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## Block 19, Former Bonegilla Migrant Camp



B7009 Block 19 Bonegilla  
Migrant Camp

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### Location

Bonegilla Road,, BONEGILLA VIC 3693 - Property No B7009

### Municipality

WODONGA CITY

### Level of significance

National

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1835

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 23, 2007

Block 19, built in 1940 as an Army camp and used between 1947 and 1967 as a Migrant Reception Centre is of historical and social significance at a National level.

Block 19 is of historical and social significance as the last remnant of the much larger Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre which played a central role in the post Second World War immigration programme. It was the first, the last and the largest migrant reception centre in a system of camps in all States and is by far the most well known and remembered. Block 19 demonstrates the physical environment faced by the hundreds of thousands of migrants who were accommodated in the various former Army camps. With its simple and spartan

military buildings, its grid layout and its typical plantings of native and exotic trees, it is crucially significant as the last surviving example of the immigrant experience at Bonegilla.

Block 19 has clear associations with the many immigrants to Australia, originally quartered at Bonegilla, many of whom, have risen to prominence in Australian artistic, social and political circles. As the focus of the 1987 "Back to Bonegilla" festival, Block 19 is clearly valued by former immigrant occupants and their descendents.

Block 19 is historically significant as a now rare remnant of the expansionist phase of defence building activity which took place at the commencement of the Second World War. Block 19 is the last remaining block of 24 separate accommodation blocks which formed the Bonegilla Army Camp. It illustrates the extraordinary logistical achievements within Australia's Second World War mobilisation. Block 19 is also significant as a remnant of the logistical and organisational expansion of the Army during the Vietnam War.

Block 19 is notable as the largest collection of the once ubiquitous P1-type army huts surviving in their original location.

Classified: 12/11/2001

Hermes Number 70037

Property Number

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*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/>*