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# DEVONSCOT



Devonscot



Devonscot -shearing shed

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## Location

450 ONE CHAIN ROAD, ARAWATA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 22, 2022

### What is significant?

The farmstead of 'Devonscot', at 450 One Chain Road, Kardella, built in 1899, is significant. This late Victorian Asymmetrical Villa homestead is hipped roof with a projecting octagonal hip, with three double hung windows. The wrap around verandah is supported by turned posts and castiron lacework and decorated eaves. Other Contributory elements include:

- Two brick chimneys with moulded render cap
- Original windows Mature exotic trees, including Cedar, Elm and Oak trees A Norfolk Island and a Bunya Bunya Pine tree

Early Shearing Shed (west of homestead):

- Gabled weatherboard stud-frame construction
- Original holding pens
- Shearing stand and wool press with tack room

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those listed above, are not of heritage significance.

### How is it significant?

'Devonscot', is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire and is closely linked to the Western family .

### Why is it significant?

Historically, 'Devonscot', was built a home for newlyweds John Western and Agnes Ritchie, and is believed to be the oldest surviving in situ building in the Arawata/Kardella region. The shearing shed does not have an exact date of construction but is a locally rare example of an early farming building. 'Devonscot' demonstrates the development and reconstruction of the Arawata and Kardella region in the wake of the devastating 1898 bushfires. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, it is a superior and intact example of a late Victorian villa within its original setting. A description in the Southern Mail in 1899 of the detailing within the building and the formal gardens reflects the 'Devonscot' of today, including exotic mature trees and lined carriage drive. This site significantly contributes to the aesthetic significance of the Kardella-Arawata region. (Criterion E)

'Devonscot' was built for and continues to be owned by the locally renown Western family. Brothers John and George Western were among the first selectors of the Arawata/Kardella district and John, along with his wife Agnes, were key members of the community. The homestead is a testament to the longstanding relationship the building has with the community and the Westerns. This continues today as the ashes of Westerns have been returned to the homestead. (Criterion H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1899, 1899, 1899,
Other Names	Western homestead, house, shearing shed, Western's Homestead,
Hermes Number	30373
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

'Devonscot' is an asymmetrical late Victorian weatherboard villa with a hipped corrugated iron roof. The projecting octagonal hip has three double hung windows. The return bullnose verandah has been replaced with a straight roof, which is supported on turned posts with a cast iron frieze and is stepped around a large rear extension. The eaves are decorated and the brick chimney has a moulded render cap.

An early shearing shed located a short distance to the west of the house is of gabled weatherboard studframe construction and contains original holding pens, shearing stand and wool press with a tack room as an eastern skillion. A hipped machinery shelter has been added (?) at the south.

The house is situated at the end of a short driveway on the side of a hill overlooking the road. The garden contains mature exotic trees including a Norfolk Island Pine, a Bunya Bunya Pine (?), a Cedar and elms and oaks.

*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/>*