

# CHATEAU TAHBILK



CHATEAU TAHBILK SOHE  
2008



h00296 1 chateau tahbilk  
tabilk rd tabilk tower and still  
house she project 2003



chateau tahbilk tabilk rd tabilk  
winery she project 2003



h00296 h296 chateau tahbilk  
winery jan 2004



chateau tahbilk tabilk rd tabilk  
blacksmith shop she project  
2003



chateau tahbilk tabilk rd tabilk  
cartshed she project 2003



chateau tahbilk tabilk rd tabilk  
cellar entrance she project  
2003



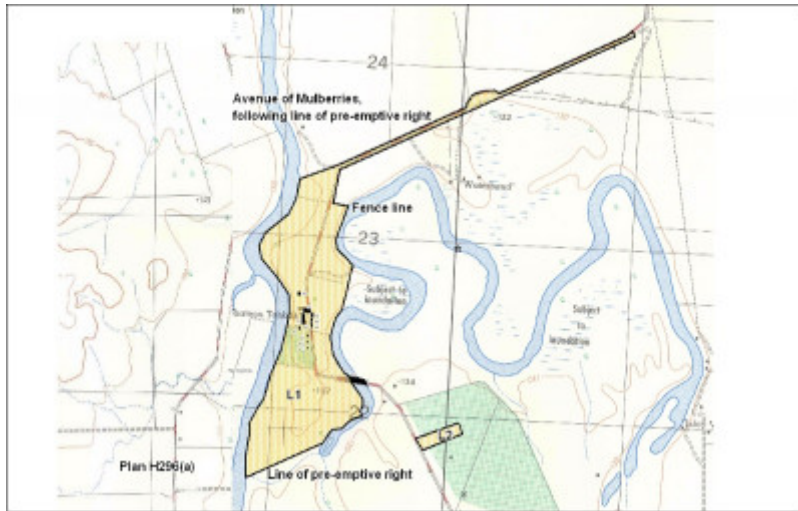
h00296 h296 chateau tahbilk  
house



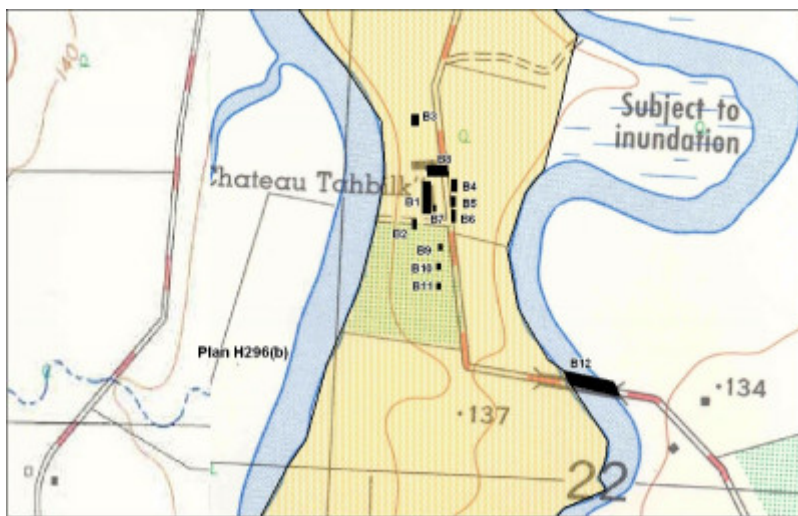
h00296 h296 chateau tahbilk  
workshop



Chateau Tabilk View of  
Tower.



h00296 chateau tahbilk h296 extent a



h00296 chateau tahbilk h296 extent b

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## Location

254 ONEILS ROAD TABILK, STRATHBOGIE SHIRE

## Municipality

STRATHBOGIE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0296

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Amendment to Registration

July 8, 2004

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 4, 1999

What is significant?

The Chateau Tahbilk winery (now trading as Tahbilk Winery and Vineyard) was begun in 1860 by entrepreneurs Richard Horne and Ludovic Marieas as the Goulburn Vineyard Proprietary Company backed by wealthy interests such as J P Bear and Hugh Glass. They bought the 640 acres of land that had been acquired by Hugh Glass as the pre-emptive right to the Tabilk pastoral property, on the bank of the Goulburn River, close to where Major Mitchell crossed in 1836. By 1861 a small harvest was made from the 66 acres which had been planted, including seven rows of Shiraz which still survive. In 1865 the winery produced 22,000 gallons of wine and by the mid 1870s had established itself amongst the largest and most successful wineries in Victoria's developing wine industry.

The first cellar and winehouse was built in c1861, a substantial stone and brick building 300ft long, 80ft wide, with a shingle roof. At about the same time a row of small, four roomed workers cottages were built for vigneron who worked under contract on their own allotments. Three of these stone and brick cottages, with cellars and shingle roofs (now under corrugated iron) survive. The initial complex of buildings, including the extant timber stables and workshops, was supplemented by the erection in 1876 of substantial new cellars, 75m in length.

From the 1876 the company came under the control of one family, the Bears, and was reorganised from an experimental estate with a community of contracted vigneron and their families to become a more intensively cultivated winery led by Francois de Coueslant, an experienced vigneron from France. Coueslant introduced a more consistent viticultural practice with labour saving technology, including the construction in 1882 of the pagoda-like tower incorporating raised grape-crushing machinery on the first floor. The timber trestle bridge on the southern approach road to the winery was constructed prior to erection of Goulburn Weir, before 1888, and the architect was R N Roberts Jnr. It has been subsequently shortened.

In the 1880s an extensive avenue of about 200 White Mulberry (*Morus alba*), and about ten smaller leaved *Morus australis*, trees were planted. This planting by de Coueslant was an early attempt to establish a silk industry on the site but was not successful. South of the bridge is an avenue of Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea*) trees and a windbreak row of Olives. At the winery is an avenue of fourteen *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane) planted in the late 1860s and a row of six olives.

The Bear family continued to own the winery until 1925, when it was sold to Reginald Purbrick. The Purbrick family re-established the reputation and output of the winery following decline in the early part of the twentieth century. In 1936 the original homestead was replaced by a new two storey house designed by the architectural partnership of Geoffrey Mewton and Roy Grounds. It is constructed of concrete blocks with simple vertical boarding, with gabled and skillion roofs, and multi-paned casement windows.

The garden around the 1936 homestead incorporates trees from the original house built in the 1850s, including impressive *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya Pine), *Lagunaria patersonii*, (Norfolk Island Hibiscus) and *Ulmus x hollandica* (Dutch Elm) and two old *Ceratonia siliqua* (Carob), one in the courtyard to the west and another north of the house. The garden complements the house and is composed as a series of garden rooms, divided by walls, hedges, shrubberies and a driveway. Spaces are landscaped with specimen trees on broad lawns. The close proximity to the Goulbourn River provides a dramatic effect on the western side where the garden is terraced down to the river. The long grape vine and wisteria covered timber pergola is mounted on unusual tapered pillars and both the pillars and the rose garden wall have been erected using bricks from the earlier house.

How is it significant?

Chateau Tahbilk is of historical, architectural and aesthetic (landscape) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Chateau Tahbilk is historically significant as Victoria's pre-eminent and largest nineteenth century vineyard. It is generally recognised as the oldest winery in Victoria. The historical complex provides tangible evidence of the dramatic early phase of the industry's growth. The pre-phylloxera Shiraz plantings are the oldest in Victoria and believed to be amongst the oldest in the world. The sheds contain a substantial collection of historic nineteenth and twentieth century machinery associated with the Chateau Tahbilk winery operation.

Chateau Tahbilk is of architectural significance for its core of buildings constructed between 1861 and the 1880s. A village atmosphere is generated by the street appearance of the London Plane trees flanked by the closely grouped stables and sheds on one side, and the main cellars, iconic stepped tower, still house and blacksmiths shop on the other. The earliest structures are vernacular, using local red gum and hand produced bricks, and some sections of remnant bark cladding also survive. The row of workers cottages is a rare survivor, and the style of these dwellings was possibly inspired by pattern book designs. The 1936 Mewton and Grounds house designed in a consciously vernacular, as-found style (and similar to an earlier house by the partnership, Lyncroft, built at Shoreham in 1935) is consistent with the fundamentally vernacular nature of the core complex.

The Chateau Tahbilk designed landscape is of outstanding aesthetic (landscape) and historical significance. The avenue planting of White Mulberries is the only example in the State, and amongst the oldest planting of the species in Victoria, and a major feature in the Chateau Tahbilk landscape. A surviving stand of about ten White Mulberries from the 1880s also occur at Bontharambo. At the cellars is an outstanding avenue planting of fourteen London Plane trees and a row of six old Olives planted along the southern boundary of the garden planted about 1880. The garden planting and layout is an outstanding design, and a fine example of the style of garden popularised during the 1930s.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

#### Winery Buildings

- \* Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors

#### Land and garden

- \* Erection or construction of roads and tracks, fencing, gates, or any other forms of access and enclosure necessary for the continuation of viticultural activities on the property provided that the works do not adversely affect the registered buildings nor adversely affect the form and layout to the garden.
- \* Regular garden maintenance.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems.
- \* Laying or repair of gravel/toppings to the driveways and roads.
- \* Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- \* The process of gardening and maintenance, mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works to care for existing plants and planting themes
- \* Removal of vegetation that is not significant, in order to maintain fire safety and to conserve significant buildings and structures
- \* The replanting of plant species to conserve the landscape character and plant collections and themes
- \* Plant labelling and interpretative signage

Construction dates	1860,
Architect/Designer	Grounds, Roy,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	TABILK, TAHBILK WINERY,
Hermes Number	1141
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People:

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 296 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

Chateau Tahbilk, Tabilk Road, Tabilk, Strathbogie Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All the land marked L1 and L2 on plans H296(a) held by the Executive Director.
2. All the following features marked on plan H296(b) held by the Executive Director:

B1 Main cellar and tower  
B2 Blacksmiths Shop  
B3 House  
B4 Stables  
B5 Implement Shed  
B6 Workshop  
B7 Still house  
B8 Cellars (1876) and 'museum' building  
B9 Cottage  
B10 Cottage  
B11 Cottage  
B12 Bridge

Dated 5 July 2004

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 28 8 July 2004 1895]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

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