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# J WARD (ARARAT ASYLUM)

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## Location

1-7 GIRDLESTONE STREET ARARAT, ARARAT RURAL CITY

## Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0084

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO62

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SEE H1067

1860-1886: Ararat Gaol

Interpretation of Site

1887-1989: Used as a special ward of the Ararat Asylum for the criminal insane (J Ward)

1989: Decommissioned

Archaeological  
Significance

Site is of archaeological significance for its potential to contain the burials of three executed prisoners buried within the walls of the prison in 1870, 1883 and 1884 respectively.

Hermes Number

192278

Property Number

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## History

J Ward was built between 1860 and 63 as the Ararat Gaol, to a design based on the Pentonville concept by the Public Works Department. It was run as a Gaol until 1886. In 1887, after alterations, the building was transferred the Lunacy Department and used as a special ward of the Ararat Asylum for the criminal insane.

J Ward, as it became known, was decommissioned in 1989.

Three executions occurred at the site:

15 August 1870: Andrew Vere

25 September 1883: Robert Francis Burns

6 June 1884: Henry Morgan

All three executed prisoners were buried within the walls of the prison in accordance to the Criminal Law and Practice Statute 1864

*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/>*