



Heritage Inventory No: **H** **7** **6** **2** **3** - **0** **3** **2** **4**

Heritage Inventory Site Card

Site Card must be completed in conjunction with the *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* at www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

1. Place

Name **Harp of Erin Hotel, Burrumbeet**

Other/former names

Current site description

Stone structural features, mounds and depressions and fruit trees are situated in a field directly north of the Western Highway, 1.5 km west of Burrumbeet. The features span an area of almost 2,500 m² that is located on the basalt plain north of Lake Burrumbeet. Above-ground structural remains consist of linear and rectilinear arrangements of squared basalt/bluestone. The outline of a rectangular feature, probably a former building, is visible from satellite photographs.

2. Current statutory listing

Victorian Heritage Register Number
 Heritage Overlay Number

3. Suggested protection

Victorian Heritage Register
 Heritage Overlay, Local Planning Scheme

4. Archaeological description

Surface cultural material Sub-surface cultural deposits Archaeological potential
 Features Disturbance
 Artefacts / Artefact scatter

5. Archaeological significance

High Medium Low None Unknown

6. Location

Site location (where known) **North of the present Western Highway, 1.5 km west of Burrumbeet and 140 m east of Cockpit Lagoon Road**

Street number Street **Western Highway**

Suburb **Burrumbeet** State **VIC** Postcode **3352**

Local Government Area **Ballarat**

Full AMG co-ordinates (must be AGD 66) Easting **733349** Northing **5849457**

Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only) **Windermere, 7623-3-2**

7. Cadastral location

County **Ballarat** Parish Township **Burrumbeet**

Section **3** Allotment **TP329908** SPI **3\TP329908**

8. Indigenous values

Site has known Indigenous values Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register Number

9. Associated sites (Inventory, VHR, HO or other)

Possibly associated with a site located 120 m to the west (Cockpit Lagoon Road Pit, Burrumbeet).

10. Keywords

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> early 19 th century | <input type="checkbox"/> urban | <input type="checkbox"/> pastoral | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mid 19 th century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outside urban | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> late 19 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> timber | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> early 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> mining | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid 20 th century | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transport | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid-late 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> civic |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
-

11. Plan of site **Please attach separate plan.** All features on the plan must be labelled and scale noted (eg 1:100,000).

12. Place history (attach sheet if necessary)

The Western Highway at Burrumbeet began as a track linking the head stations of squatting runs that were set up in the 1830s. An 1841 survey plan shows that the track follows almost the same alignment as it does today. After the discovery of gold in 1851 the basis of the economy shifted from sheep farming and the population grew. In 1864 there were at least seven hotels operating at Burrumbeet, but the number declined by the end of the decade when there was only four hotels (James 2007: 110-111). Burrumbeet served as a coaching station along the route between Ballarat and Beaufort and was later connected by the construction of the railway and Burrumbeet station in the 1870s.

The locations of 19th-century buildings in Burrumbeet are illustrated on a sketch map published by Ken James (2007, 10). Three places are shown to be located west of Dobson's Cobb & Co Stables (VHI H7623-0271) and the Picnic Hotel (VHI H7623-0272): Burrumbeet Toll Gate, which is said to be beside the Picnic Hotel (James 2007, 9); Stuart's Hotel to the south of the highway (still standing, now a private residence); and Harp of Erin Hotel north of the highway and slightly west of Stuart's Hotel. Thus, the Harp of Erin Hotel is one candidate for the site's identification, however, this is not certain, and until further information is obtained this should be considered as a preliminary identification.

13. Interpretation of site (Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented)

Recorded features include mounds and depressions, arrangements of dressed bluestone and uncut basalt boulders and untended trees. Outlines of rectangular features are visible from satellite photographs. Above-ground features were measured and accurately drawn (fig. 3). Three general features are identified. Feature A (figs. 4 and 5): 10m north of the highway are bluestone blocks set into the ground that form an almost square shape (2.25m x 2.7m). Feature B: walls, rises and depressions including a line of cut bluestone blocks that forms a north-south aligned wall and a curving line of bluestone blocks nearby. Viewed in relation to the satellite image, these features may form part of the site's main structure. Feature C (figs. 6 and 7): a roughly circular depression (8m x 9.7m) has raised edges and clustered boulders around the perimeter, two with carved notches; another circular depression is in the centre. Surface artefacts were not found at the site and sub-surface testing nearby only yielded one glass sherd. The site's function and identification is currently unknown. The use of good quality building stone and the possible existence of ancillary structures as well as the planted trees suggest a domestic and/or commercial structure of some size and pretension. The site's date cannot be ascertained on the basis of the recorded surface features, however, a date in the third, or conceivably the second quarter of the 19th century is possible.

14. Assessment of archaeological significance

The presence of intact, in situ structural remains mean the site has good archaeological potential. Aerial photographs taken in 1963 show few traces of the site, suggesting that it had been demolished probably several decades earlier. The site's interest lies in its possible early date in relation to European settlement of the Burrumbeet area, the good quality building materials used and the fact that the site's usage and chronology have not been identified. Therefore, the site is deemed to have medium to high archaeological significance.

15. Assessment of cultural heritage significance

Statement of Significance attached

Historical significance

The cultural heritage significance of the site is that it appears to be a well-built and probably public structure that is likely to date from the early years of settlement in Burrumbeet, which was established in 1855 (Watson 2003, 73).

Scientific significance

The scientific significance of the site lies in both its good condition, where cultural deposits are likely to be in situ (suggested by a lack of artefacts, which may show there has been little disturbance of sub-surface material) and also in the good quality materials and construction displayed by surviving, above-ground features.

Aesthetic significance

The site's location, near to Lake Burrumbeet and Mount Callender, give it some aesthetic value.

Social or spiritual significance

Though the exact use of the site is not known, the quality of building materials and construction techniques and its location along the route that later became the Western Highway suggests that it might have had a public function, perhaps as a hotel. Therefore, it has significance to the social history of the Burrumbeet and wider, goldfields region.

16. Present use

Pasture: the site is located in a field that is currently used for grazing sheep.

17. Threats

Road works: the proposed duplication of the Western Highway will impact upon the site, as the northern carriageway is planned to pass through the southern side of the site and almost the whole site will be within the construction zone.

18 References/ Informants

James, K. 2007: Muddy Water. A History of Burrumbeet. [self-published]

Watson, A.B. 2003: Lost & Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria. [self-published]

19. Photographs of site

Please attach as separate sheet.

20. Map showing location of site

Please attach separate plan.

Map must clearly identify assessed area and include any street addresses (eg excerpt from Melway and its reference numbers.)

Describe in detail directions to locate the site in the future

From Burrumbeet village (Lambton Arms Hotel, Station Street), travel westwards along the Western Highway for 1.4 km. The site is located to the north of the Western Highway, 140 m east of the junction between Cockpit Lagoon Road and the Western Highway.

21. Owner & Occupier Details

Agency

Owner's name A.M. Vowles & M. Dobson

Contact name

Postal address 2382 Western Highway Burrumbeet, Victoria 3352.

Telephone Facsimile

Email address

Occupier's name

Postal address

Telephone Facsimile

Email address

Recording Archaeologist Will Anderson, Kristal Flemming

Company name Dr. Vincent Clark & Associates Date recorded 02/02, 25/2, 15/9/2011
(Day/Month/Year)

Other Comments:

Return completed Site Cards to Heritage Victoria via email at archaeology.admin@dpcd.vic.gov.au or Heritage Victoria, PO Box 2392, Melbourne 3001

Office Use Only
Report Numbers..... Associated Consent numbers

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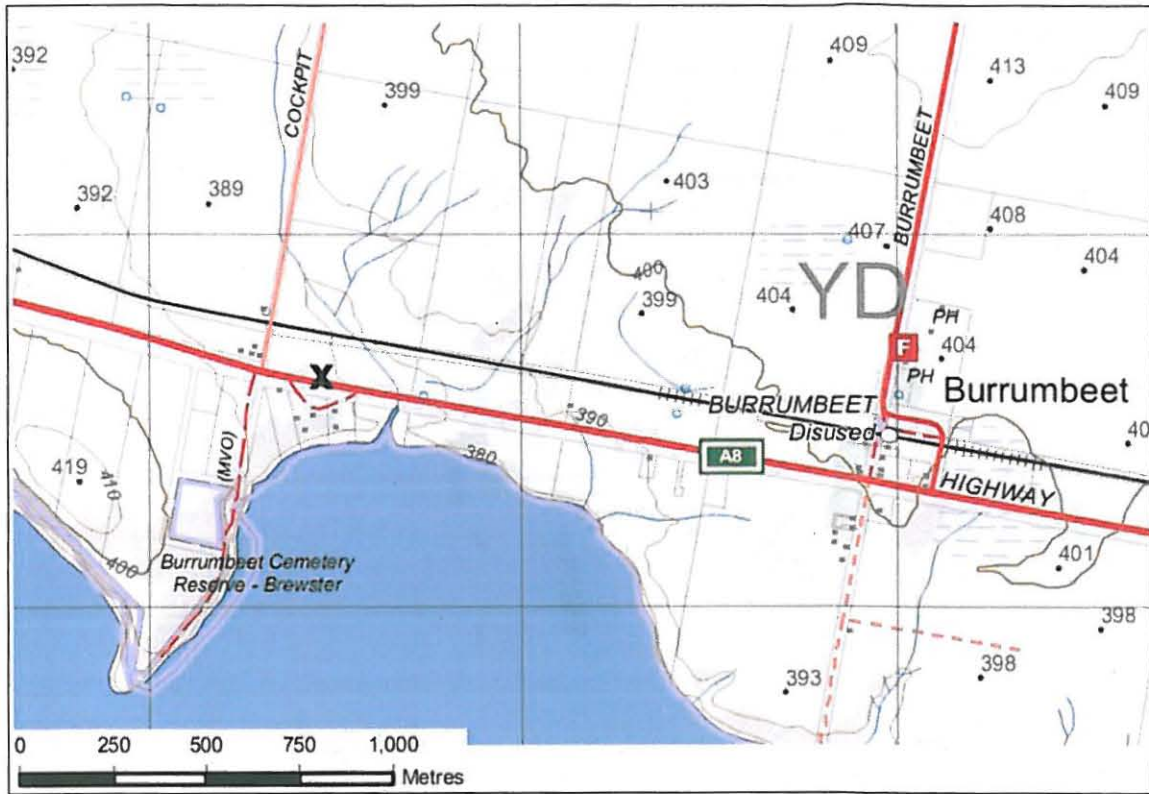


Fig. 1: Location of Harp of Erin Hotel (marked with 'x') on Victorian topographic map (scale = 1:30,000) sheet number 7623-3-2-3 (2010)

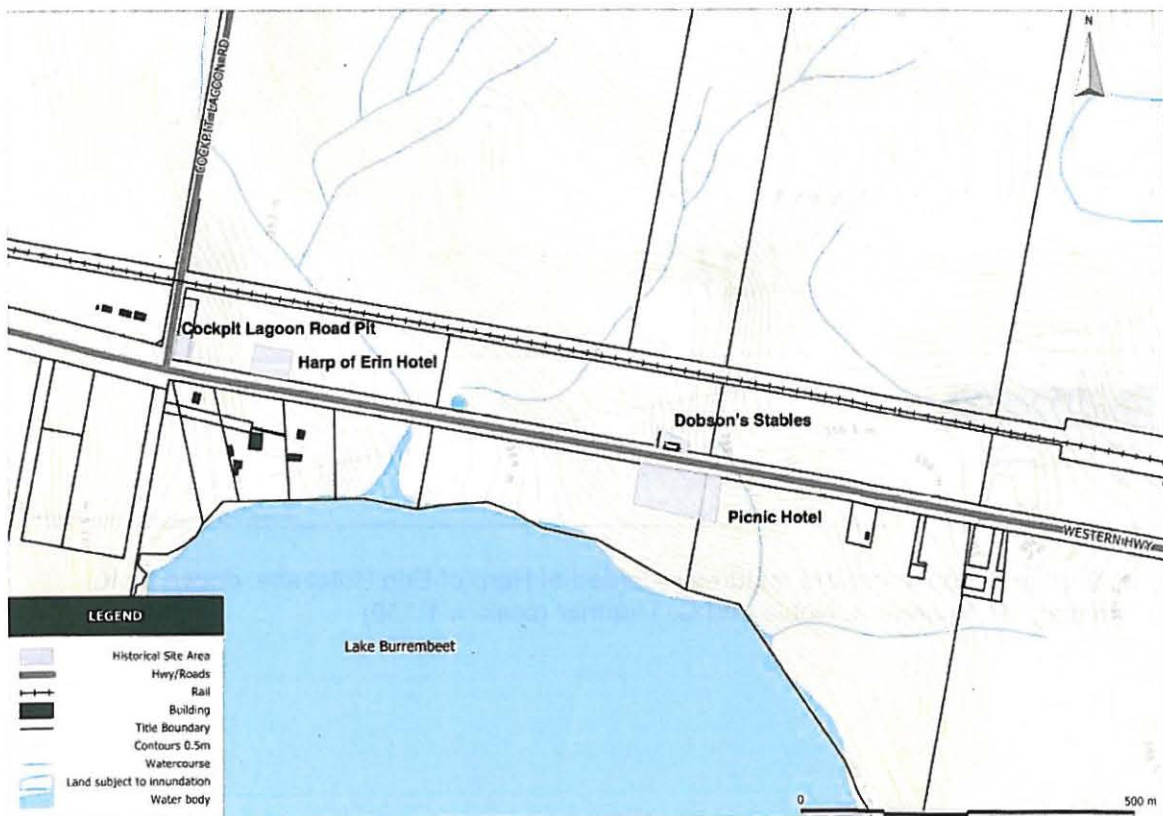


Fig. 2: Location of historical archaeology sites west of Burrumbeet (scale = 1:6,000)

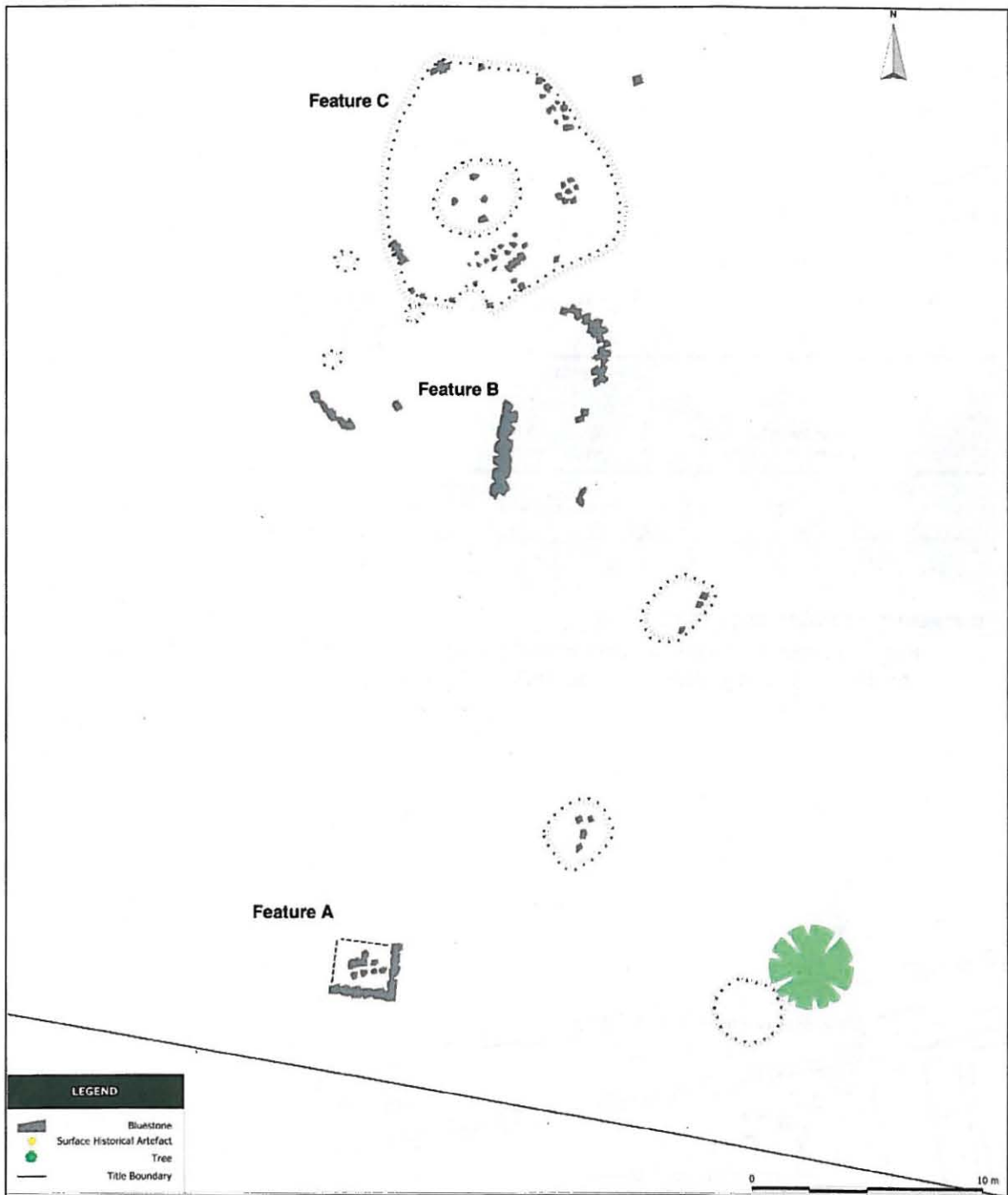


Fig. 3: Plan of above-ground features recorded at Harp of Erin Hotel site, drawn by K. Flemming , P. Kucera, A. Noble and C. Thürmer (scale = 1:150)

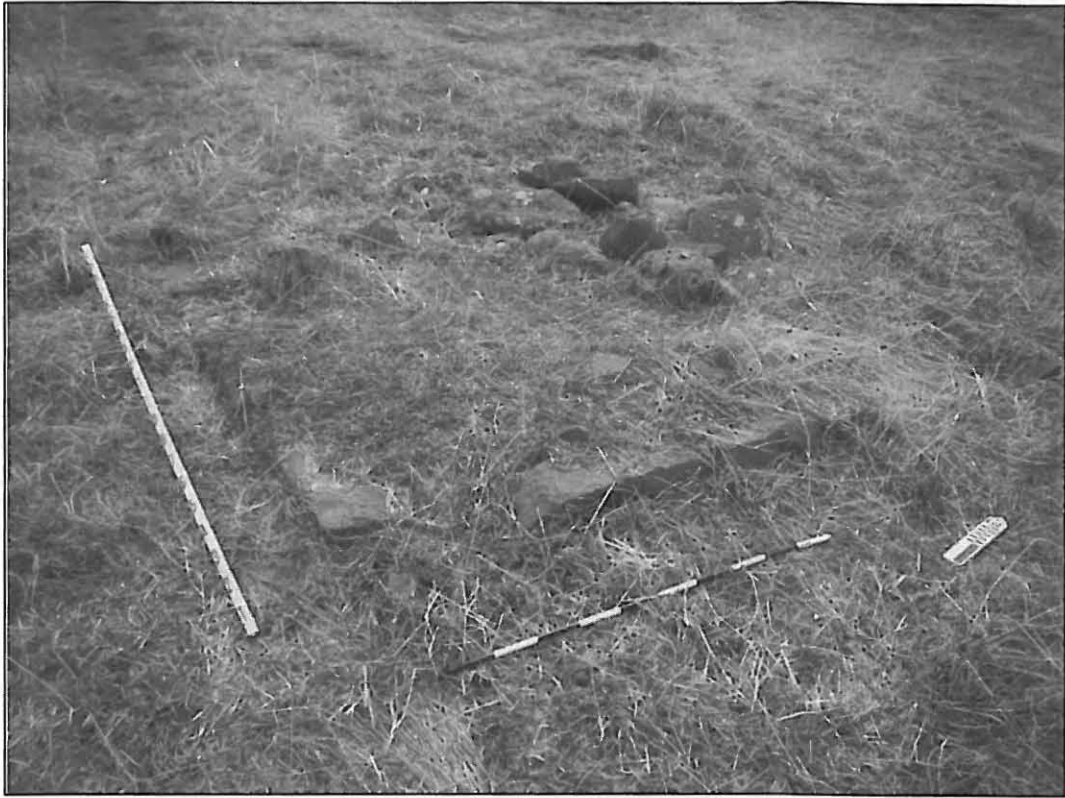


Fig. 4: Feature A: square shaped feature formed by dressed basalt blocks (P. Kucera, 15/9/11)



Fig. 5: Feature A: square shaped feature formed by dressed basalt blocks (P. Kucera, 15/9/11)



Fig. 6: Feature C: circular mound and depressions with associated basalt building stone, facing northwest (P. Kucera, 15/9/11)



Fig.7: Feature C: circular mound and depressions with associated basalt building stone, facing east (P. Kucera, 15/9/11)



Fig. 8: View of the Harp of Erin Hotel site showing apple and mulberry trees, facing southwest (W. Anderson, 25/2/11)



Fig. 9: View of the Harp of Erin Hotel site, facing east, with Ben Watson (r) and Siobhan Privitera (l). Ben is standing beside Feature A, showing its proximity to the current highway (W. Anderson, 25/2/11)

