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# RITZAU HOUSE SITE

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## Location

498 YANDOIT-WERONA ROAD YANDOIT HILLS, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-1212

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The combination of features preserved at this site is significant. The stone enclosure wall is of high quality construction and is an excellent example. It encloses scant remains of two structures, at least one of which was a dwelling. Preserved traces of garden beds and paths are also significant. Good example of early settlement site following the end of gold rush.

Interpretation of Site	Site comprises the remains of at least 2 buildings. One most likely the dwelling of the Ritzau family
Hermes Number	29197
Property Number	

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## History

## August Ritzau House Site, Sandy Ceek Road

August Ritzau, originally from Germany arrived in Yandoit Creek in 1859. He applied for twenty acres of CA 33A in 1867, however difficulties in completing the purchase arose due to mining interests in the area (Culvenor 2003: 85). After much disappointment, the Mining Dept withdrew its objection to the sale of Crown Allotment 33D (which was later known as CA 35R) in 1888, and in the schedule for his purchase it is noted that he had erected a house, a stable and a kitchen, all of weatherboard.

Robert August Ritzau was granted a grazing license for the blocks adjacent too west of CA 35R in 1891.

In 1894, George Ardent and a Mr Bowles held CA 35T under a registered Miners' Right, on Yandoit Creek Road, south of 35R. Annie Ritzau applied for CA 35K in 1924, and in correspondence it was noted that the land had not been mined for 40 years (VPRS 440/281/657). Carlo Gervasoni wrote in 1876, referring to New Nuggetty Gully and American Gully that 'all mining operations had been entirely suspended in this locality for some years, and the place abandoned, being worked out" (Culvenor 2003: 61). In the 1920s and 1930's, much of the land in the old American and New Nuggetty Gullies became used for agricultural purposes, as the Mining Department withdrew its objections to its sale.

*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/>*