

**Place name** Hawthorn Bank

**Survey Date:**

**Other name** Lillies Leaf

**Id:**

692

**Street** Pound Road East

**Last Update**

**Locality** Yarram

**Postcode** 3971

**Official Locality**

**Property No** HO43

**Local Government Area** Wellington Shire

**Property Info**

**Precinct:** Not in precinct

**Easting**

**Northing**

**Map** 8220

**Workshop number**

**Workshop votes**

**Field survey number**

**Community priority**

**Designer**

**Builder**

**Ownership**

**Built Date** 1840

**Change Date**

**Description** Former Use: 1840 ; Commercial ; 1840 ; FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ; ; Description: Date Started 1840; Date Finished ; Storeys 1; Desc BANK; Walls WATTLE & DAUB; Roof CORRUGATED IRON; Style: Pre-separation Colonial Vernacular 1836-50

Hawthorn Bank, Pound Road, Yarram was erected at an unknown date, possibly in the early 1840s when Reeve's Survey was undertaken. This single storey structure is constructed of rough hewn square posts and slabs with wattle and daub panels to all the walls. The roof is clad with corrugated iron over earlier shingles. Substantial weatherboard additions were constructed in the late nineteenth century. (RNE 004792)

Condition and Integrity : Hawthorn Bank has been substantially damaged by collapse of an adjacent mature tree. The intrinsic vernacular qualities are still intact and the structure can be restored. The building is derelict and insecure (RNE 004792).

Title Details: C/T;Vol 8852;Folio 164;  
C/T;Vol 8852;Folio 163;  
OLD;Vol 644;Folio 918;

**Condition**

**Integrity**

National Themes	Local Themes
	2. SETTLING THE LAND
	2.1 Phases of land settlement

**History** Off Bland's Road, formerly on the Glengarry Road. Allotment CA 1 (Parts of CA 6 & 7 and Reeve's Survey adjoin: Grantees David Weir (10/12/1852) and Daniel Connell) First land owner.- Robert Smith, 10/ 12/1853, 640 pounds.

Robert Smith of Melbourne first purchased from the Crown, the 640 acres on which the Hawthorn Bank Homestead is situated: this was in 1853 located on a feature known as Stringy Bark Ridge. He selected this under the 1843 land tenure regulations and may never have occupied the land. 2 Gilbert Brown, a grazier in the area, as early as 1851, took up Weir and Connell's two blocks at least by 1863 and leased them in 1878 to David Fraser (2). In 1856 he owned a freehold and residence at Woranga (3). Brown died in the same year and Fraser who was the executor of his will, acquired his two blocks and added them to the 640 acres where Hawthorn Bank now stands (4). Gilbert Brown, apart from grazing cattle, also leased about two acres of land on the Tarra River where Brewery Road now crosses and where Turnbull's bridge was built, from John Reeve. There, in 1847, his brewery establishment was described as a brew house, loft and two apartments occupied as dwellings: Brown purchased this land from Reeve in 1857 for 20 pounds Hawthorn Bank lay a little over a kilometre to the north (5).

Fraser mortgaged the property, in 1896, to the Bank of Victoria who foreclosed and resold it to Charles Robertson. Robertson also mortgaged it in 1910 and eventually the various allotments were dispersed to Harry Bland and Flora Wilson c1919 (6).

The property was described in 1878 when Fraser became the owner, as consisting of CA 6 & 7 (192 acres) and CA 1 ( 640 acres ) and the buildings on the latter were a four room timber house and two outbuildings; this pair was then called Lillies Leaf. By 1879 two rooms had been added to the house and the description continues as such until 1887 when a further three rooms are listed. Fraser then occupied 1498 acres both in Woranga and at Woodside and each had homesteads. Under Robertson, from 1902 - 19, the total holding was 1460 acres.

Today there is a homestead consisting of at least two clear periods of building perhaps of an earlier date which is clad with hardwood boards over wattle and daub. The more recent part of the homestead and when the Ironstone which comprises the footings to its verandah was purchased by Fraser from John Gellion's quarry. However, it is possible that these two rooms concur with those added to the rated description of 1887: the detailing of the entrance and the skirtings being more likely to be from this period. The original part of the homestead appears to have consisted of four rooms, one near demolished by a tree and another demolished when the new wing was added which matches the 1878 description; a verandah exists at the front and a brick fireplace near the southern end with an Edwardian mantel. Two rooms have been added to the rear to total six rooms which matches the description of 1879. The outbuilding was originally of four rooms also (since one room has been made of two): the north-east room having been perhaps the kitchen for the later homestead or a kitchen in a self-contained house. A large brick cooking fireplace and baker's oven are provided here where no cooking fire is evident in the homestead (8).

The fireplace bricks are 210 x 60 x 100 mm. which approximates the American brick size, rather than the English or German. Wattle and daub basket work (presumably Swamp Paperback) has been placed between some faceted and some round saplings (gum) to provide the grounds for hair-reinforced mud with presumably a manure sealing mixture applied over all. Most of this has been clad with hardwood boards externally with the exception of under the north verandah. The roof has the steep double-gabbling but the expected shingling as exists on the first homestead section has been removed, and the roofing timbers appear to have been replaced. The floors are of consolidated earth with a sealing layer and the walls have been partially lined with softwood internally. The recent fall of a large pine has damaged the south-east corner of the building as it has almost demolished the south wall of the homestead. The old homestead is of a similar round, sappling wall framing, but the roof frame is sawn. Shingle clad the roof whilst lathes provide grounds for internal plastering to the walls and ceiling.

Throughout all the buildings, gas brackets have been distributed in the days when a gas manufacturing plant existed on the property; the roses have survived. The later section of the homestead has been decorated in the period c1910 with Arts and Crafts pattern wallpapers, whilst plaster roses survive from an earlier time. Around the complex are several mature exotic trees which include Moreton Bay Fig, Monterey Pines, a Norfolk Island Pine, a Blue Atlas Cedar and a Hoop Pine: most of these are in good condition and all are of significant age. They are an important thinning, setting for the house.

Little definite may be said of the age of the two early structures, or whether one predates the other, (i.e. primitive construction prior to the arrival of imported timbers or a pit saw in the district), or whether one was a detached kitchen and servants' quarters, built of cheaper materials. It appears that perhaps the latter is the case and that the old section is from the 1850's whilst the new wing was added c1887 to be renovated early this century. The rarity of wattle and daub construction and the evident building sequence of the complex make it of historic value to the area, as an example of homestead development over a period, of perhaps, sixty years (Butler 1982:86).

#### REFERENCES

Heritage Victoria File No. 601808

Butler, G. 1982. References.

1) RGO

2)

a) 1851 Directory

b) Title information held by owner

c) RB 1863, 37: house and land Woranga, 40 pounds

3) LA Roll

4) Ibid

5) Lennon p 173f

6) Title information held by owner

7)

a) RB 1878, 566: 4 room wooden house and 2 outbuildings 'Lillies Leaf' 40 pounds: 640 acres

b) RB 1879, 591: 6 room wooden house etc. 40 pounds

c) RB 1883, 346; 7 room wooden house etc, 40 pounds

d) RB 1887, 171: nine room wooden house etc. 800 acres , 117 pounds

8) ibid

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Trust Register	B3261		Listed

Planning Scheme	HO43	Listed
Register of the National Estate	004792	Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H256	Listed

**National Estate**

**Research Required**

**Recommendations**

**Fieldwork priority?**

**Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed & protected      **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

**Final Ranking** State significance      **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

**Statement of significance** The earliest records relating to Hawthorn Bank date to 1858 when Gilbert Brown is noted as owner of the property. This is the oldest intact wattle and daub building in Victoria and a unique, complete example of this form of construction in the State. The house is an exemplar of vernacular building traditions and has significant early associations with the settlement and development of South Gippsland. (RNE 004792)

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

**Extent of designation**

**Informant**

**Notes**

**Follow up**

**Bibliography** Butler, G., (1982), Port Albert Conservation Study (Place no. 59), South Gippsland Publishing Company, Foster, 86