

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**Sanitarium Health Food Co. & Signs Publishing Co.**

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**Location:**

3485 Warburton Highway Warburton, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:**

**Listing Authority:** HI

## Heritage Overlay Number: HO7

### Statement of Significance:

Winner of RVIA Street Architecture Medal 1940 Designed by Architect Edward Billson and built by T R & L Cookram between 1936 and 1939, the Sanitarium Health Food company Factory and "Signs of the Times" Printing Works complex is a skilful assembly of contrasting geometric, brick-clad forms and an early example of the small group of non-residential buildings which successfully emulate European Modern architecture (particularly Dudok) and hence create a precedent for Australian post-war commercial and industrial architecture. By its unusually remote location and use, it expresses the Adventist Church; this rural location being a distinguishing aspect among the other buildings which had previously received the RVIA's Architecture Medal. Classification includes additions and alterations made up until c. 1985 by the architect. (NT, 4918)

The Warburton buildings are important early examples of modern architecture in Victoria influenced by the contemporary European models. In particular they draw heavily on the personal style of Dutch architect W.M. Dudok which had in turn developed through the influence of the *de stijl* movement and the work of Walter Gropius. There are obviously parallels between the three storey east end of the Sanitarium health food company building and the *Fagus Works* designed by Gropius in 1911. The Sanitarium health food co. building was distinguished in 1940 when it won the 1940 Royal Victorian Institute of Architects street architecture award, the first awarded to a building outside the metropolitan area. The buildings and their rural setting reflect the health and fitness philosophy of the Seventh Day Adventist church providing an insight into the historical importance of the church's missionary work and its role in the development of the Australian health food industry. (VHR, 619)

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| Heritage Study / Consultant | Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000 |
| Construction Date Range     |                                                                            |
| Architect / Designer        |                                                                            |
| Municipality                | YARRA RANGES SHIRE                                                         |
| Other names                 |                                                                            |
| Hermes number               | 115760                                                                     |
| Property number             |                                                                            |

*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*