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# CORK OAK & WOODLANDS, FORMER INEBRIATE



Cork Oak



Former Inebriate Retreat

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## Location

Walnut Grove BEACONSFIELD UPPER, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO128

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The cork oak & former inebriate retreat are significant to the Cardinia Shire because of the rarity and age of both the oak and the first stage of the house, which is of earth construction.

The oak is also of State significance. The reputed use of the house for an inebriate asylum (not verified) potentially adds another type to the places expressive of the district's resorts, retreats or recreational sites and their landscape setting.

This place has value for its comparative age, particularly when judged among other health-related sites within the shire, and associations within the Upper Beaconsfield community as a minor landmark.

*Tree - State Significance*

*House - Regional Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1870,
Other Names	Walnut Grove, Upper Beaconsfield,
Hermes Number	30000
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

In Walnut Grove, off Telegraph Road, there is a former reputed Inebriate Home for Women with a nearby very mature and notable cork oak which is thought to be contemporary with the first phase of the building. The house appears at first to be an altered hipped roof Edwardian-era timber house, with an attached skillion kitchen (with multi-pane glazing) and a brick chimney with a corbelled top.

However closer inspection reveals its thick inner walls, pole and beam frame and earth construction, indicating an earlier core to the outer Edwardian-era veneer of rough-cast render and four added weatherboarded rooms. The verandah may also be from this era. Inside there is stained and lacquered T&G boarding to the ceilings and walls.

**Garden** Mature planting includes: *Quercus suber* (cork oak) which is recommended to the National Trust of Australia (Vic) significant tree register; lemon tree; *Arbutus unedo* (Irish strawberry); *Photinia serrulata*; *Eriobotrya japonica* (loquat); cordyline; *Camellia japonica* (camellia); *Chaenomeles speciosus* (Japanese flowering quince); pear (Beurre Bosc); and a row of 8 *Syncarpia glomulifera* (turpentine tree) on nearby land.

## Physical Conditions

The skillion appears to be an addition or in an altered form and the house framing has been badly eaten by white ants.

## Historical Australian Themes

Themes

7.2 Popular holiday resorts. Guest house era and later

7.7 Retreats (religious retreats, inebriate retreats, sanatoriums)

## Physical Description 2

Associations - Blair, Dr. John and Mrs D; Hicks, William M

## **Integrity**

Inebriate's house no longer extant (Cardinia Shire Council site inspection 2015). New residence constructed in same location circa late 1990s/2000s; potentially archaeological remains of the former retreat beneath the decking. C. Philippou.

*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/>*