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# LAURA WALKER GRAVE SITE

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## Location

GDA 94 MGA ZONE 55 X 406425 Y 5842531

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8022-0140

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 11, 2024

### What is significant?

The single grave site is surrounded by a low railing and a timber plaque inscribed "Laura Walker Born 9-3-1895 Died 23-3-1895."

### How is it significant?

The site is significant as a child's burial site dating back to the late 1800s. The site may have a connection to the nearby historic Scandinavian hotel site (Old Walkers hotel). This is a lone infant's grave surrounded by a low railing, and marked by a timber plaque inscribed "Laura Walker Born 9-3-1895 Died 23-3-1895." The site includes archaeological features that have the potential to provide information on infant mortality practices in a lone rural context in the C19th, and likely association with mining communities.

### Why is it significant?

The site is important as a child's burial site and provides an important link to the past use of the area and the people who lived there. The Walker family occupied the Yarra Track and operated a hotel on Woods Point Road in the C19th. While it is unclear which hotel they operated, the grave is in close proximity to the site of the former Scandinavian Hotel, and as this has elsewhere been referred to as 'Walkers Hotel site', it appears likely that this was the family's hotel. It is likely that infant Laura Walker was associated with this family. Therefore, the site is of historical significance for its association with a prominent family in the region.

Interpretation of Site Infant grave site dating to 1895.

Other Names NA,

Hermes Number 210136

Property Number

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## History

SiteCard data copied on 11/07/2024:

The Walker family had a hotel on the Woods Point Road in the 1800s. Laura Walker's grave location is only a short distance to the east of the recorded 'Scandinavian Hotel' site, but whether this was in fact Walkers Hotel is uncertain." References: Peter Cobb, Forest Management Officer, DSE Marysville. Hermes 75137 Historic Places (HPNO 2646) 'Scandinavian Hotel' site is located approximately 350m south west from the grave site's location. A hotel referred to as 'Walkers Hotel site' in the nearby Chester and Lockes Mine Hermes record (75137), appears to be approximately in the location of the recorded 'Scandinavian Hotel' site. It is unclear if the grave site is associated with the hotel site. The Walkers hotel site and reference to a lone grave are described in Historic Sites in the Melbourne East Study Area; Report to the Land Conservation Council. Historic Places Section, DCFL., 1991, Supple, R, Perham, G. & Griffiths, T. It is unknown if the referenced lone grave is the Laura Walker grave site. The Walkers hotel was associated with the Yarra Track, which was developed as a link between Melbourne and the new goldfields and passed through Healesville, Fernshaw, Narbethong, Marysville and the Cumberland, then following the Dividing Range to Matlock, descending to Woods Point (Supple, 1991). The Chester and Lockes Mine site (H8022-0048) is located approximately 500m south west of the grave site. The Mine site was established in 1898 by Mr Chester and operated until at least 1940. Evidence exists of an old blacksmith's shop, the bull wheel and shafts throughout the area (Heritage Victoria Inventory H8022-0048). Little remains except a clearing to mark the Walkers Hotel site. A cellar pit and lone grave are to be found at the Walkers Hotel site (Supple, 1991). Possible connections between the recorded Scandinavian Hotel site, Walkers hotel and the Laura Walker grave site are not known.

*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/>*