

---

# PLENTY RIVER PIONEER CHILDREN'S CEMETERY

---

## Location

6A HAMISH COURT GREENSBOROUGH, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0485

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

---

### Interpretation of Site

The cemetery contains the unmarked graves of seven children from the Whatmough and Parington families. It is likely to represent typical burial practices in early horticultural communities in Victoria. It is also indicative of high infant mortality rate of the era. As well as the connection with successful pioneers of the Greensborough district, the cemetery highlights the fragility of pioneer life for infants and children.

The cemetery's cultural heritage significance lies in its association with two of Greensborough's early pioneer families. There is considerable documentation of their pioneering work and activities which contributed to successful orchards and horticulture along the Plenty River.

**Historical Significance** The graves are unmarked and intact. The details of the children buried in the cemetery are listed on the plaque on the retaining wall. Descendants of both families still reside in the district and the oral history of the cemetery has been maintained. The cemetery lies in close proximity to the Batman Apple Tree, the one surviving tree from the original orchard planted from fruit trees from John Batman's estate and the Maroondah Aqueduct pipe bridge across the Plenty River. Further significance relates to the 1865 drawing of the cemetery, attributed to colonial artist Edward La Trobe Bateman, which is held by the National Library of Australia.

**Hermes Number** 191836

**Property Number**

---

## History

### History of Plenty River Pioneer Children's Cemetery

The unmarked graves of children of two Greensborough pioneer families are located in a private cemetery on the east bank of Plenty River, just north of the Maroondah Aqueduct pipe bridge. It is best accessed from Hamish Court. Melways: Map 10, J9 Chartist Robert Whatmough and his family arrived in 1842, leaving England to escape political persecution, with the Partingtons following them. Whatmough leased the orchard along the Plenty River in 1842 to 1887, which was established by Flintoff family with trees bought from the estate of John Batman. The cemetery contains the remains of seven young children of the Whatmough and Partington families who died between 1848 -1860.

The site was marked in 1985 with a plaque and crosses, during Victoria's 150th Anniversary. The crosses have since been removed. The plaque listing the children's names, remains in the wall beside the Plenty River walking trail.

*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/>*