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# Laurence Park Homestead

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## Location

56 Buchter Road, Off Midland Highway, BATESFORD, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0887

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO5

## Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

National Estate Register:

Laurence Park was named after Thomas Learmonth's (senior) former holding near Falkirk, Scotland. This simple vernacular homestead is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the Geelong region with significant associations with the early pastoral enterprise of the celebrated Learmonth family. The Hill family have been in continuous occupation since c 1860. The original shingle roof is preserved under later corrugated iron cladding.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.

Source: Victorian Heritage Register -

Work on the Laurence Park homestead commenced in 1845 for Dr John Lerrmonth (1812 - 1871), the son of the pastoralist Thomas Learmonth (1783 - 1869), following the destruction by fire of an earlier 1842 - 43 homestead. The site in crown portion 25, parish of gheringhap, was part of several large parcels of land owned by the port Philip association, purchased for the famous clyde company. This company was formed in Tasmania with Scottish backing and occupied the Moorabool Valley above Batesford early in 1836. John

Ritchie built Laurence Park on land purchased from the Port Phillip association by Thomas Learmonth and conveyed to his son in 1845. The homestead was named after Thomas Learmonth's former holding near Falkirk. Laurence Park was sold by John Ritchie in February 1867 to George Hope for 6186 pounds. Five

months later he sold it to George Hill for 5913 pounds. The Hill family arrived in Batesford in 1854. The Hills, who have owned the property from the late 1860s until the present time, are responsible for all the post - 1860s alterations and additions. Laurence Park is an h-shaped colonial vernacular building with gabled roofs. The earliest part is brick, that is, the north wing and middle section of the h. The south wing constructed in the 1860s is of random rubble. There are verandahs on the north and east sides. The house has been altered over the years and little remains internally of the original features. The only section in original condition is the upper level of the stone wing. A steep, narrow timber stair leads up to it. The overall condition of the building could be described as good, although the soft early bricks are deteriorating at floor level. Laurence Park homestead has both architectural and historical significance:

1. It is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the Geelong region, work on it having commenced in 1845 for Dr John Learmonth following the destruction by fire of an earlier 1842 - 43 Homestead.
2. This homestead illustrates the pragmatic development of rural vernacular dwellings using local materials.
3. It has significant association with the early history of the Geelong area as an important pastoral region when its site, along with other large tracts of land, was owned by the famous Clyde Company and then the Port Phillip Association.
4. From the 1840s the property was significant associations with the early pastoral enterprise of the celebrated Learmonth family and particularly with Dr John Learmonth (1812 - 1871), the son of Thomas Learmonth (1783 - 1869).
5. Laurence Park has been in the ownership of another Scottish family, the Hills, from the late 1860s until the present time, the Hills being responsible for all the post - 1860s additions

Heritage Study/Consultant	Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 1, Lorraine Huddle P/L, 2003;
Hermes Number	23528
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

National Estate Register:

Pioneer Scottish squatter Thomas Learmonth acquired the freehold of Laurence Park in 1839 during distribution of the assets of the Port Phillip Association. Eldest son Dr John Learmonth commenced construction of the present H-plan brick and stone homestead at Laurence Park in 1845. New owner, Hill, completed this unadorned vernacular homestead in 1860 when the south wing was constructed.

## Integrity

Condition and Integrity:

Laurence Park has not been inspected.

*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/>*