HO62 – Hogan House, 29 Cuttlefish Circuit, Tarneit

Heritage Place: Hogan House	**HO Reference:** HO62 **Date updated:** 15 October 2026
Address: 29 Cuttlefish Circuit, Tarneit	



Figure 1. Hogan House, 29 Cuttlefish Circuit, Tarneit. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.

Item Group: Residential buildings (private) **Item Type:** Homestead building	**Key Theme:** Claiming and occupying the land **Key Sub-theme:** Homesteads, Early land holdings
Designer: unknown **Builder:** Hogan family	**Construction:** c. 1860s **Style:** Victorian
Significance Level: Local	
Recommendation: Amend curtilage. Apply tree controls. Update place address. Retain solar energy system controls. Apply Aboriginal Place controls.	

Controls:	○	External paint controls	○	Internal alteration controls	●	Tree controls (Peppercorn trees (*Schinus molle*) and gum tree (Species unknown))
	○	Included on Victorian Heritage Register	○	Incorporated Plans	○	Outbuildings and fence not exempt
	○	Prohibited uses may be permitted	●	Aboriginal Heritage Place	●	Solar energy system controls

Curtilage



Figure 2. Aerial map showing the curtilage boundary of Hogan House at 29 Cuttlefish Circuit, Tarneit. *Basemap source*: Nearmap. 2025. Spatial data source: VicMap & Department of Transport and Planning

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	*Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history*	Hogan House is of historical significance as an example of typical use of the land for agricultural purposes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The site features a homestead and a complex of elements including mature peppercorn trees and a dam to support pastoralism during times of water scarcity. Evidence of gas piping and a c.1930s built-in brick barbeque demonstrates the continued use of the place over successive generations and the evolving nature of homesteads in rural areas. Hogan House is also of historical significance for its proximity to Davis Creek which has sustained the Bunurong people over many generations, providing a fresh water source and many species of edible plants, crustaceans and fish, and later the Hogan family following colonial settlement.
B	*Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history*	The place does not meet this criterion.
C	*Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history*	The place does not meet this criterion.
D	*Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments*	The place does not meet this criterion.
E	*Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics*	Hogan House is of aesthetic significance, designed in a colonial style. The former homestead is a good example of vernacular architecture, expressed through the use of bluestone which was a locally available resource. The use of brick quoining for the details of the openings is a unique example in the City of Wyndham and adds architectural interest to the dwelling.
F	*Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period*	Hogan House, and particularly the dam, are of technical significance. The placement of the homestead in proximity to a natural water source, and the establishment of a dam within the existing

		creek is of significance in demonstrating a high degree of ingenuity to address water scarcity issues in the region. Its position on the corner of the creek assisted in ensuring the water in the dam was maintained and refreshed at regular intervals of high water and provided an ongoing water supply in the relatively flat country.
G	*Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions*	The place does not meet this criterion.
H	*Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.*	Hogan House is associated with the Hogan family who had a notable presence in the City of Wyndham for over 100 years. John and Mary Hogan were Irish migrants and raised eleven children on the property after taking up sheep farming in 1853. Upon John Hogan's death in 1881, the land holdings passed to the eldest son Patrick, and subsequently to a younger son Daniel Hogan who was the Shire rate collector. Daniel Hogan was heavily involved in the community particularly the Werribee Racing Club, Coursing Club and Agricultural Society.

Statement of Significance - Hogan House

Address: 29 Cuttlefish Circuit, Tarneit	**PS ref no:** HO62



Figure 3. Hogan House, 29 Cuttlefish Circuit, Tarneit. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.

What is significant?

Hogan House, including the ruinous homestead, surrounding elements of paving and bluestone structures, mature peppercorn (*Schinus molle)* and gum tree (species unknown) and the associated dam on the Davis Creek are significant. Contemporary plantings, landscaping works, gravel paving and park benches are not significant.

How is it significant?

Hogan House is historical, aesthetic, technical and associative significance to the City of Wyndham.

Why is it significant?

Hogan House is of historical significance as an example of typical use of the land for agricultural purposes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The site features a homestead and a complex of elements including mature peppercorn and gum trees and a dam to support pastoralism during times of water scarcity. Evidence of gas piping and a c.1930s built-in brick barbeque demonstrates the continued use of the dwelling over successive generations and more broadly, the evolving nature of homesteads in rural areas. While the dwelling remains in a ruinous state, the former use of the site as a homestead complex remains legible in its reduced form (Criterion A).

Hogan House is also of historical significance for its proximity to Davis Creek which has sustained the Bunurong people over many generations, providing a fresh water source and

many species of edible plants, crustaceans and fish, and later the Hogan family following colonial settlement. (Criterion A)

Hogan House is of aesthetic significance, designed in a colonial style. The former homestead is a good example of vernacular architecture, expressed through the use of bluestone which was a locally available resource. The use of brick quoining for the details of the openings is a unique example in the City of Wyndham and adds architectural interest to the dwelling (Criterion E).

Hogan House, and particularly the dam, are of technical significance. The placement of the homestead in proximity to a natural water source being Davis Creek, and the establishment of a dam within the existing creek is of significance in demonstrating a high degree of ingenuity to address water scarcity issues in the region. Its position on the corner of the creek assisted in ensuring the water in the dam was maintained and refreshed at regular intervals of high water and provided an ongoing water supply in the relatively flat country. (Criterion F).

Hogan House is associated with the Hogan family who had a notable presence in the City of Wyndham for over 100 years. John and Mary Hogan were Irish migrants and raised eleven children on the property after taking up sheep farming in 1853. Upon John Hogan's death in 1881, the land holdings passed to the eldest son Patrick, and subsequently to a younger son Daniel Hogan, the Shire rate collector. Daniel Hogan was heavily involved in the community particularly the Werribee Racing Club, Coursing Club and Agricultural Society (Criterion H).

Source:

Hogan House citation, Extent Heritage, 2026.

Description

Bunurong Country

Hogan House is situated on the lands of the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of Country. Despite the effects of colonisation, including dispossession of land, the Traditional Custodians have maintained a continuing connection to land, waters and culture within the City of Wyndham.

Hogan House is located close to Davis Creek. This waterway—and all waterways that flow across these plains grasslands—was significant to Bunurong peoples. They are places of sustenance, providing many species of edible plants, crustaceans and fish. They are places of technology, where Bunurong peoples carved bark from the trunks of River red gum trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) to construct canoes and carrying containers. They are also places of community, where Bunurong women gathered reeds from the riverbank to weave into baskets and share food, news and knowledge (BLCAC, 2026, 16-17).

Physical Analysis

Hogan House site is located on the western bank of Davis Creek, a tributary of the Werribee River. To the east of the former dwelling is a residential subdivision developed in the early 2000s.

The dwelling itself is in a ruinous state, with stabilisation works having been carried out in the late 2010s. It is constructed primarily from bluestone, with sandstone brick used for decorative detailing. Brick quoining is used around the window frames, with large, smooth-faced basalt slabs in-situ as windowsills. There is one window in the northern elevation and two in the southern elevation, however one of these windows has been reconstructed without the brick quoining. To the northern elevation a doorway features a brick arch. Two other doorways in the northern elevation and one in the south have not retained their lintel, therefore it is unknown if these doorways also featured brick arches. No fabric from the original roof structure remains. An internal fireplace, located on the house's easternmost wall, is constructed from brick in its lower half, and bluestone for its upper half.

Prior to the reconstruction, the ruins of Hogan House comprised two legible rooms. As part of the stabilisation and reconstructed works an outline of a third room was rebuilt, and brick paving extending north from the house was revealed. This northern extension indicates the former presence of an outbuilding. The lack of an internal door to the third room suggests there were either additional rooms, or this third room functioned separately to the living areas. Remains of a 'cobbled driveway' were uncovered in 2011, extending from the western side of the house to Hogans Road, in a south-westerly alignment, but this feature has since been removed as part of the residential development. Dry stone walls were also described in 2011, which are no longer extant.

Archaeological investigations undertaken in 2011 indicated that the site was consistently occupied by colonial settlers from the 1850s throughout the twentieth century, based upon incremental alterations and installation of later services such as gas (TerraCulture 2011).

The section of Davis Creek closest to Hogan House is deeper and wider than surrounding sections of the alignment, damming water in times of drought. This water source was likely dug manually by the Hogans to combat water scarcity that was a persistent challenge in the region.

Six mature peppercorn trees remain extant to the east and northeast of the house, as well as to the southeast. A mature gum is located to the southeast (Figure 9).

Alterations and Additions

- The property is in a ruinous state with various propping and stabilising methods installed in 2018. The ruins are in a manicured parkland setting, with remnant trees.
- Additional plantings, landscaping works, gravel paving and park benches have been installed at the site since its development. *

Hogan House is now in a ruinous state having been abandoned in the 1940s, and likely impacted by the 1969 grassfires. The ruins and associated infrastructure have been stabilised and the remaining fabric is in a good condition.

**** Denotes element that does not contribute to the cultural significance of the place.***

History

Hogan House is situated on the lands of the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of Country. Despite the effects of colonisation, including dispossession of land, the Traditional Custodians have maintained a continuing connection to land, waters and culture within the City of Wyndham.

Between 2.5–4.5 million years ago, lava flows created the Werribee Plain, carving out a new landscape of meandering waterways and vast grasslands that would support diverse ecosystems (Presland 2005, 157-159; Presland 2008, 37).

At the time of colonisation, the Yalukit Willam clan of the Bunurong peoples occupied the land between the Werribee River–also known by its traditional name Wirribi Yaluk–and St Kilda (Clark 1990, 363; Presland 2010, 16). From 1835, the volcanic plains north and west of the fledgling city of Melbourne were the first to be occupied by squatter pastoralists, the landscape of open grassy plains and light vegetation provided favourable conditions for movement of livestock over land (Vines 1993, 9; Broome 1984, 23). This rapid domination by squatters commenced the forced dislocation of First Nations peoples from their traditional lands.

Place History

John Hogan purchased the plot of land Allotment B of Section IX of the Parish of Tarneit in 1854. Hogan had previously purchased three other adjoining allotments, including Allotment A, located on the west side of Davis Creek along with Allotment B, and Allotments C and D on the east side of the creek. Allotments A and C were purchased in 1853, and Allotments B and D were purchased in 1854.



Figure 4. Parish plan showing the allotments A-D purchased by John Hogan (red outline). *Source:* Thomas Widge. 1857. 'Plan of the Parish of Tarneit, County of Bourke.' Public Lands Office Melbourne, Victoria. Map, 46 x 46 cm. State Library Victoria. https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE7022362&mode=browse.

John and Mary Hogan were Irish migrants and raised eleven children. The family took up sheep farming upon settlement in Tarneit, which persisted well into the twentieth century (Werribee Shire Banner 1926, 2; The Australasian 1872, 23; Werribee Shire Banner 1927b, 3).

Upon John Hogan's death in 1881, the land holdings were left in the ownership of his wife Mary and eldest son Patrick Hogan. A younger son of John and Mary, Daniel Hogan, took over management of the farm by the 1890s (Context 1997, 126). Daniel Hogan was well renowned across the Shire, particularly for his role as the Shire rate collector. He was also closely involved in various local associations, including the Werribee Racing Club, Coursing Club and Agricultural Society. He continued to live at Hogan House until his death in 1927 at the age of 62 (Werribee Shire Banner 1927a). Daniel Hogan's wife, Ellen Hogan (nee Leary), remained in the dwelling until the mid-1940s, before her death in 1951 (Werribee Shire Banner 1951, 2). The dwelling was significantly damaged during the 1969 grassfires causing it to fall into a ruinous state.

Archaeological excavations undertaken in 2011 uncovered various alterations made to the dwelling incrementally over its near-century long occupation. Evidence of gas piping and a machine-made brick c.1930s barbecue provide evidence of the site's occupation through until the mid-twentieth century (TerraCulture 2011). The lack of later twentieth century modernisations indicate that the dwelling has remained abandoned since the passing of Ellen Hogan and the grassfires that went through the area in 1969.



Figure 5. The ruins of Hogan House as it was prior to the conservation works undertaken in 2018. *Source:* Bill Strong. 2015. Hogan House ruins. https://www.flickr.com/groups/799686@N21/discuss/72157638527832385/.

While development in Hoppers Crossing and the eastern area of Tarneit commenced from the 1980s, residential development to the western extent of Tarneit did not commence until the early 2000s. As part of the ongoing residential development works, in 2018 the Hogan House ruin was stabilised and contemporary landscaping was added to the broader site.

Comparative Analysis

The City of Wyndham has a number of examples of nineteenth century bluestone dwellings that once formed part of larger former farming complexes. Comparable examples to Hogan House include:

Robertson Farm Complex (HO28)

Hogan House is comparable to Robertson Farm Complex as the site also contains a single storey bluestone dwelling constructed in the nineteenth century which remains in a ruinous state. Robertson Farm Complex was once the site of a large farming complex with associated infrastructure including outbuildings, garden paving, dry stone walling and mature trees. Robertson Farm Complex is comparable to Hogan House as an example of a bluestone dwelling associated with pastoralism in the region. Hogan House presents as a differing example to Robertson Farm Complex with greater evidence of continued occupation into the twentieth century.

Doherty House (HO36)

Doherty House is as single storey bluestone dwelling built in the nineteenth century which remains in a ruinous state. Doherty House once formed part of a broader estate owned by William Doherty for the purpose pastoralism. Doherty House is comparable to Hogan House as an example of a bluestone dwelling association with agriculture in the region and the site of an early homestead. Hogan House is a more architecturally interesting example of a bluestone dwelling with the use of decorative brickwork to the openings.

References

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Images



Figure 6. Internal stabilisation works. Image also depicts the fireplace, which is at the eastern extent of the house. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 7. Brick quoining around windows, with modern landscaping and bench on outside of the house. View is of part of the southern elevation. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 8. Remains of brick outbuildings or features. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 9. Peppercorn trees northeast of Hogan House. View looking north. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 10. View of peppercorn trees and dam on Davis Creek. View looking east. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 11. View of the mature gum southeast of Hogan House. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.