

Victorian Heritage Database Report
Chateau Wyuna



Location:

170 Swansea Road, Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 - Property No 66568

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:

Listing Authority: HI

Heritage Overlay Number: HO249

Statement of Significance:

Chateau Wyuna, constructed by the artist, Clarence Earle in the 1920s, has regional significance as an extraordinary and substantially intact example of "log cabin" architecture. This building type was popular in the Dandenongs during the colonial era, and as a revival style later. The four original buildings at Chateau Wyuna were a house, studio, outside kitchen, and a lodge. The other remaining log cabin at Mt. Evelyn is Appin built c1929 by James Paton, who helped construct Earle's cabins. Chateau Wyuna also has historical significance for its associations with the artist, Clarence Earle. The chapel at Chateau Wyuna has historical importance as the 1909 weatherboard Montrose Church of Christ, relocated to the site in 1985.

Description

The two remaining log buildings on this property - the house and a small building (possibly the kitchen) are now part of a complex of buildings that house the restaurant/reception areas at Chateau Wyuna. The house is the most important of the remaining buildings. It is two storey, rectangular in plan, with a gable roof. The house is built of massive logs and adzed beams, set on stone foundations. Externally, these logs have been stained a dark colour. External detailing is largely created by the patterns of the log construction, with some finer detailing such as the narrow half rounds used on the projecting section above the front entry and on the dormer window.

Internally, the building is finely detailed with inbuilt furniture a feature of most of the rooms: for example, in the upstairs bedrooms, the cupboards and drawers are finished with a small bent branch as a handle. Ironwork used for door hinges and other fittings is also a feature. An internal balcony enables a view over one of the ground floor lounge rooms. The fireplaces are also a feature, massive in size and built of elaborate stonework. As well as the influence of European traditional styles, there is also an oriental influence evident in the balustrading along the ground floor balcony.

This large log building has now been linked to a small building (external kitchen) by a small addition. A large building has also been built to the rear of the original house, and linked with it internally.

These buildings are set within a mature garden setting, edged by the remnant bushland along Olinda Creek. Recently, the Montrose Church of Christ has been relocated to the grounds of Chateau Wyuna. It is a simple timber church in the Gothic style, retaining its fenestration, enclosed entry porch, roof vents and gable detailing.

Excellent

Minor Modifications

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	1919 - 1919
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	115209
Property number	66568

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online