

BARRS ORCHARD

Wurundjeri

Place No. 224

ADDRESS 29 Gatters Road
Wonga Park

Last Update 1/04/2005

DESCRIPTION The former cottage forms a section of the present house, but has been so substantially altered that it no longer recognisable as a 1920s house.
The present house is sited on the brow of the hill within an orchard landscape.

Condition Good

Integrity Altered - major alterations

Threats None apparent

Key elements

Designer

HISTORY The current owners, Frank and Esme Barr arrived here in 1953, purchasing this "condemned apple orchard" from Peter Virtue.[2] Their property was originally been part of a large allotment of 179 acres acquired from the Crown by G. P. Gatters in 1883, and was subsequently subdivided in part by the Closer Settlement Board.[3] The Burke family acquired land in Gatters Road around 1914, with two separate allotments (this property and the one to the east, still owned within the Burke family). The first house on this property is thought to date from the 1920s and to have been built by Hayes family. It was still a two-roomed timber and cement sheet cottage with a rear skillion (added around 1939) when purchased by the Barrs. There were also two old bungalows and several sheds (since demolished).[2]

The Barrs gradually extended the cottage, adding a kitchen and other rooms. In recent years they have built a completely new section to the house, but have retained and extensively renovated the early cottage.[2]

The Barrs re-established an orchard on the property, using it to supplement the income Frank obtained from his trade as a house painter. They have specialised in stone fruits - peaches, plums, nectarines and cherries - and the orchard was a family concern with all helping pick and pack. Marketing involved long trips into the Footscray Markets several days a week. They recall the three local carriers - Alan Bickford, Alan Knee and Freddie Knee - who would be going into market every day during the peak of the season, and the two cool stores in Gatters Road - Smith's and Colella's - both of which were used by the Barrs.[2]

Creation Date -

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Burke, Barr

5.02 - Orchards & market gardens

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of no interest

LEVEL Local interest

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management

Extra Research

- BIBLIOGRAPHY** [1] Workshop Place 15 (c)
[2] Frank and Esme Barr
[3] Parish of Warrandyte, Parish Plans 1902 and current plan.