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# FIRWOOD PARK, FORMER HEDGEVALE



Firwood Park Former  
Hedgevale

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## Location

325 Princes Highway OFFICER, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO103

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Firwood Park, formerly Hedgevale, is significant to the Cardinia Shire because of its rarity as a polychrome brick Italianate styled farm house in an area dominated by timber construction and its links with early farming endeavours in the area, including the development of the dairying industry and orcharding. The house is also linked with the local pioneering Rix family. It is one of the older farm houses in the Shire and is well preserved among a related and mature collection of conifers which are individually of local importance.

## Regional Significance

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1891,
Other Names	325 Princes Highway, Officer,
Hermes Number	30017
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

This is a polychrome brick villa with a cast-iron verandah, set among mature exotic trees at the end of a long drive entered via a picketed gateway and lined with mature conifer trees.

The house has a hipped and slated roof and the brickwork has distinctive cream-coloured diaper patterns around openings and the front door is 4-panel with the usual heavy mouldings associated with the nineteenth century. The chimneys also have cream patterns and moulded cornices. Weatherboard out-buildings are visible. The uncommon brick construction of this house (for the Shire and period), along with that of Primrose Park opposite, was probably determined by the proximity and ownership of the early Officer brickworks.

The timber picket fence at the frontage has a club-head picket profile and the gate posts are octagonal in section with one post possessing a turned ball at the top. The gate has been replaced.

The property contains mature trees, perhaps remnants of a former garden or windbreak planting. These include *Pinus canariensis* (two), *Araucaria heterophylla*, *Cupressus torulosa*, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Cedrus deodara*, and a hedgerow windbreak of *Cupressus macrocarpa*.

## Physical Conditions

The house is in fair condition and near externally original.

## Historical Australian Themes

Themes

3.2.1 Ethnic farming communities (Italians, Dutch, etc.)

3.3 Dairying

3.4 Orchardists and market gardeners, cool stores, packing sheds, etc.

10.2 Pastoralists' homes, gardens

## Physical Description 2

Associations - Rix, HJ

*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/>*