

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## LARRA STABLES



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1 stables 1875 lara homestead  
derrinallum front view



stables 1875 lara homestead derrinallum  
entrance



stables 1875 lara homestead derrinallum  
side view



stables 1875 lara homestead derrinallum  
verandah



H0298 locality plan

## Location

219 DERRINALLUM-LARRA ROAD DERRINALLUM, CORANGAMITE SHIRE

## Municipality

CORANGAMITE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0298

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO74

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 14, 2000

### What is significant?

The stables at the Larra homestead in the Western District town of Derrinallum are an extensive, integrated complex of bluestone buildings which were constructed in 1873. They were designed for the Scottish pioneer, John Lang Currie by Scottish architect George Henderson of the Geelong firm, Davidson and Henderson, who was subsequently employed to design the Larra homestead in 1875. Henderson was engaged after completing the nearby homestead, Titanga, for Alexander Buchanan in 1872.

Scotsman, John Brown, was the first pioneer to settle in the Mt Elephant district after arriving there in 1840, and the Western District became largely a Scottish preserve. Larra was established on part of Brown's original run by the partnership of John Currie and Thomas Anderson, who purchased this 12,800 hectare run in 1844. Currie subsequently acquired Anderson's share in 1850 and became a successful Western District pastoralist who continued to extend Larra's boundaries throughout his lifetime. He developed the property into the centre of an extensive pastoral empire.

At Larra, original rubble stone cottages were progressively extended and finally integrated into the present single storey basalt homestead in 1875. After Currie's death in 1898 his son inherited the property, which he retained until his death in 1935. Currie's daughter then owned Larra until 1947, when the whole estate was sold to the Soldier Settlement Commission and subdivided into fourteen farms, and the homestead block. An extensive fire in 1944 destroyed all the station buildings except the stables and 1875 homestead.

The single storey stable building housed the homestead horses as well as Currie's thoroughbred race horses. The complex incorporates high walled yards, horse stalls, looseboxes with access for feeding behind them, a carriage house, harness room, forge and grooms' quarters. Constructed of western plains basalt with a slate

roof, the complex exhibits finely axed masonry, restrained Gothic detailing, especially in the pointed arch window heads, and the central, imposing bellcote.

### **How is it significant?**

The stables at Larra homestead, Derrinallum are of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

### **Why is it significant?**

The stables at Larra homestead, Derrinallum are of architectural significance as a rare, intact and extensive example of such a building in both the Western District and Victoria. Excellent craftsmanship is exhibited in the execution of the stonework and the simple Gothic details adopted give the building a distinctive character.

The stables at Larra homestead are of historical significance for demonstrating the importance of the Western District pastoral industry. They are also significant for their associations with the pioneer pastoralist, John Currie. Their size and nature demonstrate the importance Currie placed on housing both his working and thoroughbred horses.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2005]*

## **Permit Exemptions**

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

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

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Architect/Designer	Davidson & Henderson,
Heritage Act Categories	Heritage place,
Other Names	LARRA HOMESTEAD,
Hermes Number	333
Property Number	

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## **History**

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complex of bluestone buildings which were constructed in 1873. They were designed for the Scottish pioneer, John Lang Currie by Scottish architect George Henderson of the Geelong firm, Davidson and Henderson, who was subsequently employed to design the Larra homestead in 1875. Henderson was engaged after completing the nearby homestead, Titanga, for Alexander Buchanan in 1872.

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**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2005. Sources were as follows:**

P. McGregor and L. Oaten. *Mt Elephant. A History of the Derrinallum and Darlington District*. 1985  
Australian Council of National Trusts. *Historic Homesteads of Australia*. Vol 2

## **Extent of Registration**

*Shire of Hampden*. No.298. Stables, Larra Homestead, Derrinallum, South end of Derrinallum, Lara Road, Derrinallum.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3649]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 1995. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online*<http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>