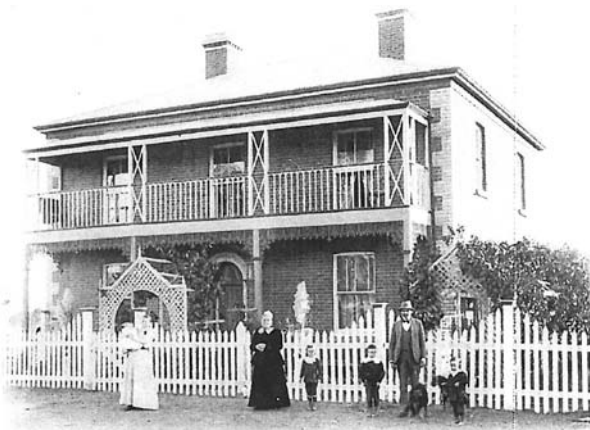


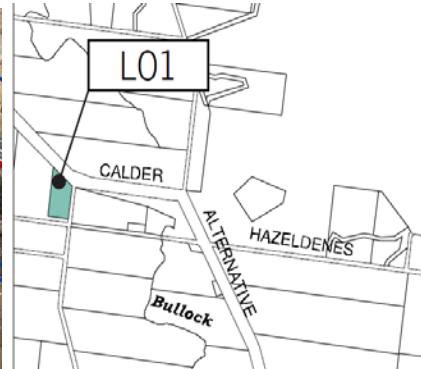
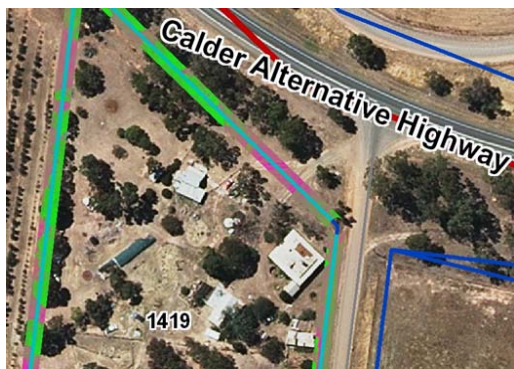
Name	<i>Ark Hall</i>	Reference in 1998 Marong Study	L01
Address	1419 Calder Alternative Highway, at Boyles Lane corner, Lockwood	Map reference	VicRoads 44 D7
Building type	Private residence	Survey date	June 2010 (external inspection only)
Date of construction	c. 1865 (reconfigured as a single-storey building in the 1940s)	Recommendation	Recommended for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	Ark Hall is of local historical significance.		



Left: *Ark Hall*, c. 1890, with members of the Wallis family in the foreground (Source: North Goldfields Library, image 104). Right: current building, minus upper level.



Left: South-east elevation, note timber dormer at rear. Right: View of *Ark Hall* looking directly east.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown as L1.

Intactness Good Fair Poor ✓

History

Lockwood is located approximately 15km from Bendigo. The settlement was the seat of local government from the 1850s until usurped by Marong in 1908. It is located in prime arable land, being on the Bullock Creek, one of two principal watercourses in the Parish of Lockwood. Early development was underpinned by agriculture, with Lockwood supplying produce to the Bendigo goldfields.¹ The first post office in Lockwood was opened in January 1855, and by the early 1860s, the Shire Hall and council offices had been constructed.² Gold was discovered nearby in 1863,³ and by 1865 the population of the township was approximately 500.

Ark Hall at Lockwood was built for John Charles Wallis (1831-1892), a market gardener and farmer who was born at Tamworth, England, migrating to Australia in 1853 with his wife Alice. They took up 15ha (38 acres) of land on the Bullock Creek in the same year. Prior to this Wallis had worked briefly as a butcher in Kyneton.⁴ The family's first house was of wattle and daub construction.⁵ Wallis eventually owned 400ha (1,000 acres) on which he ran cattle, sheep and game fowl, and established a vineyard. John and Alice Wallis had 14 children.⁶

In 1860 the family returned to England, where they stayed for 18 months. While there, Wallis bought materials that were later used in the construction of his new house.⁷ Ark Hall was a symmetrically composed two-storey bi-chrome brick construction with a shallow first floor balcony, ground level verandah and hipped roof (see picture c. 1890, page 1). Cream brick relieved the orange/red face brick at the corners, resembling quoins, and the surrounds of the round-headed front door. There were two chimneys, with cream bricks to the corbels, and windows were double-hung sashes, with a pair of panes to each sash. The internal staircase and fittings were of cedar and a large cellar was provided. A front room at ground floor level was fitted out as a shop, selling market and garden produce and home baked bread.⁸ Ark Hall was rated at £70 in 1865.⁹

Wallis was a successful exhibitor at the district agricultural and horticultural shows, enjoying success with his game fowl. He was also a councillor of the Shire of Marong in 1871 and President of the Board of Advice to the Shire.¹⁰

In 1939, the upper level of Ark Hall was damaged in a violent storm, resulting in its removal in c. 1945-47, when the building was reconfigured in its present form.¹¹

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 4.1: Living off the land
- 4.3: Grazing and raising livestock
- 4.4: Farming
- 5.3: Marketing and retailing
- 5.8: Working

Description & Integrity

Ark Hall on the Calder Alternative Highway at Lockwood was originally built in the 1860s as a two-storey property, being reconfigured to its present form in the mid-1940s. The property occupies a large asymmetrical plot on the south side of the Highway. The house itself is oriented at a diagonal to true north; for ease, the front wall is described here as the north elevation. The focus of the following description is the historic single-storey property, although there are a number of outbuildings at the rear (south) of the allotment. Ark Hall was not inspected internally; descriptions of internal elements in the following derive from the 1998 survey.¹²

Ark Hall is a symmetrically composed dwelling built of red/orange face brick relieved by cream bricks at the corners, resembling quoins, and around the central round arched doorway. Double hung sash windows flank the central door, with two panes to each sash, divided by glazing bars. The post-supported skillion roofed verandah and shallow hipped roof are clad with corrugated steel sheeting;

these are non-original elements, as are the rectangular brick chimneys to the east and west faces of the roof, all added/rebuilt during the works to adapt the house to a single storey form. Each chimney stack is topped by bands of projecting cream bricks. The verandah, which may date to the 1945-47 works, is deeper than the original, and returns around the side elevations, again unlike the original; it is also enclosed with wire mesh. A band of timber at the top of the front elevation is the springing point of the original balcony. A gabled dormer clad with corrugated sheet metal fixed horizontally projects from the rear (south side) of the roof. Openings to the side elevations have been modified.

The substantial cellar built to store produce potentially survives, as does the original staircase to the cellar.

Outbuildings include a small brick building with hipped roof, of simple form and detailing, to the rear of the dwelling (possibly used as a studio or sleep out) and a skillion-roofed iron clad chicken shed. A free-standing (mudbrick?) dwelling is located to the west, on the property, and addressing the road; this was not investigated. A timber post-and-rail fence is located on the front property boundary.

Comparative Analysis

In its original 1860s form, Ark Hall was one of few two-storey residences in the outlying settlements of the Bendigo goldfield, comparing with Rocky Vale Villa at Maiden Gully, a two-storey Gothic Revival house built of sandstone and granite by stonemason William Beebe Snr, and completed in 1891. As a substantial dwelling of some architectural pretension it also compared with the 1880s Park View in Marong, located a short distance north on Bullock Creek. As with Park View, Ark Hall was broadly Italianate in character. However, these qualities of scale and architectural grandeur were significantly comprised by the loss of the first floor and the reconfiguration of the building in the mid-1940s.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

Ark Hall, built c.1865, on the Calder Alternative Highway at Lockwood, is of historical significance for providing evidence of settlement in the peak phase (1860s) of development of the Lockwood district, which in turn was an important agricultural community supplying produce to the Bendigo goldfields. The property was built for successful market gardener and farmer John Wallis, whose landholding eventually extended to 400ha, on which he ran cattle, sheep and fowl, and established a vineyard. Its original double-storey scale also reflected Wallis' commercial success, and eminence in the local community; he was a councillor of the Shire of Marong in 1871 and President of the Board of Advice to the Shire. Ark Hall is also of interest for the 1940s reconfiguration of the building, after the upper level was damaged in a violent storm and removed, demonstrating a desire to retain and repair what would have been a severely damaged structure.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.

In its original form, Ark Hall was one of few two-storey buildings in the area and had a high degree of architectural pretension, being a symmetrically composed dwelling of bi-chromatic brick. These qualities of scale and architectural grandeur were however significantly comprised by the reconfiguration of the property in the mid-1940s. While the building retains its symmetrical proportions, original detailing to the ground level façade, and the shallow hipped roof form which broadly replicates that of the original two-storey dwelling, Ark Hall is nevertheless a significantly compromised dwelling. The deep wraparound verandah and rear dormer are also unsympathetic to the property's original design.

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

N/A

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

N/A

Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.

N/A

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Ark Hall was built c. 1865 as a two-storey property, and was reconfigured to its present form in the mid-1940s. It is a symmetrically composed dwelling built of red/orange face brick relieved by cream bricks at the corners, resembling quoins, and around the central round arched doorway. Double hung sash windows flank the central door, with two panes to each sash, divided by glazing bars. The post-supported skillion roofed verandah and shallow hipped roof are clad with corrugated steel sheeting. These are non-original elements, as are the rectangular brick chimneys to the east and west faces of the roof, all added/rebuilt during the works to adapt the house to a single storey form. Each chimney stack is topped by bands of projecting cream bricks. The verandah, which may date to the 1945-47 works, is deeper than the original, and returns around the side elevations, again unlike the original. A band of timber at the top of the front elevation is the springing point of the original balcony. A gabled dormer clad with corrugated sheet metal fixed horizontally projects from the rear (south side) of the roof. Openings to the side elevations have been modified.

How is it significant?

Ark Hall is of local historical significance.

Why is it significant?

Ark Hall, built c.1865, on the Calder Alternative Highway at Lockwood, is of historical interest for providing evidence of settlement in the peak phase (1860s) of development of the Lockwood district, which was an important agricultural community supplying produce to the Bendigo goldfields. The property was built for successful market gardener and farmer John Wallis, whose landholding eventually extended to 400ha. Its original scale also reflected Wallis' commercial success, and eminence in the local community, where he was a councillor of the Shire of Marong in 1871 and President of the Board of Advice to the Shire. Ark Hall is additionally of interest for the 1940s reconfiguration of the building, after the upper level was damaged in a violent storm and removed, demonstrating a desire to retain and repair what would have been a severely damaged structure.

Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The significance of the property relates primarily to its historical value, and its capacity to recall the development of the Lockwood district as an agricultural community from the 1850s. The Overlay extent is indicated on the above map, although the focus of significance is on the brick dwelling and its setback from Alternative Calder Highway.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

References

Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back*, Shire of Marong, 1985.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

Specific:

¹ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, pp. 69-75.

² David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat A History: Goats, Gold and Peppercorns*, p. 23, Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs: The Way it Was*, pp. 69-70.

³ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 69.

⁴ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 95.

⁵ Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back*, Shire of Marong, 1985, p. 70.

⁶ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 95.

⁷ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 96.

⁸ 'House' citation for *Ark Hall*, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

⁹ Shire of Marong rate book, 1865.

¹⁰ Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back*, Shire of Marong, 1985, p. 70.

¹¹ Pers comm, Jean Thomas, and Ray Wallace, local historian, 11 March, 1999.

¹² 'House,' citation for *Ark Hall*, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.