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# The Elms Slab Cottage



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## Location

659A Healesville Yarra Glen Road YARRA GLEN, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO83

## Heritage Listing

Yarra Ranges Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

Most of the cottage is of horizontal slab construction and is the region's oldest building; possibly the oldest building in Victoria still on its original site. (Tansley 1978)

Slab cottage in the grounds of Notre Dame, Tarrawarra, is an extant example of a primitive construction technique, surviving examples of which are rare. The cottage is representative of the early homesteads constructed in Victoria and presumably has historical associations with the settlement of the district. The structure may date from the 1850s or earlier, in which case the cottage would be an early surviving building in the State. (RNE, 005691)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000;
Construction dates	1850,
Other Names	Tarrawarra Abbey, House,
Hermes Number	115861
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The slab section of the cottage is approximately 50 feet by 15 feet, and contains six rooms. It is constructed of hand-hewn adzed slabs fitted horizontally into uprights of rough-hewn logs. The floors are paved in hand-made bricks (concreted over in some rooms), and the original wooden shingles are perfectly intact under the corrugated-iron roof. All the windows are the original small panes.

The two front rooms of the cottage are a much later addition of sawn timber and later date. Most of the cottage is in good condition. At present, the cottage is used as a guest-house for visitors of the Abbey. An example of the excellent condition of much of the original slab section of the cottage. This wall is now inside a closed verandah.(Tansley, 1978, pp 123, plate 74)

## Physical Conditions

Good

*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/>*