

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 02/04/20



## OLD SWAN INN



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h00267 old swan inn fyansford

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### Location

4 HAMILTON HIGHWAY FYANSFORD, GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0267

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO4

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 4, 1999

### What is significant?

Fyansford, located at the junction of the Barwon and the Moorabool rivers, was named after Captain Foster Fyans, who had been stationed here as police magistrate in 1837. The ford provided a convenient crossing-place, and the small settlement became an important stopping point for pastoralists and others travelling between Geelong and Ballarat, and on the principal western road from Geelong to Hamilton (now the Hamilton Highway).

The Swan Inn, Fyansford, originally known as the Fyanstown Inn, was built by its first licensee John Atkins in 1842 and opened the following year. The building contract for the hotel was let to Mr Marr. Atkins also had Mack's Hotel, in Geelong. The Swan Inn was built to a design by Geelong architect A.K. Skene; he was also an important early government surveyor who introduced the theodolite to the practice of surveying in Victoria, and served as surveyor-general of Victoria (from 1857 to post-1870?). The construction of a bridge across the Moorabool River in 1854 led to two additional hotels (the Fyansford and the Balmoral) being built in Fyansford that year. The township serviced surrounding agricultural and horticultural interests. As the township declined, however, it was no longer able to support three hotels, and the former Swan Inn was adapted for use as a farm house.

The Swan Inn is a single-storey rectangular building of linear form, constructed from bluestone, rendered and ruled on the north side, and painted on all other elevations. There is stone quoining to the main entrance and windows. Its steeply pitched gabled roof extends over the verandah on the north and south sides. Attic windows are located within the gable ends. The roof is believed to have been originally clad with timber shingles but these were replaced with slate in 1856; the roof was later clad with concrete tiles. There are 12-pane double-hung windows with bluestone sashes, and multi-paned French doors that open to a wide verandah. The verandah was altered on the south side with the addition of brick piers, and was infilled in the c.1950s, but the original chamfered timber posts remain extant on the northern side. The large stone stables are in ruins.

The building is located on a picturesque siting near the Moorabool River. The site was celebrated for its scenic value and was captured by artists such as Samuel Calvert in his wood engraving 'Fyan's Ford and Swan Hotel' (1862).

### How is it significant?

The Old Swan Inn, Fyansford, is of historical, architectural and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The Swan Inn, Fyansford, is of historical and architectural significance as the oldest known surviving building in the important early rural township of Fyansford. It is of historical significance because of its association with the important river crossing over the Moorabool River, which marked the track taken by the western-bound pastoralists in the late 1830s and early 1840s. The surrounding country has great associated historical significance as one of the earliest areas of Victoria to be taken up by graziers from 1836.

The Swan Inn is of historical and architectural significance as an early vernacular structure built in Victoria in the 1840s and as an early surviving hotel building in Victoria. The Swan Inn is an important element in the historic fabric of Fyansford, with other contributing buildings including the Fyansford Hotel (1854) [H744]. The

significance of the Swan Inn is enhanced by the celebrated picturesque quality of its setting at the base of a steep escarpment in the Barwon River Valley.

The Swan Inn, Fyansford, is also of historical significance for its association with the notable Victorian architect and surveyor Alexander K. Skene, and with early Geelong publican John Atkins.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]

## Permit Exemptions

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1842,
Architect/Designer	Skene, AJ,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	511
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People: Assoc.People A.J. SKENE

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Date Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

Allom Lovell, *Pre-1851 Structures in Victoria Survey*<sup>TM</sup>, 1997, vol. 2, pp. 51-58.

*Australian Places*<sup>TM</sup> website - <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/multimedia/gazetteer/>

<http://www.geelong.vic.gov.au/library/pdf/Amendment%20C49.pdf>

Skene in ADB? [check]

SLV Pictoria.

## **Extent of Registration**

*Shire of Bannockburn. No. 267. Old Swan Inn, Fyansford.*

*[Victoria Government Gazette No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3649]*

*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 data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*