

Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under Part 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017*

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Name	Dhurringile
Location	870 Murchison-Tatura Road Dhurringile, Greater Shepparton City
Date Registered	20 August 1982
VHR Number	VHR H1554
VHR Categor(ies)	Registered Place; Registered Archaeological Place
Hermes Number	863



Dhurringile (the mansion) 2017

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

To amend the existing registration for VHR H1500 in accordance with s.62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* by:

- Clarifying the extent of registration.
- Changing the heritage category.
- Reformatting the statement of significance.
- Adding a permit policy and permit exemptions in accordance with s.49(3) of the Act.

Reasons for the proposed amendment:

Dhurringile was gazetted on 20 August 1982 in the Register of Government Buildings. At that time, only the buildings were included in the registration, not the land on which they are located. Places registered since that time include both buildings and land and early registrations are currently being updated to reflect this change. Under s.49(1)(d) of the *Heritage Act 2017* the Heritage Council may include additional land to registered places. The existing registration documentation is provided at Attachment 1 of this report.

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

Recommendation Date: 16 September 2019

Advertising Period: 20 September 2019 – 18 November 2019

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.37 of the *Heritage Act 2017*. It has not been considered or endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria.

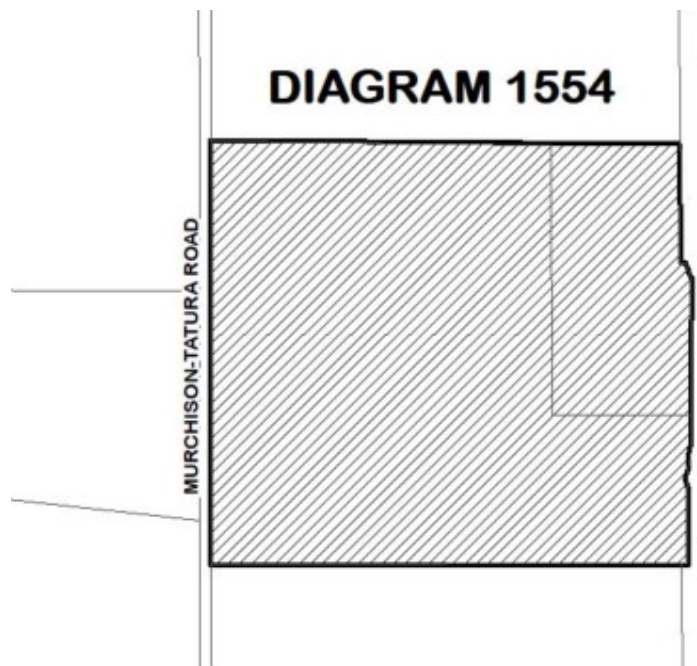
AMENDMENT BACKGROUND

An application to amend this registration was accepted by the Executive Director on 8 August 2016. Dhurringile is an operational correctional facility and there is a need to provide clarity around the registration and any works at the place. The gazettal of this place in the Register of Government Buildings on 20 August 1982 did not provide for any land to be included in the extent of registration.

It is the view of the Executive Director that land should be included in the extent of registration to protect the cultural heritage values of the place and to provide clarity for the owners and managers of the place. Permit policy and permit exemptions have also been developed to provide clarity for the management of the place.

RECOMMENDED EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

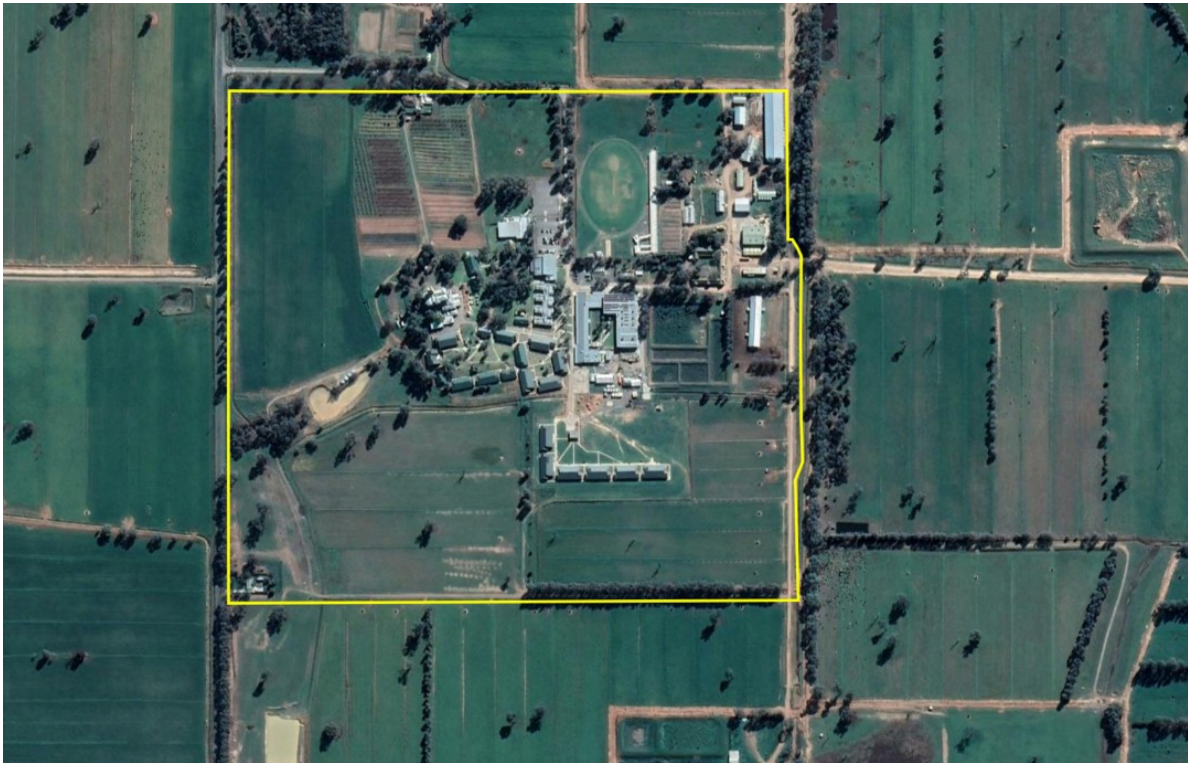
All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1554 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 94B, Parish of Murchison North and part of Crown Allotment 2063, Parish of Murchison North.



The extent of registration of Dhurringile in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 1554 including the land, the mansion, stables and shearing shed (including the exteriors and interiors), historical archaeology, and other features.

The registration also includes all fixtures attached to the buildings at the time of registration including light fittings, stained glass windows, mantelpieces and built-in furniture in the mansion, mantelpieces and built-in furniture in the former residence in the stables, and associated equipment and machinery in the shearing shed and stables.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING PROPOSED REGISTRATION



RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The proposed extent of registration has been developed to retain the association between the three nineteenth century buildings (the mansion, stables and shearing shed). Dhurringile has been used as a pastoral property, a World War II internment and prisoner of war camp, and as a boys' home. It is currently in use as a correctional facility. The areas between the mansion, stables and shearing shed contain contemporary buildings associated with the current use of the place and the visual connection between the mansion, shearing shed and stables has been compromised. This land is likely to contain historical archaeology from earlier uses. The mansion is located on a rise and the land to the west (Zone 1: Mansion zone) provides a setting for the building when viewed from the Murchison-Tatura Road and from the original approach road from the north. It also assists in providing an understanding that Dhurringile was once a substantial pastoral property. The proposed extent of registration is important in understanding and protecting the cultural heritage significance of the place.

CHANGE OF HERITAGE CATEGORY

Current category

Registered Place.

Proposed category

Registered Place; Registered Archaeological Place.

CHANGE OF NAME

Current name: Dhurringile.

Proposed name: No change.

BACKGROUND

WHAT IS AT THE PLACE?

Dhurringile currently operates as a correctional facility. Access is via a driveway to the north of the mansion from Murchison-Tatura Road which leads to a carpark and reception building. The 68 room red brick Italianate mansion is the most prominent building on the site and is located on a slight rise set back from Murchison-Tatura Road. The timber shearing shed is located in the north-east corner of the site, and the brick stables are located between the mansion and the shearing shed. The land to the west, north and south of the mansion is open agricultural land, while the areas between the mansion, shearing shed and stables contain contemporary buildings and structures associated with the use of the place as a correctional facility.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE?

Dhurringile was constructed in 1877 for pastoralist James Winter to the design of architects Lloyd Tayler and Frederick Wyatt. James Winter family arrived with his parents and brother from Scotland in 1841 and settled near Ballarat. The discovery of gold on their land allowed them to acquire large pastoral stations in northern Victoria on which they built grand homes, including Noorilim (VHR H0297) built for William Winter in 1878-79, and Dhurringile which also had a manager's residence, extensive stabling, a shearing shed, gas works and other outbuildings. The shearing shed (reputed to be one of the largest in Victoria) and the brick stables survive. Like many wealthy pastoralists, James Winter was active in community, government and agricultural organisations. He died in 1885 but Dhurringile remained in the Winter family until 1907. Dhurringile appears to have remained vacant until 1939 when the Commonwealth government negotiated with then owner Vincent Vernon Hart to rent the property for use as an internment camp for German and Italian aliens. It was then used as a Prisoner of War Camp for Germans captured in the Middle East. In 1945, the prisoners were transferred to other sites and all military buildings were removed. Dhurringile was purchased by the Presbyterian Church in 1947 as a home for young orphaned boys from the United Kingdom whose fathers had died during the war. The home closed in 1964 and was purchased by the Victorian Government Penal Department for use in the rehabilitation of alcoholic prisoners. Dhurringile currently operates as a correctional facility. (June 2019)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY(IES) FOR THIS PLACE?

This site is part of the traditional land of the Yorta Yorta people. The Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Dhurringile including the mansion, shearing shed, stables and all fixtures attached to the buildings at the time of registration including all fixtures attached to the buildings such as light fittings, stained glass windows, mantelpieces and built-in furniture in the mansion, mantelpieces and built-in furniture in the former residence in the stables, and associated equipment and machinery in the shearing shed and stables. It also includes any historical archaeology associated with the former uses of the place.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Dhurringile is of architectural, archaeological and historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Why is it significant?

Dhurringile and its outbuildings are of historical significance as an important example of a substantial pastoral property built on the proceeds of gold discoveries and subsequent pastoral wealth. It is significant for its association with the Winter and Winter-Irving families who were among the largest pastoral landholders in Victoria, and as an example of the work of prominent architectural firm, Lloyd Tayler and Wyatt. [Criterion A]

Dhurringile is also of historical significance for its use as an internment and World War II prisoner of war camp which reflects an aspect of Australian life which is not well known. Its subsequent use by the Presbyterian Church as a rural training centre for migrant boys from the United Kingdom is of historical significance for its association with the perceived need at the time to populate Australia with migrants of Anglo-Celtic background. [Criterion A]

Dhurringile is of archaeological significance for its potential to yield information about the underground tunnels and tanks associated with the nineteenth century water treatment system at the place, and for its potential to yield physical evidence associated with its twentieth century uses as a World War II internment camp and prison, and as a boy's home. [Criterion C]

Dhurringile is of architectural significance as one of Victoria's grandest mansions and a notable example of the Victorian Italianate style. [Criterion D]

PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of Dhurringile in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 1554 including the land, all buildings (exteriors and interiors), roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the *Heritage Act 2017* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the *Heritage Act*) or after registration (under s.92 of the *Heritage Act*). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect the archaeological significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required.

Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of Dhurringile lies in the architectural, archaeological and historical significance of the mansion, stables, shearing shed and potential historical archaeological features as evidence of what was once a substantial nineteenth century pastoral property. The mansion is located on a rise and the land to the west (Zone 1: Mansion zone) provides a setting for the building when viewed from the Murchison-Tatura Road and from the original approach road from the north. It also assists in providing an understanding that Dhurringile was once a substantial pastoral property. Dhurringile is also of historical and archaeological significance for its use as a World War II internment and prisoner of war camp, and as a boys' home.

The place has been divided into four different zones for the purpose of providing clarity around permit exemptions. Each of the zones have different permit exemption requirements. Three of the zones contain buildings of primary significance. The fourth zone contains contemporary correctional facility buildings of no significance. The zones are:

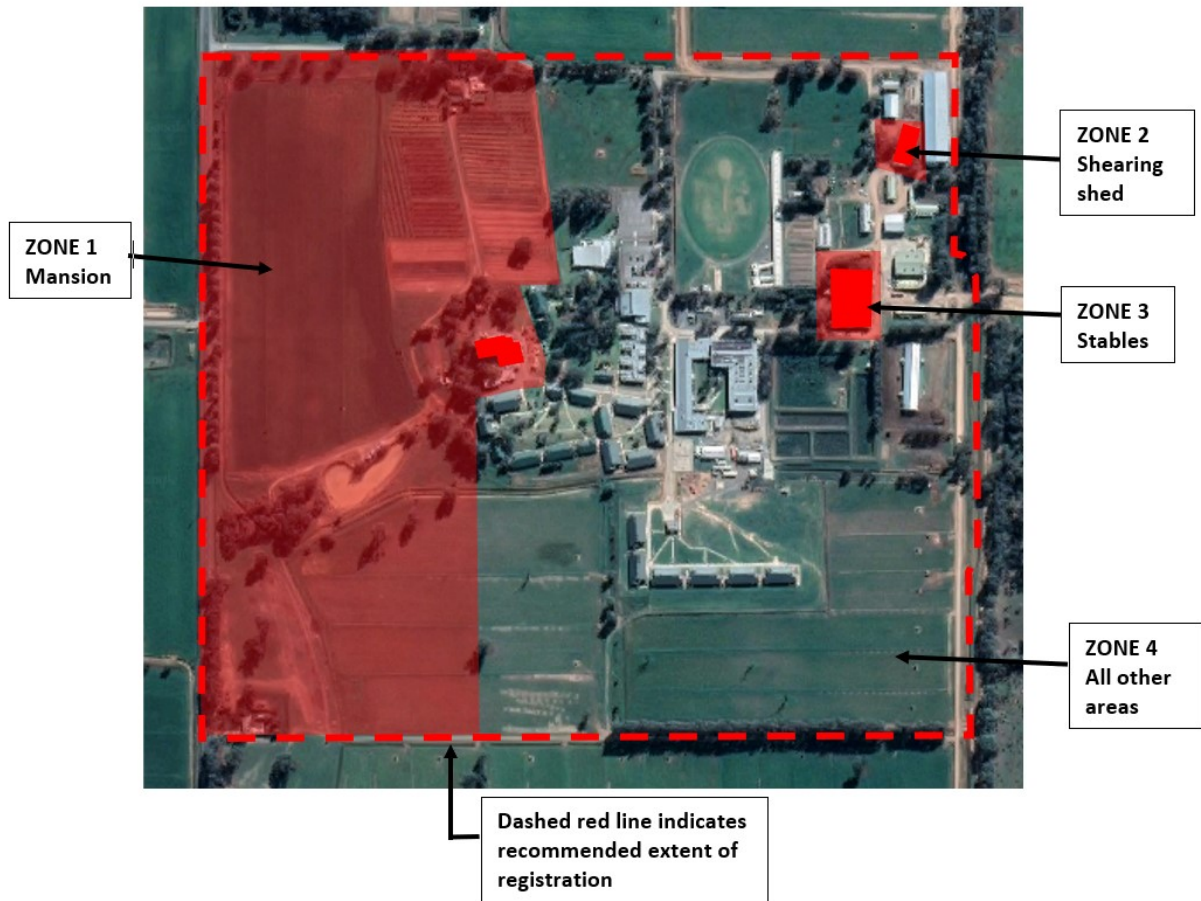
- Zone 1: Mansion zone.
- Zone 2: Stables zone.
- Zone 3: Shearing shed zone.
- Zone 4: All other areas.

All of the buildings listed below are of **primary cultural heritage significance** in the context of the place. These buildings are shown in **solid red** on the diagram on page 8.

- Dhurringile mansion
- Dhurringile stables (including the courtyard)
- Dhurringile shearing shed

Also of **primary cultural heritage significance** for their historical archaeological potential are original underground tunnels and tanks remaining from the nineteenth century water management system at the place. Their locations are not known and cannot be described on a plan.

All other buildings and features are of **no cultural heritage significance**. They are not coloured on the diagram.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXEMPTED WORKS OR ACTIVITIES (PERMIT EXEMPTIONS)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.92 of the Heritage Act).

Under s.38 of the *Heritage Act 2017* the Executive Director may include in his recommendation categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object without the need for a permit under Part 5 of the Act. The Executive Director must not make a recommendation for any categories of works or activities if he considers that the works or activities may harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object. The following permit exemptions are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of Dhurringile.

General Condition 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 Condition 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.

General Condition 3

All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Safety and security (all areas)

- All works associated with the operation of the place as a correctional facility.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. In these instances every attempt must be made to conserve and retain as much significant fabric as possible. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.

Signage

- The erection of temporary non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety and wayfinding.
- Removal or replacement of external directional signage provided the size, location and material remains the same.

Zone 1: Mansion zone

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits and do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Landscape

- The processes of gardening, including mowing, removal of dead shrubs and replanting, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- Management and maintenance of established trees and shrubs including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood, pest and disease control.
- The removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency tree works to maintain safety.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering systems or services provided they do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits.
- All current agricultural and dairying activities which ensures the land to the west, south and north of the mansion remains undeveloped. Tree plantations or similar require a permit application.
- All works to existing dams, above ground channels and water systems.
- Maintenance and removal of fencing and construction of new fencing.
- Maintenance, repairs and replacement of existing hard landscape elements such as paths, gutters, and sealed and unsealed roads, driveways and car parks.
- Installation, maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.

Exterior of mansion building (primary heritage significance)

- Minor patching, repair, cleaning and maintenance which replaces like with like without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance.
- Removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good.
- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.
- Maintenance, replacement or removal of existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning plant.
- Painting of currently painted surfaces using the same colour, type and quality of finish, provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes.
- Vermin control activities.

Interior of mansion building (primary heritage significance)

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

- Demolition or removal of light-weight partition walls, suspended ceilings, office screens and partitions, light fittings, office fitouts, equipment and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets, soft floor coverings and window furnishings.

- Repair and maintenance to toilets, bathrooms and kitchens.
- Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings provided that layouts remain unchanged.
- Removal or replacement of existing services including cabling, plumbing, wiring for safety, security and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids.
- Installation, removal or replacement of curtains, curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- Painting of currently painted surfaces using the same colour, type and quality of finish, provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint or other decorative schemes. No currently stained or varnished timberwork is to be painted.
- Removal of paint from originally unpainted surfaces including ceilings, wall panelling, joinery, doors, architraves and skirtings by non-abrasive methods.
- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.

Zone 2: Shearing shed zone

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits and do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Landscape

- The processes of gardening, including mowing, removal of dead shrubs and replanting, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- Management and maintenance of established trees and shrubs including pruning, removal of deadwood, pest and disease control.
- The removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency tree works to maintain safety.
- All current agricultural and dairying activities.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering systems or services provided they do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits.
- All works to existing dams, above ground channels and water systems.
- Maintenance and removal of fencing and construction of new fencing.
- Maintenance, repairs and replacement to existing hard landscape elements such as paths, gutters, and sealed and unsealed roads, driveways and car parks.

Exterior of shearing shed building (primary heritage significance)

- Minor patching, repair and maintenance which replaces like with like without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance.
- Removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good.
- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.
- Weed and vermin control activities.
- Painting of currently painted surfaces using the same colour, type and quality of finish, provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes.

Interior of shearing shed building (primary heritage significance)

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security telecommunications and CCTV services.
- All maintenance and alteration works to existing contemporary fencing, yards, structures and equipment associated with raising calves and dairying.

Zone 3: Stables zone

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits and do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Landscape

- The processes of gardening, including mowing, removal of dead shrubs and replanting, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- Management and maintenance of established trees and shrubs including pruning, removal of deadwood, pest and disease control.
- The removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency tree works to maintain safety.
- All current agricultural and dairying activities.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering systems or services on the condition that works do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits.
- All works to existing dams, above ground channels and water systems.
- Maintenance and removal of fencing and construction of new fencing.
- Maintenance, repairs and replacement of existing hard landscape elements such as paths, gutters, and sealed and unsealed roads, driveways and car parks.
- Installation, maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.

Exterior of stables building (primary heritage significance)

- Minor patching, repair and maintenance which replaces like with like without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance.
- Routine cleaning and maintenance activities including repair of glazing and cladding where fabric, design, size, form and method of fixing is repaired or replaced like for like.
- Removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good.
- Painting of currently painted surfaces using the same colour, type and quality of finish, provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes.
- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire and security, telecommunications and CCTV services.
- Maintenance, replacement or removal of existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning plant.
- Weed and vermin control activities.

Interior of stables building including former residence (primary heritage significance)

- Demolition or removal of light-weight partition walls, suspended ceilings, office screens and partitions, light fittings, office fitouts, equipment and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets, flexible floor coverings, and window furnishings.
- Repair and maintenance to toilets, bathrooms and kitchens.
- Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings provided that layouts remain unchanged.
- Painting of currently painted surfaces using the same colour, type and quality of finish, provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint or other decorative schemes. No currently stained or varnished timberwork is to be painted.
- Removal of paint from originally unpainted surfaces including ceilings, wall panelling, joinery, doors, architraves and skirtings by non-abrasive methods.
- Removal or replacement of existing services including cabling, plumbing, wiring for safety, security and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids.
- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.

Zone 4: all other areas

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not impact on historical archaeological features or deposits and do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Landscape

- All agricultural, farming and dairying activities.
- All gardening activities.
- Removal of vegetation and the planting of new vegetation.
- All works to existing dams, above ground channels and water systems.
- Maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security and CCTV services.

Buildings

- All external and internal alterations to existing building and structures.
- Demolition and removal of existing building and structures.
- Construction of a building or construct or carry out works that are no greater than six metres in height above natural ground level.
- Installation, maintenance, replacement and removal of electrical, fire, security, telecommunications and CCTV services.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Local Government Authority Heritage Overlay

Greater Shepparton City
HO12 (Durringile)

External Paint: No
Internal Alteration: No
Tree: No

HO253 (Stable Building)

External Paint: Yes
Internal Alteration: Yes
Tree: No

Other Overlays

Floodway Overlay

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

Area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity associated with prior waterway

Other Listings

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No. B2063

Other Names

Dhurringile Prison
Murchison Prisoner of War Camp
Dhurringile Rural Training Farm

Note: Due to the current use of the place as a correctional facility, no photographs were permitted during the site visit by Heritage Victoria.

HISTORY

Dhurringile was constructed in 1877 for pastoralist James Winter to the design of architects Lloyd Tayler and Frederick Wyatt. James Winter arrived in Victoria with his parents and three brothers in 1841. They initially settled near Ballarat and the discovery of gold on their land allowed for the family to invest in large pastoral holdings throughout northern Victoria. Three of the four Winter sons constructed substantial homes on their land in the Goulburn Valley, the grandest of them being Noorilim (VHR H0297), built by William Winter in 1878-79. James Winter owned Toolamba and after the original timber homestead was washed away in the Goulburn flood of 1870, he selected a site on a rise away from the river for the construction of a huge 68 room towered brick mansion he named Dhurringile. The mansion was probably designed by Frederick Wyatt, as Lloyd Tayler, the more well-known of the two, was in England from January 1875 to May 1877. As well as the mansion, the property also had a manager's residence, extensive stabling, a shearing shed and other outbuildings. Dhurringile was lit by gas and a gas works was located at the rear of the mansion. An 1880 newspaper article reported that 'every portion of the house is supplied with gas, manufactured on the premises while, in order to facilitate verbal communications, speaking tubes are fitted throughout the building.' The shearing shed (reputed to be one of the largest in Victoria) and brick stables survive and both are located to the east of the mansion.

Although often absent from his country property, James Winter was active in local community affairs and through his interest in agricultural innovation, significantly increased the stock carrying capacity of his property. He bred prize-winning sheep, was a founding member of the Northeastern Pastoral and Agricultural Society and served as councillor and later President of the Shire of Waranga in 1873. James Winter died in 1885 but Dhurringile stayed in the ownership of the Winter family until 1907.

Dhurringile then passed through a number of hands before being purchased in December 1925 by Vincent Vernon Hart. It appears that Dhurringile had been vacant for many years and remained unoccupied while in Hart's ownership. In 1939, the Commonwealth government negotiated with Hart to rent the property for use as an internment camp for German and Italian aliens. Internees were held at Dhurringile until they were transferred to other camps but by March 1940, the Department of the Interior had vacated the property. in

1941, Dhurringile was taken up by the army for use as a Prisoner of War Camp for Germans captured in the Middle East. The Murchison camp consisted of five compounds including the Dhurringile mansion which was intended for German officers who were to be given more favourable treatment than other ranks. In July 1945, the German prisoners were transferred to other sites and at the end of the war, the site was cleared of huts and all other military buildings.

In 1947, Dhurringile was purchased by the Presbyterian Church for use as a home for immigrant boys from the United Kingdom whose fathers had died during the war. The intention was to train the boys in farming methods to prepare them for employment. By this time the mansion was in a deteriorating condition and substantial repairs and alterations were needed. The Dhurringile Rural Training Farm did not open until 13 June 1951. Life in the home was spartan, difficulties were encountered in recruiting boys from Scotland and the scheme had limited success. The Commonwealth Government continued to provide increasing financial support to the home in accordance with an immigration policy to promote British migration, but difficulties persisted and the Dhurringile Rural Training Farm closed in 1964.

In March 1965, Dhurringile was purchased by Victorian Government Penal Department for use in the rehabilitation of alcoholic prisoners. The farm was re-fenced and the agricultural part of the property rehabilitated to provide a level of self-support. Prisoners provided labour for extensive repair and alteration works at the mansion. Dhurringile currently operates as a correctional facility, and the mansion has been adapted for use as an administrative and training centre. (May 2019)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Dhurringile currently operates as a correctional facility. Access is via a driveway from Murchison-Tatura Road which leads to a carpark and reception building. The mansion is the most prominent building on the site and is located on a rise set back from Murchison-Tatura Road. The shearing shed is located in the north-east corner of the site, and the stables are located between the mansion and the shearing shed. The land to the west, north and south of the mansion is open agricultural land, while the areas to the east between the mansion, shearing shed and stables contain buildings and structures used for accommodation, recreation and agricultural training. These buildings are located behind the rise on which the mansion is located and are not clearly visible from Murchison-Tatura Road. It is likely that a network of tunnels and tanks associated with the water management system for the place survives below ground.

The mansion

Dhurringile mansion is a 68 room two storey structure with a dominant tower which is visible from the road. It is constructed of red brick, in the Italianate style with rendered dressings and applied rendered ornamental detail. The ground floor has arcaded loggias to the north and west elevations with cast iron elements to both levels. The four-storey tower has a room at each landing. The main entrance faces north and opens into a large double height entrance hall. The main stair landing has a large Ferguson and Urie stained glass window which includes images of a kangaroo, an emu, Flora and Pomona, and rural scenes. Suites of rooms open from hallways on the ground and first floors and there are four underground rooms at the east end, one of which has a window opening into a light well.

The stables

The stables are constructed of brick with a corrugated iron roof. Three wings form a square around a central courtyard with a domed cover over an underground tank in the centre. The fourth side of the courtyard is defined by a low brick fence with a central opening. The interior of the north wing comprises multiple rooms off a central hallway and was likely used as a residence. The east wing has a central opening allowing access from the courtyard to the rear of the building while openings to the south wing have timber doors.

The shearing shed

The shearing shed is constructed of timber and is in two sections with the rear, or northern section slightly larger than the front section. It has a corrugated iron gable roof, and glazed windows to the rear and side elevations. Internally the roof is supported by substantial timber columns and trusses, some of which have been replaced. The original raised shearing floor has been removed and the floors are now at ground level; concrete in the front and dirt in the rear section. Pens to house calves are located along each side and in the centre, and elements of the early shaft drive for the shearing equipment remain attached to the upper part of the western wall.

Objects integral

None.

Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect the archaeological significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness – The intactness of the place is good/fair. The mansion, stables and shearing shed are three significant buildings which contribute to an understanding of the place as a substantial nineteenth century pastoral property. All evidence of the use of the place as a prisoner of war camp and as a boys home, has been removed. (May 2019).

Integrity – The integrity of the place is good/fair. The cultural heritage values of the place as an extensive nineteenth century pastoral property can be read through the survival of the mansion, shearing shed and stables. Undeveloped land to north-east of the mansion and to the north west of the shearing shed contributes to this understanding. The areas between the three buildings have been compromised through the removal of structures associated with the use of the place as a prisoner of war camp and the construction of new buildings associated the current use of the place as a correctional facility. (May 2019).

CONDITION

The condition of the place varies. The mansion is in very good condition and is well maintained. The Ferguson and Urie stained glass window to the stair landing is showing signs of flaking. The stables are constructed of brick and are in good/fair condition. There is significant cracking, primarily to the north-western corner but also in other areas. The shearing shed is in fair condition. It appears structurally sound, apart from the wall on the western side. (May 2019).

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

F O'Neill, & D Taylor. *HM Rehabilitation Centre Dhurringile: A Conservation Analysis*. 1995

The Toolamba Estate, Lower Goulburn, The Australasian, Saturday 24th April 1880, page 25.

<https://www.myshepparton.com.au/dhurringile-mansion.html>

<https://fergusonandurie.wordpress.com/2015/11/21/1877-james-winters-dhurringile-mansion-murchison-victoria/> (information about Dhurringile stained glass window)

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/vic/E000167> (history and information about Australian orphanages, children's home, and other institutions)

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

Note: No photographs were permitted during the site visit by Heritage Victoria. The following photos were sourced online.



2017, North elevation.



2008, West elevation.

Name: Dhurringile
VHR number: VHR H1554
Hermes number: 863



2001, North elevation.
Source: Tatura Irrigation & Wartime Camps Museum



1986, Looking east view from the tower.
The shearing shed is visible top left and the stables are visible behind the tree, top right.
Source: State Library of Victoria



1982, View from eastern wing of the stables, looking west towards the mansion.
Note the domed cover in the centre of the courtyard which covers a tank
associated with the underground water management system.
Source: State Library of Victoria (John Collins collection)



1982, North-west corner of the stables.
Source: State Library of Victoria (John Collins collection)



1974, Interior details.

Source: State Library of Victoria (John Collins collection)

Saturday, March 24th
At 2.30 o'clock at the Homestead

SALE OF
DHURRINGILE HOMESTEAD
ESTATE
MURCHISON EAST [Under Subdivision]

Situated about 7 miles from Tatura Railway Station and 7 miles from Murchison East Railway Station.
RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE BEST GOLDEN VALLEY LAND
To be Subdivided into 11 Farms Ranging from 33 to 119 Acres
THE WHOLE OF THE LAND CAN BE IRRIGATED FROM THE MAIN WILSON CHANNEL

W. S. KEAST, Stock and Station Agent, Queen's House, Queen Street, Melbourne. **THOMAS RYAN,** 84 William Street, Melbourne.

Some material information from THE LANC ROBERTSON of South Australia, is sold for Public Auction, that Dhurringile Property, known as "DHURRINGILE HOMESTEAD ESTATE" which will be subdivided into 11 Farms, ranging from 33 to 119 Acres, suitable for Livestock and Intensive Culture.

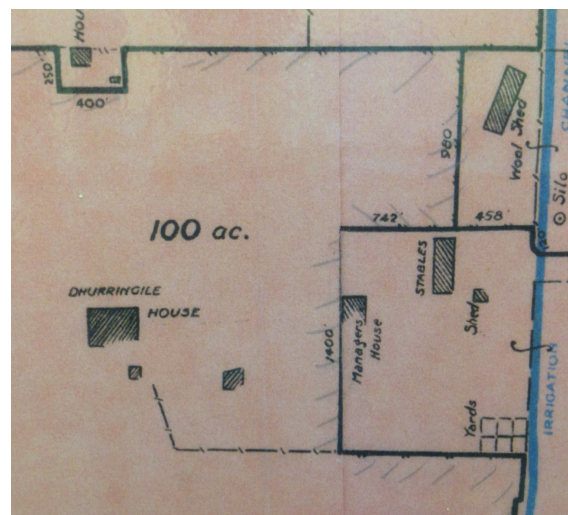
DHURRINGILE SUBDIVISION

THE DHURRINGILE ESTATE, which was the seat of the late W. JAMES KEAST, is a very productive and fertile 1000 acres, with magnificent views, and will be subdivided into 11 farms of 33 to 119 acres each, with a view to the future of the estate as a whole.

Special attention is directed to the fact that the homestead, and also the outbuildings, are of a high class, and are in excellent condition, and are well adapted for the purpose of a large estate.

The property is situated in the Wilson Channel, and is well adapted for the purpose of a large estate, and is well adapted for the purpose of a large estate.

TO BE SOLD ON GOOD TERMS
FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS, APPLY
W. S. KEAST AND **THOMAS RYAN**
Stock and Station Agent, Queen's House, Queen Street, Melbourne. 84 William Street, Melbourne.



(no date) Auction notice, Sale of Dhurringile.

Source: Tatura War Museum

Name: Dhurringile
VHR number: VHR H1554
Hermes number: 863



1953, Dhurringile Presbyterian Boys Farm.
Source: <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au>



1945, Group of German POW officers.
Source: Australian War Memorial



1943, The watch tower at Dhurringile Prisoner of War Camp, occupied by German Officer Prisoners of War, under the command of No. 13 Prisoner of War Group.
Source: Australian War Memorial



1943, Dhurringile, taken over by the military authorities as portion of the accommodation for Prisoners of War of No. 13 Prisoner of War Group. German Officer Prisoners of War are housed in this building.
Source: Australian War Memorial

Name: Dhurringile
VHR number: VHR H1554
Hermes number: 863



1943, Rear view of Dhurringile, now occupied by German Officer Prisoners of War, under the command of No. 13 Prisoner of War group.
Source: Australian War Memorial



1943, Entrance to Dhurringile on the northern boundary while in use as a Prisoner of War Camp.
Source: Australian War Memorial

Name: Dhurringile
VHR number: VHR H1554
Hermes number: 863



c. 1877, Watercolour by William Tibbits
Source: State Library of Victoria

Examples of contemporary buildings at the place associated with the use of the place as a correctional facility.



'Dongas' or shipping containers converted for use as accommodation.



Reception building.

ATTACHMENT 1

EXISTING REGISTRATION DETAILS

TO BE SUPERSEDED BY THE FOREGOING RECOMMENDATION

EXISTING CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Heritage place

EXISTING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

Rodney Shire

H.M. Prison, Dhurringile, Murchison-Tatura Road, Murchison.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p.3093]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

There is no extent of registration plan for this place.

EXISTING STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

Dhurringile, consisting of a two-storeyed brick residence and gatehouse, brick stables and timber shearing shed, was constructed by James Winter in 1876-77. John [Jock] Winter, the son of a blacksmith, arrived in Australia with his family from Scotland in 1841 and settled near Ballarat. The discovery of gold on their property transformed the life of the family and provided the basis for sizeable investment in large pastoral areas throughout northern Victoria. Three of the four Winter sons who had taken up large areas of land in the Goulburn Valley each constructed a substantial home on their land, the grandest of them being Noorilim [VHR H0297], built by William Winter (later Winter-Irving) in 1878-79 and Dhurringhile.

After the great Goulburn flood of 1870 had washed away his original wooden homestead, James Winter selected a site away from the river for the construction of a huge new towered brick mansion which he named Dhurringile. The mansion was designed by Lloyd Tayler and Wyatt, one of Melbourne's most prominent architectural firms. The style of Dhurringile suggests that it was probably designed by Frederick Wyatt as Lloyd Tayler, the more well known of the two, was absent from his practice from January 1875 to May 1877 on an extended visit to England. The mansion also had extensive stabling, a shearing shed, and other outbuildings, and a manager's residence and stabling some distance from the house which may predate the mansion as James Winter had taken up residence there by 1875. The shearing shed was reputed to be one of the largest in Victoria. Although often absent from his country property, James Winter was active in local community affairs and through his interest in agricultural innovation, markedly increased the stock carrying capacity of his property. He bred prize-winning sheep, was a founding member of the Northeastern Pastoral and Agricultural Society and served as councillor and later President of the Shire of Waranga in 1873. James Winter died in 1885 but Dhurringile stayed in the ownership of the Winter family until 1907.

Dhurringile passed through a number of hands before being purchased in December 1925 by Vincent Vernon Hart. It appears that Dhurringile had been vacant for many years and remained unoccupied while in Hart's ownership. In 1939, the Commonwealth government negotiated with Hart to rent the property for use as an

internment camp for German and Italian aliens. Internees were held at Dhurringile until transferred to other camps early in 1940 and by March 1940, the Department of the Interior had vacated the property. In 1941, Dhurringile was taken up by the army for use as a Prisoner of War Camp for Germans captured in the Middle East. The Murchison camp consisted of five compounds including the Dhurringile mansion which was intended for German officers who were to be given more favourable treatment than other ranks. In July 1945, the German prisoners were transferred to other sites and at the end of the war, the site was cleared of huts and all other military buildings.

In 1947, Dhurringile was purchased by the Presbyterian Church for use as a home for migrant boys from the United Kingdom whose fathers had died during the war. The intention was to train the boys in farming methods to prepare them for employment. By this time the mansion was in a deteriorating condition and substantial repairs and alterations were needed. The Dhurringile Rural Training Farm did not open until 13 June 1951. Life in the home was spartan, difficulties were encountered in recruiting boys from Scotland and the scheme had limited success. The Commonwealth Government continued to provide increasing financial support to the home in accordance with a child migrant policy to promote British migration, but difficulties persisted and a decision was made in 1964 to close the Dhurringile Rural Training Farm.

In March 1965, Dhurringile was purchased by Victorian Government Penal Department for use in the rehabilitation of alcoholic prisoners. The farm was refenced and the agricultural part of the property rehabilitated to provide a level of self-support. Prisoners provided labour for extensive repair and alteration works at the mansion. Dhurringile remains a minimum security prison, but the house itself accommodates no prisoners and has undergone some restoration and been adapted for use as a training centre.

How is it significant?

Dhurringile is of architectural, historical and social significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Dhurringile is of architectural significance as one of Victoria's grandest mansions and a fine example of the Victorian Italianate style. It is significant as a rare work of the short-lived but prominent architectural partnership of Lloyd Tayler and Wyatt. Dhurringile is significant as an early demonstration of the rise of the red face brick aesthetic which arose as a reaction to the predominant use of stucco in the previous decades.

Dhurringile and its outbuildings are of historical significance as an important example of a substantial mansion built on the proceeds of gold discoveries and subsequent pastoral wealth. It is significant for its associations with its owner John Winter and the prominent Winter and Winter-Irving families who were among the largest pastoral landholders in Victoria.

Dhurringile is of historical and social significance for its use as an internment and World War Two prisoner of war camp which reflects an aspect of Australian life which is not well known. Its subsequent use by the Presbyterian Church as a rural training centre for migrant boys from the United Kingdom is a significant association with the perceived need to populate Australia with migrants of Anglo-Celtic background. It is also significant for its later use as a rehabilitation centre for prisoners with alcohol or drug dependent dependency.

EXISTING PERMIT POLICY

There is no permit policy for this place.

EXISTING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

There are no permit exemptions for this place.