
Halls Gap Caravan Park & Log Cabin (Comfort Station), 26 School Road, HALLS GAP



HG 03 - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004



HG 03 1 - Associated Kitchen Building in the Caravan Park - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004

Location

26 School Road HALLS GAP, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for VHR

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 31, 2004

The former Comfort Station in the Halls Gap Caravan Park has significance as a predominantly intact example of a rustic interwar Bungalow styled building constructed in 1939 to a design by the Public Works Department. The design and construction of the building has a direct affinity with the popular and influential rustic designs by the early 20th century National Park Service Architects in the U.S.A., as identified in the gateways, museums, picnic shelters and other structures in the Yellowstone, Mt. Rainier, Glacier, Yosemite, Sequoia, Petrified Forest, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks. Although converted into two units, the former Comfort Station at Halls Gap is

largely externally intact and in good condition.

The former Comfort Station is **architecturally** significant at a **STATE** level. Although slightly altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a rustic interwar Bungalow style, drawing on the early 20th century designs of the National Park Service Architects in the U.S.A. These qualities include the long gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the central minor gables that project at the front and rear, and the two minor gables that project at the sides. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, exposed timber log rafters and vertical timber sidings in the gable ends, random rubble and timber log wall construction, central random rubble chimney, timber framed multi-paned double hung windows, timber doors (each with 8 glazed panels) and the narrow timber gable ventilators.

The former Comfort Station is **historically** significant at a **STATE** level. It is associated with the development of park infrastructure by the Victorian Public Works Department in the early 20th century. In particular, this building was constructed in 1939 to a design by the Public Works Department. It was also in 1939 when a similar Comfort Station was constructed on the foreshore at Lorne. The design of the Comfort Station has a direct affinity with the National Park Service architecture in the U.S.A., which drew on the interwar Bungalow style in a rustic manner by the use of native wood and stone to create a truly "native style" compatible with the landscape. Similar early 20th century structures are situated in the Yellowstone, Mt. Rainier, Glacier, Yosemite, Sequoia, Petrified Forest, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks. One of the most influential National Park Service architects included Herbert Maier, who designed the Madison Trailside Museum (1929) and Norris Geyser Trailside Museum (1929) in the Yellowstone National Park.

The former Comfort Station is **socially** significant at a **STATE** level. It is recognised and valued by the Victorian community as a well-known place of recreation. Overall, the former Comfort Station in the Halls Gap Caravan Park is of **STATE** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	105107
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The former Comfort Station has a picturesque setting in the Halls Gap Caravan Park. Nearby is a more recent gabled picnic shelter of random rubble construction that is a contemporary interpretation of the rustic interwar Bungalow design of the early building.

The symmetrical, single storey, rustic interwar Bungalow styled former Comfort Station is characterised by a long gable roof form that traverses the site, together with central minor gables that project at the front and rear, and two minor gables that project at the sides. The early exposed timber log rafters and vertical timber sidings in the gable ends, random rubble and timber log wall construction are more refined interpretations of the massive rustic "parkitecture" of the National Park Service structures in the U.S.A.

Other early features of the former Comfort Station at Halls Gap is the central random rubble chimney, timber framed multi-paned double hung windows, timber doors - each with 8 glazed panels and the narrow timber gable ventilators. The deep green corrugated Colorbond roof cladding has been more recently introduced, replacing either timber shingles, malthoid tiles or galvanised corrugated iron.

COMPARATIVE

No typological study on the structures, gateways and picnic shelters in Victorian Crown Reserves and other parks has been identified. However, it is known that a similar "comfort station" was built at Lorne in 1939 by the Public

Works Department. This structure is now known as the Lorne Kiosk. Also at Lorne is a similarly-designed Air Spotter's Shelter in Queens Park (originally a picnic shelter/community hall). Nearby in the Cumberland River Caravan Park is a rustic interwar Bungalow styled picnic shelter of the same era. There are several similar buildings found in parks and reserves in South-Western Victoria.

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/>