

River Clay Shop
220-230 Yarra St., Warrandyte.

This former residence, which dates from c 1931,⁵⁰⁰ once formed part of the Robertson family's Yarra Street properties. These included the adjacent 1890s Wine Hall, purchased from the Kruse family in 1921.⁵⁰¹

Gertrude and Albert Robertson, shopkeepers, became the registered owners of Allotment 3 in Section 15 (the site of both buildings) in 1923.⁵⁰² The Wine Hall continued to operate until 1924 when the Robertsons surrendered the licence. From 1925, they ran the property as a boarding house.⁵⁰³ Later, the Robertsons lived on the upper floor and converted the ground floor into a sweet shop and tea rooms.⁵⁰⁴

According to an article in a local Warrandyte newspaper, the former residence (now known as the River Clay Shop) was built for the Robertsons in the early 1930s. It was designed as an extension to the former Wine Hall and was planned "to cater for the increasing tourist trade."⁵⁰⁵

After a subdivision of Allotment 3 into Lot 1 (Nos.220-230) and Lot 2 (No.232)⁵⁰⁶ the former Wine Hall became the property for the Robertson's daughter, Joyce Bellingham. The ground floor was leased and became the Folk Art Shop.⁵⁰⁷

The adjacent residence(220-230) was purchased in 1978 by John and Bev.Hanson of Webb Street. It was described in a contemporary article as "a Warrandyte landmark."⁵⁰⁸ Hanson kept the main timber building, converting it into the present River Clay Shop. He also retained a galvanized iron structure on Yarra Street. A new store was constructed behind the main building, replacing an earlier hut.⁵⁰⁹

Of local historical significance as a local landmark associated with the Robertson family, owners of the adjacent Wine Hall from the 1920s.

⁵⁰⁰ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1931-32 Warrandyte Riding No.459.

⁵⁰¹ Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1921-22 Warrandyte Riding No.915.

⁵⁰² Transfer No.1113398.

⁵⁰³ Kyle Hayes and Derek Naughtin, "Warrandyte Wine Hall," Conservation Study, July 1992,p.55.

⁵⁰⁴ Hayes and Naughtin,p.55.

⁵⁰⁵ *Warrandyte Diary*, Sept. 1978;Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1931-32 Warrandyte Riding No.459.

⁵⁰⁶ Lodge Plan 35609.

⁵⁰⁷ Hayes and Naughtin,pp.55-56.

⁵⁰⁸ *Warrandyte Diary*, Sept.1978.

⁵⁰⁹ Interview with John Hanson, June 1994.