

# BARUNAH PLAINS



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Cottage at Barunah Plains



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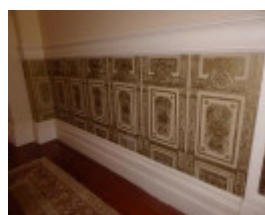


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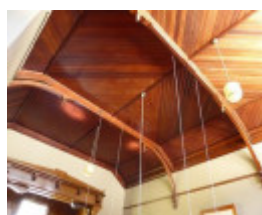


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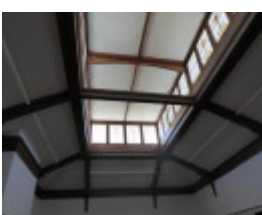


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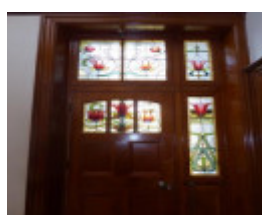


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Extent Diagram for Barunah Plains in VHR



Permit Policy Diagram

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### **Location**

4484 HAMILTON HIGHWAY HESSE, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

### **Municipality**

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H2313

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO20

### **VHR Registration**

September 1, 2016

### **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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### **Statement of Significance**



Last updated on -

What is significant?

Barunah Plains including the homestead, stables, dairy and bakehouse, coach house, engine house, farm shed, manager's cottage, cottage, woolshed, shearers' quarters, suspension bridge, gardener's cottage, orchard shed, water tanks, meat houses, rams' shed and remnant garden.

#### *History Summary*

Barunah Plains developed into a substantial and prosperous farming complex after acquisition by brothers Thomas and Philip Russell, and their cousin John Simson, in 1851. Originally known as Long Water Hole, the land was a pastoralist run from the late 1830s and leased by James Austin from the late 1840s. During the nineteenth century the pioneering Russell family became extensive landowners in western Victoria and by the 1880s Barunah Plains had developed into a leading merino sheep establishment. A house was constructed on the site in 1867 to designs by local architects Davidson and Henderson, and substantial additions increased the size of the homestead in the boom period of the 1880s. Further additions designed by Geelong architects Tombs and Durran in 1903 contain outstanding Arts and Crafts style interiors. A number of substantial bluestone outbuildings, including a large woolshed, were constructed at the property as it developed into a successful farming complex.

The 20,000 hectare property was reduced to about half its size after soldier settlement subdivision in 1949, however successive generations of the Russell family continued to live at Barunah Plains until 1978. In the 1990s a golf course was added to the property and this operated as a tourist facility for a period of time.

#### *Description Summary*

Barunah Plains is a farm complex situated on the Warrambine Creek. It includes a large single storey, bluestone homestead which has been constructed in stages. It consists of a number of protruding bays, turret-like roofs and a return verandah which address lawned areas to the north and east. Exceptional Arts and Crafts detailing can be seen throughout the house, in particular in the west wing and central ballroom, where outstanding examples of stained timber, metal and tile work and stained glass are located. Interior detailing from the boom period has also been retained, including embossed wallpaper in the main entrance and a timber lined coved ceiling in the billiard room.

A number of original outbuildings and structures have been retained. The majority are constructed of bluestone, including a large t-shaped woolshed, stables, dairy and bakehouse, coach house, farm shed, rams' shed, manager's house, cottage and water tanks. A corrugated iron clad engine house contains original electrical power plant machinery.

Remnants of the original formal homestead garden and parkland remain. Early structures include a suspension bridge over the Warrambine Creek.

This site is part of the traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation.

How is it significant?

Barunah Plains is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Criterion E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

Criterion H

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Why is it significant?

Barunah Plains is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Barunah Plains is historically significant for its association with the early settlement of Victoria, with the development of its important wool industry and for its long association with the Russell family from 1851 to 1978. As one of the most successful merino sheep studs in Victoria, the property is associated with the heyday of the pastoral era in Victoria and the prosperity of the Western District pastoralists in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. [Criteria A]

Barunah Plains is architecturally significant for the homestead and its collection of intact outbuildings which help to illustrate the various activities undertaken at the property. Together with the homestead, these buildings display excellent craftsmanship in the execution of stonework. [Criterion D]

Barunah Plains is of aesthetic significance for its outstanding Arts and Crafts interiors, in particular in the ballroom and rooms in the west wing. The interiors of these additions were executed in a highly distinctive Federation Arts and Crafts style and contain unique hand-crafted fittings and elements. [Criterion E]

Barunah Plains is significant for its long association, from 1851 to 1978, with the Russell family who were amongst the most successful settlers of Victoria's Western District and instrumental in the development of the wool industry in Victoria. [Criterion H]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the *Heritage Act*). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the *Heritage Act*).

General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

#### General Condition 2

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

#### General Condition 3

All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

#### General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

#### General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

#### Specific Permit Exemptions

##### Exterior of Buildings of Primary Significance

- . Repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- . Removal of non-original items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good in a manner appropriate to the heritage fabric of the place.
- . Installation or removal of non-original external fixtures and fittings, such as hot water services and taps, of contributory elements in a manner not detrimental to the cultural heritage significance of the place.
- . Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method in a manner which does not affect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

##### Interior of Buildings of Primary Significance

- . Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.
- . Installation, removal or replacement of non-original carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- . Installation, removal or replacement of non-original curtain tracks, rods and blinds.
- . Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art.
- . Demolition or removal of non-original stud/partition walls, suspended ceilings or non-original wall linings (including plasterboard, laminate and Masonite), non-original glazed screens, non-original flush panel or part-glazed laminated doors, aluminium-framed windows, bathroom partitions and tiling, sanitary fixtures and fittings, kitchen wall tiling and equipment, lights, built-in cupboards, cubicle partitions, computer and office fitout and the like.
- . Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of non-original sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- . Removal of tiling or concrete slabs in wet areas provided there is no damage to or alteration of original structure or fabric.

- . Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and that the central plant is concealed, and is done in a manner not detrimental to the cultural heritage significance of the place.
- . Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in situ.
- . Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- . Installation of plant within the roof space.
- . Installation, removal or replacement of non-original light fittings and lamp shades.

#### Non-contributory Elements

Demolition and all works to buildings of no cultural heritage significance that do not increase the footprint of the building. This includes all farm structures and buildings not listed above in the proposed permit policy as being of primary cultural heritage significance.

#### Landscape

- . The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead shrubs and replanting the same species or cultivar, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- . Repairs and maintenance to hard landscape elements, such as driveways, stone walls, steps, paths, tennis court, swimming pool, gutters, drainage and irrigation systems, in a manner which preserves the cultural heritage significance of the place.
- . The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety and to protect buildings and structures. If the tree is identified as being of primary or contributory cultural heritage significance, the Executive Director must be notified of these works within 21 days of them being undertaken.
- . Replanting of removed or dead trees and vegetation with the same plant species to conserve the significant landscape character and values.
- . Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-2007.
- . Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970-2009.
- . Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services outside the canopy edge of significant trees in accordance with AS4970 and on the condition that works do not impact on archaeological features or deposits.
- . Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- . Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.

#### Agriculture

- . Cultivation, cropping, harvesting, grazing stock, and other activities associated with agricultural or pastoral uses, excluding buildings or works associated with those activities other than maintenance or repair or demolition of any non-original fence, gate, dam or structure necessary for the continuation of agricultural or pastoral activities.

### Theme

#### 2. Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes 4. Transforming and managing the land

Construction dates            1866, 1886, 1903,



Architect/Designer	Davidson & Henderson, Tombs & Durran,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	1857
Property Number	

## History

### Contextual History

#### Western District Settlement

European exploration and settlement of Victoria commenced in the 1830s and large numbers of squatters settled in the Western District of Victoria after the Henty brothers landed in Portland Bay in November 1834. Many settlers came from Scotland via Van Diemen's Land in search of land on which to establish pastoral runs and by 1837 fleets of ships conveyed flocks of sheep from Van Diemen's Land to Geelong, destined for the open plains to the west. By the mid-1840s there were some 282 runs in the rich Western District of Port Phillip and a population of nearly 3,500 compared to almost 11,000 in Melbourne and 1,300 in Geelong.

Amongst the early pastoral settlers in Victoria was the Russell family. George Russell arrived in Van Diemen's Land from Scotland in 1831, and in 1836 travelled to Port Phillip. He became manager of the pastoral Clyde Company, a joint stock concern formed in Scotland in 1836, and, together with his brother Philip, George represented this large Scottish company in Port Phillip.

George Russell moved his headquarters from the Moorabool River near Geelong to the Leigh River at Shelford in the Western District of Port Phillip in 1839. It was here that he secured his Golf Hill (originally Golfhill) homestead by the purchase of 4,231 acres (1,712 hectares) from the Crown in 1842. He farmed cattle and large numbers of sheep on this land and had a substantial brick cottage built in 1846-47. After the Clyde Company was dissolved in 1857-58, George Russell bought the central Golf Hill freehold of 8,500 acres (3,440 hectares) which he eventually enlarged to 28,000 acres (11,331 hectares). He lived there until his death in 1888.

A number of members of the Russell family left Scotland and settled in a similar part of the Western District of Victoria. This included George's first cousin Thomas Russell who, in partnership with his brother Philip and cousin John Simson, acquired the run known as Long Water Hole (later Barunah Plains) from James Austin in 1851. James Austin, and his brother Thomas, had arrived in the district from Van Diemen's Land in 1837 and they both acquired a number of pastoral holdings in Victoria. Austin had already established a sheep stud at Long Water Hole when the run was acquired by the Russell partnership.

Located on the Warrambine Creek, this run was situated to the west of George's property Golf Hill. John Simson and Philip Russell soon withdrew from the ownership and were replaced by three British-based Russell brothers. Together they became constituents of the company known as Thomas Russell and Co. Thomas Russell continued to expand his land holdings at this location, and early in 1857 acquired the adjoining Wurrock station, which became his headquarters.

Thomas Russell was elected councillor and first President of the Shire of Leigh in 1862 and continued in this role for a number of years. In 1868-73 Thomas was member for Grenville in the Legislative Assembly. The Russell family continued their involvement in local government for a number of years. George Russell was President of the Leigh Shire from 1869-71 and James Russell from 1890-92 and 1899-1903.

Other Russell family members settled in the Western District, including Alexander Russell at Mawallok, Beaufort (VHR H0563), Philip (and later James) at Carngham, and George at Langi Willi, Skipton.

#### The Architects of Barunah Plains

1. *Davidson and Henderson - Architects of the first stage of the existing Barunah Plains homestead in 1867.*  
 [Based on various reports by Allan Willingham]

Alexander Davidson and George Henderson were both trained in the office of Edinburgh architect John Henderson (George's father) over the years 1858-62. Alexander Davidson arrived in Victoria from Scotland in 1864 and immediately went to live in Rokewood, north-west of Geelong, near the Barunah Plains station. He was familiar with the Presbyterian minister at Rokewood, John Cooper, and was introduced to many Scottish Western District settlers. As a result he established a successful architectural practice by 1866 and developed contacts and associations amongst the squattocracy in the immediate district. By mid-1867 Davidson had secured the patronage of Thomas Russell with a tender advertised for construction of a stone cottage at Wurrock and cutting drains through the swamp at Barunah Plains that year.

Former architectural associate, George Henderson, arrived from Scotland and joined Davidson in practice at Rokewood in May 1867. This partnership became a highly influential and significant Western District architectural practice for the next ten years. Henderson spent his first weeks in Victoria surveying a swamp at Barunah Plains for drainage. The partnership received its first important commission in July that year - a new homestead at Barunah Plains for Russell and James Kininmouth - and this was closely followed by a commission for additions to Yarima, Cressy for John Elder and additions to Wurrock for Thomas Russell. The design of many homesteads in the Western District of Victoria followed, including a major commission for Thomas Austin in 1869 at Barwon Park, Inverleigh (VHR H0365).

Davidson and Henderson formed an official partnership on 1 January 1869 and the practice moved to Geelong. A large volume of work was completed before the partnership was dissolved in 1877. Davidson continued to practise in Geelong and Henderson returned to Scotland.

Other work by these architects includes: Geelong College (1871, VHR H0883), Titanga, Lismore (1872, VHR H0299), Larra Homestead stables (1873, VHR H0298) and Narrapumelap Homestead, Wickcliffe (1873-78, VHR H0492)

2. The architects of the second stage of the existing Barunah Plains homestead c1886 have not been established.

3. *Tombs and Durran - Architects of the third stage of the existing Barunah Plains homestead in 1903.*

James Durran was born in Geelong in 1861 and his future partner, William Tombs, was born in New Zealand in 1866. Tombs began work in Geelong in 1889 and in 1895 joined the partnership of Watts and Durran. This architectural firm became Watts, Tombs and Durran and later Tombs and Durran.

Architects Tombs and Durran gained a number of commissions throughout the late 1890s and early 1900s, particularly domestic work. These early commissions were located in Geelong, however an increase in commissions in the Western District of Victoria led to the establishment of a branch office in Colac. This practice continued until the death of James Durran in a car accident in 1912.

These architects executed a variety of work including offices, hospitals, banks, hotels and a large number of private residences.

## Place History

Barunah Plains Homestead is located approximately 48 kilometres west of Geelong in the Western District of Victoria. This volcanic stony country was occupied by squatters from the late 1830s and was held by the Russell family after acquisition in 1851 until 1978.

Barunah Plains commenced as a pastoral run in the late 1830s. In the late 1840s James Austin applied for the lease of the Long Water Hole run, later to become Barunah Plains. Consisting of approximately 50,000 acres (20,000 hectares) of land between Inverleigh and Cressy, it was a run he had already occupied for some time. Austin had established a sheep run on this property when he disposed of his land, stock and station to Philip Russell, John Simson and Thomas Russell.

In 1854 Thomas Russell's 640 acre (260 hectares) pre-emptive section was clearly recorded on a Department of Lands and Survey Plan. The main allotment was situated on the east side of the Warrambine Creek, with an adjoining 80 acre (32 hectare) allotment to the west of the creek. A home station, woolshed (on adjoining land) and several huts clustered along the Warrambine Creek are shown on this plan and the station reportedly held some 26,000 sheep at this time.

The company, Thomas Russell & Co (Thomas Russell together with brothers William, James and George in Scotland) was formed when Philip Russell and Simson withdrew from the partnership, and the newly formed company had obtained the first freehold rights to the Long Water Hole run by 1856. Thomas Russell continued to expand his land holdings by purchasing substantial tracts of surrounding land after subdivision occurred in the area in the 1850s and he settled on a property to the north-west of the present Barunah Plains. Acquired in 1857, this property became known as Wurrook.

Long Water Hole had been renamed Barunah Plains by the late 1860s. In July 1867 Thomas Russell and James Kininmonth, the resident property manager from the early 1850s, commissioned architects Davidson and Henderson to design a homestead for Barunah Plains, and the next month Thomas Russell engaged these architects for additions to his residence Wurrook. This architectural partnership was not actually formed until early 1869 however Alexander Davidson had already established an architectural business by this time and Henderson arrived as his assistant in 1867. Designs for the Barunah Plains homestead were completed and tenders were called and advertised in the *Geelong Advertiser* on 4 October 1867. McLaughlin and Dobbie of Geelong were awarded the contract and the mason's work was undertaken by Foyle and Baker. The total cost of works was £1596/13/- and the final account for the work was rendered in August 1868.

This original single storey bluestone house at Barunah Plains formed the basis of the homestead that developed over the next 40 years. It was designed with a simple polygonal bay facing north towards the Warrambine Creek, in what has been described by Allan Willingham as amongst the first hesitant excursions into the comparatively unfamiliar language of the Italianate style. This first portion of homestead had a timber framed verandah along the north and east facades.

Thomas's brother George Russell became the sole owner of the Barunah Plains property in 1877. Living in Fife, Scotland, George never visited Australia and sent his son James to manage the property. By 1888 Barunah Plains was a freehold property of 50,000 acres (20,234 hectares). James purchased Barunah Plains twenty years later in 1897 and managed it until his death in 1911. Barunah Plains continued to be managed by the Russell family, firstly by James' eldest son George Kincaig Russell until his death in 1915, then by Trustees before James Kincaig Russell took over the property in 1922, residing at nearby Wingeel. He continued to manage the property until his death in 1966 and his nephew George then managed the property until the family finally sold it in 1978. At this time it had been in the possession of the Russell family since 1851.

Additions were reportedly made to the homestead in 1886. No record of this work has been found however it is physically and stylistically evident that work was undertaken at the homestead in the 1880s boom period. At this time a large bluestone wing was added to the south of the 1867 homestead and this remains largely extant. It is a single storey wing with prominent rendered polygonal bay and adjacent entrance through a pedimented Doric portico. At the time this became the main entrance to the house, with a wide hall and principal rooms either side, all with elaborate interiors. The billiard room to the south may also have been added at this time. A square bay window was added to the room at the south end of the original section and the adjacent original entrance retained.

After the financial crash of the 1890s, the second generation of pastoralists sought to modernise their homesteads and a number turned to the younger generation of Arts and Crafts architects. This included the owners of Barunah Plains who employed local architects, Tombs and Durran, to enlarge and modernise the homestead. In May 1903 Tombs and Durran called for tenders in the *Geelong Advertiser*, 30 May 1903 for bluestone additions to Barunah Plains for James Russell. A year later, in December 1904, Tombs and Durran called tenders for bluestone additions to the woolshed at Barunah Plains (*Geelong Advertiser*, 10 December 1904, p 8) and in April 1908 they called tenders to erect a brick homestead and stables at Barunah Plains (*Geelong Advertiser*, 25 April 1908, p 5). This homestead, named Wingeel, was built for G K Russell on land to the west of Barunah Plains.

The 1903 bluestone addition at Barunah Plains is an extension to the west of the original homestead. It is a single storey section, set slightly forward from the existing facade, with a small connecting conservatory section. The new building contains both a square bay and a polygonal bay with octagonal turret roof. Presumably at this time the original courtyard was enclosed to create a large ballroom with a raised highlight roof. The interiors of all these additions were executed in a highly distinctive Federation Arts and Crafts style and contain unique hand-crafted fittings. High quality examples of stained glass, timberwork and metal work, are seen throughout these additions and also throughout the homestead.

It was reported in *The Pastoral Homes of Australia* in 1910 that an electric lighting plant had been installed in an engine house at the property with the capacity to store electricity in the batteries for a week. This provided power to drive twenty machines during the shearing period. It was also reported at this time that numerous tanks and windmills were working on the estate to water the property.

Like much of the surrounding countryside Barunah Plains was established as a merino sheep stud and developed into a substantial and prosperous establishment by the Russell family. From 1880 Barunah Plains was well represented at wool shows and the estate won numerous prizes. By 1910 Barunah Plains was described as one of the finest wool growing estates in the Western District of Victoria in the publication *The Pastoral Homes of Australia*. Comprising 51,000 acres (20,640 hectares) of volcanic stony rises and hard plains, the land was described as devoid of timber, but healthy for stock with a good climate for wool growing purposes.

The property was consistently described as one of the leading merino fine wool sheep breeding establishments in the country and throughout the first half of the twentieth century many detailed articles about Barunah Plains appeared in newspapers, highlighting its importance as a merino sheep stud. It was described as holding one of the oldest merino flocks in Victoria in *The Australasian*, September 1918. In 1937 it was described as the home of one of the most famous and perhaps best known and largest merino flocks in Victoria and in 1938 as one of the best and most valuable pure merino breeding studs in Australia.

As the homestead and the farm developed from the nineteenth century, numerous bluestone outbuildings were constructed at the property. These include a large T-shaped woolshed, a manager's residence, stables, coach house, bakehouse and rams' shed. The following description of the buildings and gardens was given in *The Australasian* 10 September 1927:

The homestead . is of solid bluestone and of pleasing design, showing workmanship that was only obtained in the early days of settlement . The garden and grounds are generously laid out and most picturesque, while all the outbuildings are substantially put up, mostly of bluestone. The woolshed is of stone, and is provided with 20 machine stand . there are over 70 miles of rabbit-proof stonewall.

In 1929 a booklet was produced about Barunah Plains, which was described as the property of the Executors of the late James Russell. The estate was described at the time as one of the most valuable assets possessed by the State of Victoria. It comprised 46,000 acres (18,600 hectares) of freehold at the time. Like many other properties in western Victoria, a large portion of Barunah Plains was acquired by the Soldier Settlement Commission in 1949. At this time some 21,000 acres (8,500 hectares) of the property was acquired and some 23,000 sheep were sold. As a result the Barunah Plains holding was reduced to almost half of its original size.

The Russell family sold the Barunah Plains property in 1978. It was subsequently opened as tourist accommodation to supplement the farm activities and a golf course was added to the property in the 1990s. The property was sold in 2001 and again in 2016 and no longer operates as a tourist facility.

#### KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

J Smith. *Cyclopedia of Victoria*. Vol II. Melbourne 1904

A Sutherland. *Victoria and its Metropolis: Past and Present*, vol 2. 1888

*The Pastoral Homes of Australia* 1910-14

Barunah Plains, Hesse Victoria; the property of the Trustees of the late James Russell, 1929

M Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday. A social history of the Western District of Victoria 1834-1890*. 1961

Billis & Kenyon. *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*. Melbourne 1974

P Watts. *Historic Gardens of Victoria*. Melbourne 1983

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file

*Australian Dictionary of Biography*: entries for George Russell, Thomas Russell, James Austin

Barunah Plains Reducing Sale brochure, 1949

## Newspapers:

*The Australasian*, 23 August 1884, p 10; 18 September 1897, p 40; 4 February 1911, p 814 September 1918, p 6; 8 September 1923, p 4; 10 September 1927, p 6; 14 November 1931, pp 27 & 32; 20 July 1935, p 58; 24 July 1937, p 50; 23 July 1938, p 26; 8 March 1941, p 30;

*The Pastoral Review*, 16 August 1915, p 742

*Examiner* (Launceston), 18 June 1949, p 11

*Geelong Advertiser*, 26 September 1978, p 7

## Maps:

Parish of Hesse, County of Grenville, 1854

Country Lots, Parish of Hesse, County of Grenville, Dept of Lands and Survey 1859

Hesse, County of Grenville, Dept of Lands and Survey, 1880

## Plaque Citation

Owned by the pioneering Russell family from 1851 to 1978, this pastoral property developed into a highly successful Victorian sheep station. It contains a fine collection of farm buildings including a large T-shaped bluestone woolshed.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion

Barunah Plains is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

### Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

### Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

### Criterion E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

### Criterion H

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

### Why is it significant?

Barunah Plains is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Barunah Plains is historically significant for its association with the early settlement of Victoria, with the development of its important wool industry and for its long association with the Russell family from 1851 to 1978. As one of the most successful merino sheep studs in Victoria, the property is associated with the heyday of the pastoral era in Victoria and the prosperity of the Western District pastoralists in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. [Criteria A]

Barunah Plains is architecturally significant for the homestead and its collection of intact outbuildings which help to illustrate the various activities undertaken at the property. Together with the homestead, these buildings display excellent craftsmanship in the execution of stonework. [

Criterion D]

Barunah Plains is of aesthetic significance for its outstanding Arts and Crafts interiors, in particular in the ballroom and rooms in the west wing. The interiors of these additions were executed in a highly distinctive Federation Arts and Crafts style and contain unique hand-crafted fittings and elements. [

Criterion E]

Barunah Plains is significant for its long association, from 1851 to 1978, with the Russell family who were amongst the most successful settlers of Victoria's Western District and instrumental in the development of the wool industry in Victoria. [

Criterion H]

## **Extent of Registration**

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the following place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H2313

Category: Heritage Place

Place: Barunah Plains

Location: 4484 Hamilton Highway, Hesse  
Golden Plains Shire

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2313 encompassing part of Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 549946, all of Crown Allotment 17F and parts of Crown Allotments 2002 and 2008 Parish of Hesse, and all of a former unnamed road reserve.

Dated 1 September 2016

TIM SMITH

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 35 1 September 2016 p2146]

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*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/>*