

Marathon Estate Woolshed & Yard Complex - Statement of Significance

City of Greater Geelong, 2023

Heritage Place:	Marathon Estate Woolshed & Yard Complex	PS ref no:	HO25
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What is significant?

The Marathon Estate Woolshed and Yard Complex is of historical heritage significance as a good example of an early bluestone shearing shed and attendant yards, associated with the early subdivision of the City's rural hinterland into squatting runs and the rise of sheep farming in the Anakie area for wool production and export during the mid C20th.

How is it significant?

Marathon Estate Woolshed and Yard Complex is of HISTORICAL significance at a local and regional level in demonstrating the evolution of pastoral holdings as squatting runs and the development of the regional wool industry during the mid-C19th, being a woolshed and the only surviving building from the Marathon squatting run. (criterion A)

Marathon Estate Woolshed and Yard Complex is of HISTORICAL significance at a local level for its association with a number of notable early pastoralists including Robert Officer and Sir Samuel Wilson. (criterion H).

Marathon Estate Woolshed and Yard Complex is of AESTHETIC significance at a local level as a modest or utilitarian example of a bluestone woolshed, a typology that remains relatively rare nationally, albeit the Marathon Woolshed is eclipsed in its architectural importance by other regional examples. (criterion D).

Why is it significant?

The Marathon Estate Woolshed and initial yard complex was built c1867 for notable pastoralist Sir Samuel Wilson. At this time, the Anakie Balliang, Cowies Creek, Lara, Lovely Banks, Little River, Moorabool and Sutherlands Creek area boasted the largest number of sheep in the region, totalling 53,445. In the following year the Marathon run was described as a vast sheep property with 13 large paddocks subdivided by substantial stone walls and post-and-rail fencing.

The homestead and most other outbuildings being demolished in 1938-39, the Woolshed represents the solitary surviving building from the Marathon squatting run.

The Woolshed features a simple rectangular plan, with mortared bluestone walls and a corrugated iron roof. Whilst the yards are believed to have been substantially altered over time, their functional presence if not fabric still complements the historical use of the woolshed.

Primary source

Rowe, David (for City of Greater Geelong) : About Corayo: A Thematic History of Greater Geelong, Vol 4 p363, p368, p389

Willingham, Allan 1986: Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study Volume 1, Sheet 112, pp255-258