
YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

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Yarrawonga Tom Sharp PRECINCT

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YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

LOCATION

Precinct Boundaries, Map, and Overview

The Yarrawonga Tom Sharp Heritage Precinct encompasses the greater part of the earliest residential land taken up west of Belmore Street. It includes most of Tom Street and Sharp Street north of the Murray Valley Highway, as well as the western ends of McNally Street, Lott Street, Orr Street, Irvine Parade and Piper Street. The heritage places included within the precinct are predominantly residential, but also include key places associated with the railway, including station and residences along its western side. The precinct also includes within its northern section religious, educational and civic places and key urban service infrastructural heritage such as the old Fire Station and the Irvine Parade water tower. The precinct has been affected by all major periods of development in Yarrawonga and a variety of themes in the town's history. Extant places reflect its interconnectedness with the residential, educational, religious, civic and infrastructural history of the town. The area within the boundary incorporates historically, socially, aesthetically and scientifically important places and views of Yarrawonga's historic residential areas. These are illustrated on the map in Fig 1 and listed in Table 1.

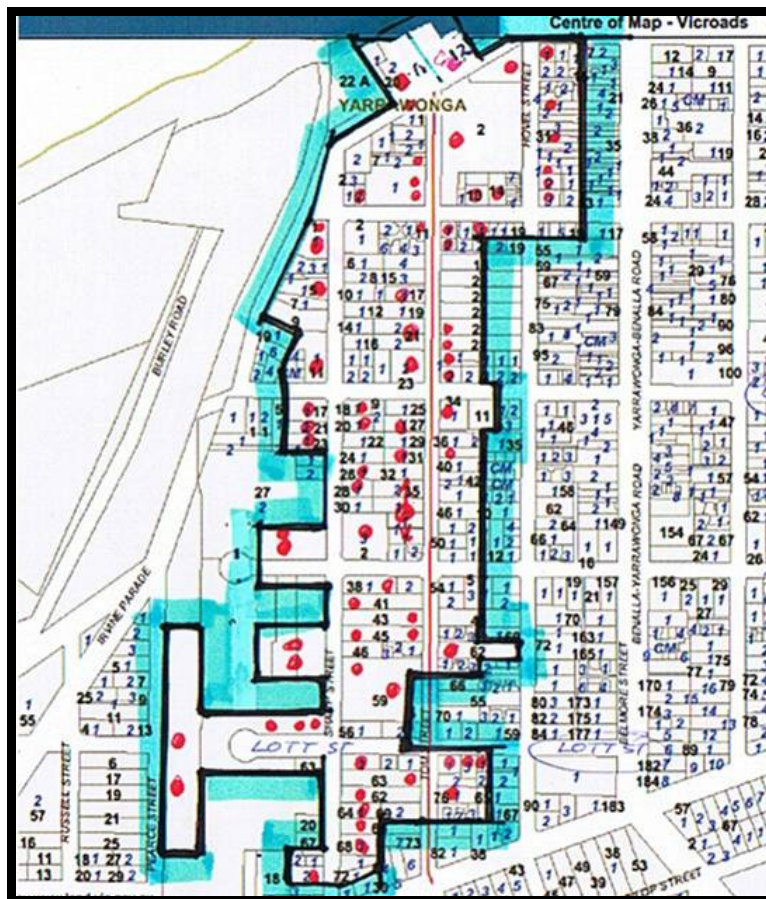


Fig. 1. Yarrawonga Tom Sharp Precinct showing 74 significant places in red.
Source: Lorraine Huddle.

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Table 1. List of culturally significant places, their location, DB number and historical context. .

Historic Era	Historic Themes and Events	Dates	Extant places within Tom Sharp precinct	DB No.	Location
Victorian 1880s to 1890s	First Survey	1868			
	Transport: From steamboat to railway town.	1880	State School No.1819 - Old School Room	726	Tom/Piper St.
	Commercial subdivision.	1886	Water Tower	377	Irvine Pde.
	Development of urban services.	1887	Courthouse	86	Piper St.
	1886 Railway Opens	1888	Railway Station	443	Sharp St.
	1886 First Breweries				
	1891 First Bridge	c.1886	Railway Houses	431, 428	Sharp St.
	1895 Water Reticulation	c.1880-1886	Victorian Houses	72, 732, 737, 734, 738, 399	Sharp St. Piper St. Tom St.
Federation 1901 to 1914	Political: Federation, free intercolonial trade.	c.1900 - 1914	Federation Houses	739,	Tom St. Piper St.
	Development of urban services.	1916	Weighbridge		Sharp St.
Interwar 1915 to 1930s	Transport: Increase in cross-river traffic	1916	Weighbridge	726	Tom St.
		1918	School Building (1918)		Lott St.
	Social: return of Great War veterans.	1919	Memorial Trees (Avenue of Honour)		School Reserve
		c.1918	Memorial Trees (Turkish Trees – School)		Piper St.
	Infrastructure: construction of Yarrawonga weir.	1925	Masonic Lodge		Piper St
		1926	Presbyterian Manse	359	Tom St.
		1929	St Andrew's Presbyterian Church	33, 741, 400, 730, 731, 740, 742	Tom St. Piper St. Sharp St.
		1920s-30s	Interwar Houses		
		1931	Fire Station	397	Piper St
Post War 1940s to 1960s	Infrastructure: Lake Mulwala,	1940s	Concrete Wheat Silos	429	Sharp St.
	Economic: Post war boom	1954	Presbyterian Hall	395	Tom St.

Refer to Appendix 1 for a List with Photographs.

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Main Periods of Development

The township of Yarrawonga was first surveyed in 1868 by government surveyor Henry Grimes. The area of this first survey was that bounded by Witt Street, Hume Street, Orr Street and Hovel Street, and thus includes the eastern side of Hovel Street within the Residential Precinct.¹ The rest of the area west of the original survey was progressively added to the township area in the 1870s, and allotments sold mostly in the early 1880s.²

Particular urban development took place ahead of the opening of the railway in 1886, which was a much anticipated event for which the town's Progress Association had lobbied for many years. Most of the town's land allotments, both commercial and residential, were purchased by the early 1880s.³

In August of 1885, the *Yarrawonga Mercury* (est.1879) reported the numerous town improvements ahead of the opening of the railway station:

A glance around Yarrawonga at the present time is quite sufficient to convince one of the faith entertained in its future prosperity. On all sides buildings of various design and dimensions are in the course of erection, and daily is the want of dwelling accommodation being more felt.⁴

The opening of the 'long delayed' railway line itself was 'a red letter day', and was marked by celebrations of 'Yarrawonga's destined prominence.'⁵ The line was particularly significant on a historic level as the first line to be completed under the significant 1884 Railway Act. The *Australasian* reported on the town's state in 1886:

There are in Yarrawonga three brick churches, namely the Church of England, **Presbyterian** and Congregational, and three weatherboard churches...The **state school**, on the most advantageous site in the town on the top of a rise, is a neat brick structure; there is now rising in its neighbourhood the **tower of the water trust** which is to supply the town with water.⁶

The 1880s were 'boom years' in Yarrawonga.⁷ Between 1881 and 1891 the town's population grew from 366 to 1,278.⁸ The 1890s, a depression-decade throughout much of Australia, were a more stable period in the town, but by the early twentieth century the town had nonetheless grown gradually into a well established and significant township, described by the *Australian Handbook* in 1903 as:

A post town, with telegraph, money-order office, saving bank, receipt and pay office and electrical registrar's office...It is the terminus of the branch line from Benalla...Within the border of the town are...a **State School (No. 1819)**, Congregational, Anglican, Roman Catholic, **Presbyterian** and Wesleyan churches, Salvation Army barracks, convent, **county court, insolvency court and court of petty sessions**...Town has excellent urban **water-works** (Trust), the water supply being pumped from the Murray and conveyed by pipes through the streets; it is lighted with kerosene. ... it is now one of the most important towns on the Murray. It has besides the places above-mentioned, two saw mills, a farmer's co-operative grain store, butter factory, a number of general stores, and tradesman's shops, two flour mills, three cordial factories...three public halls for meetings, **Masonic**, MUIOOF, IOOF, and WCTU, ANA and Hibernian societies, and many **private residences**.⁹

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At this time the population of the town was 1,500 in a shire of 3,200 residents. After the late nineteenth century, the next influx of population occurred in the 1920s, with a demand for housing following on the construction work for the weir. Significant growth also occurred in the 1930s and postwar period, with the population growing from 1,908 in 1933 to 2,953 in 1954, an increase of around 50% in a little over two decades. A number of interwar houses in the precinct testify to the residential redevelopment during the 1920s and 1930s.



Fig 2 RAILWAY STATION YARRAWONGA DECEMBER 1960
Source: (VPRS 12800/P1 H 3854) Public Record Office Victoria

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Urban Design, Views and Foci

Layout and Orientation

Yarrawonga Tom Sharp precinct has typical grid layout apart from the northern section in which the railway line and Irvine Road are located at about forty-five degrees to the grid, giving a significant visual effect. The extensive open space, grass and trees associated with the School buildings and grounds in the northern part of the precinct create open views. The extant buildings, including the religious buildings, are predominantly aligned with the rectangular allotments and road frontage. These building and street alignments are an important part of this precinct's setting.

Views and Significant Foci

There are two very tall tower buildings in the precinct, the 1886 brick water tower and c1940s concrete silos. They act as geographic beacons and landmarks in the prosperity and development of infrastructure in the town of Yarrawonga.



Fig 3 View of 1886 Water Tower. Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005.

Significant views can be seen while looking along Irvine Street towards the water tower and along Hovel Street towards the Memorial trees and water tower. Views of the large and aesthetically significant Presbyterian Church and hall and Masonic Hall are obtained from Piper and Tom Streets. Religious structures have been present in Yarrawonga for over a century and they have considerable aesthetic appeal. Furthermore, they are significant places of memory for parishioners, clergy, students and staff.

The use of low light woven wire, picket, brick and hedge fences in front of houses in this precinct gives a feeling of openness that also provides a friendly nexus between private homes and the public realm. Views across streets, and between properties, strengthen traditional social ties between neighbours and passers by.

This precinct is connected to the railway whose presence is a reminder of the pivotal role that this piece of infrastructure played in Yarrawonga's history, especially during the 1880s. Views of the 1888 station building from Lott and Sharp Streets are important.

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Views of the 3 Kurrajong trees in Lott Street are also significant. These trees are the remnants of the famous 1919 Avenue of Honour which consisted of over 230 Kurrajong trees each with the name plaque of a man from Yarrawonga who served in the Great War. The Avenue extended from the Railway station along Lott Street, Mc Nally Street and Belmore Street.



Fig 4 Concrete Silos on the NE corner of Sharp and McNally Streets, opposite the Railway Station. These were located next to the flour mill which has since been demolished.

Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd. 2005.

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

Culturally significant places

The precinct contains good examples of several architectural styles that represent different periods of Yarrawonga's past. The Victorian railway cottages are the remnants of those built concurrent with the nearby railway. Most of them have walls clad in weatherboard, and the roofs in galvanised corrugated iron, as most of Yarrawonga's houses were in the late nineteenth century, with medium to steep-pitched hipped and gabled roofs with verandahs. They contrast with the design of the larger Presbyterian Church and hall, Masonic Hall and Court House. The use of more durable materials such as brick, stone, and concrete express pride, prosperity and a sense of permanence and stability.

The Edwardian and Federation building styles were popular in Yarrawonga after the period of sustained growth that the town went through in the 1880s. This architecture reflects a general feeling that there had been a break with the past. The Victorian style represented the colonial era, which was not a suitable aesthetic expression in a newly federated nation. As with the churches, the bricks used in these houses reflect the confidence that some of Yarrawonga's residents had in their place on the land. Bricks also symbolise wealth, so they embody a desire to move on from the economic depression that many people had experienced in the 1890s.

Another aesthetic break with the past can be seen in the design of houses and other buildings that were built after the First World War. The imperial confidence of the Edwardian and Federation styles was replaced by the idea of 'Australia Unlimited,' a slogan used between the end of the war and the 1929 stock market crash. Houses built in this period borrowed design ideas from the United States (the 'Californian bungalow'), while others were typified by broad gabled roofs, dark terracotta tiles and an earthy appearance.

Infrastructure and Associated Machinery.

Water Tower (1886) Irvine Parade, Yarrawonga

DB 377



Fig 5 Brick Water tower, 1 Irvine Parade Yarrawonga. Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd. 2005

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The Irvine Parade Water tower was built in 1886 after land was excised from the State School reserve by the Waterworks Trust in 1885. The site was chosen as the highest location in the town and instantly became a landmark of the town. In 1886 the *Australasian* noted that there is now rising in [the school's] neighbourhood the tower of the water trust which is to supply the town with water'.¹⁰ The Yarrawonga Urban Waterworks Trust was reconstituted under the Water Act of 1890 for this purpose, and town water reticulation followed close after.¹¹

Yarrawonga Train Station (1888) and weighbridge (1916) Lott/Sharp Street

The township of Yarrawonga was surveyed in 1868 and proclaimed in 1881. The railway to Benalla opened in Yarrawonga in 1886, precipitating a major increase in population, from 366 in 1881 to 1,278 by 1891. The 1903 *Australian Handbook* described Yarrawonga as 'the terminus of the branch line from Benalla' and thence to Melbourne with up to 'two trains daily'.¹²

The Station itself was built in 1888 by Crocker and Lewis and described by the Yarrawonga *Mercury* as:

an exceedingly neat structure of brick, tuck pointed – worked in Flemish bond – and relieved with cement facings...the roof is iron...and along the entire length runs the spacious and elegant verandah, 16 feet wide, supported on fluted iron columns, with an arched iron roof covering the full breadth of the platform. It includes a main office, telegraph room, luggage room booking lobby, porch, waiting room and ladies waiting room. ...The walls are 14 feet high, plastered with heavy cornices, the ceiling – also being of plaster with handsome centre pieces.¹³



Figs 6 & 7 Railway Station building, platform, verandah, and fluted iron columns.
Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd. 2005.

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

The Station forecourt and approach is also important as the beginning of the 1919 Avenue of Honour.

The weighbridge has been listed by the National Trust as historically, scientifically and socially significant on a state level as 'the oldest and only weighbridge manufactured and operated by Victorian Railways still in commercial use today'.¹⁴ It was installed in 1916. It is part of the wheat and railway transport infrastructure in the Precinct, opposite the 1940s Wheat Silos and the Railway Station off Sharp Street.



Figs 8, 9, 10. View of 1916 weighbridge tray with road surface of bluestone pitchers, scales, with timber desk. The exterior weatherboards of the small building have, unfortunately, been removed.

Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005.

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

War Memorials

State School Memorial Trees

After the Great War of 1914-18, sixteen 'Turkish trees' were also planted in the grounds to commemorate the landing at Gallipoli. Each tree has been planted for a soldier who attended the Yarrawonga State School and died in the war.¹⁵ There is also a drinking fountain with plaque in the school grounds.

Kurrajong Avenue of Honour (1919) lined the road to the Railway Station, Lott Street



Fig 11 Remnant of the Great War Avenue of Honour – 3 remaining Memorial Kurrajong Trees in Station Forecourt, Lott Street. Source: Lorraine Huddle 2006.

During the Great War of 1914-18, 475 men enlisted from the Yarrawonga area, of whom 57 were killed during the conflict. Of the Yarrawonga State School alone, 81 former students enlisted and 16 did not return.¹⁶ The contribution of Yarrawonga to the defence of Australia and the Empire was thus keenly felt and their sacrifice was marked, as across Australia, with the erection of monuments. The first of these, in 1919, were the memorial trees, in the form of an Avenue of Honour consisting of over 230 Kurrajong trees. Each and every tree was marked with a plaque commemorating individual soldiers who fought in the war.¹⁷ The avenue extended down Belmore, McNally, and Lott Streets.¹⁸

Of these, within the Residential Precinct the Kurrajongs in the Railway Station forecourt in Lott Street are the sole survivors. Their location is particularly significant, as the first memorial trees on the beginning of the Avenue of Honour that led from the station to the war memorial in Belmore Street. The Avenue of Honour was thus a ceremonial and ritual thoroughfare, as illustrated by the dedication of the War Memorial in 1921 in which a procession of veterans, residents and dignitaries marched along the Avenue from the station to the Belmore Street memorial.¹⁹ The Avenue of Honour was mostly removed from Lott Street for road widening c1970s. A substitute was offered to the community in the form of Lemon Scented Gums along Gilmore Street to the cemetery. It has been only partially completed.

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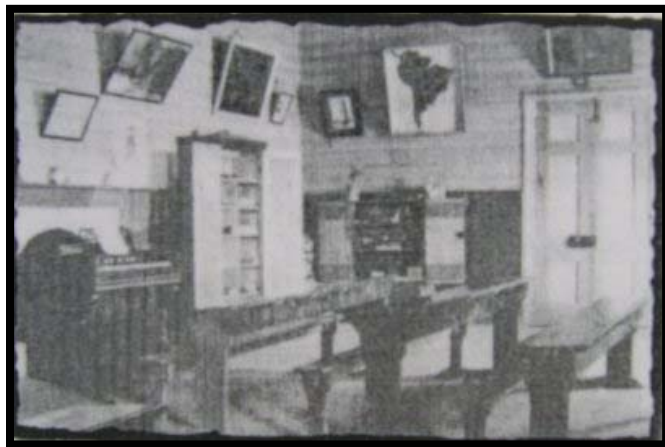
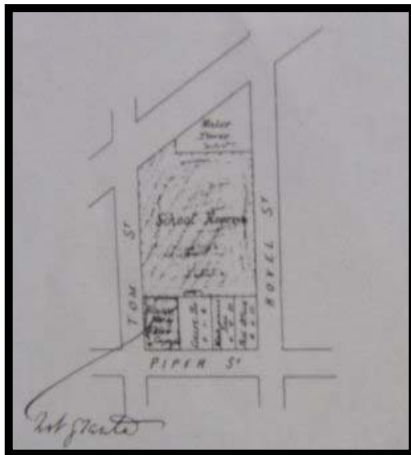
Community Places

State School



Fig 12 Yarrawonga Primary School Tom Street Yarrawonga.
Source: Lorraine Huddle 2004.

The State School was established in 1880 and the first class room built in that year still stands at the centre of the school buildings. Further rooms were added in 1918 and in the 1960s.²⁰ Located on 'the most advantageous site in the town'²¹ on a steady rise, the school was situated, according to the board of advice, upon 'the driest and best situation anywhere to be found near the township'. For this reason the section allocated to the school became in high demand for other important civic buildings, not least among which were the old timber post office, the courthouse and fire station. In 1885, the high ground of the school became the natural location of the water tower. Further excisions were denied the council in 1891, and the school retained its shape from that time.²²



Figs 13, 14 The School Reserve plan and original interior. Source: O'Brien 2002.

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The 1880 school building was constructed by D. McKenzie and consisted of a '30 feet by 18 feet building with 4 room attached living quarters and front and back verandah'.²³ The first classes were held in early 1881 and had 55 to 80 pupils. The rapid growth of Yarrawonga in the 1880s soon led to overcrowding, with an enrolment of 130 by 1883.²⁴ The teacher's residence was converted to classes, and additions added in 1918 ahead of the school's upgrading to a Higher Elementary School in 1919.²⁵

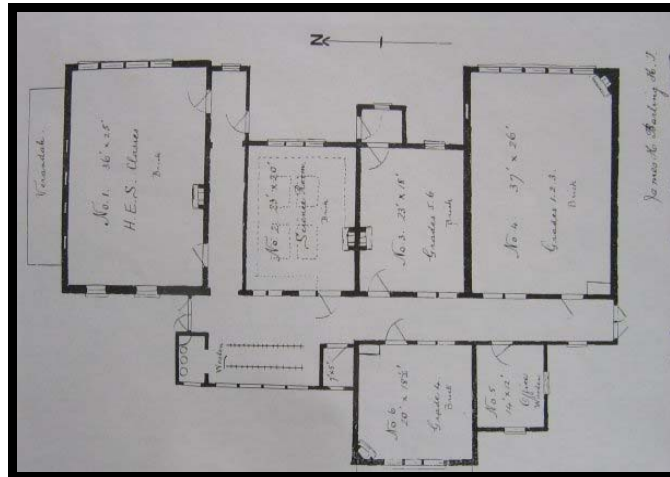


Fig 15, Plans of the school building after the 1918 extension. Source: O'Brien 2002.



Fig 16 1998 plan of the school showing 1918 section in pink and 1880 school in blue.
Source: O'Brien 2002.

Throughout this time the school maintained its status as an important social as well as educational institution.

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The Yarrawonga Masonic Lodge of St David. No. 103 VC ²⁶



Fig 17 1925 Masonic Lodge Portico& obelisk gate posts. Source. Tim McLeod 1997

The Yarrawonga Masonic Lodge was constituted in 1884. This building was constructed in 1925 with the supper room built in the 1960s. The 1925 building consists of an ante room, office and Lodge Room and was purpose built to the design of architect Gordon Sutherland, using red bricks, cement render and wrought iron gates. Sutherland, who also designed the 1929 Presbyterian church nearby, has used the Inter-War Free Classical style and demonstrates an understanding of sacred geometry and its importance to Freemasonry. The front façade with projecting portico temple front is derived from the golden section and three overlapping squares. Half the total width and height of the façade forms a golden section rectangle, and the parapet of the Lodge Room comprises two 1:1.25 rectangles of which the hypotenuse is the golden section. The Tuscan architectural order is used for the columns, in-antis and is significant for it symbolises “Strength” within the lodge. The temple front is incorporated within the substantial portico over the entry doors.

The 1925 interior is also highly significant for its fine workmanship and Masonic symbolism in the proportions of the space, and decorative elements. The furniture is steeped in Masonic symbolism and is an important adjunct to the space and function of the Lodge room.

The 1925 Yarrawonga Lodge is a fine example of Inter-War Free Classical architecture with Masonic decorative symbolism and compares with the 1929 Inter-War Free Classical Shire Hall which has Art Deco decorative elements. They both have excellent integrity.

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Presbyterian Manse (1926) Church (1929), Hall (1954) Tom Street, Yarrawonga DB 395



Figs 18 Left Uniting Church and Hall, Piper Street, Yarrawonga. Source: Lorraine Huddle 2006.

Fig 19. Right An early picture of the Presbyterian Church. Source: Loughnan 1968.

The 1929 Inter-War Arts and Crafts Presbyterian church at Yarrawonga was among the earliest religious associations in the town, established in 1879. Two previous churches existed near the site of the present church. In Yarrawonga St Andrew's Presbyterian Church was built in 1929 to accommodate a growing parish and was designed by Gordon J. Sutherland of the Victorian Churches Architectural Committee.²⁷ Sutherland, a talented architect, also designed the 1925 Masonic Lodge, the Presbyterian Manse in 1926 and the Presbyterian Hall in 1954.

During the postwar years, the parish consolidated around St Andrew's, and a memorial hall was also constructed, designed in a Post-War Arts and Crafts style by the same architect, to commemorate the town's soldiers who fought in the World War of 1939-45.²⁸ The foundation of the memorial hall on 8 April 1954, memorialised on the hall's foundation stone, was particularly significant as it was carried out by Rev. Reford Corr who served as a chaplain in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force as well being the subsequent minister at Yarrawonga. The builder was Clements Langford.



Fig 20. 1926 Presbyterian Manse 4 Piper Street. Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

Located on Piper Street not far from the Presbyterian church and hall, the Inter-War Arts and Crafts house was built in 1926 using similar styles and materials as would be used in the new brick church just a few years afterwards in 1929. The house replaced an earlier 1880s manse on the same site and cost £3,734.²⁹

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

Former Courthouse (1887) Piper Street, Yarrawonga

DB 86



Fig 21 Former Yarrawonga Courthouse 1887 (now Primary School) DB 86
Source: Lorraine Huddle 2003.

The former Yarrawonga Courthouse built in 1887 is culturally significant at a State level and registered with Heritage Victoria (H1655) and at a local level (HO 24) and recorded by the National Trust. Situated so as to occupy a commanding position in the town near its highest point and the early post office, Mechanics Institute and the State School, the building operated as a county court, insolvency court and court of petty sessions. It was vacated by the Attorney-General's office in 1980 and adapted for use as a primary school.³⁰

Former Fire Brigade Station (1931)



Fig 22 Former Fire Brigade Station (1931), now school class room, Piper Street.
Source: Lorraine Huddle 2006.

The Yarrawonga Urban Fire Brigade, designed in the Inter-War Free Classical style, opened this station in 1931 and housed the brigade's fire engine, its first being that purchased in 1923.³¹ At this time the fire tower also stood adjacent to the station.

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

SIGNIFICANT RESIDENTIAL PLACES

Overall, the precinct represents the pre-Second World War era of housing development in Yarrawonga, with the majority of significant places dating to these early periods in the town's history from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. There are many significant residential buildings within the Yarrawonga Tom Sharp Precinct. Of these, several illustrative examples are included below. These include timber and brick Victorian cottages from the 1880s-90s (the earliest period of development), timber weatherboard and brick Federation houses and timber and brick interwar bungalows. Most of the houses have hipped roofs (and a few gable roofs) clad in corrugated galvanised iron (not zincalume) and one or two chimneys in face brick or rendered.

The use of light woven wire, picket, and hedge fences in front of houses in this precinct gives a feeling of openness that has traditionally encouraged property owners to proudly display their homes and gardens to the public. Views across streets, and between properties, strengthen traditional social ties between neighbours and passers by.

Victorian Railway Houses (1886) Sharp Street

DB 431, 428,



Figs 23 & 24 40 Sharp St above & 50 Sharp Street
Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT



Fig 25. 28 Sharp Street Yarrawonga. Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

The Victorian houses along Sharp Street date to the 1880s, when the residential allotments on the west side of Belmore Street were sold, and appear to be those originally built on the properties. The allotment at 40 Sharp Street was purchased by J. M. Gorman in 1886, at the time of the railway's arrival at Yarrawonga. That at 50 Sharp Street was purchased by T. E. Bradstreet in 1881, while that at 28 Sharp Street was purchased by J. Green in the same year.³²

These houses are likely to be among those associated with the railway, and served as residences for railway employees – with one former railway employee still resident in 2006.³³

Victorian Houses (1880s) Irvine Pde, Tom St., Piper St. DB 272, 376 732, 737, 734, 738, 399

The other Victorian era houses in the Precinct are distributed along Irvine Pde, Tom Street, Sharp Street (the railway houses) and Piper Street. The Victorian era houses are located in Tom and Sharp Streets are on sections which were those sold for residential purposes in the 1880s and are mostly south of Piper Street. Others are residential places associated with the residential development of the town in the 1880s ahead of and around the opening of the railway in Sharp Street.



Fig 26. 7 Tom Street Yarrawonga DB 272. Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

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The asymmetrical and picturesque timber Victorian house north of Piper, 7 Tom Street may be unique as that associated with the Congregational Church, Yarrawonga's first church (1882) which stood nearby on Tom Street.³⁴ The design, with a projecting room with large windows in each facet, is more commonly seen in Ballarat and Geelong, and rarely in Moira or Campaspe Shires.



Figs 27. Substantial and highly decorative symmetrical Victorian house at 12 Irvine Pde DB 376
Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

The allotment at 21 Tom Street was among those purchased by J. Green in 1880; 30 Tom Street by W. B. Cairnes in 1880; 11 Piper Street also by W.B Cairnes in 1881; 27 Tom Street by J. Green in 1881; and 63 Tom Street by J. Everist in 1886. The Victorian weatherboard houses at 17-23 Sharp Street meanwhile stand on the earliest purchased allotments, owned by R. Rutherford in 1878.³⁵



Fig 28. 11 Piper Street Yarrawonga. Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

Constructed in locally available red brick, is an unusual design. It has very steeply pitched hipped roofs clad in painted short sheet corrugated galvanised iron and no eaves. The asymmetrical form, with skillion verandah returning along one side together with the highly modelled chimneys, combine to create a picturesque design.

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Fig 29. 27 Tom Street Yarrawonga DB 737 Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

The picturesque asymmetrical design is highly decorative with timber ashlar front façade walls, large windows with side lights, deep eaves and is complimented by the picket fence and leafy garden.

Federation Houses (c.1900)

As the sections within the Precinct were first sold in the 1880s, the Federation era houses represent residential redevelopment associated with the early twentieth century in Yarrawonga. By this time, the *Australian Handbook* declared Yarrawonga to be 'one of the most important towns on the Murray'.³⁶ By and large the construction of large federation houses like those at 7 Piper Street and 35 Tom Street reflected this. A particularly large number of the federation and interwar houses are situated on land previously owned by J. Green in 1878 and 1880. In 1931 the *Leader* newspaper referred to 'a large private landowner' on the west side of Yarrawonga whose death at the turn of the century opened the way for further residential development, and some of these houses may be associated with this development.³⁷



Fig 30. 43 Tom Street Yarrawonga DB 740. Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2004

43 Tom Street is an excellent example of a typical Federation era house with short sheet galvanised iron (painted) (not zincalume or Colorbond) roof cladding. A central steep hipped roof with projecting gabled wing, chimneys, deep verandah, window hoods supported by decorative brackets, decorative strap work in the gable end, double-hung timber windows with a vertical axis, all situated within a delightful garden setting behind a new but appropriately designed and low fence.

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Fig 31. Federation House, 7 Piper Street, DB 396 Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

The house at 7 Piper Street is a particularly fine architectural example of a picturesque Federation era house with a very high degree of integrity, including its garden setting and hedge fence. The symmetrical form of the design is dominated by the steeply pitched hipped roofs with large intersecting gables over the entry and sides. The picturesque qualities are created by the silhouette of steep and varied roof lines, finials at the gable apexes, and tall decorative chimneys, profound modelling of the form, including the use of a deep bull nosed verandah and flying gable ends, and highly detailed decoration at every level. The roof is clad in corrugated short sheet galvanised iron which has a elegant and dignified finish (not zincalume which takes years to lose the new reflective appearance) and may have had galvanised iron roof decoration along the ridges. The grand proportions of the house are reinforced at pedestrian level by the large, almost floor to ceiling windows with large side lights. The low hedge fence is a rare survivor of a once common fence type and is an important part of the aesthetic and historic magnificence of this property.

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Interwar Houses (c.1919-1930s)

Tom St., Sharp St., Piper St. DB 733, 741, 400, 730, 731, 742

The Interwar period was one of significant growth and residential demand for Yarrawonga due in large part to the construction works for the Yarrawonga weir and Lake Mulwala.³⁸

Interwar bungalows are particularly situated in Tom Street and Sharp Street. Many of these houses have roofs continued to be clad in corrugated galvanised iron, but some were clad in terra cotta or concrete tiles as was common in that era.



Fig 32. 28 Tom Street Yarrawonga DB 733. Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005



Fig 33. 18 Sharp Street Yarrawonga DB 424. Source. Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005

18 Sharp Street is a particularly fine and intact architectural example of an Inter-War house in the Californian Bungalow style. The long transverse broad gabled roof flattens out to form a deep and shady return verandah with brick and stucco tapered pier supports. The deep eaves overhang gable ends decorated with strap work and ventilation louvres. The house is set in a leafy garden and the whole composition is viewed from the street over a low, wire fence, entirely appropriate to the architecture.

YARRAWONGA TOM SHARP PRECINCT

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE³⁹

Yarrawonga Tom Sharp precinct

The other culturally significant places within the precinct, not specifically mentioned in this documentation are listed in Appendix 1 and are documented in the accompanying database. The history and description that precedes this Statement of Cultural Significance is the source of the evidence for the statement below.

The precinct is **aesthetically significant on a local level.** (AHC, D2,) It contains excellent examples of several different architectural styles from the Victorian, Federation and Interwar periods. Low front fences made of timber pickets, light wire, brick and hedge allow open views of predominantly single storey houses, brick churches and other buildings in the precinct. The skyline is punctuated with high pitched hipped and some gable roofs, ornate chimneys and exotic trees. There are aesthetically pleasing views towards important foci including the water tower, school, Court House and Masonic Hall, the church, silos, memorial trees, and the railway station.

The Yarrawonga Tom Sharp Precinct is **historically and socially significant on a local level.** (AHC A.4, G. 1) It contains places associated with the residential, civic, religious, educational, transport and urban development of Yarrawonga from 1880 onwards and as such its history is interwoven with the history of the town. It contains places which are socially significant on a local level, such as the church and school, as well as places associated with the railways that are historically, socially and scientifically significant on a state level.

The precinct is **socially** significant on a **local** level. (AHC G 1). The Presbyterian church, hall, and the State school continue to fulfil religious and educational roles for members of the local community. They are significant places of memory as places of celebration and schooling. The 16 Memorial trees in the State School grounds and the 3 Memorial Kurrajong trees in Lott Street are memorials to Yarrawonga's war dead. Housing in the precinct reflects the pride that residents had in their private domain during the late colonial era and early twentieth century. The Masonic lodge is socially significant to the large number of Freemasons and their families who attended meetings, social events and the benevolent works carried out for the community.

The precinct has **scientific** significance on a **local** level. Building materials such as wrought and iron, stained glass, and woven wire are testament to the high level of technical skill that artisans in Yarrawonga possessed. The use of these materials is becoming rare and their presence forms an integral part of the precinct's fabric.

RESIDENTIAL PLACES

The **Victorian houses** are historically significant on a local level as representatives of the earliest residential development in Yarrawonga during the nineteenth century. They mostly date to between 1880 and 1886, a time associated with the agitation and final arrival of the railway at Yarrawonga. (AHC A.4)

The **Federation houses** are historically significant on a local level for their association with the residential development of Yarrawonga at the turn of the twentieth century, and a time when significant residential expansion occurred on the west side of the town. (AHC A.4)

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The **Interwar houses** are historically significant on a local level for their association with the intense residential development that met the increased demand around the time of the weir construction in the 1920s to early 1930s. (AHC A.4)

RELIGIOUS PLACES

The **Presbyterian Church (1929)** and **Hall (1954)** are socially significant on a local level for their continuing association with the Presbyterian community as a place of worship and as a place of social, educational and recreational activity respectively. The Hall also commemorates the defence of Australia in the World War of 1939-45. (AHC D 2, G.1, F 1) The church and **manse (1926)** are historically significant both for their association with the Presbyterian community in the history of Yarrawonga and as a marker of the interwar development of the town. (AHC A.4, H.1) The 1926 manse, 1929 church, and 1954 hall are aesthetically significant (AHC D2, H 1.) for their fine architectural designs, their integrity and as excellent examples of the work of important architect Gordon J Sutherland who has successfully created an aesthetically harmonious group of buildings with the challenge of being designed over three decades and changes in architectural fashions.

CIVIL, EDUCATIONAL and COMMUNITY PLACES

The **State School No.1819 (1880/1918/1960s)** is historically, socially and aesthetically significant for its association with the educational development of Yarrawonga since 1880 when it was the first school to open in the town. It's development was subsequently interwoven with the history of Yarrawonga as a place of education, recreation, social activity and commemoration and is an important part of the cultural landscape of this precinct. (AHC E 1, A.4, G.1) The **courthouse (1888)** is aesthetically, historically and socially significant as the town's first court and for its association with the provision of law and order in Yarrawonga from the colonial period through to the postwar era. (AHC D2, A.4, G 1)

The 1925 Yarrawonga Lodge and gateway is **aesthetically significant at a local level** as a fine example of Inter-War Free Classical architecture with Masonic decorative symbolism. The 1925 interior is also highly significant for its fine workmanship and Masonic symbolism in the proportions of the space, and decorative elements. The furniture is steeped in Masonic symbolism and is an important adjunct to the space and function of the Lodge room. It is an outstanding example of the architectural sophistication of Gordon J Sutherland. (AHC D 2, F.1, H. 1)

TRANSPORTATION & URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

The 1886 water tower of the water trust is **historically, scientifically and aesthetically significant at a local level** for its role in the supply of water to the town and as a landmark structure in Yarrawonga for over one hundred and twenty years. (AHC A 4, C 2, D 2, E 1) . The weighbridge (1916) is historically, scientifically significant on a local level and may be the last remaining weighbridge constructed by Victorian Railways. (AHC A 4, C.2,) The concrete wheat silos are historically significant on a local level for their connection to the development of transportation and agriculture in the post war period. (AHC A.4)

The **Yarrawonga Railway Station (1888)** is historically and aesthetically significant on a local level for its association with the development of transport services in Yarrawonga in the nineteenth century and the era of rail and the elaborate and decorative design. (AHC A.4, D 2) The station is also socially significant on a local level as the last surviving operational railway

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station in the area, and as a place which is locally recognised as being interconnected with the whole history of the town since 1888.(AHC G.1)

The **railway reserve, station, Lott Street view and avenue of honour**, and other views are **aesthetically significant**. They provide visual links with the profound importance of the place to the community for over one hundred years. **AHC A.4, D2).**

COMMEMORATIVE PLACES

The **Avenue of Honour (1919)** in the station forecourt in Lott Street is historically significant on a local level as the last remaining contiguous section of the Avenue of Honour which began here in 1919. It is associated with the defence of Australia during the Great War of 1914-18 (AHC A.4) and is also socially significant on a local level as a place of commemoration and of both communal and national memory. (AHC. G.1) The memorial trees and drinking fountain in the State school grounds is socially and historically significant for the association with 16 former pupils who were killed in the Great War. The Presbyterian Hall is also socially and historically significant as it commemorates the town's soldiers who fought in the World War of 1939-45. (AHC. A 4, G.1)

Overall, Yarrawonga Tom Sharp precinct is culturally significant at the LOCAL level.

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- 1 Loughnan, *Ballanda to 1968*, p.56; Yarrawonga Planning Scheme Map 1933.
2 Yarrawonga Planning Scheme Map 1933.
3 Yarrawonga Town Planning Scheme Map 1933.
4 *Mercury*, 6 August 1885.
5 *Mercury*, 22 April 1886.
6 *Australasian*, 1 May 1886.
7 Loughnan, p.59.
8 Census of the Colony of Victoria, 1881, 1891.
9 *Australian Handbook* 1903.
10 *Australasian*, 1 May 1886.
11 Loughnan (1968), p.52.
12 Environmental History 2004.
13 *Mercury*, 23 February 1888.
14 National Trust Classification Report.
15 Doug Gillespie 2005, Bruce McKean 2006.
16 See Stan Clarke, *Murray Country Heroes* (1995), passim.
17 Clark (1995), p.105; *Tungamah Express*, 11 September 1919.
18 Clark (1995), p.105; *Tungamah Express*, 11 September 1919
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20 Sharon O'Brien, *Little Red School* (2002), p.12-14, 23.
21 *Australasian*, 1 May 1886.
22 O'Brien (2002), p.13.
23 O'Brien (2002), p.12.
24 O'Brien (2002), p.13.
25 O'Brien (2002), p.24.
26 Tim McLeod, "Purpose Built Masonic Lodges. Are they Architectural Symbols of
Freemasonry?" Deakin University School of Architecture. Supervisor, Lorraine Huddle.
1997. The information and photographs are from the above thesis.
27 Loughnan (1968), p.66-67.
28 Loughnan (1968), p.67.
29 Loughnan, p.66.
30 Assessment and Evaluation Report - Benalla-Upper Murray Review 1986.
31 Loughnan, p.77.
32 Yarrawonga Planning Scheme Map 1933.
33 Bruce McKean 2006.
34 Loughnan, p.65.
35 Yarrawonga Planning Scheme Map 1933.
36 *Australian Handbook* 1903.
37 *Leader*, 31 October 1931.
38 See also *Environmental History*.
39 Definitions used are from the *Burra Charter* 1999; historical themes relate to the Principal
Australian Themes – Australian Heritage Commission; criteria for Locally Significant places
are from the Australian Heritage Commission and in the case of State Significant places, from
Heritage Victoria; levels of significance used are State and Local, which directly relate to the
two legislative authorities who administer the protection of heritage places, the State
Government and Local Government respectively.