

# Historical archaeological site card

*Heritage Inventory number and name*

LAURA WALKER GRAVE SITE  
H8022-0140

*Date received*

Monday, 18 September 2023

*Date accepted*

10/7/2024

*Hermes Number*

210136

## 1. Place details

Place name:

LAURA WALKER GRAVE SITE

Heritage Inventory Number (if any):

Other or former names:

Municipal Council:

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Address:

GDA 94 MGA ZONE 55 X 406425 Y 5842531

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

Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only):

## 2. Cadastral location

County:

Australia

Parish:

Tapponga

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Township:	None
Section:	None
Allotment:	CA 3
Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI):	3\PP3545

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

First Name:

Surname:

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 single grave site is surrounded by a low railing and a timber plaque inscribed "Laura Walker Born 9-3-1895 Died 23-3-1895."

Date recorded:

Thursday, 25 May 2023

On Victorian Heritage Register

On Heritage Overlay

Associated sites:

Hermes (75137), Chester & Lockes Mine site (H8022-0048) is located nearby and includes reference to the hotel site. Scandinavian Hotel (HPNO 2646) may also be associated with the grave site.

## 7. Place history

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

The Walker family occupied the Yarra Track and operated a hotel on Woods Point Road in the C19th. While it is unclear which hotel they operated, the grave is in close proximity to the site of the former Scandinavian Hotel, and as this has elsewhere been referred to as 'Walkers Hotel site', it appears likely that this was the family's hotel. It is likely that infant Laura Walker was associated with this family

Historic Places (HPNO 2646) 'Scandinavian Hotel' site is located approximately 350m south west from the grave site's location. A hotel referred to as 'Walkers Hotel site' in the nearby Chester and Lockes Mine Hermes record (75137), appears to be approximately in the location of the recorded 'Scandinavian Hotel' site. It is unclear if the grave site is associated with the hotel site.

The Walkers hotel site and reference to a lone grave are described in Historic Sites in the Melbourne East Study Area; Report to the Land Conservation Council. Historic Places Section, DCFL., 1991, Supple, R, Perham, G. & Griffiths, T. It is unknown if the referenced lone grave is the Laura Walker grave site. The Walkers hotel was associated with the Yarra Track, which was developed as a link between Melbourne and the new goldfields and passed through Healesville, Fernshaw, Narbethong, Marysville and the Cumberland, then following the Dividing Range to Matlock, descending to Woods Point (Supple, 1991).

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The Chester and Lockes Mine site (H8022-0048) is located approximately 500m south west of the grave site. The Mine site was established in 1898 by Mr Chester and operated until at least 1940. Evidence exists of an old blacksmith's shop, the bull wheel and shafts throughout the area (Heritage Victoria Inventory H8022-0048).

Little remains except a clearing to mark the Walkers Hotel site. A cellar pit and lone grave are to be found at the Walkers Hotel site (Supple, 1991).

Possible connections between the recorded Scandinavian Hotel site, Walkers hotel and the Laura Walker grave site are not known.

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## 8. Analysis of site (interpretation)

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

Infant grave site dating to 1895.

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## 9. Statement of Significance

What is significant?

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This is a lone infant's grave surrounded by a low railing, and marked by a timber plaque inscribed "Laura Walker Born 9-3-1895 Died 23-3-1895."

How is it significant?

The site is significant as a child's burial site dating back to the late 1800s. The site may have a connection to the nearby historic Scandinavian hotel site (Old Walkers hotel). The site includes archaeological features that have the potential to provide information on infant mortality practices in a lone rural context in the C19th, and likely association with mining communities.

Why is it significant?

The Walker family occupied the Yarra Track and operated a hotel on Woods Point Road in the C19th. While it is unclear which hotel they operated, the grave is in close proximity to the site of the former Scandinavian Hotel, and as this has elsewhere been referred to as 'Walkers Hotel site', it appears likely that this was the family's hotel. It is likely that infant Laura Walker was associated with this family. Therefore, the site is of historical significance for its association with a prominent family in the region.

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## 10. Suggested Protection : Heritage Inventory

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## 11. Threat

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

From land management activities that may occur in the State Forest

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## 12. References / Informants

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

Historic Sites in the Melbourne East Study Area; Report to the Land Conservation Council. Historic Places Section, DCFL., 1991, Supple, R, Perham, G. & Griffiths, T.

Heritage Victoria Inventory H8022-0048 – Chester and Lockes Mine Site

## 13. Attachments

- Spatial Extent files-1 NP.shx
- Spatial Extent files-2 NP.cpg
- Spatial Extent files-3 NP.dbf
- Spatial Extent files-4 NP.prj
- Spatial Extent files-5 NP.shp
- 00843442\_9ef7e950.pdf
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## 14. Recording archaeologist's details

First Name: NA

Surname: NA

Business or organisation name: NA



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Position title:

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Business or company address:

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Email address:

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Telephone: NA

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## 15. Declaration

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



## Legend

- Heritage Sites New
- EL\_CONTOUR
- Historic Places (HIST100\_POINT)
- Heritage Inventory
- Heritage Register
- HERMES









FLORA WALKER  
BORN 9-3-1895  
DIED 23-5-1895