Region*, p.72.

Wanke and Bischoff immediately subdivided their large Harkaway allotments and sold land to other German families including the Koenig, Bruhn, Walsdorf, Aurisch, Hessel (after whom a local road was named), Scholtz, Schloche, Lensing and Meyer families.<sup>46</sup> In addition, the early land owner, Robert Gardiner, sold the northern half of Crown Allotment 8 to Wanke. This land was on the south side of Koenig Road between Wanke's first allotment and Bischoff's property.<sup>47</sup> German families also bought land north of Koenig Road in Crown Allotment 3. An 1855 Lands Department map shows the land purchased by William Wiese and John M. F. Fritzlaff, who was associated with the construction of a number of Harkaway buildings. This property was typical of those sought by German Lutheran farmers with its 'good red soil', and was bounded on both sides by 'patches of stringy bark'. Koenig Road was marked as 'Cattle Road to Water' and ran to the Cardinia Creek. A track from Dandenong ran through this property as far as the Stoney Creek in an adjacent Crown Allotment.<sup>48</sup>

As in other German settlements, a Lutheran School, Church and Cemetery were established<sup>49</sup> in the 1860s. A few of the early Harkaway German farm cottages have survived, or at least parts of them. The Harkaway settlers did not appear to have the money or time to build the more substantial traditional German buildings of other settlements, such as the well-built bluestone farmhouses and stables at Thomastown. Among the Harkaway homes which have survived are also a number built by wealthier English or Irish settlers, who bought land already cleared by the Germans.<sup>50</sup>

The hawthorn hedges lining local roads, the *Harkaway cemetery* and the *reconstructed 1869 bell-tower* (Hessel Road), and a small number of cottages and cottage sites are important reminders of Harkaway's German Lutheran heritage. Outbuildings at *Warrenwood* (formerly Hillcroft) in Hessel Road may be all that is left of the Wanke family's second home. However, *Wickham* on King Road, a cottage built of handmade bricks for 'Butter' Meyer in the 1860s with 1920s additions, remains.<sup>51</sup> A mud and wood cottage with extensions and alterations at the rear, known as *Kilfera* (King Road), was built circa 1856 for the settlers Wiese and Fritzlaff. This building was used as the Harkaway post office at an early date and between 1946 and 1970.<sup>52</sup> Its heritage value has been recognised by its inclusion on the registers of the National Trust, Historic Buildings Council of Victoria and the Australian Heritage Commission. Farmhouses associated with the Hillbrich and Tschentscher families have also survived. There are also a number of cottage sites, one of which, the *Bruhn* site on King Road, is marked by a poplar tree.

### *Other district farming families*

The discovery of gold in the early 1850s in colonial Victoria resulted in a rapid influx of population, while demand for increased food production led to the opening up of country lands. There was a new emphasis on dairying and cultivation. The process of subdivision which began with the carving up of pastoral runs continued into the 1860s. During this period a series of Land Acts were passed, which allowed the sale and selection of Crown Lands. Under the 1860 *Land Sales Act* three million acres of country lands were surveyed into allotments of 80 to 640 acres and made available for selection. No person could generally select more than 640 acres annually. The land had to be paid for outright or half paid for and half leased.

Further areas were opened up for selection under the *Land Act* (1862) and the 1865 *Amendment Act*. Finally, the new *Land Act* in 1869 opened up the whole colony of Victoria for selection, including unsurveyed land.

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45. *Rural Industry in the Port Phillip Region*, p.72.

46. Subdivisional plans for Crown Allotments 6 and 9.

47. Registrar-General's Office Search Notes 2680.

48. *Plans of Portions of Land in the Parish of Berwick*, Crown Lands Department, 1855-56.

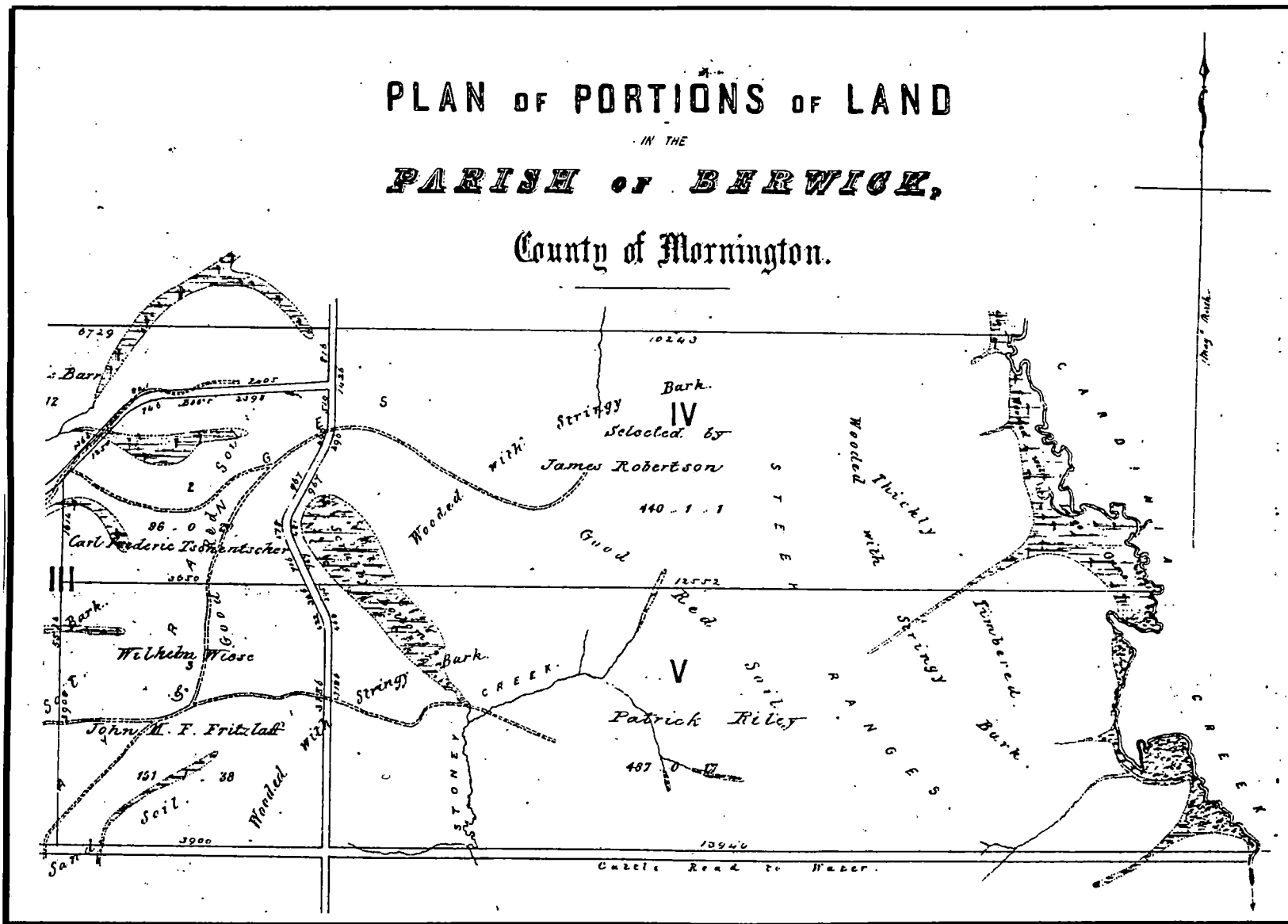
49. Wuchatsch, p.55.

50. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.105.

51. *The Gazette*, April 1992, (Article 'Wickham-one of Harkaway's finest').

52. Ministry for Planning and Environment File No. 603870; *The Gazette*, 11 Oct. 1972, (Article 'Harkaway Home classed 'C' by National Trust').

Plan of land ownership, Harkaway, 1855  
(Map Room, State Library of Victoria)





The selectors of unsurveyed land pegged out their claims and then applied for survey. Under this Act land was held under licence for three years before it could be purchased. Furthermore, selectors were required to live on and make improvements to the land before purchase.<sup>53</sup> The passage of these Acts in the 1860s further encouraged the trend from the 1850s in the Berwick district in which landholders like Gardiner and Wanke carved up their Crown Allotments into smaller and smaller farm properties.<sup>54</sup>

Among the homestead buildings associated with this new wave of district farmers, one of the most historically significant is *Hillsley* (Robinson Road). This brick house built in 1866 with later extensions, was the second home of George Washington Robinson, (nephew of the pioneer James Robertson), farmer, architect and builder. Robinson's farm was run as an orchard property. He is associated with the design of a number of important brick homes for district farmers. They include *The Grange*, *Cleveland* (now *Aranmore*), and *Troups* (now *Glencairn*).<sup>55</sup> All have survived except *The Grange* (a'Beckett Road), which was built for the important a'Beckett family.<sup>56</sup> John Troup, a Scottish farmer, established a fine herd of Ayrshire cattle on his *Glencairn* (Robinson Road) property at Narre Warren North.<sup>57</sup> This house with its tuckpointed brickwork has a convex verandah and a complex garden layout. *Aranmore* (the former *Cleveland*, *Aranmore Crescent*), was originally a four-roomed brick cottage but had alterations and additions in the 1920s. The pioneering Barr family worked this property from the 1860s.<sup>58</sup> The Robinsons, a'Becketts, Troups and Barrs were all represented on the Berwick Shire Council and were prominent local residents. Another early farming property, *Ardblair*, (known now as *Beaumont Farm*, *Beaumont Road*), was built for James Buchanan in 1854 and later owned by Mrs L. D. Beaumont, Buchanan's daughter, in the 1890s. Mrs Beaumont with her husband bred Ayrshire stud cattle, Southdown sheep and Suffolk Punch farm horses on this property.<sup>59</sup>

Sheep and dairy farms continued to be a feature in the Berwick district. One of the most notable farms in later years is *Roads End* (*Beaumont Road*) built in the 1920s for Sir Sidney Sewell. This important dairy farm complex will be discussed in a later section.

### *Soldier settlers*

A later process of land subdivision was started after both World Wars with the intention of providing small farms for returned soldiers. The *Royal Commission into Closer Settlement* in 1913 suggested dairying as the most profitable activity on small blocks. The *Land Purchase Board* followed this advice and recommended that soldier settlers should engage in dairying alone or dairying combined with cash crops, in the well-watered districts of the State.<sup>60</sup> There was a great rush of applicants between 1919 and 1920.<sup>61</sup>

At Narre Warren North a fairly successful settlement was established with several flower-growers and market gardeners still on the land after many years. The Hallam Valley Settlement on the other hand was a complete failure.<sup>62</sup>

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53. *The Lands Manual*, pp.3-4.

54. Peel, p.134.

55. Ministry for Planning and Environment File No. 603911E; 'Robinsons: *The Millionaires of Narre North*'.

56. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.119.

57. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.119.

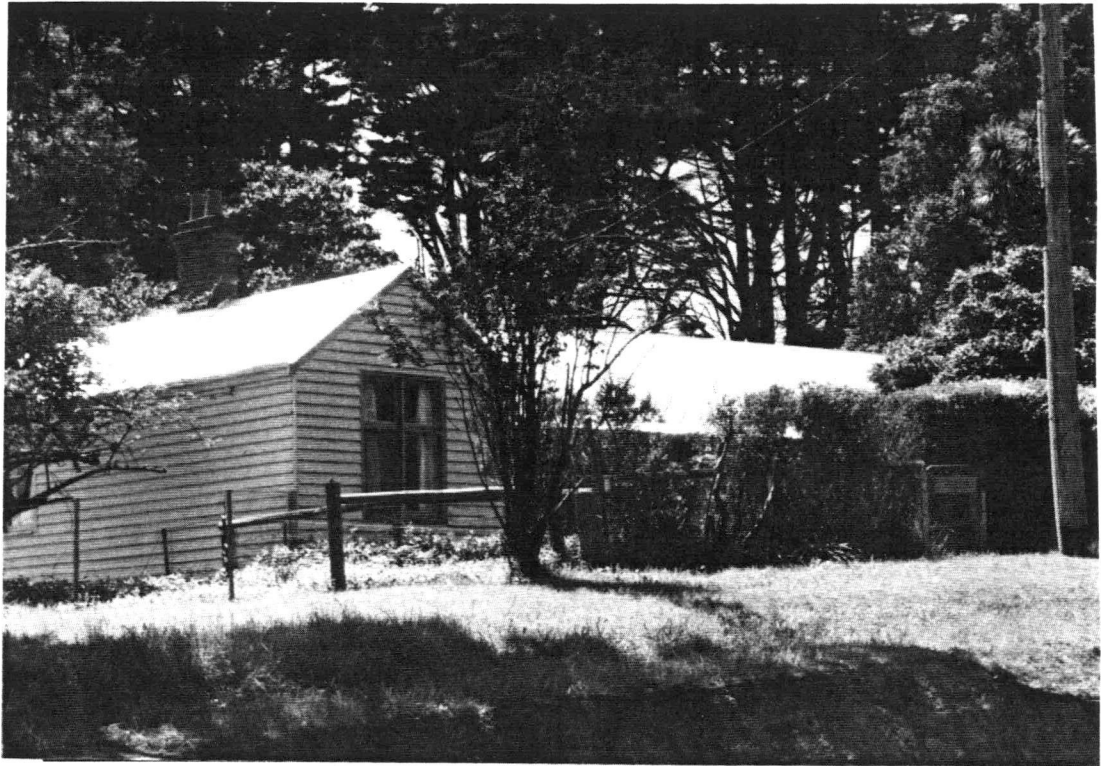
58. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.118.

59. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.13; Beaumont, pp.27, 37.

60. Neil Gunson, *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire*, Melbourne, 1968, p.194.

61. *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire*, p.200.

62. Hicks, p.35.



**Kilfera, an early house built c1856 for settlers Wiese and Fritzlaff**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)



**Aurisch monument, Harkaway Cemetery**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)

In 1922 the Hallam Valley Settlement Scheme purchased a section of the former Clarke Springfield Estate for closer settlement by returned soldiers.<sup>63</sup> This land was subdivided in 1927 into small blocks (16-20 acres) intended for vegetable growing. Failure was due mainly to the inexperience of the settlers who were not used to running small farms and the lack of suitable markets. Within three years settlers were leaving and by 1936 none were left.<sup>64</sup>

Similar schemes were tried after the Second World War. One was on land acquired from the former Clarke estate in Homestead Road, Berwick. A few remaining houses once occupied by soldier settlers can be seen still in Homestead and Narre Warren North Roads.

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## Towns and transport

### *The earliest townships*

The first permanent townships in the City of Berwick were established after the early surveys of the 1850s carried out as part of the land selection process. These townships with their schools, churches, hotels and shops provided services for the pioneer farming communities. Because Berwick was on the main road to Gippsland, it served a much wider community than just those within the present City of Berwick boundaries.

An 1847 regional survey showed only a few scattered sheep and cattle stations and outstations in the Berwick district, linked by tracks from Dandenong, surrounded by grasslands and native bush, and watered by the Dandenong, Eumemmerring and Cardinia Creeks and the Great Swamp.<sup>65</sup> It was only in the 1850s and 1860s with the subdivision of the large pastoral runs and the sale of homestead and other Crown Allotments, that the Village Reserves of Berwick and Narre Warren (now Narre Warren North) began to appear on official maps.

### **Berwick**

This locality was known earlier as Kardinia Creek and only later became Berwick. This name was from the birthplace of the pioneer settler, Captain Robert Gardiner, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, North of England, a name he also gave to his Berwick pastoral run.<sup>66</sup> The bear chained to the base of a tree on Berwick's official Coat of Arms is taken from the Coat of Arms of Berwick-upon-Tweed.<sup>67</sup>

An early Roll Plan of the Parishes of Dandenong, Berwick, Cranbourne and Pakenham showed the Berwick Village Reserve on the north side of the Gippsland Road beside the Cardinia Creek with twelve town allotments marked out. These blocks stretched east from Campbell Street to Cardinia Street and were bounded on the north by Palmerston Street. On the other side of the road 'Mr Gardiner's station' was indicated on 'rich agricultural land'.<sup>68</sup> A *Berwick Town Plan* of the same era signed by Surveyor Robert Hoddle commented that:

The blocks numbered are the only ones pegged out at present, which as far as I can learn will be sufficient for the requirements of the locality for some time.<sup>69</sup>

The allotments of three major purchasers of land adjoining the township, Gardiner, Wilson and English (or Inglis) were indicated as well as the 'main road' and 'old tracks' around an intended extension of the town westward. The development of the road system will be discussed later.

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63. Nigel Lewis & Associates, *The Springfield Project*. (Historic Structures Report for the City of Berwick).

64. Hicks, p.35.

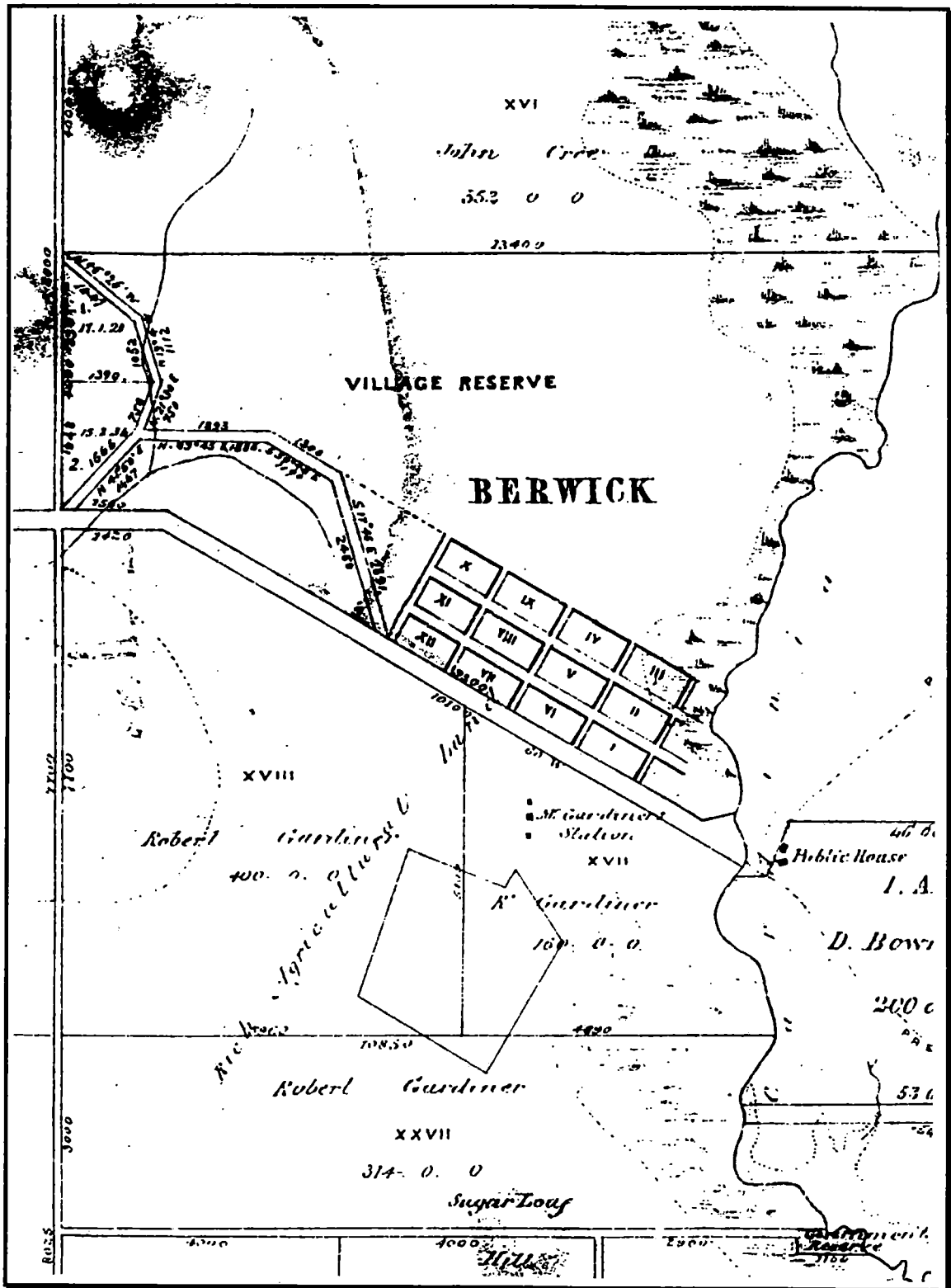
65. *Continuation of the Survey of the Toomuc Creek to the Great Swamp*, W. S. Urquhart, 1847.

66. Beaumont, p.16.

67. Beaumont, p.viii.

68. *Roll Plan. Parish of Berwick*, c1854.

69. *Syd. B33 Berwick Town Plan*, Robert Hoddle, c1852.



Plan of Berwick Village Reserve, c1854

(Central Plan Office)



The proposed town site and a Berwick Common (120 acres on the east side of Berwick Hill running down to Cardinia Creek), were proclaimed in 1861.<sup>70</sup> The gradual extension of the township was shown on later maps. An 1858 map by M. Callanan, Assistant Surveyor, gave some of the street names chosen for that time - High Street for the main Gippsland Road, with parallel streets - Wilson (after a local family), Elgin (collector of the Elgin marbles - sculptures from the Parthenon now held in the British Museum, London) and Palmerston (Prime Minister of England). The names of cross streets included Cardinia (an Aboriginal name), Lawrence, Neill, Havelock, Campbell and Edwards.

A road skirting the Wilson property towards Harkaway was named Lyall Road,<sup>71</sup> a name still in use. A cemetery allotment of eight acres was indicated near the northern Village Reserve boundary, now Inglis Road. Some of the street names had been changed already by 1871, when the township was extended even further. The township then comprised 32 blocks extending from Lyall Road (named after a local pastoralist) to Cardinia Street and was bounded on the north by Brisbane Street (after a local landowner). Large suburban allotments adjoining the township (by this time comprising more than twenty-blocks) were shown in Callanan's survey of that year.<sup>72</sup> Today, only a few of the early street names including High Street for the main road remain.

The growth of the Berwick township, particularly along High Street, and the gradual increase in the number and size of its buildings may be estimated by comparing a surviving 1877 woodcut of the town with an 1887 photograph<sup>73</sup> and later views. Early township development was west of Campbell Street. The land to the east included in the first town grid didn't become a residential area until much later.

Only a few very early township buildings remain today on Berwick Hill (now called the *Berwick Village*), an important local precinct, so those that remain have great rarity value. They include the *Berwick Inn* (known earlier as the Border Inn and Ye Berwick Inn). Its earliest portion dates from the 1850s. A local landmark for more than one hundred and forty years, this hotel was used as the first police court and the first licensing court in the 1860s, and the Berwick Road Board held its first meetings there.<sup>74</sup> Another building from that era, the *Berwick Mechanics' Institute* (High Street), dates from 1862, and was moved to its present site in 1878.<sup>75</sup> The *Berwick Cemetery* (Inglis Road), which may date from as early as 1858, also survives.

### Harkaway

Although the German Lutheran settlement was established at an early date and contained a church, school and cemetery, as a focus for the local community, an official township was never proclaimed there. Today, only the *cemetery* and *bell-tower* (Hessell Road), *Kilfera* (King Road), an 1858 mud and brick house, and the *Harkaway Primary School* (1874-76), remain from its pioneer years.<sup>76</sup> However, a small township service centre was established at the intersection of Harkaway and King Roads with a cluster of buildings around the Primary School, including farm houses, a *former post office* and later, the *1909 Harkaway Hall* (King Road). Hawthorn hedge plantings and a *Memorial Avenue* (1914-18, Harkaway Road), mark the entrance to this historic precinct.

70. Beaumont, p.16.

71. *The Township of Berwick*, M. Callanan, 1858. Lyall made an early attempt to drain the Koo-we-rup Swamp.

72. *Town and Suburban Lots*. Berwick, M. Callanan, 1871.

73. Beaumont, opp. p.16; opp. p.24.

74. Beaumont, pp.128-129.

75. Beaumont, pp.43-44.

76. John Wells & Maggie Mackie, *Berwick. Some Aspects*, Melbourne, 1980, p.56. (Contains a sketch of the little village school).



**Narre Warren North township c1895 - the old store with Mechanics' Institute in background, and Raduchel's blacksmith shop on the right.**

(Max Thomson collection)



**Narre Warren township - the corner store and bakery in the background, c1920**

(Max Thomson collection)

## Narre Warren North

Another small farming township, Narree Worrان (now Narre Warren North), was established in the 1860s. When the Government surveyed the Parish of Narree Worrان, the township was laid out in one and a half acre blocks with two properties divided into residential blocks. The present recreation ground and the site of the hall were originally reserved for a cemetery.<sup>77</sup> An 1867 map of *Village Allotments Parish of Narree Worrان* sketched a township, bound on the south by the road from Dandenong (Mornington Road), and on the north by the road 'to the Emerald Diggings' (a'Beckett Road). A site for a Wesleyan Church was marked on this map.<sup>78</sup> The *Narre Warren North Primary School* in a'Beckett Road remains from the early days. It was opened in 1877 and built by Henry Powis of Dandenong. An old brick *store*, also used as a post office, built for George Rae, a district pioneer, about 1880, also remains but without its original verandah. Known for many years as Ellis and Bailey's, it stands at 15 Main Street.<sup>79</sup>

## Berwick District Road Board

After colonial Victoria was separated from New South Wales, and during the gold rush period, a *Roads Act* was passed in 1853 creating a central road board with the authority to build main roads and co-ordinate the activities of district road boards.<sup>80</sup> The Berwick Road Board formed on 14 November 1862<sup>81</sup> was the earliest form of local government in the Berwick region. It was a most important body, which governed a vast area far larger than the present City of Berwick. It was dominated at first by local wealthy landowners. The original nine members included Francis Barr, James Buchanan, Gottlab Wanke and John Troup, all influential early settlers. The Board's first meetings were held in the Border Inn at Berwick but offices were erected soon after in 1865 at the top of the Berwick Hill. The Board functioned until 5 May 1868 when the Shire of Berwick was proclaimed incorporating three Ridings: Berwick, Pakenham and Scoresby. In 1889, the Scoresby Riding severed and became the Shire of Ferntree Gully. The Berwick Road Board members in 1868 became the new Berwick Shire Councillors. Wilson (an important Berwick resident) became president, Wanke was auditor, and Buchanan and Barr were members.<sup>82</sup> In 1901, the Shire headquarters were moved to Pakenham. This change may have lessened the influence of the Berwick Councillors.

The important role of Berwick within the region during the last century was further consolidated by the formation of a Berwick branch of the Port Phillip Farmers' Society (known from 1856 as the Mornington Farmers Society). Abraham Gardiner, Captain Robert Gardiner's brother, was a member of the first committee.<sup>83</sup> About 1875, a ploughing match was held on James Buchanan's *Ardblair* farm. The winner was Lotha Schmidt of Harkaway.<sup>84</sup> The Mornington Farmers Society was the oldest farming society in Victoria. The Berwick branch, (called the Berwick and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society), is a surviving member.

## The road network

Transport has been a major theme in the history of the City of Berwick. One of the issues facing district squatters was 'the need for an effective stock route between Gippsland and Melbourne'.<sup>85</sup> The creation of road boards was the first step towards the drawing up of systematic plans, the carrying out of district road surveys, the construction of new roads<sup>86</sup> and the raising of finance to pay for them.

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77. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.117.

78. *Village Allotments Parish of Narree Worrان*, M. Callanan, Surveyor, 12 July 1867.

79. Max Thomson, *Little Hills*, pp.18, 21, 54.

80. Bernard Barrett, *The Civic Frontier*, pp.86-87.

81. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.19.

82. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, pp.20-21.

83. Beaumont, p.57.

84. Beaumont, p.60. Unfortunately Schmidt's farm no longer survives.

85. Hicks, p.17.

86. The Central Plan Office holds a large collection of both Old Road and New Road plans.

Early attempts to find the best route from Melbourne to Dandenong and into Gippsland resulted in the formation of a route starting in Brighton, progressing to Cheltenham, and then on to Dandenong.<sup>87</sup>

In 1858, most significantly for Berwick, the Victorian Government undertook the formation of a road from Melbourne to Sale. A sum of thirty thousand pounds was allocated for the section from Melbourne to Bunyip.<sup>88</sup> This road was completed in 1865.<sup>89</sup>

Some of the problems associated with improving Berwick's roads related to the area's hilly terrain. When the township of Berwick was being laid out in the 1850s, Hoddle commented on the 'old track road' which 'the general traffic passes on', as 'passing over a steep hill'. He thought that a proposed track skirting around Wilson's land was 'the best route...for the settlers to the north, that is, the German settlers at Harkaway'.<sup>90</sup>

The Berwick settlement received a further impetus with the introduction of regular coach services in 1865. Coach services ran six times weekly from Berwick to Melbourne and three times weekly from Berwick to Sale. Passengers changed coaches within the Border Inn yard.<sup>91</sup> A section of an old road alignment known as *Old Coach Road* survives. This remnant road extends northward off the Harkaway Road with a steep incline to the ridge. It is constructed of basalt (bluestone) rubble. The earliest road to Harkaway, a section was known as the 'Glue Pot' because of its sticky and slippery red clay surface. There is no conclusive evidence of whether it was used for coaches, although coach services did come to the district in 1865 and the 'deviation road' (the present Harkaway Road) was not constructed until 1890. The width of the road would suggest that it was designed for vehicular traffic.<sup>92</sup> It is now used only as a fire track.

Although the Country Roads Board was constituted in 1912, it did not become effective until after the 1914-18 War. Maps prepared by the Australian section of the Imperial General Staff in 1922 and 1924 show the upgrading of Berwick's roads by that time. Priority was obviously given to major roads or roads associated with district rail services. The main Gippsland Road was metalled as was the road from *Narre Warren Railway Station* (Webb Street), to Narre Warren North, and the road between Hallam Railway Station and the Gippsland Road. The Harkaway Road was metalled along the section near Berwick but further away was unformed. The old Koenig (now King) Road at Harkaway (the site of a number of German properties) was still unmade and reduced to a mere track as it approached Cardinia Creek. The Mornington Road, which passed through the Narre Warren North area, had been formed but not metalled. There were only unmade roads in the Doveton area.<sup>93</sup>

The Gippsland Road became a State Highway in 1925 and is now called the Princes Highway, except for the section between Lyall Road and the Beaconsfield-Emerald Road at Berwick. This section of road, which includes the Berwick Boulevard, is called High Street, as it was in the 1850s.

## Rail

The arrival of rail services made a considerable impact on access to local and regional markets and led to the development of Berwick's farming communities. *Berwick Railway Station* was completed in 1877. This 'gave a further boost to the town' and increased the business of the Wilson Quarry, a major local industry. In about 1885, a siding was built to bring stone from the quarry. The Wilson siding, the original railway cottages and the old station have gone.<sup>94</sup>

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87. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.31.

88. Beaumont, p.20.

89. Beaumont, p.32.

90. *Syd B33. Berwick Town*.

91. Beaumont, p.25.

92. Correspondence, Norman E. Beaumont to the City of Berwick, 19 Sept., 1983; *The Dandenong Advertiser*, 13 May, 22 May, 19 June 1890. (Accounts of the opening of the new road).

93. *Cranbourne. Victoria*, prepared by Australian Section Imperial General Staff, June 1922; *Ringwood Victoria*, Aug. 1924.

94. Hicks, p.23; Wells & Mackie, pp.30-31.





**Old Coach Road: the view north to Harkaway**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1993)



**Narre Warren railway station & signal box**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)

The *Narre Warren Station* (Webb Street), completed in 1882 remains. It originally carried wheat, milk, butter and cream daily to Melbourne. The opening of this station was followed by the formation of the new township of Narre Warren. This left Narre Warren North (the old Narre Warren) as a small village town with little prospect of growth until recent times.<sup>95</sup>

### Other localities

#### Hallam

A railway station was also built at Hallam (known originally as Eumemmerring and then as Hallam's Road) in 1880 but, unlike Narre Warren, did not result in the creation of a new township. This was most probably because, unlike Narre Warren, the Hallam railway did not run close to the Gippsland Road, and this area lacked men like Sydney J. Webb to support the development of settlement around the new station.<sup>96</sup> Hallam, which was known at first as Hallam's Road was settled by a small farming community in the 1850s.<sup>97</sup> In the early 1860s it had a general store run by William and Mary Hallam. This was followed by the building of Hallam's Road Hotel on the same site. The *Hallam's Road Hotel* (Princes Highway) is all that remains today of this early farming settlement,<sup>98</sup> with a later 1890s weatherboard house, the *White Peacock* (Princes Domain Drive), now used as a reception centre.<sup>99</sup> The Hallam area continued to be occupied by small farms until the 1950s, when Hallam was developed as an alternative to the Housing Commission Estate at Doveton. Both developments were designed to provide homes for the employees of the H. J. Heinz, General Motors Holden and International Harvester companies.<sup>100</sup>

#### Doveton

Like Hallam, Doveton remained a small farming centre until the 1940s and 1950s. Known originally as 'Eumemmerring', Doveton was located on the pastoral run of that name owned in the 1850s by T. H. Power. He secured part of his homestead block under Pre-Emptive Right legislation, his PR block being indicated on early maps as 'Power's paddock'.<sup>101</sup> The 'numerous fern gullies' along the Eumemmerring Creek were noted there still in the late 1890s.<sup>102</sup> Doveton owes its name to Captain Doveton who lived there late last century and early this century.<sup>103</sup> Some Victorian houses which remain in *Doveton Street* are a reminder of the area's earlier, rural history. Most of the early buildings, however, disappeared with the construction of the *Doveton Housing Commission Estate* and the three major factories on the Princes Highway, a name which came into official use for the Gippsland Road when it became a State Highway in July 1925, after the visit of the Prince of Wales.<sup>104</sup>

#### Endeavour Hills

This area was also once part of Power's Eumemmerring run and was a rural community until quite recently. An early property, *Four Oaks* in Cardigan Street which remains, was built c1883 for Dr. John Tremearne of Creswick. It was the original homestead on the large Grassmere Estate sold in 1888 at the height of the land boom and transformed later into suburban Endeavour Hills.<sup>105</sup>

95. Wells & Mackie, pp.22-23.

96. Deborah Stephan, 'Hallam, 1830-1930', 1993, p.10.

97. Registrar-General's Office Search Notes 31400, (William Hallam). The land of Crown Grantee Murphy was subdivided into small farms in 1855-57.

98. Wells & Mackie, P.61; Deborah Stephan, *A small farm at Hallam: The Andrews 1854-1934*, 1992, p.2.

99. Information supplied by Dr. Deborah Stephan.

100. 'Hallam since 1930', p.11.

101. *Featr. Plans Parish of Eumemmerring*, pp.502 & 503.

102. *Beaconsfield Guide Book*, p.38.

103. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, pp.88-89; Title Vol. 2144, Folio 42 8662; City of Berwick rate records.

104. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.32.

105. Registrar-General's Office Search No.20037 (Tremearne); *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 18 Nov., 1888.

## Major service centre

Following the advent of the railway, improvements in the road network, the advancement of old towns and the formation of at least one new town, the Berwick district townships settled into their role as important service centres for agricultural and dairying communities in the region. From the 1880s, new churches, schools, mechanics institutes and commercial buildings were constructed. Many township buildings from the Victorian era (particularly from the 1880s boom years) have survived as well as some from the first decades of this century and the inter-war years. They form a rich local heritage. In Berwick, three churches in the High Street date from this period of development - *St Andrew's Uniting Church* (1879-88), *Christ Church* (1876-77), and the *Former Christian Meeting House* (Church of Christ) in 1886. Berwick's *Court House* and *Post Office* complex, built in 1884-85 has served the community for many years, with the post office finding a new use several years ago as offices for Andrew Gray and Associates, solicitors. The former Rechabite Hall, now the *Masonic Hall*, dates from 1886.

Likewise a number of schools were built in most of the townships, and many remain today, including parts of the *Berwick Primary School* (Peel Street, 1870s), *Harkaway Primary School* (King Road, 1874-76) and *Narre Warren North Primary School* (a'Beckett Road, 1874). Two private schools favoured by more well-off district families were the *Berwick Boys' Grammar School* (Brisbane Street, now *Mary Blackwood House*), and *St Margaret's Girls' School*, (Gloucester Avenue). The fine *Avenue of Oaks* in Church Street, Berwick, was planted in memory of Old Boys from the Grammar School who died in the 1914-18 War.

Surviving significant commercial buildings in Berwick's High Street precinct include the former Paternoster's Store dating from 1884. Part of this building remains within the present *Berwick Licensed Supermarket*. There is also a twentieth century addition that makes a contribution to the streetscape. The 1920s half-timbered shop group at 71-75 *High Street* was financed by Sir Sidney Sewell of Roads End, (Beaumont Road), and was once known as the Blue Plate Tea Rooms and Jan's Tea House.<sup>106</sup>

A group of commercial and public buildings at Narre Warren at the intersection of the Princes Highway and Webb Street form part of an early post-1880 town centre associated with the opening of the nearby railway station. The group includes a former bakery a former blacksmith's shop, the 1891 *Mechanics' Institute* (Webb Street), and a later 1960s hay and corn store.<sup>107</sup>

Many townscapes were enhanced, also, by special precincts, parks, Avenues of Honour and Memorial Avenues at the entrances to the town centres, such as the fine *Oak Avenue* at *Narre Warren*. These trees, planted by S. J. Webb, a district pioneer, in 1890, came from the famous Nobelius Nursery at Emerald.<sup>108</sup> The southern row was lost when the highway was duplicated in 1970.

An example of the district's engineering heritage, which helped maintain an adequate water supply to Berwick and beyond, is the *Lysterfield Reservoir* at Narre Warren North. Linked with the Beaconsfield aqueduct, this reservoir supplied water to the Hallam Valley, Berwick, Cranbourne and other small inland towns as well as a number of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port towns.<sup>109</sup>

## Tourism

Despite the many changes and developments throughout the Berwick district, its townships retained a village-like character within a surrounding countryside dotted with small farms, well into the present century. Residents of more urbanised parts of Melbourne were attracted to the picturesque rural landscape. With improvements to transport, including the extension of rail services, better roads and the advent of the motor car and bus, tourism flourished. An 1899 tourist guide described Berwick as 'an exceedingly pretty little township on the Gippsland line' and spoke of 'delightful drives' through the district.

106. City of Berwick rate records; information supplied by Bill Hudson.

107. *Berwick City News*, 21 Nov. 1991.

108. *From Bullock Tracks to Bitumen*, Shire of Berwick, 1962, p.60.

109. Beaumont, p.116.



**Berwick Post Office & Court House early 1900s**

(Berwick Local History Archive, Narre Warren Library)



**Harvesting at Kelly's, King Road, Harkaway, c1910**

(Max Thomson collection)

One of the most interesting was through Harkaway 'and thence to the township of Narre Warren, which nestles among the hills'. This is now Narre Warren North. The township of Berwick was complimented for its 'good buildings' including the Shire Hall 'where the local magnates meet once a month to transact the municipal business'. Harkaway reminded this writer of 'English scenery on account of the many cultivations and the long rows of neatly kept hawthorn hedges'.<sup>110</sup>

Some tourists preferred to walk rather than drive, even after the advent of the car. Robert Henderson Croll, Vice-President of the Melbourne Walking Club, writing in 1928, suggested a 'One Day Walk' from Berwick to Belgrave after catching the Sunday train to Berwick Railway Station. He thought that carrying a small billy, 'skilfully camouflaged with brown paper (would) avoid hurting the feelings of such Sabbatarians as you may encounter'.<sup>111</sup> Passing an old house, Tyrone, at Old Narre Warren, Croll enthused about a walk:

along a lane with high hawthorn hedges, which present a magnificent sight in spring, for they are veritable banks of bloom, ...At the foot of the lane is a creek rich in wattles and the soft-foliaged swamp tea-tree...Altogether a choice corner...<sup>112</sup>

Tyrone, now known as *Treverbyn Farm*, still exists in King Road, Harkaway. It was built c1880 for the early farmer, Robert Kelly.<sup>113</sup>

## Artists

The Berwick district landscape and its village-like townships also attracted a number of artists to the area, some of whom stayed and made their homes within the City of Berwick. Among those are a number who made their mark in the cultural and artistic life of Victoria and beyond. They included the Boyd family, who were associated with *The Grange* property in a'Beckett Road at Harkaway, now unfortunately gone. Both Martin Boyd, the novelist, and the notable artist Arthur Boyd Jnr., spent time at this property. Fortunately the Arthur Boyd murals at *The Grange* were rescued by Dr. Joseph Brown before the building went. Arthur Streeton was a visitor at *Inveresk* on High Street, Berwick, where he painted the Brown family. At Harkaway, Jessie Traill's *Studio* remains. Jessie Traill has left many paintings and sketches of the local landscape as she knew it. Lady Casey and her aunt, Ellis Rowan, the distinguished woman painter, painted at *Edrington*. More than 100 of Rowan's works were in Lady Casey's possession when she died. The silks, recently restored, are still held locally.

Professor Jock Marshall, Foundation Professor of Zoology at Monash University, who lived at *Quarry Hills*, was instrumental in establishing the Monash Art Advisory Board and numbered among his friends the artists Cliff Pugh, John Percival and Russell Drysdale. *Quarry Hills* was filled with a fine collection of paintings with a Drysdale mural in the dining room and a Pugh mosaic in the bathroom. A fabulous collection of paintings at *Roads End*, when the home of Sir Sidney and Lady Sewell, included works by McCubbin, Roberts, Phillips Fox and Conder.<sup>114</sup>

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## Local industry

Many important local industries have flourished from an early date. Examples include grazing for meat production, timber-getting, quarrying, dairying (butter, milk and cheese), the growing of wheat and potatoes, and, after the Second World War, secondary industry. The City of Berwick's Coat of Arms recognises the importance of its local industries. It includes a bull's head (beef and dairy cattle), a lamb (primary products), and a bluestone wall (quarrying). The two black horses are included because of the importance of the horse in the early days, particularly in the coaching period.<sup>115</sup> Much

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110. *Beaconsfield Guide Book*, pp.38-39.

111. Robert Henderson Croll, *The Open Road in Victoria*, Melbourne, 1928, p.34.

112. *The Open Road in Victoria*, p.34.

113. Information supplied by Max Thomson.

114. Helen Millicer, 'A Brief Cultural review of the City of Berwick', 1991.

115. Beaumont, p.viii.

remains within Berwick City boundaries to tell the story of these ventures, including old farm properties, buildings and historic sites.

### *Dairying*

The most important industry in the early period was dairying, with *Springfield* and *The Old Cheese Factory* (Homestead Road; discussed in an earlier section) the best known property. 'Butter' Meyer's *Wickham* (previously Ratharnay), in King Road, Harkaway, was another early dairying property. Many small farmers at Hallam and Doveton also turned to dairying. The 1899 *Beaconsfield Guide Book* discussed the importance of farming in the district in these words:

The chief occupation of the farmers in the district is dairying, and they are justly celebrated for their dairy produce;<sup>116</sup>

An important 1920s dairy farm, *Roads End* (Beaumont Road), was associated with Sir Sidney Sewell, a well-known Victorian cancer specialist. Sewell was partner in a joint dairying company with Edwin Flack, helping to establish one of Victoria's pioneer Friesian herds which held both Australian and world records for milk production.

### *Cattle and sheep studs*

G. L. Wilson and L. D. Beaumont of Ardblair (Beaumont Road; now *Beaumont Farm*) kept notable Ayrshire cattle studs, with Beaumont also establishing the first Southdown sheep stud in the district.<sup>117</sup>

Sheep, cattle and horse-breeding continued to be important industries within the Berwick district. On the eve of the new century, one writer described:

several large and well-appointed farms, where horse and cattle raising are carried on, and the herds of several Berwick breeders have a good reputation throughout the entire length and breadth of the colony. Sheep are also raised, but to a limited extent, as only portions of the district are suitable to this kind of stock.<sup>118</sup>

Three existing farming properties where important sheep studs were located, are the Baillieu family's *Minta* (Soldiers Road), *The Springs*, (Greaves Road), where the Greaves family ran a sheep stud at the turn of the century, and *Pine Lodge* (King Road), a sheep farm that turned to dairying in the 1960s.

### *Quarrying*

Quarrying was a very early local industry. Aboriginal groups reputedly quarried prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Berwick bluestone quarries were part of the original Wilson pastoral properties. When the brothers James and William divided their holding, William took the southern portion. Subsequently, in 1859, William opened the Berwick Quarry. Stone was used by Berwick and adjoining Shires for roadmaking and later, railway construction. In about 1884, William Wilson Jnr. started contracting and took over the quarry from his father. Shortly afterwards a siding for the Wilson Quarry was constructed on the Berwick railway line. Wilson worked the quarry until 1918.<sup>119</sup> It has been estimated that this quarry:

played a big part in the advancement of towns in west and south Gippsland by pouring thousands of yards of metal into the stations of Warragul, Drouin, Korumburra and intervening towns.<sup>120</sup>

The Daniel Brothers reopened the quarry just before the Second World War. It was then purchased by Bayview Quarries and in October 1966 by Boral Ltd. They provided 'stone for the great number of residential subdivisions spreading eastward from Dandenong'.<sup>121</sup> The original quarry is now closed.

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116. *Beaconsfield Guide Book*, p.38.

117. Beaumont, pp.37, 39.

118. *Beaconsfield Guide Book*, p.38.

119. 'Wilson Blue Stone Quarries, 1870-1977', H.S.C. Local History Option. Lionie Tuit, 1986.

120. Evan C. Henry, *History of Berwick Bluestone Quarries*, in *Mining and Geological Journal*, 1972.

121. 'History of Berwick Bluestone Quarries', in *Mining and Geological Journal*, 1972.



The site is owned by the City of Berwick and known as the *Wilson Botanic Park*, a community recreation area.<sup>122</sup> The Wilson railway siding (known as the railway spur site), no longer exists.

### Secondary industry

In the 1950s, the rural character of the western end of the City of Berwick was transformed into an industrial area. The development of a number of important secondary industries on the outskirts of Dandenong with an increased demand for labour and housing for the workers employed there has led to changing patterns within the City of Berwick. One result was that Doveton, formerly an area of small farms, developed into an industrial suburb with a town centre and a large residential *Housing Commission Estate*. The Princes Domain Estate was developed at Hallam and Endeavour Hills, once a rural area, was converted into a residential suburb.

The earliest industry in Doveton was the abattoirs.<sup>123</sup> Later, in 1950, a lace factory was established in Lace Street on land purchased in 1942 on the Princes Highway close to Eumemmerring Creek. This factory was founded by William A. Smith Pty. Ltd., a firm from Nottingham which had been 'bombed out' during the War. The company worked in Doveton for several years but later moved to Russell Street in the City and is now in Collingwood.<sup>124</sup> None of the Doveton lace factory buildings remain.

In the same year three international companies moved into the Doveton area. *International Harvester Company* bought land at the junction of the South Gippsland and Princes Highway. In 1952 a major truck plant was officially opened, expanding in 1953.<sup>125</sup> By 1973, this plant employed workers of thirty nationalities and depended heavily on casual labour.<sup>126</sup>

During 1954, another automotive plant, *General Motors-Holden*, purchased 154 acres on the same side of the Princes Highway, which later increased to 318 acres. By the end of 1956, a body and assembly plant was in operation, enabling the company to assemble its car bodies in Victoria for the first time.<sup>127</sup> It was a 'reflection of the importance of the company in the local community that it received its very own railway station'.<sup>128</sup> This station, known as *General Motors*, still services shift and other workers at the GMH plant.<sup>129</sup>

A third company, *H. J. Heinz*, opened a big new plant and its Australian headquarters in the Doveton area.<sup>130</sup> This was claimed to be 'the largest food processing plant in the Southern Hemisphere' and an 'architectural show-piece'.<sup>131</sup> It won the *Architecture and Arts* 1955 Award for the best designed building erected in Australia in that year.<sup>132</sup>

### Doveton Riding

The Doveton area (known earlier as Eumemmerring), had been part of the Shire of Berwick since its inception in 1868. In 1956 the City of Dandenong sought to annex the industrially important western section of Berwick Shire, which adjoined Dandenong's borders. This included the sites of the three huge complexes of GMH, International Harvester and Heinz, as well as the large *Doveton Housing Commission Estate*.<sup>133</sup>

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122. 'History of Berwick Bluestone Quarries', in *Mining and Geological Journal*, 1972.

123. Information from Dr. Bruce Collier. More information required for this pioneer industry.

124. Berwick. *Evolution of a City*, 1988.

125. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.89.

126. Hicks, p.37.

127. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.89.

128. Hicks, p.37.

129. Hicks, p.37.

130. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.89.

131. *The Heinz Story*.

132. *Architecture and Arts*, March 1955.

133. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.22.

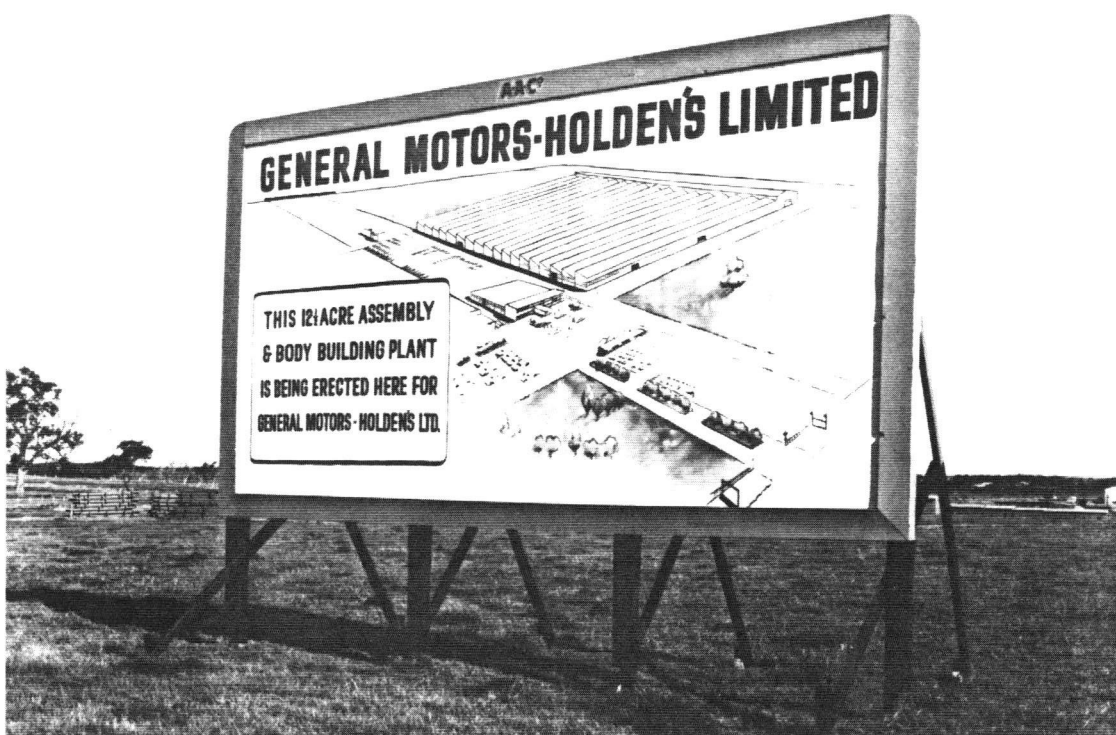




*Some of the Quarry Team 1907*

**Workers at Wilson's Quarry, 1907**

(Berwick Local History Archive, Narre Warren Library)



**GMH: the beginning of the Doveton plant, Sept. 1955**

(Dandenong & District Historical Society)

In 1964, in recognition of the extensive development on the Berwick Shire's western boundary, a new Doveton Riding was formed from part of the Berwick Riding. The Shire then comprised five Ridings: Doveton, Berwick, Beaconsfield, Pakenham and Iona.<sup>134</sup> In 1970, the Shire of Berwick sent a stern letter to the City of Dandenong advising that:

this Council strongly objects to the selfish and parochial way your Council has attempted to gain more finance for your City by making this Application to the Minister to acquire the high Municipal revenue producing area of the Doveton Riding of the Shire of Berwick.<sup>135</sup>

After a long legal battle the Shire of Berwick retained this important area.<sup>136</sup> Later, on 14 February 1973, it was announced that the Berwick and Doveton Ridings of the Shire would be constituted as the City of Berwick, which was proclaimed on 1 October 1973.<sup>137</sup>

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## Houses

The story of settlement in an area is told most vividly in its surviving houses. However, it is often the later and more substantial homes that remain rather than the very early, more primitive structures. The rare remaining early houses consequently have great historical significance. The earliest homes of European settlers in the Berwick district were said to be wattle and daub cottages built near the banks of the Cardinia Creek. When this area became public parkland, these settlers had to move. Nothing remains today of those pioneer dwellings.

Very little remains either of early homes from the pastoral era, apart from the small brick cottage and sandstone stables on the *Edrington* (High Street) property, once known as Melville Park. This cottage is said to be the second home of Robert Gardiner, holder of the original Berwick run that covered most of the district. Another house, the *Former Robertson property* on the Belgrave-Hallam Road at Narre Warren North, is associated with pioneer James Robertson, owner of the cattle run Watwillroon, north-east of Berwick. Unfortunately little remains of the original fabric of this house although some old timber may have been used during its rebuilding this century.

### *Farm houses*

The pastoral era lasted for a relatively short time in the Berwick district. At an early stage Berwick developed into a farming community in which dairying, cheese-making, agriculture, the breeding of horses and cattle, and the planting of orchards were major occupations over many decades and into recent times. This development is reflected in the district's domestic buildings. In fact, the Berwick district is quite remarkable for the number of farmhouses that remain, ranging from the humble cottages of early German settlers at Harkaway to more substantial homestead complexes on large rural properties. All eras are well represented. There are still a number of Victorian and Edwardian farmhouses, which have sometimes been incorporated into later houses, or remain as outbuildings associated with newer homesteads. Some of the earlier houses illustrate interesting colonial building techniques. There are also some splendid examples of large farmhouses of the early twentieth century, inter-war period and later, some architect-designed. Although subdivision has greatly reduced the size of many of the once-extensive district farm properties, the remaining farmhouses of Narre Warren North, Harkaway and Berwick, with a few rare survivors in newer areas to the west, have helped preserve Berwick's traditional rural character.

### *Early farmhouses*

An early farm house in which primitive building techniques were used is *Kilfera* (King Road) at Harkaway, built about 1856 by and for the German settlers William Wiese and John M. F. Fritzlaff, carpenter/builders. The old part of this house, (once used as a local post office), comprises two rooms

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134. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.22.

135. *Berwick. Evolution of a City*.

136. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.89.

137. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.89.

with walls constructed with a wooden frame and battens supporting a mud infill. This house may be typical of early German cottages at Harkaway, using local materials. It is the only known example of this building type remaining in the Berwick district.

*Quarry Hills* (Quarry Hills Drive) is believed to be the oldest house in Berwick and was the home of pioneer farmers, William and James Wilson, possibly as early as 1854. The 1850s section is now hidden by later extensions, yet the house remains much as it was when the Wilsons owned it in the 1880s. It has particular importance as a model for local construction in which bricks were manufactured on site and a cheese room was incorporated into the homestead complex.

Another 1850s Harkaway farmhouse, *Wickham* (King Road, formerly Ratharnay), the home of Wilhelm 'Butter' Meyer, a Swiss settler with a butter-making business, and the original detached smokehouse were constructed of clay bricks made on the property. As at Quarry Hills, the hand-made bricks were produced on the site.

*Burnbank* (Beaumont Road) at Berwick, also regarded as one of the district's earliest farmhouses, has an earlier c1854 section, although considerably altered, within the later structure. It appears today as an elegant Victorian villa with a timber ashlar finish. It was once the home of pioneer farmer Robert Buchanan, who with his brother James, bred Ayrshire cattle. *Burr Hill*, (Burr Hill Court) the Berwick farmhouse built for the Hon. James Buchanan, MLC, in 1878 as his second home, retains some original features which may date from the 1850s. These include an old wine cellar and kitchen at lower ground level.

A somewhat later example of a modest nineteenth century farmhouse is the brick Victorian home, *Doveton Heights*, one of two houses of that era remaining in Doveton Avenue. They are rare survivors from Doveton's past before it changed from farmland to a residential and industrial suburb.

### *Larger farm homesteads*

Some district farm properties, however, boasted substantial brick or timber residences. This was particularly true of homesteads built on extensive allotments for prosperous Narre Warren North, Berwick and Harkaway farmers. Three notable farm homesteads built at Narre Warren North in the 1860s and early 1870s remain as fine examples of the work of George Washington Robinson, (nephew of the pastoral pioneer, James Robertson), who designed and built them. Unfortunately, a fourth, *The Grange* (a'Beckett Road), built for the a'Beckett family has gone. Stylistically, they are typical of their period. *Glen Cairn* (Robinson Road), once the mixed farming and dairying property of Scottish pioneer John Troup, is an important and early homestead in the district. It is characterised by its convex verandah roof, tuck-pointed brickwork, triple light windows, Italianate eave brackets and remnants of an earlier garden layout.

The former Cleveland, now *Aranmore*, (Aranmore Crescent, also designed and built by Robinson) was the home from 1862 of early Narre Warren settler, Francis Barr, and his family. Originally a four-roomed brick house, it was added to in the 1920s when the brick work was rendered and the roof form altered. Today, the house presents a 1920s appearance with a broad gabled hip roof with protruding hip section but contains earlier parts internally.

Robinson's own home, *Hillsley* (Robinson Road), was built about 1872 and used at first for orchard purposes and later for vegetable growing and grazing. This farmhouse is remarkably intact with an undecorated verandah returning on both sides and a series of double-hung, six-paned windows with characteristic arched lintels. Built as Robinson's second home, Hillsley in its important garden and rural landscape setting has 1935 extensions that blend sympathetically with the earlier structure.

A landmark building, *Melrose* (Harkaway Road) at Harkaway, is an imposing and substantially intact brick house on an elevated site with a tower commanding panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. It was built in 1875 as a rural retreat for John Edward Deeble. Later, it became a training farm for boys between 1938 and 1958 and then was used as the homestead of horse and cattle studs.

Not all larger farm homesteads were built in brick, some were substantial weatherboard residences. One example of an early 1880s weatherboard homestead, *Four Oaks* (Cardigan Street), is a rare survivor at Endeavour Hills. This property brings back memories of when the district's suburban west was open land dotted with farmhouses. This property was the original homestead on the Grassmere

Estate, auctioned in 1888 at the height of the land boom. This extensive estate was owned in the early 1880s by Dr. John Tremearne of Creswick.

After the 1880s land boom burst and following the depression of the early 1890s, when recovery returned in the late 1890s, some prosperous district farmers began to build themselves fine new houses on large allotments. *Minard* (Manuka Road), an Edwardian brick and timber villa residence, dates from this period. It was built about 1897 on a hill overlooking Berwick township within the prestigious Manuka Park property owned by Malwyn a'Beckett, civil servant, brother of W. A. C. a'Beckett of The Grange. Malwyn married Affra Robinson, sister of George Washington Robinson, local architect and builder. *Minard* with its high gabled roof, and the 1875 Manuka Park homestead (now demolished) were associated later with the celebrated Manuka Park Andalusian Stud, the Victorian home of this southern Spanish breed.

### *Farmhouses with cheese factories*

Cheese-making was an important district industry and many early farms, such as the Wilsons' *Quarry Hills* (Quarry Hills Drive), once had cheese rooms or, in the case of the larger properties, associated cheese factories. The survival of buildings used for cheese-making in remaining farm complexes illustrates an important phase in Berwick's history.

The historically important *Springfield* (Homestead Road) at Berwick is probably the most notable early property with an associated cheese factory. This homestead was reputedly built about 1855 for W. J. T. ('Big') Clarke, pastoralist and landowner. The *Old Cheese Factory* was constructed in 1875 for Clarke's son, Sir William Clarke, who became known for his upgrading of properties into model tenant farms complete with the latest technology and equipment. The factory building was designed by the architect George Browne and was constructed of hand-made bricks. It is the only cheese factory of its type remaining in the Berwick district and forms an integral part of this important early dairy farm complex.

The lower floor of the factory, a two-storey structure, was used for making the cheese and the building was designed to maximise insulation and has a cavity brick wall with a nine inch external layer and an internal wall of half that thickness. The roof is double-layered for insulation, with hardwood shingles beneath a corrugated iron cladding. The factory's first manager was the farmer and cheese maker Murdoch MacDonald, a Scot who arrived in Victoria about 1853.

Another early Berwick farm, *Beaumont Farm* (Beaumont Road, the former Ardblair) constructed about 1854 for pioneer settler, James Buchanan, has an 1860s two-storey section used for cheese-making. A large proportion of the original house remains today, the kitchen being the oldest part. This building is joined by more recent additions to the former cheese factory. The floor of the upper level is constructed of hand-hewn beams. The handmade brick walls are rendered and painted. The Buchanans were also involved in cattle breeding and wheat growing. One of the district's earliest and most important farms, *Beaumont Farm* provides good examples of colonial building technology of the 1850s, 1860s and 1890s.

The splendid 1920s *Roads End* (Beaumont Road) farm complex at Berwick, which will be discussed in a later section, is said to have once had a cheese factory or dairy associated with its role as a major district dairy farm.

### *Outbuildings*

Remaining outbuildings can tell us much about the origins and historical development of a farm property. They provide clues about exactly when the farmhouse was built and about early ownership and usage. Some of the largest district properties are notable for the number and importance of their outbuildings. In this dairying district, as we have seen, these may include a cheese room or even a large cheese factory. There may be a farm complex comprising homestead, stables, dairy and miscellaneous sheds.



**Melrose, a fine landmark building**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1993)



**Cheese factory at Springfield homestead, built in 1875**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)

*Oatlands* (Narre Warren North Road) at Narre Warren is an outstanding example of a farm complex with a large number of outbuildings. Anthony Burden Kent, a district pioneer, was the original owner of this property. The farm includes a substantial brick homestead with granite foundations built in 1890-92, an old cottage, cool stores built in 1943 and attached residence, two-storey stables and other outbuildings. The property, a local landmark, is remarkable for its plantings of exotic trees, old orchard trees and remnant Hawthorn hedges.

Another farm property with an exceptional number of remaining outbuildings, *The Springs* (Greaves Road) at Narre Warren South, was the home of the Greaves family, pioneer English farmers who established important Border Leicester and Southdown sheep studs. This complex includes a 1903 red brick Queen Anne style residence with an associated brick cottage, stables and a very intact blacksmith's shop, a valuable facility on a large farming property. The residence is mainly intact, and is of symmetrical design with Federation features such as a large bay window set diagonally at the north-east corner, two tall potted chimneys and a gabled hip roof. Internally, the house retains a lot of its original carpentry. The blacksmith's shop is constructed of handmade bricks, and its hearth and bellows are still operational. The stables north of the blacksmith's shop have a broad gable roof with a loft and pulley below the ridge.

The Hessel Road property *Warrenwood* (once known as Hillcroft), was owned by Dr. Ernst Gottlob Wanke, prominent German settler, and later, by his son Immanuel. This farm has interesting outbuildings, but both earlier farmhouses have gone. The outbuildings may date from the Wanke ownership and include a large barn, a glass house with its original brickwork and a milking shed and dairy. The glass house may have been used by Bertha, Immanuel's wife, a keen gardener. There is also a fine example of an old dairy currently used as stables. This building has a brick floor in part with a wooden floor mounted on granite boulder and tree stump supports. It is probable that the remains of a cheese press exist beneath the floor.

A somewhat later property, *Rowallan Farm* (Rowallan Road) at Harkaway, the home of another German settler, Gottfried Tscherner, from the 1880s or earlier, retains its old barn and other outbuildings. The building technology illustrated by this property is most interesting and may have been used by other pioneer German farmers in the district.

The earliest parts of the large weatherboard farmhouse, which is remarkably intact, were also built of timber posts, lined with beaded pine board and insulated with charcoal. The earliest garden plantings are believed to date from 1880 or earlier. There are several weatherboard outbuildings. A shed externally clad in a mix of second hand sheet material contains a wood slab structure within. Pathways and external drains in handmade brick connect these sheds and stores with the older part of the house. An old barn with bush pole structural timbers stands in the paddock adjacent to the house.

There are stables, a hay shed and a restored brick cottage at *Brentwood* (Clyde Road, formerly known as Kippenross) as well as the 1903 weatherboard homestead, the Berwick home of the Pearson family. The Pearsons were prominent Victorian pastoralists and parliamentarians. The remaining outbuildings provide valuable evidence of the various farming uses of this property.

Outbuildings of a much later date may be found at *Grasmere* (Inglis Road), a Berwick dairy farm in which the present homestead is built around an early c1856 section made from handmade bricks. The intact outbuildings include an old 1920s milking shed, pre-1920s stables, brick creamery rooms and a very large well. Built for J. Inglis, an early Berwick storekeeper, the property was owned later by Hon. James Buchanan (the holder of a number of district properties). It is owned still by Buchanan descendants.

The remaining outbuildings on some Berwick district farms, however, are all that is left of a significant early property. At *Rossmoyne Park* (Hessel Road) for example, the property adjoining *Warrenwood*, at least one of the outbuildings, a timber barn, is of equal historical importance to the brick Victorian style house, both dating from the early ownership of the property by the pioneer German settlers, the Hillbrichs.





**An early photograph of William Martin 'German' Brown's house. Narre Warren North.  
Now called The Grattons**

(Max Thomson collection)



**The large barn at Warrenwood (former Hillcroft), scene of many district dances**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)



Similarly, the oldest buildings at *Pine Lodge* (King Road) another Harkaway farm, are the outbuildings which appear to date from the 1870s or earlier. There is a former timber farmhouse with pine and mud filled walls and a shearing shed with pine walls. These structures have significance as interesting examples of early building technology. The property, which once covered 467 acres, has historical significance for its associations with the Hillbrichs and Kents, pioneer families who inter-married. Pine Lodge may have been the first home of Anthony B. Kent who married Mary Hillbrich.

### *Post-1900 farmhouses*

The Berwick district remained a predominantly rural farming community until quite recent times. Although there are a large number of surviving nineteenth century farm houses, some remarkably intact and with interesting early outbuildings, there are also some fine examples of farmhouses built at the turn of the century and during the inter-war period. An assessment of post-Second World War farmhouses is of importance, also, in understanding Berwick's rural heritage. Some of the post-1900 homesteads are exceptional from both an historical and architectural viewpoint and have not only local but regional and even state significance. They are comparable with the most important farm houses built in other parts of Victoria during this period. *The Grattons* (Bailey Road) at Narre Warren North, for instance, is a good example of a brick Edwardian farm residence, the former home of William Martin 'German' Brown, prominent early dairy farmer, brickmaker and roadmaker.

Narre Warren was a prosperous orchard area at the turn of the century, so it is not surprising that some of the best district farm houses of this period are located there. Two of the most important were built for the Baileys, a prominent local family which inter-married with the Webbs, district pioneers. *Araluen* (Narre Warren North Road) with its large dam is an exceptional orchard property, which sent apples all over Australia from 1905 until the 1940s. The Edwardian farm residence with its Federation Bungalow details was constructed for James W. Bailey, son-in-law of Sydney J. Webb. This farm has remained in Bailey family ownership and is owned currently by Miss Lucy Bailey. Its garden, established in 1903, is still one of the best in the district. *Clarinda Park* (Narre Warren North Road, once known as Brentwood), the neighbouring property, was the home about 1904 of George Bailey, Narre Warren storekeeper and overseas fruit exporter. The intact Federation period weatherboard farmhouse is notable for its superbly crafted timber verandah.

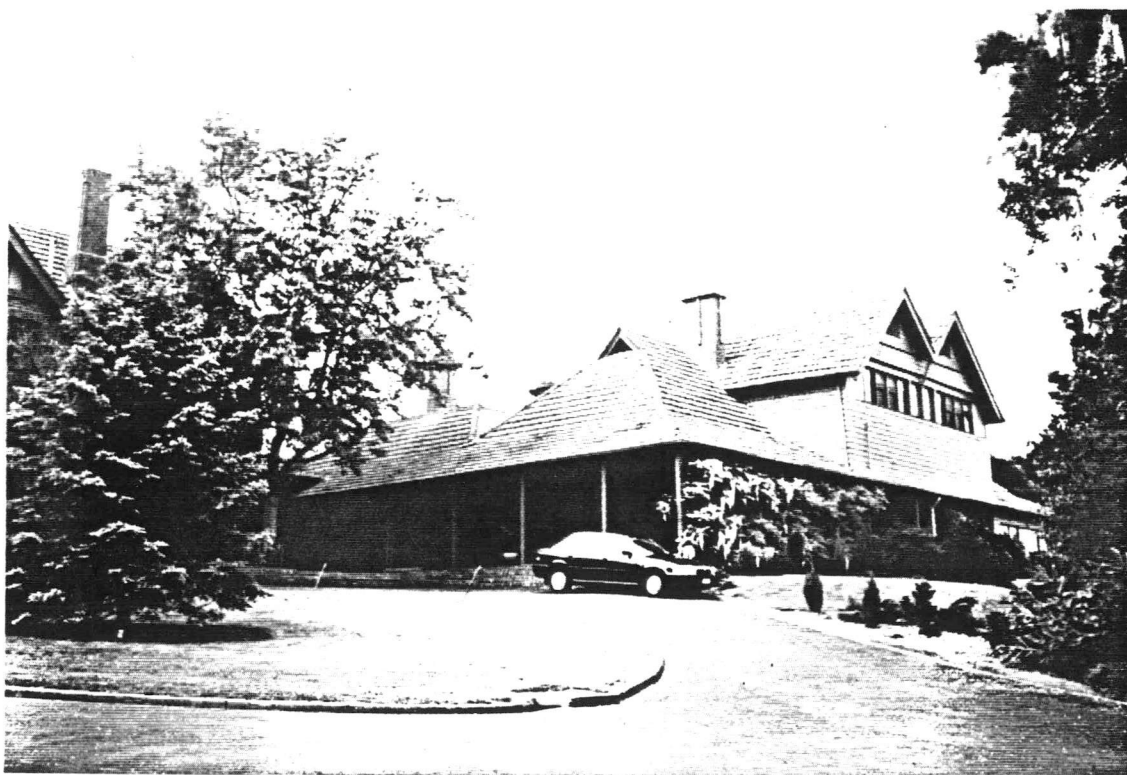
Some post-1900 district farm homesteads could almost be classed as mansions. Located on very large properties, these substantial buildings were designed by prominent Victorian architects and became the residences of extremely wealthy and important families. *Edrington* (High Street) at Berwick is perhaps the best known historic property. As well as earlier structures, there is a splendid Arts and Crafts Bungalow mansion, a prime example of the innovative designs of the architectural practice of Klingender and Alsop. The 1906 design is one of the earliest examples in Victoria of the Vernacular Revival style, which was to become popular for suburban residences over the next twenty years. The homestead, built for pastoralist Samuel MacKay, was owned later by the grazier S. Chirnside and, more recently, Lord and Lady Casey.

Sir Sidney Sewell, a well-known surgeon, who was a partner in an important district dairying company, was the first owner of another Berwick near-mansion, *Roads End*. Constructed between 1921 and 1928, and standing within extensive grounds, this large homestead is an outstanding and intact example of the work of the notable architectural firm, Blackett and Forster. In a hybrid architectural style which became popular in the 1920s, the building incorporates the Arts and Crafts, Bungalow, Shingle Style and Sydney Balcony Style. It is built in a variety of materials with bluestone foundations and columns constructed in bluestone with unpainted roughcast rendered walls in the ground storey. The upper level is a composition of gable sections with vertical timbers above a shingled apron. There are exposed rafters in the eaves and multi-paned sashed windows.

In its spectacular garden setting, *Roads End* retains its original stables and stable master's quarters, a small builder's cottage and an old well and sundial.



**Araluen**



**Kippenross**

(Context Pty Ltd, 1992)

The Spanish Mission style which became popular in Australia in the 1930s was used in the design of *New Ardblair* (Beaumont Road) at Berwick, designed by Sydney architects Greenwell and Shirley in 1932-33. It was the home of local farmer and historian, Norman E. Beaumont, descendant of two important pioneer families, the Buchanans and Beaumonts. Now standing on a much reduced allotment, *New Ardblair* has lost some of its original features.

Another large brick Spanish Mission farm residence, *Piney Ridge* (Heatherton Road) at Endeavour Hills, is one of only two farmhouses remaining in this now highly-urbanised area. Set in landscaped gardens, *Piney Ridge* (once run as a Jersey stud) was the home in the 1940s of Charles Hartley, a Melbourne manufacturer of rotary sprinklers and irrigation supplies. A second storey was added in 1954. A local landmark overlooking the Endeavour Hills shopping centre, *Piney Ridge* also has a red brick manager's cottage at the rear of the main house, an old dairy, garage and chicken sheds.

### *Soldier and Closer Settlement houses*

In the present century, there have been various attempts at closer settlement in rural Victoria. These schemes have related to the settlement of returned soldiers and others who could not otherwise afford a farm, on land purchased by the Government. Two of these schemes in the Berwick district were the Narre Warren North Estate subdivided in 1925 and the Hallam Valley Estate subdivided in 1928. The latter Estate involved the purchase for closer settlement of Crown Allotments 25 and 26 in the former *Clarke Springfield Estate*.

In Victoria, most soldier settler farms were abandoned as a result of the inexperience of these new farmers. However, Narre Warren North soldier settlers were more successful and often retained their properties until their death. These settlers were encouraged to become mixed farmers, combining dairying with growing vegetables and other crops. The building design of their houses was usually a simplified weatherboard bungalow form with a simple gable roof clad in corrugated iron. This style became popular in the expanding suburbs of the 1920s. The most intact of the six similar Closer Settlement houses identified within the Narre Warren Estate is the *Lowry House* (Narre Warren North Road). This was on Leslie Lowry's 14 acre farm taken up in 1937. Lowry was the son of a returned soldier who lost his Gippsland farm during the Depression. The Narre Warren North farm was more successful. Dairying was carried on there, maize and oats grown, and farm produce sold locally and in Dandenong. Other known soldier settler houses are in Narre Warren North Road, in Fox Road, and at Tara Park off Brundrett Road.

### *Residences*

Homes other than houses associated with farms were comparatively rare in the Berwick district until the urbanisation of recent times. The district remained a predominantly farming community for many decades served by quite small townships. There were only two gazetted townships, at Berwick and Narre Warren (now Narre Warren North), although small township centres sprang up at an early date at Harkaway and, after the opening of the railway, at Narre Warren.

Throughout the district most early township residences were at Berwick, which developed as an important district service centre. It was here that local doctors, school teachers, bank managers, drapers, local parliamentarians and workers in the building trades had their homes. Later, prosperous sheep or cattle farmers, or families like the Wilsons who ran the local quarry, retired to substantial town residences, leaving their farm homesteads to younger family members or others.

In recent decades, however, there has been a proliferation of township houses as suburbanisation followed the establishment of the large residential estates at Doveton, Narre Warren and Hallam. These developments have been associated with the introduction by the Housing Commission of the mass-produced concrete house, and an attempt to offer some innovative house designs by leading modern architects to Fountain Gate residents.

*Inveresk* at Berwick, built in 1891 on an elevated site in High Street, is a good example of the fine residences built last century for prosperous local business people. Constructed for the draper George Brown, of local brown bricks, this residence features half-timbered flying gables with curved brackets and drop pendants and a gabled verandah. This late Victorian villa is a fine illustration of the domestic

work of the Melbourne architects, Little and Beasley. Inveresk remains as a remarkably intact local landmark in the prestigious Berwick Hill area.

A fine Edwardian town residence, *Kilkirean* (the former Liskie Brae), was built in 1902 as the last home of William Wilson Snr., pioneer settler and founder of the Wilson Quarry, a major Berwick district industry. Located on the hill slope above the Princes Highway, this Italianate villa with its polychromatic brick work, deep window bays, ornate brick chimney and charming floral leadlights, is a good example of the craftsmanship of the local designer and builder, Ballantyne.

There are also a number of good examples of smaller township houses in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. *Gloucester Cottage*, a Victorian house with ashlar block front and a central door with a fanlight, was the home in the 1880s or later of John Joseph William Warne, painter and decorator. The Warnes had an early painting and decorating business in Station Street (the early name for Gloucester Avenue), the location also of this residence.

*Lumeah*, another High Street residence, is typical of the modest weatherboard cottages built in this area at the turn of the century which helped give the township its village-like character. In the 1940s it was the home of Mrs Ryan, a retired school teacher.

An architectural style, now known as the Federation style, became popular during the first decades of this century. The former *Kippenross*, a substantial two-storey brick bungalow built in Gloucester Avenue in 1911, was the private residence of the Hon. John Pearson, M.L.A. The most striking feature of this residence is its sprawling terracotta roof form which splays at the verandah with exposed rafters and simple square timber verandah posts. Although constructed as a private residence, Kippenross was used as the Berwick Presbyterian Girls School from 1920 to 1929. From 1930 it became part of St Margaret's, an important district educational establishment. Another private residence later incorporated into the school, *Gloucester House*, is a single storey federation style bungalow built in 1918 for George Wilson Snr., and his wife, Marie, associated with the important Wilson Quarry.

During the 1920s, the Californian Bungalow, often with Arts and Crafts features, became popular throughout Australia. A number of examples can be found in Berwick. *Dhuringa*, (Peel Street) built for Mrs Fanny Hume Hutchinson, grand-daughter of Hamilton Hume, the explorer, is in this style. This house displays a high quality of craftsmanship with superb interior carpentry detailing and an intact external form, and is set within a complementary period garden landscape.

A more unusual 1920s residence is the Jessie Traill *Studio* (Baker Road) at Harkaway, designed as an artist's studio but also used as a home by this major artist during her last years. She lived and painted there and entertained her friends. This simple gabled building has half-timbered upper walls and weatherboard to first floor level. Its balcony overlooks the former Traill cottage built in 1918-19 and sold in 1948 to Enid Joske, Principal at Janet Clarke Hall, the first Women's College at Melbourne University. The Studio retains a Bavarian character.

The *Keys House* (Shrives Road) at Narre Warren built in the 1930s is a fine example of the inter-war brick English Cottage style. This two-storey residence with walls and gable ends featuring vertical timber cladding finished in a dark stain with white painted tracery and frames highlighting the multi-paned windows. It was built for Harold L. Keys, Shire of Berwick Engineer from 1904 to 1948, and is stylistically similar to Sir Sidney Sewell's 1920s farm residence, *Roads End* (Beaumont Road).

### *Modern residences*

The 1940s and 1950s were periods in which few significant town residences seem to have been built in Berwick. However, *Caseldene* off Brisbane Street with its unusual modern design, rooftop studio approached by an exterior cast-iron spiral staircase, and dramatic architectural form, is an interesting local house of this era. Built about 1946, reputedly for an artist, it has splendid roof top views of Berwick.

*Sunways*, the innovative timber house designed in 1947 by the architect Norman Seabrooke (of Seabrooke and Fildes), is the home of the Loveridges, important district storekeepers. Located in Lyall Road, this residence demonstrates several architectural ideas popular in modern post-war housing. Its open plan with generous windows punctuating cubic forms was a typical design approach aimed at

creating a more honest and functional architecture. The patios and pergolas are characteristic of the modern fashion for outdoor living.

The 1950s *a'Beckett House* in Rutland Road, Berwick, also expresses modern architectural ideas. This fine timber residence was built in 1955 for Gertrude a'Beckett, widow of William a'Beckett, from the designs of her nephew, the notable and innovative architect Robin Boyd. The original design featured glass walls looking into a garden area, a feature reflecting the contemporary encouragement of outdoor living.

### *Housing Commission homes*

A new kind of home, a small concrete house prefabricated by mass-production methods, was introduced in to the Berwick district in the 1950s. These homes were built in the *Doveton Estate* by the Housing Commission of Victoria for workers employed in the new factories of General Motors Holden, Heinz and International Harvester. This residential development completely altered the character of the western end of Berwick near Dandenong, formerly farming land.

The Housing Commission of Victoria was established in 1937 to provide accommodation for people of limited means and to solve the social problems associated with inner city slum housing. After the Second World War, its focus on slum clearance gave way to an attempt to deal with the post-war housing shortage. In the 1950s, in order to provide local housing for the huge labour force needed for the new Doveton factories, the HCV bought up large tracts of former farming land in the vicinity. It expressed its objectives in these words:

In view of the intense industrial development which is taking place at Dandenong, the Commission has purchased land well ahead of its immediate requirements so that the number of houses being built can be readily increased to assist in providing the labour required for these new industries.<sup>138</sup>

The Housing Commission Estate at Doveton was originally part of Power's Eumemmerring pastoral run and later formed part of the new Doveton Riding created in 1964. It was planned to build 2,500 houses on the estate at a cost of about seven million pounds. The majority of these houses were to be of concrete construction.<sup>139</sup>

As early as 1939 the HCV had built 60 concrete houses at its first estate at Fishermen's Bend, using the Fowler System of pre-fabricated concrete construction. This system was invented by T. W. Fowler of Werribee, who devised a method of casting concrete walls on an elevated flat metal table, each wall complete with the required window and door openings. After Fowler's death in 1942 the HCV took over his plant and in 1947 a factory was established at Holmesglen.<sup>140</sup> During 1948-49 the Commission's Concrete House Project had completed 503 concrete houses and in 1951 the number had almost doubled to 962.<sup>141</sup>

These concrete houses were chosen for working-class housing in both city and country housing estates. The production cost was far below that of either brick or timber houses. In 1955-56 about 399 houses were built in the Doveton Estate, 374 of which were concrete.<sup>142</sup>

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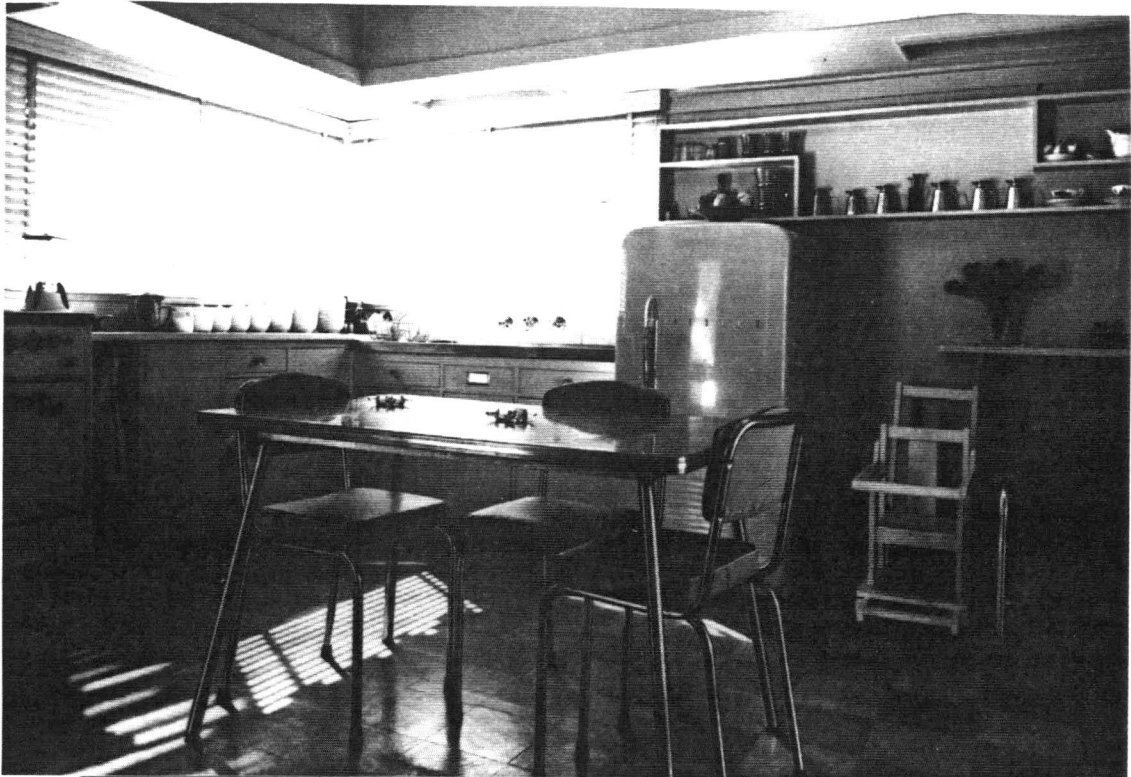
138. Victorian Housing Commission, *Annual Report*, 1953-54, p.30.

139. Victorian Housing Commission, *Annual Report*, 1956-57. Quoted in Hicks, p.39.

140. George Tibbits, 'The Enemy Within Our Gates' in *New Houses for Old*, ed. Renate Howe, pp.125-138.

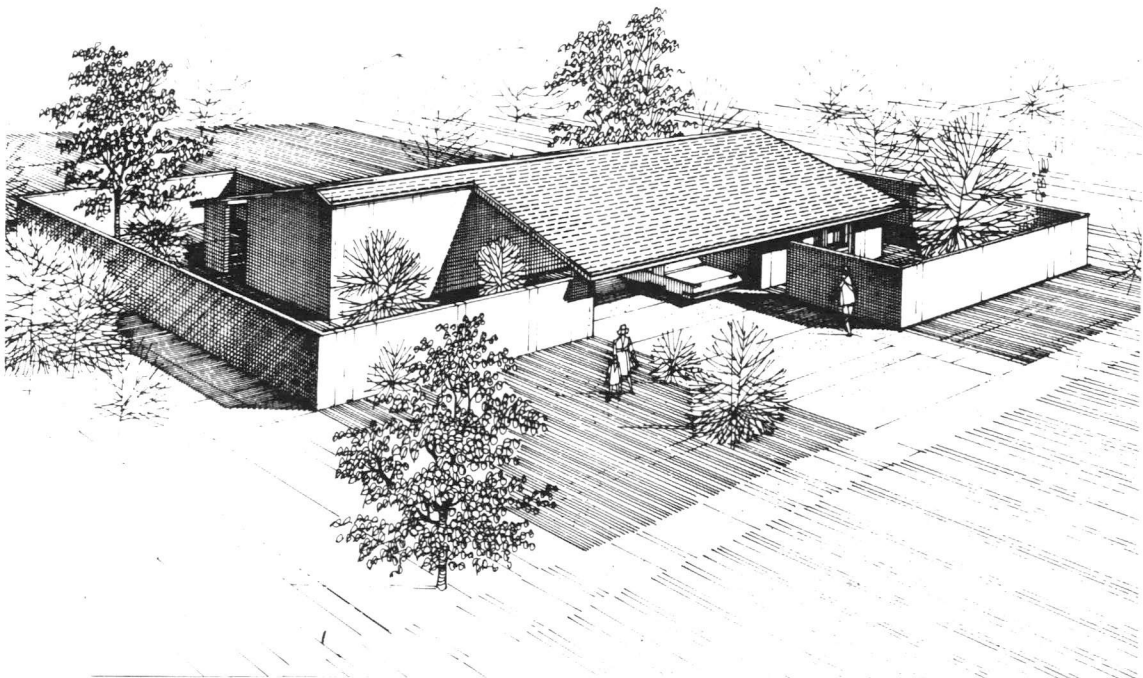
141. Victorian Housing Commission, *Annual Reports*, 1947-49, 1950-51.

142. Victorian Housing Commission, *Annual Reports*, 1955-56; *Annual Report*, 1956-57 pp.14, 26 (illustration Concrete Houses, Doveton Estate).



**A gleaming kitchen in a Doveton Housing Commission house, 1955**

(Dandenong & District Historical Society)



**Link House: designed by architect Reg Grouse for the Fountain Gate estate**

(City of Berwick)

These Doveton houses are typically three-bedroom houses with small front and rear porches, a lounge room, small hallway, kitchen, laundry, bathroom and toilet. Although the work was supervised by the Commission's Architects Panel of eminent architects with long experience in public housing, by the 1990s some concrete houses at Doveton were exhibiting significant structural problems. These were among the earlier houses built between the mid-1950s and early 1960s on highly reactive soils. Redevelopment of those houses remaining in public ownership is currently being considered.<sup>143</sup>

### *Modern residential estates*

The establishment of the Housing Commission's Doveton Estate was followed by the development of two private residential estates in the Berwick area, the *Princes Domain Estate* at Hallam and the *Fountain Gate Estate* at Narre Warren.

In the 1950s, the *Princes Domain Estate*, was opened at Hallam, offering a private housing alternative to the Doveton Estate. In 1954 Overland Development Corporation acquired its first Hallam land. The founder and managing director of Overland, Isador Magid, was born in China of Russian parents and emigrated to Australia with his family in 1951. His company was actively involved in developing land in a number of Melbourne suburbs and country Victoria before investing in Hallam. About seventy per cent of the original Princes Domain Estate was developed and sold in near record time. Further purchases and development followed and a good deal of Hallam's residential development is based on Overland's original estate.<sup>144</sup>

The *Fountain Gate Estate* was an innovative housing development designed by the architect Robin Boyd in collaboration with the developer Isador Magid. In the 1960s project house builders in Melbourne started to commission independent and forward-looking architects to design both estates and project houses. This was in response to a market for more individuality without the expense of a one-off house design.

The Fountain Gate project involved four notable architectural firms providing a range of contemporary house designs. These architects agreed on certain principles to guide their design approach. The houses were to be low in height, expansive in plans and flexible in internal arrangements. The provision of sunlight and privacy were major considerations. Bathroom accommodation was to be generous. Houses were to have at least three bedrooms and outdoor living was to be encouraged.<sup>145</sup>

Four display homes were built following these principles on prominent sites. They include the *Link House* designed by Reg Grouse at 15 Fountain Gate Drive; the *Colonnade House* design by Daryl Jackson and Evan Walker, at 7 Green Ridge Avenue; and the *Three Courts House*, designed by Robin Boyd and Frederick Romberg, at 7 Oakwood Avenue.<sup>146</sup>

These display houses were built in the western part of the estate, the first part developed. The estate was sold with a series of special conditions including a design covenant, stipulating that the houses should be built in brick or brick veneer and not have side fences.<sup>147</sup> The latter proviso has been ignored.

The contemporary houses designed as display homes, and others created by the same team of architects, stand out from the conventional hipped roof houses which dominate the estate. However, they comprise a mere handful. As Magid himself admitted, in this middle-class residential estate, most residents did not favour the more advanced contemporary designs but 'wanted homes just like their mum and dad's'.<sup>148</sup>

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143. *South Doveton Redevelopment Strategy Plan*, Operations Planning Branch, Nov. 1991, pp.2-3.

144. 'Hallam since 1930', 1993, p.11.

145. *Australian Home Beautiful*, Oct. 1967, pp.41-44, 45; *Business Review Weekly*, 29 March, 1991.

146. *Australian Home Beautiful*, Oct. 1967, pp.41-44, 45.

147. Fountain Gate Estate records.

148. *Business Review Weekly*, 29 March, 1991.



The Fountain Gate complex was consolidated by the construction of Berwick Civic Centre built nearby with land and some finance provided by Magid. The offices were officially opened on 8 December 1978.<sup>149</sup> Magid's innovative concept integrated residential, civic and commercial elements.

*Endeavour Hills*, a major subdivision by Lewis Land Corp., Finance Corp. of Australia Ltd and Cambridge Credit, was designed in the 1960s and developed during the 1970s. The symbol of the estate, a statue of Captain James Cook, remains alongside the former land sales office in Monkhouse Drive. The estate was said to be one of the largest being developed in Melbourne at that time, and is an interesting recent example.

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## The cultural landscape today

The City of Berwick still retains something of its traditional image which developed from the 1850s after a brief pastoral era. This district still has many acres of farmland, old farm homesteads and remnant Hawthorn hedges, particularly in the early settled areas of Narre Warren North and Harkaway.

However, the landscape has changed considerably since the days when the Bunurong and Wurundjeri tribes hunted and camped along the Cardinia Creek. The wholesale clearing of vegetation and introduction of hooved animals for grazing purposes destroyed many traditional food sources and had a profound effect on the original inhabitants. Berwick is remarkable, though, for important heritage sites associated with the first contact between Aboriginal and European cultures. *The Dandenong Police Paddocks* (or Native Police Depot and Narre Warren Protectorate Station) at Endeavour Hills is a significant historical and archaeological place.

Very few places relate to the early pastoral runs. Those that remain have great rarity value. Fortunately, a number of cottages, or parts of cottages, built for Harkaway's pioneer German settlers illustrate that important phase in the district's history. There is also an old German cemetery, a reconstructed 1860s bell tower, primary school, remnant Hawthorn hedges and an identifiable township precinct with an historic Avenue of Honour.

The City of Berwick is remarkable for its large number of surviving farm properties. This is an unusual heritage for an area within an urban growth corridor close to Melbourne. There are farmhouses of all eras, ranging from modest cottages (often demonstrating unusual early building techniques) of the 1850s and 1860s, to large homesteads on extensive holdings owned by wealthy district farming families.

There is a rich heritage relating to Berwick's agricultural and dairying past in the form not only of farmhouses but other structures such as dairies, cheese rooms and factories. Of the few remaining large farm properties with associated cheese factories, the most notable is the *Springfield* and the *Old Cheese Factory* in Homestead Road at Berwick, which has state-wide significance. There are also some remnant orchards around Narre Warren, once among the state's chief fruit-growing areas. Old and new properties associated with well-known horse and cattle studs are also of significant heritage value.

Berwick's rural and agricultural landscape is, however, undergoing a process of change. Many once large properties have been greatly reduced by subdivision. Some have become hobby farms, holiday homes, or the country retreats of wealthy commuters or retirees. Some former farmland has been converted to industrial and residential use, a trend which has completely transformed the City of Berwick's western end.

Although the City (formerly part of the Shire) had only two gazetted townships, at Berwick and Narre Warren (now Narre Warren North) there were several small township centres serving prosperous dairying and agricultural communities. Evidence of this early development survives today in identifiable small township precincts at Harkaway and near the Narre Warren railway station. However, these township centres are undergoing rapid change as old buildings disappear to be replaced by new ones, the transition marked by residential and road development. This change is most

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149. *In the Wake of the Pack Tracks*, p.24; *Business Review Weekly*, 29 March, 1991. (Magid gave 20 hectares of land and \$500,000 to the City of Berwick 'to get its offices started').

noticeable in the once important Narre Warren township precinct at the intersection of the Highway and Webb Street.

The township of Berwick with its significant High Street commercial precinct has also undergone change, although it retains something of its village-like quality. A fine collection of commercial and public buildings remain, including the early landmark *Berwick Inn*, and a group dating from the 1880s boom years. Some of these buildings have both regional and state significance. But the distinctive High Street verandahs have gone, as have many old shops, while key buildings like the former Paternoster's Store on the hill are hidden behind newer facades. Today, there are modern shopping arcades and other components of a contemporary suburban shopping centre.

Berwick township is no longer the kind of commercial centre it once was. The huge shopping complexes at Fountain Gate and Dandenong attract much of the local trade. However, rather than competing, Berwick's shopkeepers have specialised, providing a diversity of high quality goods, many locally produced and some not available elsewhere in the district. Today the High Street precinct presents a positive image based on its traditional village character.

Although Berwick's pioneers cleared great areas of the early forests of red gum, box and manna gum, as well as tea-tree, melaleuca, banksia, heath and native grasses, tree planting became a popular civic activity of prominent residents in the late nineteenth century. The planting of exotic and native trees in the townships, the laying out of leafy tree-lined streets and Memorial and Honour Avenues enhanced the Berwick district from this time onward, and provided impressive entrances to town centres. There was once a municipal rose garden in Berwick's High Street precinct, tended for many years by Dr. Percy Langmore and Sir Sidney Sewell, who were also responsible for much of the street plantings.

Most of the significant remaining township residences of the pre-1950s era are located within the Berwick township particularly along High Street and on prestigious sites on the Berwick Hill. These were the homes of local doctors, school teachers, parliamentarians, storekeepers, and workers in the building trades. Later, they were the houses of retired farmers like the Wilsons.

These residences date from all eras and illustrate a variety of styles ranging from Victorian to Edwardian, Federation to Inter-War. Some were architect-designed or good examples of the work of local builders. There are modest cottages and near-mansions. Many have fine associated gardens. One of the grandest in a vast garden setting of exotic and native plantings is Sir Sidney Sewell's *Roads End*.

Another interesting aspect of the City of Berwick's cultural landscape is the number of remaining buildings and sites associated with notable artists who visited or came to live in the district. Two of the most important are Jessie Traill's *Studio* and residence *Harfra* at Harkaway and *The Grange* site at Berwick, associated with the novelist Martin Boyd, and the world-famous contemporary artist, Arthur Boyd.

Little remains of Berwick's early industrial heritage. All that remains of the Wilson Quarry, a major local industry over many decades, is its site now being redeveloped as *Wilson Botanic Park*.

The greatest change in Berwick's cultural landscape in recent years has been the industrial and residential development of its west end near Dandenong in the 1950s and 1960s. By the 1960s the City of Berwick was regarded as a major growth corridor on the fringe of metropolitan Melbourne. The three giant factories of General Motors Holden, Heinz and International Harvester, established in the 1950s on former farmland at Doveton, are important components of Berwick's twentieth century industrial heritage.

New trends in housing associated with residential estate development in the 1950s and 1960s have added interest and new dimensions to the cultural landscape of Berwick as it is today. The small mass-produced concrete houses built on the *Doveton Estate* were part of a project begun by the Housing Commission of Victoria in the late 1930s. Its aim was to provide low cost housing for working-class families. The Doveton Estate was an attempt to provide housing and a labour supply for the new factories on the Princes Highway. Today, some houses are displaying structural faults as a result of their construction on unstable soil. Redevelopment of the area, which is proposed, may result in this building type becoming rare in Berwick.

Innovative house designs associated with the Magid *Fountain Gate* project at Narre Warren are also important to Berwick's twentieth century heritage. This project has metropolitan significance for its combination of residential, shopping and civic development.

Dating from the 1960s, project architects (all major contemporary architects) prepared designs that were featured in display houses constructed on key sites within this new middle-class residential estate. However, few Fountain Gate residents took up this option, preferring to live in more conventional houses. The remaining display houses, and a small number of houses designed by the same architects, nevertheless, have considerable heritage value.

The City of Berwick continues to be chosen by many people as a desirable place to live. The concern of many residents about preserving significant buildings and sites as part of a rich local heritage has helped to retain Berwick's traditional image. It is hoped that the enthusiasm of these residents will be rewarded and that what is most valued by the local community will remain as an important part of the future cultural landscape.

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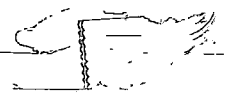
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Secondary College & Performing Arts Centre	65 - 77	Manuka Road	Berwick	411
Mossigiel Park	8	Monteith Crescent	Endeavour Hills	277
Kilgerron	186 - 216	Narre Warren - Cranbourne Road	Narre Warren South	277
House		Narre Warren North Road	Narre Warren North	277
House	26	Palmerston Street	Berwick	411
Sunnyside site		Parkhill Drive	Berwick	76
Macadamia tree		Paternoster Lane	Berwick	154
Commemorative Oak	1 - 11	Peel Street	Berwick	154
Smooth Arizona Cypress	1 - 11	Peel Street	Berwick	154
Plumridge	37	Peel Street	Berwick	412
Bhutan Cyprresses (hybrid)	59	Peel Street	Berwick	154
Bunya Bunya Pines (pair)		Peel Street & Rutland Road	Berwick	154
House	267 - 347	Pound Road	Narre Warren South	277
White Peacock Receptions	3 - 5	Princes Domain Drive	Hallam	278
Narre Warren Memorial Gates		Princes Highway	Fountain Gate	76
Brechlin site (finr Holly Green)	352 - 410	Princes Highway	Fountain Gate	150
Mower World	422	Princes Highway	Narre Warren	412
Aqueduct system		Quarry Road	Narre Warren	77
House	9	Reserve Street	Berwick	412
Scout camp		Robinson Road	Narre Warren North	77
House	7	Rutland Road	Berwick	412
House	15	Rutland Road	Berwick	412
English Oak	19 - 21	Scanlan Street	Berwick	155
Railway station		Shrives Road	Narre Warren	412



Significance / Name	St No	Street	Locality	Page
House	1	Shrives Road	Narre Warren	413
Warren Park	31	Shrives Road	Narre Warren South	278
Reserve (Wilson House site)		Shute Avenue	Berwick	77
Minta	2 - 106	Soldiers Road	Berwick	278
House	259 - 269	Soldiers Road	Beaconsfield	278
Florenceville site		Victor Crescent	Narre Warren	77
Bakery (fmr)	44	Webb Street	Narre Warren	413
Former Primary School	53	Webb Street	Narre Warren	413
House	1	Williamson Street	Berwick	413

### Contributory

Narre Warren North Reserve trees		a'Beckett Road	Narre Warren North	121
a'Beckett Road hawthorn hedges		a'Beckett Road & Tom Jones Ct	Narre Warren North	155
Avenue of Honour		Harkaway Road	Harkaway	150
Red Cross Tree		High Street	Berwick	153
Doveton Library (fmr)		Kidds Road	Doveton	126
House	4	Langmore Lane	Berwick	108
Claire Robinson Reserve		Main Street	Narre Warren North	121
Ranmore Cottage	1	Marygate Place	Berwick	108
Princes Domain Estate		Princes Domain Road	Narre Warren	138
House	17	Reserve Street	Berwick	109
House	19	Reserve Street	Berwick	109
House	3	Shrives Road	Narre Warren	137
Narre Warren Produce Store		Webb Street cnr Princes Hwy	Narre Warren	413

### Interest

Glenrowan	197 - 221	a'Beckett Road	Narre Warren North	278
Glenogil	76	Baker Road	Harkaway	409
Hallam Valley Primary School		Centre Road	Narre Warren South	409
Buchanan Park		Clyde Road	Berwick	151
House	42 - 44	Doveton Avenue	Eumemmerring	410

Significance / Name	St No	Street	Locality	Page
Gottlab Scholtz site		Harkaway Road	Harkaway	75
Hessell Road hawthorn hedges		Hessell Road	Berwick	155
Endeavour Hills Estate (Office (finr) & Capt. James Cook statue)	50	Monkhouse Drive	Endeavour Hills	138
Narre Warren North Road hawthorn hedges		Narre Warren North Road	Narre Warren North	155
Pound-Narre Warren Cranbourne Rd hawthorn hedges		Pound Road	Narre Warren South	155
Berwick Brae Retirement Village		Princes Highway	Berwick	412
Shed (Darley Refractories)		Wedgwood Road	Hallam	413