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# NEUCHATEL



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1 neuchatel merrawarp road ceres front view homestead



neuchatel merrawarp road ceres outbuilding winery



neuchatel merrawarp road ceres verandah view publication



neuchatel merrawarp road ceres weatherboard house



neuchatel merrawarp road ceres stables



neuchatel merrawarp road ceres workingmen's room

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## Location

460 MERRAWARP ROAD BARRABOOL, Surf Coast Shire

## **Municipality**

SURF COAST SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

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

H0773

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO11

## **VHR Registration**

March 28, 1990

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - June 28, 1999

The former Suisse vineyard property, renamed Neuchatel by the present owners, has significance for its early associations with the Breguet family, pioneer Swiss vigneron who settled in the Barrabool hills area in the 1840's and 1850's. It is associated particularly with Frederick Ulysses Breguet. As with other Geelong vineyards, the Suisse Vineyard's vines were almost totally destroyed following the discovery of the dreaded phylloxera disease in the district in the 1870's. Surviving buildings include a 19th century Barrabool sandstone house with 1880 weatherboard additions designed by the architects Seeley and G R King, and 1861 stables, cellar and coachhouse. In addition, there are remnants of the 19th century garden and an original chasselas vine over the coachhouse entrance. In the early 1890s, the Suisse Vineyard property passed out of the hands of the Breguet family. The Loffel family purchased the property on 23 December 1959, renaming it Neuchatel after the famous property owned by Frederick Breguet Sen. and his partner, David Louis Pettavel, at Pollocksford, reputedly the oldest vineyard in the western district. Frederick was Frederick Ulysses Breguet's uncle.

The former Suisse Vineyard property has both architectural and historical significance.

1. The property has historical significance for its associations with the early wine growing industry in colonial Victoria.
2. It is significant as the site of an early 19th century vineyard in an important wine growing area.
3. The property has particular significance for its associations with the pioneer Swiss vigneron family, the Breguets, who played an important role in the foundation of the wine industry in the Geelong district.
4. The buildings form an important vineyard complex built of local Barrabool sandstone, timber and iron in a refined colonial vernacular style. The complex includes a 19th century sandstone house of 1861 and later with 1880 weatherboard additions designed by the architects Seeley and G R King and 1861 stables, cellar and coachhouse. It is set in a garden with some remaining 19th century remnants and at least one original chasselas vine.

Construction dates 1860,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Other Names SUISSE VINEYARD,  
Hermes Number 281  
Property Number

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## History

<span class="c1">Associated People:<br /> <br /></span>

### Extent of Registration

#### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 773, Neuchatel, formerly Suisse Vineyard, Merrawarp Road, Ceres.

All of the buildings and all the land contained in Memorial No. 4 Book No. 658, being part of section Fourteen, Parish of Barrabool, County of Grant (shown hatched on the plan hereunder).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G13 28 March 1990 p.931]

*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/>*