

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

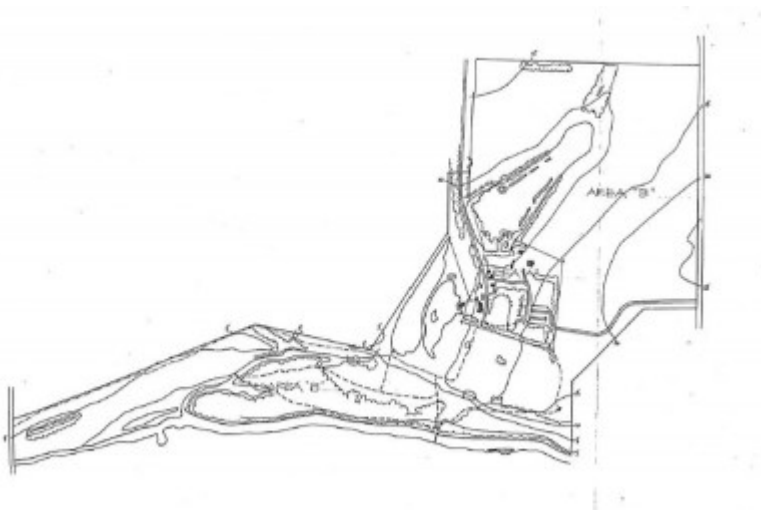
Report generated 05/04/20



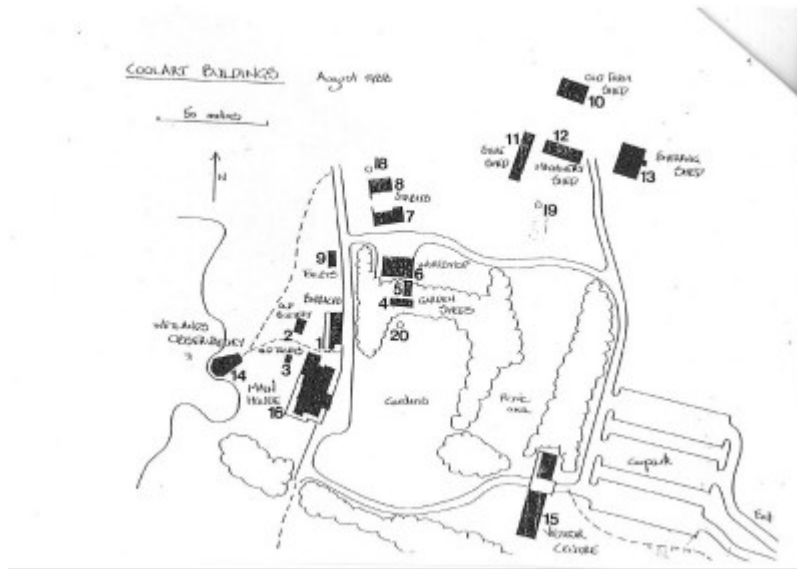
COOLART SOHE 2008



1 coolart lord somers road somers front view jan1994



H0759 H0759



coolart buildings 1988 plan.jpg

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## Location

36-40 LORD SOMERS ROAD SOMERS, MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE

## Municipality

MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0759

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO118

## VHR Registration

December 20, 1989

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 28, 1999

Coolart originally formed part of one of the oldest grazing properties on the Mornington Peninsula.

"Coolart" or "Coolourt" (meaning sandy area in the local aboriginal dialect) was first taken up in 1840 by Alfred and Henry Meyrick after whom the nearby Creek and township of Merricks are named. They developed a vast extent of land, but moved to Gippsland c. 1846.

The Coolart lease changed hands a number of times. Most of its owners, many of them prominent figures - have left their mark on the property. Between 1846 and 1875 the lessees were William and John Payne (1846-53), Harry Drew (1853-54), Joseph Hann (1853-62), and John Benn and Theodutus John Sumner (1862-75). Bell and Sumner were leading Melbourne businessmen and senior partners in Grice, Sumner and Co.

It is believed that the "barracks" (or original accommodation) building and brick outbuildings were erected in the 1860s. Because of its probable age and historical associations the barracks may be regarded as one of the most important historic buildings on the peninsula. The main two-storey brick residence was built for Frederick Grimwade, the noted businessman and philanthropist who owned Coolart from 1895-1907. It was built in 1896-97 to the design of the architectural firm Reed, Smart and Tappin.

Grimwade sold Coolart to Thomas Shaw Armstrong, a grazier, in 1907. Subsequent owners were Capt JAS Balmain, Stewart Robertson, John Freehan and the noted Melbourne businessman Thomas J Luxton whose family owned with the McEwans Hardware chain of stores.

Luxton had a significant involvement with the property, most notably in the creation of the modern homestead garden and the creation of wetlands and a private wildlife reserve.

[Source: Report to the Minister]

Construction dates	1896,
Architect/Designer	Reed Smart & Tappin,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	1030
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 764.

COOLART, Lord Somers Road, Somers.

(All of the buildings and all of the land [areas A and B] included in Appendix A which is Crown Allotment 137 B, Parish of Bittern (87.5 ha) reserved under section 4 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, but excluding those recently constructed buildings marked with an asterisk in Appendix B.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G50 20 December 1989 pp.3349-3350]

*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 data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*