

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**The Elms Slab Cottage**

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**Location:**

659A Healesville Yarra Glen Road YARRA GLEN, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:**

**Listing Authority: HI**

**Heritage Overlay Number: HO83**

**Statement of Significance:**

Most of the cottage is of horizontal slab construction and is the region's oldest building; possibly the oldest building in Victoria still on its original site. (Tansley 1978)

Slab cottage in the grounds of Notre Dame, Tarrawarra, is an extant example of a primitive construction technique, surviving examples of which are rare. The cottage is representative of the early homesteads constructed in Victoria and presumably has historical associations with the settlement of the district. The structure may date from the 1850s or earlier, in which case the cottage would be an early surviving building in the State. (RNE, 005691)

**Description**

The slab section of the cottage is approximately 50 feet by 15 feet, and contains six rooms. It is constructed of hand-hewn adzed slabs fitted horizontally into uprights of rough-hewn logs. The floors are paved in hand-made bricks (concreted over in some rooms), and the original wooden shingles are perfectly intact under the corrugated-iron roof. All the windows are the original small panes.

The two front rooms of the cottage are a much later addition of sawn timber and later date. Most of the cottage is in good condition. At present, the cottage is used as a guest-house for visitors of the Abbey. An example of the excellent condition of much of the original slab section of the cottage. This wall is now inside a closed verandah. (Tansley, 1978, pp 123, plate 74)

Good

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	1850 - 1850
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	115861
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*