

# FORMER OVENS BENEVOLENT ASYLUM



OVENS AND MURRAY  
HOSPITAL FOR THE AGED  
SOHE 2008



1 ovens & murray  
hospital for the aged warners  
road beechworth front view



ovens & murray hospital  
for the aged warners road  
beechworth rear building



ovens & murray hospital  
for the aged warners road  
beechworth rear view  
dec1984



ovens & murray hospital  
for the aged warners road  
beechworth side elevation  
dec1984



Front elevation



Recreation wing east side



Recreation wing corridor



Entrance lodge



Chinese ward



Wallace Ward rear



Wallace Ward front



Coronation oak



Main facade in July 2018



Main facade in July 2018



Main facade in July 2018



Main facade in July 2018

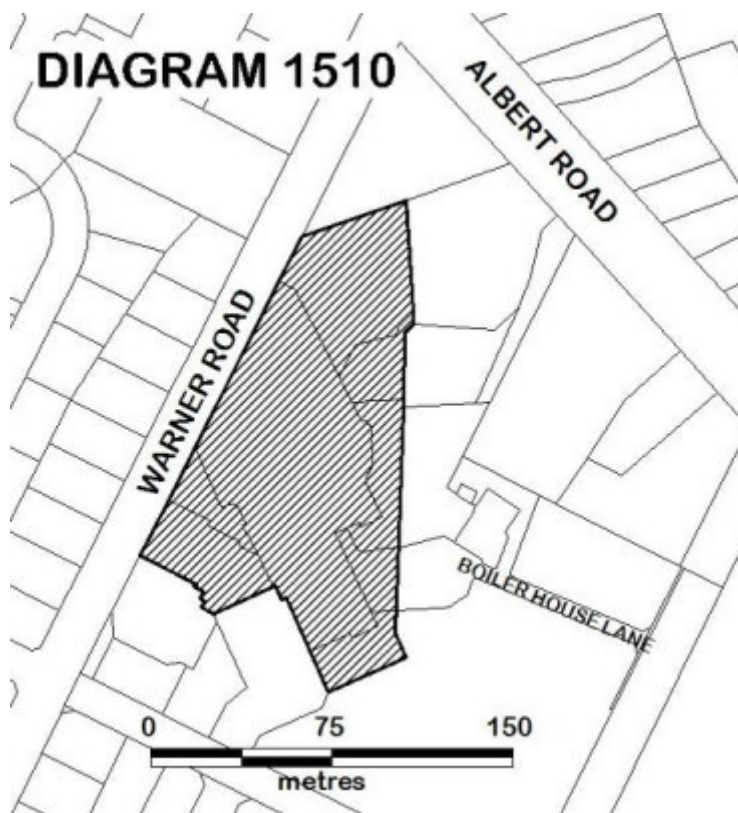


Diagram 1510

**Location**

3A & 5 WARNER ROAD AND 42 GILCHRIST AVENUE AND 6 BOILER HOUSE LANE AND 26-28 ALBERT ROAD BEECHWORTH, INDIGO SHIRE

**Municipality**

INDIGO SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1510

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO76

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

March 10, 2016

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2004

### What is significant?

Construction of the Ovens Benevolent Asylum (now the Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged) began in 1862 on an elevated site overlooking the township of Beechworth. A building containing two dormitories and a number of smaller rooms was constructed initially and in 1867 two additional wards and a third dormitory were added. A second building, the J. A. Wallace Wing, was constructed in 1890 as a female ward.

Gold was discovered in the vicinity of Beechworth in 1852 and the following year it was declared a town. The gold rush peaked there in 1857 and by the 1860s prospectors were moving to newer goldfields in the district. Beechworth became an administrative and legal centre for the north-east region of Victoria and by the time it became a municipality in 1863, many administrative buildings had been constructed. Such buildings as the Lunatic Asylum, the Benevolent Asylum and a number of churches were subsequently built, as emphasis turned to the development of Beechworth as a residential town as well as an important administrative centre.

The original Benevolent Asylum building was designed in an unusual Flemish Gothic Revival style. The single storey building is of red brick on a dressed granite base, and the main facade is dominated by four curved, Flemish gable ends, those at the extremities being added to the original central section in 1867. This facade incorporates paired windows of pointed Gothic form and dark brick diaperwork patterning. The adjacent J. A. Wallace Wing of 1899 was designed by Donald Fiddes as a separate building. Also constructed of red brick, Fiddes adopted a conservative approach, designing a simple domestic scale building with central projecting gable porch and flanking bull nosed verandahs.

The Benevolent Asylum was renamed the Ovens Benevolent Home in 1935 and The Ovens and Murray Home in 1954. Many buildings have been added to this site, particularly since the 1960s, including a poorly sited addition to the front of the original building. Extensive internal renovations have also been made to the original buildings.

### How is it significant?

The Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged in Beechworth is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

## Why is it significant?

The Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged is of architectural significance as an unusual example of Flemish influenced design from the 1860s. Although the facade has been partly obscured, it remains intact, and, together with the more simply designed Wallace wing, are important examples of early buildings designed for the specific purpose of aged care. The Flemish gables remain as a dominant form of Beechworth's urban landscape.

The Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged is of historical significance due to its association with the early development of Beechworth and its dominant siting within the town. It is illustrative of the civic development that took place in the town after the peak of the gold rush, when Beechworth was emerging as the administrative centre of the north east of Victoria.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]

## 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:

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.

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|-------------------------|--|
| Construction dates      | 1862, 1866, 1870, 1890,  |
| Architect/Designer      | Fiddes, D, Coe, John J,  |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place,  |
| Other Names             | Ovens and Murray Home, OVENS AND MURRAY HOSPITAL FOR THE AGED, Ovens Benevolent Asylum, Ovens Benevolent Home, Beechworth Health Service, Beechworth Hospital, |
| Hermes Number           | 118  |
| Property Number         |  |

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## History

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### **The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

R. Harvey. *Background to Beechworth*. 1952

Register of the National Estate research, in Historic Buildings file

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying the following place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1510

Category: Heritage Place

Place: Former Ovens Benevolent Asylum

Location: 3A and 5 Warner Road, 42 Gilchrist Avenue, 6 Boiler House Lane, and 26-28 Albert Road Beechworth

Indigo Shire

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1510 encompassing all of Lot 3 on Plan of Subdivision 704124, all of Lots 1, 2 and CM1 and parts of Lots 5, 6, B and CM2 on Plan of Subdivision 708844.

Dated 10 March 2016

TIM SMITH  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 10 10 March 2016 p.399]

*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/>*