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# Former Pleasant Creek Hospital (Nara building), entrance driveway, central fountain & surrounds, Horsham Road, STAWELL



SL 413 - Pleasant Creek  
Hospital, Western Highway,  
STAWELL

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## Location

Horsham Road STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 27, 2004

The former Pleasant Creek Hospital, Horsham Road, Stawell, has significance has a legacy of the establishment of the hospital buildings and grounds in the 19th century, and as a moderately intact example of an eclectic Victorian Classical styled hospital building. Originally built in 1861 to a design by the architects, Thomas Turnbull and George Lorimer, the building and site have experienced several subsequent alterations and additions. In 1869-70, Robert Alexander Love designed rear two storey additions, while George Inskip was responsible for the minor additions, fever ward (Syme Ward) and alms house between 1878 and 1882. In 1903, the Melbourne

architects Oakden and Ballantyne prepared plans for the Syme Wing. The grounds are of interest for their possible associations with William Guilfoyle. With the removal of the hospital from this site in 1934, the buildings and grounds were purchased by the Mental Hygiene Department and the Pleasant Creek Special School, Stawell No. 4549, opened in 1937. Of the several buildings existing on the site today, the only building of primary significance is the former Hospital, although the Hostel Unit has architectural interest as an example of post war Modern Functionalist design.

The former Pleasant Creek Hospital is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. Although altered and extended, it still demonstrates original and early design qualities of an eclectic Victorian Classical style. These qualities include the central gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the two gables at its ends that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height of the original front wing, rendered brick wall construction, slate tiled roof cladding, parapeted entrance bay forms, flanking terrace at the front with rendered balustrading, modest eaves, rendered brick chimneys, narrow elongated and round arched window openings with timber framed double hung windows, double entrance doorway with sidelights and fanlight opening above, stone quoinwork accentuating the window openings and building corners, stone plinth and the round arched gable ventilators with surrounding quoinwork, rear two storey gabled addition with rendered brick wall construction, shallow arched window openings having double hung timber framed windows, exposed timber rafters to the broad roof overhangs, and the rendered brick chimneys. The landscaped setting, native and exotic specimen trees along the creek and the mature Monterey Cypress on the site also contribute to the significance of the place.

The former Pleasant Creek Hospital is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of the Pleasant Creek Hospital from 1861 until 1934. During that time, the hospital had associations with Thomas Turnbull and George Lorimer, architects of the original building; Robert Alexander Love, architect of the rear two storey wing; George Inskip, architect of minor additions, Syme Ward and alms house; Oakden and Ballantyne, architects for the Syme Wing; and possibly William Guilfoyle for the laying out of the gardens and setting. The site also has associations with the Mental Hygiene Department from 1937, who converted and extended the complex into the Pleasant Creek Special School, Stawell No. 4549.

The former Pleasant Creek Hospital is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and valued by the community as an important educational facility, and once an important health facility.

Overall, the former Pleasant Creek Hospital is of **LOCAL** 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	113169
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Pleasant Creek Hospital complex, Horsham Road, Stawell, has a landscaped front setting comprising a circular drive with central grassed area and remnant fountain (now planter), asphalt roadways and perimeter grassed areas with mature trees. Of interest are the native and exotic specimen trees along the creek. There is also a mature Monterey Cypress hedge in the south-east corner of the site.

The complex comprises the original Pleasant Creek Hospital with its numerous subsequent additions, timber classroom buildings, prefabricated aluminium building (Lonsdale Wing), Recreation Hall, Hostel Unit, two mid 20th century residences, and other 20th century buildings.

The most significant building on the site is the former Pleasant Creek Hospital. This single storey, rendered brick, eclectic Victorian Classical styled building is characterised by a central gable roof form that traverses the site, together with two gables at its ends that project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in slate tiles. An early parapeted entrance bay forms a central feature and is met by early steps and a flanking terrace with rendered balustrading. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves, while early rendered brick chimneys adorn the roofline. Other early features of the original section of the building include the narrow elongated and round arched window openings with timber framed double hung windows, double entrance doorway with sidelights and fanlight opening above, stone quoinwork accentuating the window openings and building corners, stone plinth and the round arched gable ventilators with surrounding quoinwork. The elongated arched opening to one side of the central entrance has been introduced.

Behind the original building is an early two storey addition. It features a double gabled roof form, rendered brick wall construction, shallow arched window openings with double hung timber framed windows, exposed timber rafters to the broad roof overhangs and rendered brick chimneys.

Other buildings on the site contribute to an historical understanding and appreciation of the historical development of the place but are not of architectural significance. The two storey, cream brick, 1950s hostel building is of architectural interest as a representative example of post war, modern functionalist architecture. The long rectilinear skillion roof form, projecting rectangular wings to one side, horizontal bands of timber framed windows and the sweeping curved concrete stairs with thin steel balustrading are those particular important architectural features.

*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/>*