

‘Barwonside’ Residence and Tannery Ruins, 81-87 Tannery Road, Charlemont Statement of Significance

August 2024

Heritage Place: ‘Barwonside’ Residence and Tannery Ruins, 81-87 Tannery Road, Charlemont

PS ref no: HO2035



Source: David Scott May 2022



Source: Places Weave Nearmap, April 2022

What is significant?

‘Barwonside’ Residence and Tannery Ruins comprises archaeological remains of the Barwon Tannery and an intact dwelling originally developed as the Tannery Manager’s residence.

Manager’s Residence

The Manager’s residence is single storey weatherboard dwelling with a dominant galvanised iron hipped roof and steeply sided gabled roof-wing built in 1860c in the mid-Victorian style and extended in c1890s-1900.

The following features contribute to the significance of the place:

- The timber weatherboard cladding, and early timber framed double hung windows, arranged in pairs and singularly under the bullnosed verandah which is supported by turned timber posts with simple, decorative timber brackets and valance panels.
- Two early unpainted brick chimneys.
- The substantial exotic trees including cypress trees situated around the site.

Tannery Ruins

The Barwon Tannery ruins are listed as a Victorian Heritage Inventory site (H7721-0440).

The Tannery, now ruinous, was constructed in 1860c. Significant features of the Tannery when the site was surveyed for the Outer Areas Heritage Study in 1998-2000 are:

- Brick foundations on the edge of the flood plain, about 80 metres south of the Barwon River
- Remains of four vaulted structures which could be clearly seen on the north face
- Some of the surviving bricks are marked ‘Northcote’ (Northcote Brickworks, established 1866)

How is it significant?

‘Barwonside’ Residence and Tannery Ruins, at 81-81 Tannery Road, Charlemont, is of historical, scientific, aesthetic, and associative significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Barwonside Manager's residence and Barwon Tannery site are significant for their ability to demonstrate part of Geelong's industrial history related to the processing of livestock for hides and associated by-products. They are an integral part of an industrial estate along the banks of the Barwon River that included Victoria's largest and most successful tanneries, fellmongeries and wool scouring operations, the street appropriately known as Tannery Road. (Criteria A & C).

'Barwonside', the original manager's residence of the Barwon Tannery is an integral part of the tannery complex, demonstrating aspects of how the tannery was managed and the changes generated by operations inclusive of several layers of development through the early 20th century. It is also a good example of a weatherboard dwelling retaining some qualities of mid-Victorian style and substantial exotic trees. (Criterion E)

'Barwonside' and the Barwon Tannery site is significant for its association with Alfred Douglass, merchant and proprietor of *Geelong Advertiser*, James Munday, of the Geelong Tannery, George Gardiner, owner of the Victoria Tannery and Bone Mill, and Frederic Palmer, manager of the Australian Tannery. All were prominent figures in the business community of Geelong and the local area. The place was used by James Munday and George Gardiner as a property for erecting and expanding their tannery operations. (Criterion H).

Primary source

Barwonside Heritage Assessment, Janine Barrand 29 February 2024, peer reviewed by David Scott 24 July 2024.

Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 13, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*