

Historical archaeological site card

Heritage Inventory number and name

KERANG-QUAMBATOOK ROAD RUIN
H7626-0012

Date received

Friday, 24 November 2023

Date accepted

20/12/2023

Hermes Number

210674

1. Place details

Place name: KERANG-QUAMBATOOK ROAD RUIN

Heritage Inventory Number (if any):

Other or former names:

Municipal Council: GANNAWARRA SHIRE

Address: 2596 KERANG-QUAMBATOOK ROAD, QUAMBATOOK 3540
736448.638991000014357
6037218.035880000330508

Geographical coordinates (GDA94 or WGS84)
expressed in degrees and decimals of a degree:

Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only): LALBERT-KERANG 7526-7626

2. Cadastral location

County: Tachera

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Parish: Budgerum East

Township: Quambatook

Section: 2

Allotment: 2A

Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): 2A~2\PP2251

3. Details of site owner or land manager (where known)

First Name:

Business or organisation name:

Position title:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

4. Details of site occupier (where known)

First Name:

Surname:

Business or organisation name:

Position title:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

5. Aboriginal cultural values

Site has known Aboriginal values NO

Site is recorded on the Victorian
Aboriginal Heritage Register NO

6. Current description of site

Please provide description:

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin comprises the remains of a partially collapsed mudbrick dwelling. The walls and chimney of the structure remain standing, while the roof has collapsed (Figure 2-Figure 3). The structure is rectangular in shape, in a north-eastern to south-western orientation.

The outer walls of the dwelling were constructed using mud brick, with the outline of individual bricks remaining clearly visible. Remnants of olive-green paint are visible on the exterior surface of these walls (Figure 4), suggesting that the façade of the residence was originally painted this colour before being weathered after abandonment. Numerous pieces of corrugated iron sheeting surround the ruin, indicating that these fragments constitute the remains of the roof.

The interior of the ruin was divided into several rooms by thin, wooden walls, although it is unclear specifically how many rooms the dwelling comprised due to poor state of preservation of the interior features (Figure 5). A red brick fireplace and chimney is also present along the north-western wall of the dwelling.

The ruin is surrounded by numerous discarded appliances and furnishings, including a refrigerator, fridge, manual clothes wringer, gas stove top and a cabinet (Figures 6-8). Large numbers of intact glass bottles are also present on the surface surrounding the ruin, most notably a collection of identical Cohn's lemonade bottles and several Cottles cordial bottles (Figures 8-10).

The ruined dwelling is surrounded by five corrugated iron sheds, two of which are also in a ruinous state (Figure 11).

Date recorded: Tuesday, 11 July 2023

On Victorian Heritage Register

On Heritage Overlay

Associated sites: No

7. Place history

Please provide a brief history of the place (at least 1 to 2 paragraphs):

The earliest European settlement of the Quambatook region is represented by the establishment of the Bael Bael pastoral run, which was licensed in February 1845 to two merchants from Sydney, G.C Curlewis and Robert Tertius Campbelle Jr (Ballinger 2008: 12). This run encompassed an enormous 370,000 acres (14.97 km²), with the homestead being located on the western edge of Lake Bael Bael (Ballinger 2008: 12; VicPlaces 2015). The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is located near the southern edge of this run (Figure 12).

In March 1848, the Bael Bael pastoral run was divided into three smaller runs (No. 14 'Swan Hill and Lake Boga', No. 15 'Bael Bael, Reedy Lake, Loddon and Marabout' and No. 16 'Bael Bael, Combatoook or Avoca') (Ballinger 2008: 12-13).

The Mallee Pastoral Leases Act was passed in 1883 in order to free up pastoral land for farming settlement (Ballinger 2008: 15-16). As a result of this act, in 1893 the Bael Bael pastoral run was subdivided and sold off to selectors, who primarily took up wheat farming in these smaller lots (Ballinger 2008: 16).

Cultivating the landscape for farming proved to be a difficult prospect, with the settlers being required to destroy the complex root system of cleared Mallee scrubland to prevent regrowth (Ballinger 2008: 16-17). Wheat farming in the Quambatook region was subsequently aided by several innovations in the early 20th Century – firstly by the widespread application of phosphate-based fertilisers, and secondly through the introduction of new, drought-resistant breeds of wheat (Ballinger 2008: 17).

These early farmers in the region built makeshift homes using locally available materials, with mud brick construction being one of the primary methods used (Ballinger 2008: 16). This process primarily involved the use of local clay-rich soils, with wood only being used for the windows, door frames and wall plates (Archer 1996: 131-132). An important step in the consolidation of the mud brick walls involved their coating in a layer of animal fat or paint oil, after which a fire was lit inside the house (prior to the roof being constructed) so that the walls absorbed the melted fat or oil (Archer 1996: 132). A typical north-western Victorian mud brick house constructed using this methodology, bearing a strong resemblance to the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, is depicted in Figure 13. A similar mud brick residence (H7526-0002), located approximately 14 km to the north-west in Cannie, is estimated to have been constructed between 1893 and 1906 by the farmer Thomas Wall (Victorian Heritage Database 2023).

An undated Budgerum East parish plan depicts the land surrounding the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin as having been purchased by W. H. Williams in 1899 and 1900 (Figure 14). William Henry Williams is recorded in his 1938 obituary as being one of the earliest selectors in the Quambatook region (The Age 1938: 17). The earliest reference to William Henry Williams in the historical record dates to 1905, at which point he is mentioned as being a member of the choir and board of management of the Quambatook Presbyterian Church (Kerang New Times 1905: 3). As such, it is likely that the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin was constructed between 1893 and 1905 by either William Henry Williams, members of his family, and/or people in his employment.

Another obituary (The Argus 1938: 10) notes W.H. Williams as having had five sons (John, Edward, Arthur, Walter and Albert) and two daughters (Annie and Emma). Three of his sons, John, Walter and Arthur, served in World War I (Ultima and Chillingollah Star 1918: 3; Figure 15). In March 1916, John Williams was awarded the distinguished conduct medal for his actions serving in the trenches at Gallipoli, bringing "much pleasure" to the town of Quambatook (The Age 1916: 12; Ultima and Chillingollah Star 1916: 3). John Williams was described as standing at a height of 6 ft 4 inches (193 cm) and exhibiting a "well built" physique (The Age 1916: 12). Walter Williams was less fortunate, being killed in action in France in 1918, at the age of 22 (Ultima and Chillingollah Star 1918: 3). John Williams is listed on the aforementioned parish plan (Figure 14) as having owned the lot in which the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is located as of 1940, indicating that he returned to farming after the war and ultimately succeeded his father in the operation of the family farm.

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is first depicted in a historical aerial photograph from 1945 (Figure 16). A second rectilinear structure, likely a shed or shelter of some variety, is also visible 100 m to the south-west of the residence. The site

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is next depicted in a 1979 photograph (Figure 17), in which the residence and shed are intact. Several additional sheds and grain silos have also been constructed in this photograph.

Given the paucity of the relevant historical record and photographic records, the artefact assemblage present at the site presents the most reliable means of dating its abandonment. The presence of a refrigerator at the site indicates an abandonment after the late 1940s, as refrigerators only began to be mass produced in the years following World War II (historyofrefrigeration.com 2023). The manual clothes wringer is consistent with types manufactured in the 1920s and 1930s but which remained in common use up through to the 1950s (witness2fashion.wordpress.com 2017). The collection of Cohn's lemonade bottles and Cottees cordial bottles all have their volumes listed in imperial units, indicating that they were manufactured prior to the 1974 metrification of Australia. Likewise, the wine/wiskey bottle present at the bottom of Figure 8 is of a type manufactured after the 1940s (Burke et al. 2017: 429). Given these considerations, it seems most probable that the residence was abandoned sometime during the 1950s or 1960s.

The site is first depicted in its current, ruined state in a 2011 satellite image (Figure 18). The 1945 outbuilding has also been demolished in this capture. A subsequent 2022 satellite image (Figure 19) reveals further decay, with another large shed having collapsed and two of the grain silos removed.

8. Analysis of site (interpretation)

Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented, as well as current place use:

Mid to Late 19th Century land use of the area was primarily pastoral. Between 1845 and 1893, the site was located on land within the Bael Bael pastoral run. As such, the land was likely specifically used as grazing land for sheep or cattle.

From the late 19th Century until the mid 20th Century, the site served residential and agricultural roles as a farmhouse. The mud brick structure is believed to have been constructed between 1893 and 1905 by William Henry Williams and abandoned in either the 1950s and 1960s. A outbuilding, likely a shed for storing farm equipment or produce, was constructed sometime before 1945.

From the mid 20th Century until 21st Century, the site has served a purely agricultural role. The intensification of farming activities is evidenced by the construction of additional sheds and grain silos between the 1945 and 1979 aerial photographs, although these structures had become delapidated by 2011. Nonetheless, the surrounding farmland has remained actively cultivated through to the present day.

Given the presence of freestanding features, large numbers of surface artefacts and the lack of subsequent development, there is a high potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits to be present at the site. The proposed site extent, incorporating the ruins of the mud brick farmstead is depicted in Figure 1.

9. Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin represents an early farming homestead on the Mallee fringe. There remains a high potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits to remain in association with the freestanding mud brick ruins.

How is it significant?

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is of local historical and archaeological significance for its association with the spread of agricultural practices into the Mallee fringe.

Why is it significant?

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is of historical significance for representing the spread of agricultural activity into a new region – the Mallee fringe - at the turn of the 20th Century. The site also attests to the development and adaptation of European farming practices to a new, hostile environment.

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is of archaeological significance for the high likelihood of undisturbed archaeological deposits remaining at the site. A site inspection revealed that large numbers of surface artefacts dating to the abandonment of the residence in the mid 20th Century are present at the surface level, and it remains probable that additional archaeological material dating from the late 19th Century to early 20th Century exists in a surface and subsurface context at the site. Any archaeological deposits are likely to shed light on the development and spread of agricultural activity, as well as everyday farming life on the Mallee fringe.

10. Suggested Protection : Heritage Inventory

11. Threat

Is the place under any threat? If so, what is the threat?

The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin will be potentially be impacted by the planned construction of the Avoca River Solar Farm. Harm may be mitigated though the modification of the construction footprint to avoid areas of archaeological sensitivity.

12. References / Informants

Please list books or other sources that may provide historical information about this place.

Primary Sources

Aerial Photographs

1945 Mapsheet Photography – Quambatook, Run 12A, Frame 30629

1979 Nelson-Cape Patterson Coast, Run 9, Frame 105

Newspaper Articles

The Age. 1916. An Australian Giant's Distinction. 29 April p. 11.

The Age. 1938. News from the Country. 22 September, p. 17.

The Argus. 1938. Family Notices. 20 September, p. 10.

Kerang New Times. 1905. Quambatook. 7 February, p. 3.

Ultima and Chillingollah Star. 1916. District News: Quambatook. 24 March, p. 3.

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Ultima and Chillingollah Star. 1918. District News: Quambatook. 1 March, p. 3.
Weekly Times. 1918. Roll of Honor: Victorians Killed and Wounded. 28 December, p. 26.

Secondary Sources

Archer, J. 1996. The Great Australian Dream: The History of the Australian House. Angus & Robertson, Pymble.
Ballinger, R. 2008. Gannawarra Shire Heritage Study Stage One: Volume One Thematic Environmental History. Report to the Gannawarra Shire Council.
Burke, H., Morrison, M. and Smith, C. 2017. The Archaeologist's Field Handbook. Allen & Unwin, Crow's Nest.
History of Refrigeration. 2023. History of Fridges and Freezers. <http://www.historyofrefrigeration.com/refrigeration-history/history-of-fridges/> - accessed 17/11/23
Victorian Places. 2015. Quambatook. <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/quambatook> - accessed 14/11/23

13. Attachments

- Spatial Extent files AV.zip
- Site card supporting documents-1 AV.pdf
- Site card supporting documents-2 AV.jpg
- Application form AV.pdf
-
-
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14. Recording archaeologist's details

First Name:	Adam
Surname:	Valka
Business or organisation name:	Andrew Long & Associates
Position title:	
Business or company address:	54-58 Smith Street, Collingwood Victoria 3066
Email address:	
Telephone:	(03) 9470 9222

15. Declaration

I state that the information I have given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

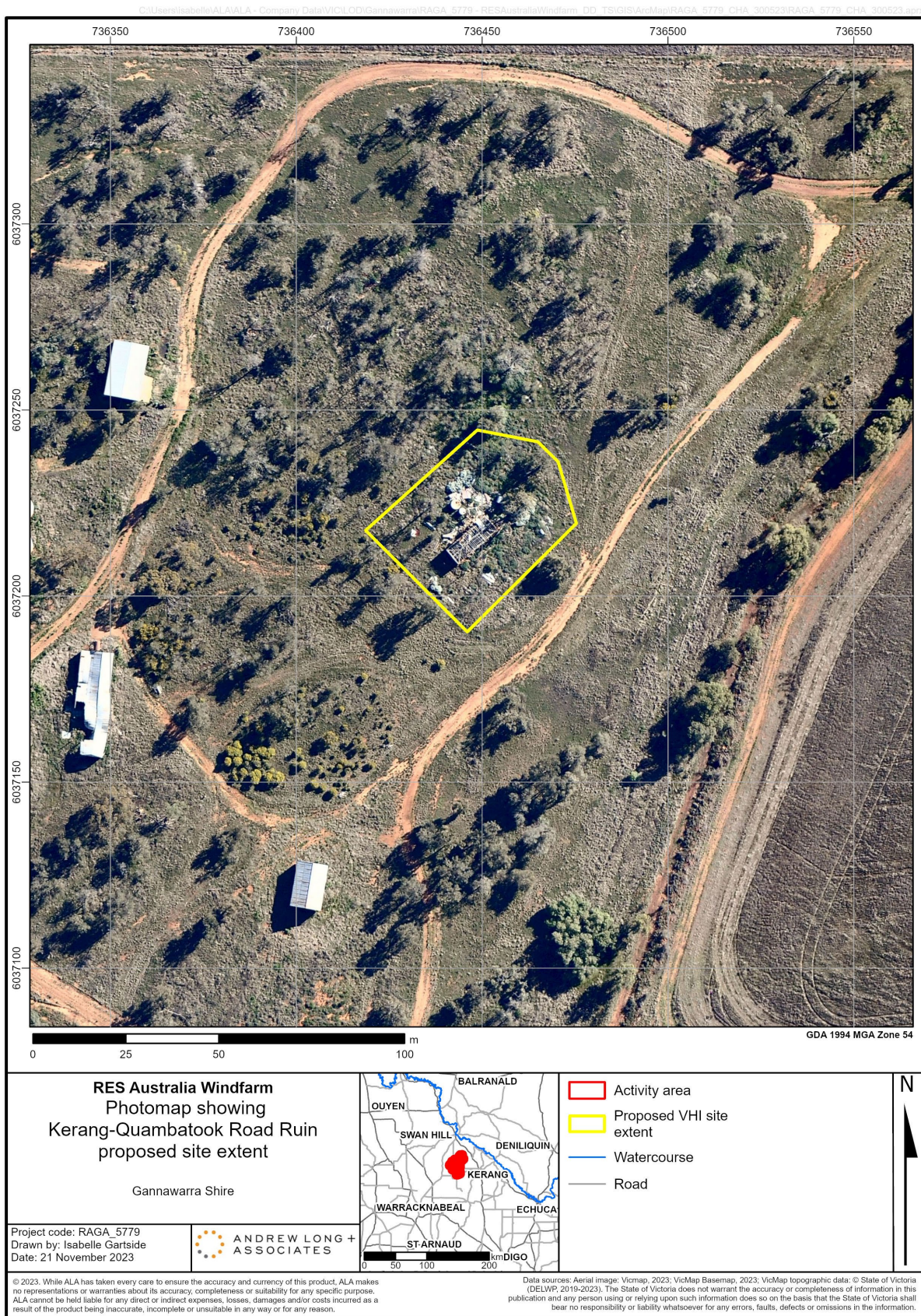


Figure 1: Proposed VHI site extent for the Kerang-Quambatook Road ruin



Figure 2: View of the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, view east (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 3: View of the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, view west (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 4: Detail of the mud brick wall construction of the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, with patches of the outer paint coating visible (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 5: Interior of the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, view south-west (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 6: Remains of an oven and cabinet adjacent to the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, view, west (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 7: Fridge and refrigerator abandoned at the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 8: Clothes wringer and collection of glass bottles abandoned at the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 9: Glass bottles located outside the Kerang-Quambatook Road ruin (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 10: Glass bottles located outside the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)



Figure 11: Ruined corrugated iron sheds located near the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, view north-west (C. Lovell, 11/07/2023)

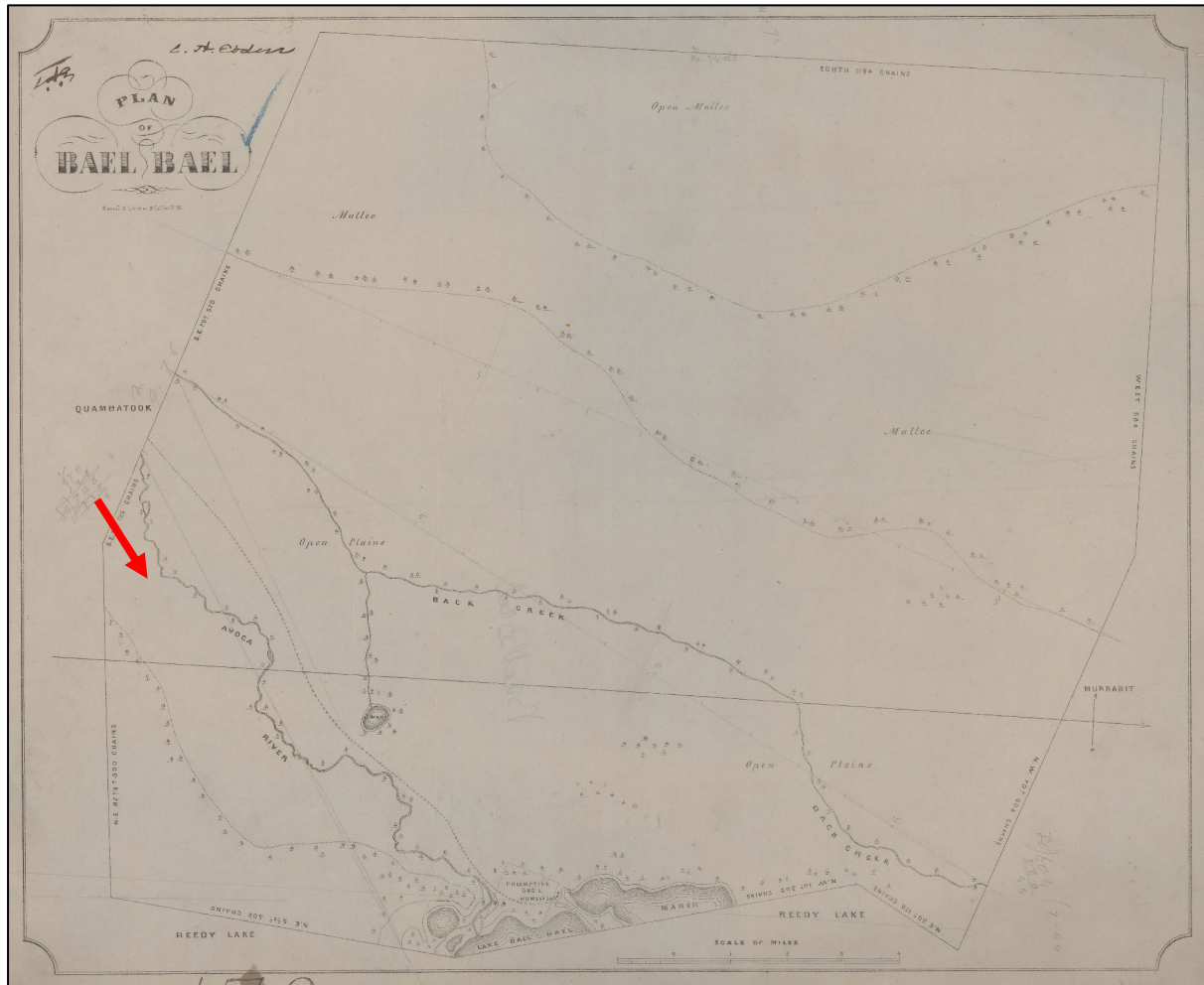


Figure 12: Undated plan of the Bael Bael pastoral run, with the location of the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin highlighted in red. West orientation (Source: Public Records Office of Victoria)



Figure 13: 1890s photograph of an Italian migrant family outside their home, a typical mud brick dwelling, in north-western Victoria (Archer 1996: 132).

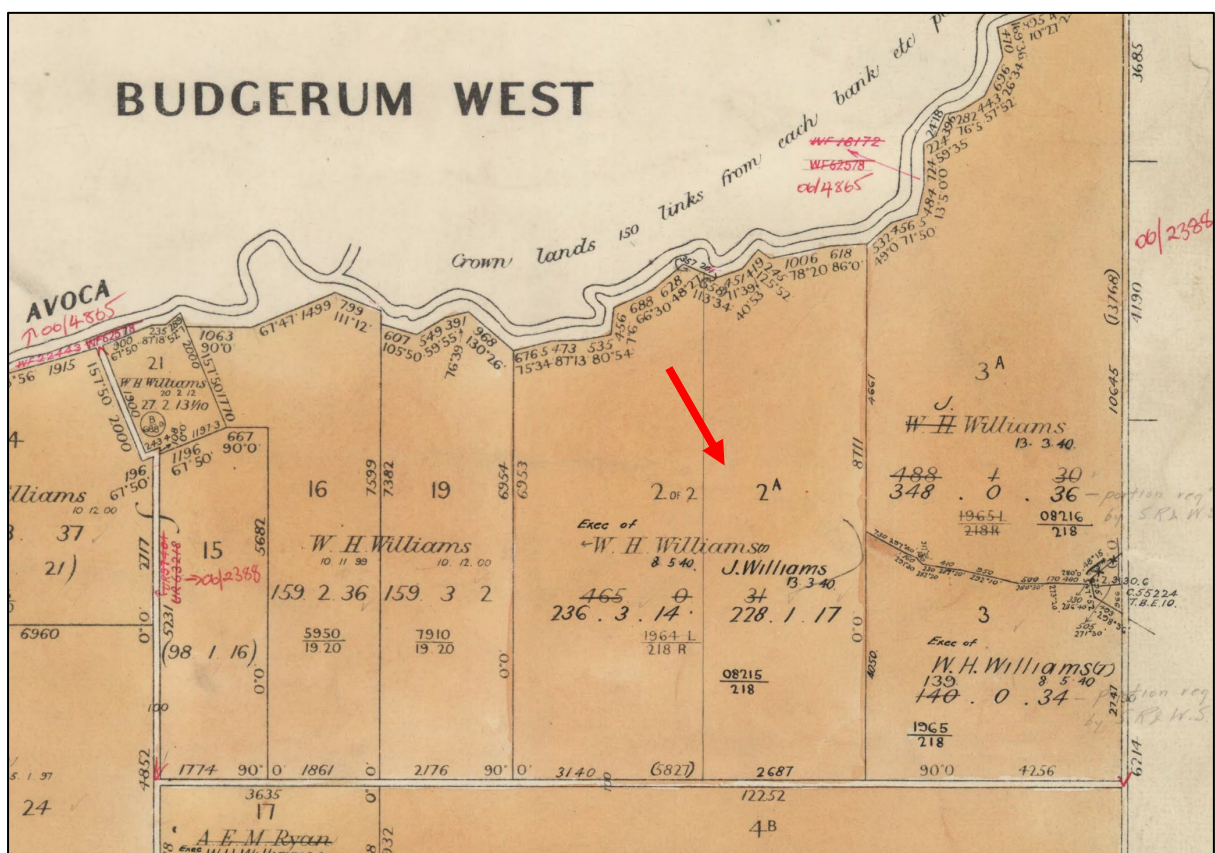


Figure 14: Undated Budgeram East parish plan, with the location of the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin highlighted in red. North orientation (Source: Public Records Office of Victoria)

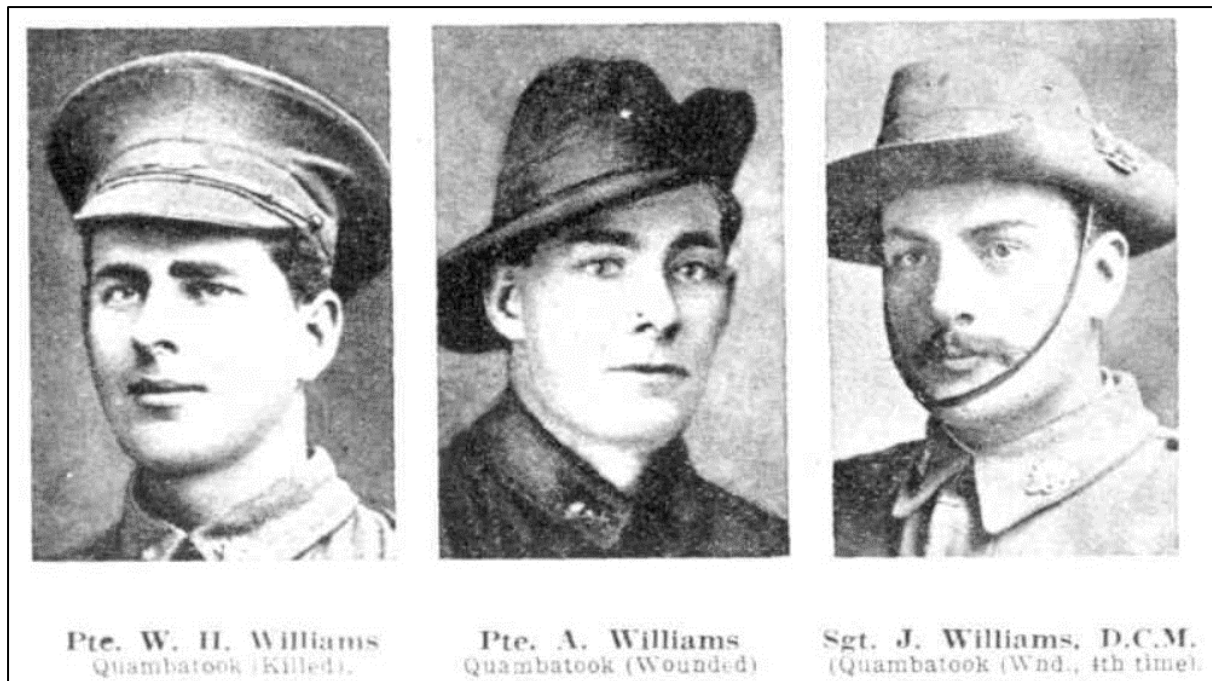


Figure 15: Private Walter Hopetoun Williams, Private Arthur Williams and Sergeant John Williams, three of the sons of William Henry Williams, as depicted in a 1918 roll of honour (Weekly Times 1918: 26).



Figure 16: 1945 aerial photograph, with the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin highlighted in red



Figure 17: 1979 aerial photograph, with the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin highlighted in red



Figure 18: 27 August 2011 satellite image, with the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin highlighted in red (NearMap – accessed 14/11/23)



Figure 19: 17 October 2022 satellite image, with the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin highlighted in red (Google Earth – accessed 14/11/23)







Vicmap sheet (1:100,000): Lalbert-Kerang, 7526-7626

0 12.5 25 50 m

Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin Place extent plan - Location

SPI: 2A-2\PP2251

-  Property Parcel
-  Road
-  Primary coordinates
-  Place extent

Drawn by: Isabelle Gartside	GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
Date: 21 November 2023	1:1,000

 ANDREW LONG + ASSOCIATES

Historical archaeological site card



Before you start

Section 127 of the Heritage Act (2017) outlines the requirements for those who discover an archaeological site to submit a site card to Heritage Victoria within 30 days of identifying the site. On receipt of the Site Card Heritage Victoria will assess the site for inclusion in the Heritage Inventory and notify you of the result. For further information on the requirements and process please refer to the Heritage Victoria Website [Report an historical archaeological site](#).

Heritage Victoria's Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys offers guidance on site identification and recording, as well as the completion of Heritage Inventory site cards. It is recommended that you read this guidance in full before starting this Site Card. (*can be found here along with other useful resources* [Resources for archaeologists](#)).

Who should complete this form?

A person who discovers a historical archaeological site that may be suitable for inclusion in the Heritage Inventory

Recommended site extent

You are required to lodge a recommended site extent with your site card. It is our preference to receive .shp files as part of the submission. **See section 5 of Heritage Victoria's Archaeology Survey Guidelines.**

Location details

Place details

Place name	Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin
Heritage Inventory number:	N/A
Other or former names	N/
Local Council or Shire	GANNAWARRA SHIRE
Address or GPS location	2596 Kerang-Quambatook Road, Quambatook 3540 736448.638991000014357 6037218.035880000330508
Mapsheet name and number	LALBERT-KERANG 7526-7626

Cadastral location

County:	Tachera
Parish:	Budgerum East
Township:	Quambatook

Section: 2

Allotment: 2A

Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): 2A~2\PP2251

Your details

Please confirm or update your details before proceeding. If you are lodging this form on behalf of a company or organisation, please provide details on the next page.

First name Adam

Last name Valka

Business or organisation name Andrew Long & Associates

Position title Assistant Project Manager

Contact number (03) 9470 9222

Postal address 54-58 Smith Street

Suburb Collingwood

State Victoria

Postcode 3066

Please see the *Privacy collection statement* for information on how the details you provide will be used.

Submission on behalf of

On behalf of company / organisation No

Contact details

The archaeologist has the same details as the submitter Yes

Provide owner or land manager details No

The works involve common property No

Provide occupant details No

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage values (where known)

The site has known Aboriginal cultural heritage value No

The site is recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register No

Note: If the place or object is of cultural heritage significance only on the grounds of its association with Aboriginal tradition, Aboriginal traditional use, or Aboriginal archaeology, it may be more appropriate for registration in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. Please contact the [First Peoples State Relations](#).

Site significance

Current description of site The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin comprises the remains of a partially collapsed mudbrick dwelling. The walls and chimney of the structure remain standing, while the roof has collapsed (Figure 2-Figure 3). The structure is rectangular in shape, in a north-eastern to south-western orientation. The outer walls of the dwelling were constructed using mud brick, with the outline of individual bricks remaining clearly visible. Remnants of olive-green paint are visible on the exterior surface of these walls (Figure 4), suggesting that the façade of the residence was originally painted this colour before being weathered after abandonment. Numerous pieces of corrugated iron sheeting surround the ruin, indicating that these fragments constitute the remains of the roof. The interior of the ruin was divided into several rooms by thin, wooden walls, although it is unclear specifically how many rooms the dwelling comprised due to poor state of preservation of the interior features (Figure 5). A red brick fireplace and chimney is also present along the north-western wall of the dwelling. The ruin is surrounded by numerous discarded appliances and furnishings, including a refrigerator, fridge, manual clothes wringer, gas stovetop and a cabinet (Figures 6-8). Large numbers of intact glass bottles are also present on the surface surrounding the ruin, most notably a collection of identical Cohn's lemonade bottles and several Cottees cordial bottles (Figures 8-10). The ruined dwelling is surrounded by five corrugated iron sheds, two of which are also in a ruinous state (Figure 11).

Date recorded 11 July 2023

Is the site on the Victorian Heritage Register? No

Is the site on the Heritage Overlay No

Are there any associated sites: No

Place history

The earliest European settlement of the Quambatook region is represented by the establishment of the Bael Bael pastoral run, which was licensed in February 1845 to two merchants from Sydney, G.C Curlewis and Robert Tertius Camplell Jr (Ballinger 2008: 12). This run encompassed an enormous 370,000 acres (14.97 km²), with the homestead being located on the western edge of Lake Bael Bael (Ballinger 2008: 12; VicPlaces 2015). The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is located near the southern edge of this run (Figure 12). In March 1848, the Bael Bael pastoral run was divided into three smaller runs (No. 14 ‘Swan Hill and Lake Boga’, No. 15 ‘Bael Bael, Reedy Lake, Loddon and Marabout’ and No. 16 ‘Bael Bael, Combatook or Avoca’) (Ballinger 2008: 12-13). The Mallee Pastoral Leases Act was passed in 1883 in order to free up pastoral land for farming settlement (Ballinger 2008: 15-16). As a result of this act, in 1893 the Bael Bael pastoral run was subdivided and sold off to selectors, who primarily took up wheat farming in these smaller lots (Ballinger 2008: 16). Cultivating the landscape for farming proved to be a difficult prospect, with the settlers being required to destroy the complex root system of cleared Mallee scrubland to prevent regrowth (Ballinger 2008: 16-17). Wheat farming in the Quambatook region was subsequently aided by several innovations in the early 20th Century – firstly by the widespread application of phosphate-based fertilisers, and secondly through the introduction of new, drought-resistant breeds of wheat (Ballinger 2008: 17). These early farmers in the region built makeshift homes using locally available materials, with mud brick construction being one of the primary methods used (Ballinger 2008: 16). This process primarily involved the use of local clay-rich soils, with wood only being used for the windows, door frames and wall plates (Archer 1996: 131-132). An important step in the consolidation of the mud brick walls involved their coating in a layer of animal fat or paint oil, after which a fire was lit inside the house (prior to the roof being constructed) so that the walls absorbed the melted fat or oil (Archer 1996: 132). A typical north-western Victorian mud brick house constructed using this methodology, bearing a strong resemblance to the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin, is depicted in Figure 13. A similar mud brick residence (H7526-0002), located approximately 14 km to the north-west in Cannie, is estimated to have been constructed between 1893 and 1906 by the farmer Thomas Wall (Victorian Heritage Database 2023). An undated Budgerum East parish plan depicts the land surrounding the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin as having been purchased by W. H. Williams in 1899 and 1900 (Figure 14). William Henry Williams is recorded in his 1938 obituary as being one of the earliest selectors in the Quambatook region (The Age 1938: 17). The earliest reference to William Henry

Williams in the historical record dates to 1905, at which point he is mentioned as being a member of the choir and board of management of the Quambatook Presbyterian Church (Kerang New Times 1905: 3). As such, it is likely that the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin was constructed between 1893 and 1905 by either William Henry Williams, members of his family, and/or people in his employment. Another obituary (The Argus 1938: 10) notes W. H. Williams as having had five sons (John, Edward, Arthur, Walter and Albert) and two daughters (Annie and Emma). Three of his sons, John, Walter and Arthur, served in World War I (Ultima and Chillingollah Star 1918: 3; Figure 15). In March 1916, John Williams was awarded the distinguished conduct medal for his actions serving in the trenches at Gallipoli, bringing “much pleasure” to the town of Quambatook (The Age 1916: 12; Ultima and Chillingollah Star 1916: 3). John Williams was described as standing at a height of 6 ft 4 inches (193 cm) and exhibiting a “well built” physique (The Age 1916: 12). Walter Williams was less fortunate, being killed in action in France in 1918, at the age of 22 (Ultima and Chillingollah Star 1918: 3). John Williams is listed on the aforementioned parish plan (Figure 14) as having owned the lot in which the Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is located as of 1940, indicating that he returned to farming after the war and ultimately succeeded his father in the operation of the family farm. The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is first depicted in a historical aerial photograph from 1945 (Figure 16). A second rectilinear structure, likely a shed or shelter of some variety, is also visible 100 m to the south-west of the residence. The site is next depicted in a 1979 photograph (Figure 17), in which the residence and shed are intact. Several additional sheds and grain silos have also been constructed in this photograph. Given the paucity of the relevant historical record and photographic records, the artefact assemblage present at the site presents the most reliable means of dating its abandonment. The presence of a refrigerator at the site indicates an abandonment after the late 1940s, as refrigerators only began to be mass produced in the years following World War II (historyofrefrigeration.com 2023). The manual clothes wringer is consistent with types manufactured in the 1920s and 1930s but which remained in common use up through to the 1950s (witness2fashion.wordpress.com 2017). The collection of Cohn’s lemonade bottles and Cottees cordial bottles all have their volumes listed in imperial units, indicating that they were manufactured prior to the 1974 metrification of Australia. Likewise, the wine / whiskey bottle present at the bottom of Figure 8 is of a type manufactured after the 1940s (Burke et al. 2017: 429). Given these considerations, it seems most probable that the residence was abandoned sometime during the 1950s or 1960s. The site is first depicted in its current, ruined state in a 2011 satellite image (Figure 18). The 1945 outbuilding has also been demolished in this capture. A subsequent 2022 satellite image (Figure 19) reveals further decay, with another large shed having collapsed and two of the grain silos removed.

Analysis of site (interpretation) Mid to Late 19th Century land use of the area was primarily pastoral. Between 1845 and 1893, the site was located on land within the Bael Bael pastoral run. As such, the land was likely specifically used as grazing land for sheep or cattle. From the late 19th Century until the mid 20th Century, the site served residential and agricultural roles as a farmhouse. The mud brick structure is believed to have been constructed between 1893 and 1905 by William Henry Williams and abandoned in either the 1950s and 1960s. A outbuilding, likely a shed for storing farm equipment or produce, was constructed sometime before 1945. From the mid 20th Century until 21st Century, the site has served a purely agricultural role. The intensification of farming activities is evidenced by the construction of additional sheds and grain silos between the 1945 and 1979 aerial photographs, although these structures had become delapidated by 2011. Nonetheless, the surrounding farmland has remained actively cultivated through to the present day. Given the presence of freestanding features, large numbers of surface artefacts and the lack of subsequent development, there is a high potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits to be present at the site. The proposed site extent, incorporating the ruins of the mud brick farmstead is depicted in Figure 1.

Statement of Significance

What is significant? The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin represents an early farming homestead on the Mallee fringe. There remains a high potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits to remain in association with the freestanding mud brick ruins.

How is it significant? The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is of local historical and archaeological significance for its association with the spread of agricultural practices into the Mallee fringe.

Why is it significant? The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is of historical significance for representing the spread of agricultural activity into a new region – the Mallee fringe - at the turn of the 20th Century. The site also attests to the development and adaptation of European farming practices to a new, hostile environment. The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin is of archaeological significance for the high likelihood of undisturbed archaeological deposits remaining at the site. A site inspection revealed that large numbers of surface artefacts dating to the abandonment of the residence in the mid 20th Century are present at the surface level, and it remains probable that additional archaeological material dating from the late 19th Century to early 20th Century exists in a surface and subsurface context at the site. Any archaeological deposits are likely to shed light on the development and spread of agricultural activity, as well as everyday farming life on the Mallee fringe.

Suggested Protection Heritage Inventory

Books and other references	<p>Primary Sources Aerial Photographs 1945 Mapsheet Photography – Quambatook, Run 12A, Frame 30629 1979 Nelson-Cape Patterson Coast, Run 9, Frame 105 Newspaper Articles The Age. 1916. An Australian Giant's Distinction. 29 April p. 11. The Age. 1938. News from the Country. 22 September, p. 17. The Argus. 1938. Family Notices. 20 September, p. 10. Kerang New Times. 1905. Quambatook. 7 February, p. 3. Ultima and Chillingollah Star. 1916. District News: Quambatook. 24 March, p. 3. Ultima and Chillingollah Star. 1918. District News: Quambatook. 1 March, p. 3. Weekly Times. 1918. Roll of Honor: Victorians Killed and Wounded. 28 December, p. 26. Secondary Sources Archer, J. 1996. The Great Australian Dream: The History of the Australian House. Angus & Robertson, Pymble. Ballinger, R. 2008. Gannawarra Shire Heritage Study Stage One: Volume One Thematic Environmental History. Report to the Gannawarra Shire Council. Burke, H., Morrison, M. and Smith, C. 2017. The Archaeologist's Field Handbook. Allen & Unwin, Crow's Nest. History of Refrigeration. 2023. History of Fridges and Freezers. http://www.historyofrefrigeration.com/refrigeration-history/history-of-fridges/ - accessed 17/11/23 Victorian Places. 2015. Quambatook. https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/quambatook - accessed 14/11/23</p>
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Threat

Is the place under threat?	Yes
If yes, what form does the threat take?	The Kerang-Quambatook Road Ruin will be potentially be impacted by the planned construction of the Avoca River Solar Farm. Harm may be mitigated though the modification of the construction footprint to avoid areas of archaeological sensitivity.

Supporting documents

You must provide all required documents before submitting your application.

Please provide:

- A map showing the location of the site. Map must clearly identify recorded area and include any street addresses (eg excerpt from Melway and its reference numbers)
- A plan showing all archaeological features, and any built cultural heritage. (The plan must be labelled and scale noted - eg 1:100,000)
- Photographs of the site (you may include historical photographs, historical plans, and historic maps)
- Any other documents or notes produced as a result of the survey.

Site card supporting documents	Kerang-Quambatook Road ruin_Appendix1.pdf RAGA_5779_HIS3_Location_MGA54_211123.jpg
Spatial Extent files	RAGA_5779_HIS3_ProposedVHIExtent_WGS84_081123.zip

Declarations & privacy

Declarations

I state that the information I have given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Privacy statement

Heritage Victoria is a branch of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Heritage Victoria is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the principles of the Victorian privacy laws. The information you provide, and anything provided in relation to this process or any subsequent decision pertaining to the site card, will be used for the following purposes:

- correspond with you about your application
- to inform Heritage Victoria in making a recommendation or a decision as to the matter.
- the material may be made available to the public through a public notice process as required under the Heritage Act 2017, to the Heritage Council of Victoria for use in a public hearing, or to the Minister for Planning in making a determination.
- to provide information about the site card, including the initial application and subsequent regulation of that site card, where requested by successive owners of the property or consultants engaged in relation to the property

Your contact details may be used by DTP or its contracted service providers under confidentiality agreements to survey you about your experience with DTP.

The information you provide may be made available to:

- any person who may wish to inspect your proposal until the process is concluded. In this instance, the 'process' includes not only the current site card application but also any further aspects of Heritage Victoria regulation under this site card process.
- relevant officers in DTP, other Government agencies or Ministers directly involved in the heritage process.

If all requested information is not received, DTP is unable to process your request.

You may access the information you have provided to DTP by contacting heritage.victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au