

Upper Yarra Valley and
Dandenong Ranges Authority.

**Sites, Structures and
Areas of Historical
and Archaeological
Significance**

Tansley, M. (1978)

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THE CONSERVATION OF SITES AND STRUCTURES
OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE
IN THE UPPER YARRA VALLEY AND DANDENONG RANGES REGION

VOLUME 1

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705-403 RESEARCH REPORT (PLANNING)

Prepared in partial fulfilment of the requirements of
the Degree of Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning.
University of Melbourne

18th November, 1978

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PREFACE :

Whilst searching for a topic for the research report, I endeavoured to find one which would be of some practical use to a public group or a planning authority. One of my greatest interests lies with the conservation and preservation of historic sites, structures and areas; consequently, my search leaned towards an area or a region which was in need of such a study.

After discussion with officers of the recently established Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, I was informed that a study of sites, structures and areas of significance was required to develop policy on urgent matters and to provide the basis for preparation of a strategy plan. It was suggested that I might undertake research in that area.

The study the Authority suggested was outlined in the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority New Sheet Number 4 - February 1978 -

- To compile an inventory of sites, structures and areas of historical, aesthetic, cultural, scientific or archaeological significance.
- To identify critical issues with respect to the preservation of such sites, structures and areas.

As this whole study topic was too broad for my purposes, I undertook, with the consent of the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority and the Department of Town and Regional Planning, Melbourne University, to limit myself to the historical and archaeological aspects of the region. I decided to research both historical and archaeological features concurrently because, as both involve the study of human habitation and settlement, one complements the other.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the officers of the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority for their help with the choice of topic, and especially to Chris Johnson for her assistance throughout the study.

Thanks are gratefully given for the help of officers of the -

Forests Commission of Victoria,
Historic Buildings Preservation Council,
Land Conservation Council of Victoria,
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works,
National Trust of Australia (Victoria),
Shires of -

Healesville,
Lilydale,
Sherbrooke,
Upper Yarra,
Victoria Archaeological Survey.

The courteous hospitality and assistance from many residents of the region and folk from the Historical Societies of -

Lilydale and District,
Marysville,
Mt. Dandenong,
Sherbrooke,
Upper Yarra.

In particular, I wish to thank the following people for their special advice and assistance in reproducing photographs, etc. -

Mr. Griffin Bartlett,
Mr. Leigh Blackburn,
Mr. Frank Endacott,
Miss Christine Gray,
Miss Keppel,
Mr. Jack Lundy-Clarke,
Mr. Don Parkinson,
Mr. Earle Parkinson,
Mr. Sandy Ross,
Mrs. Ena Saeville,
Mr. Volkhardt Wehner.

To Miss Isabel Wilson, my typist, my warm appreciation for her patience and support.

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S Y N O P S I S

This research report contains an investigation of significant historical and archaeological sites and structures in the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Region, and is designed to assist the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority in carrying out the investigation requirements for the preparation of its strategy plan. It also analyses the various techniques and measures which can be used to conserve historically significant sites and structures, and suggests various courses of action for the Authority.

The basic premise of the report is that sites and structures of historical and archaeological significance are a limited and valued resource which should be evaluated and conservatively managed.

The specific objectives of the study were :

- To examine the costs and benefits of conserving historically and archaeologically significant sites and structures.
- To outline the general pre-history and history of the region so that its historically and archaeologically significant sites and structures can be examined in their proper historical perspective.
- To carry out a survey of all sites and structures within the region which may be significant.
- To evaluate the concept of significance and to establish a set of criteria and guidelines for the evaluation and classification of the historical and archaeological sites and structures within the region, and to evaluate and classify them according to these criteria.
- To compile an inventory of sites and structures of historical and archaeological significance within the region. To identify critical issues and problems with respect to their conservation, and to suggest possible courses of action for the conservation of the most significant of these sites and structures.

- To analyse the relevant legislation for the conservation of sites and structures of historical and archaeological significance, and to discuss how conservation can be put into practice.
- To examine possible courses of action for the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority to conserve regionally significant historical and archaeological sites and structures.

Shire of Healesville,
 Shire of Lillydale,
 Shire of Sherbrooke,
 Shire of Upper Yarra.

The Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority and Its Role in Relation to Historic Conservation :

The object of the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act 1978, (hereafter 'the Act'), is -
 "to enable increased protection for the special features and character of the region and to provide for the implementation of statements of planning policy approved from time to time under the Town and Country Planning Act 1961, which relate to the region." (2)

The Act established the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, (hereafter 'the Authority'),
 "to co-ordinate, and regulate the use and development of an important conservation area." (3)

The major purpose of the Act, therefore, is to conserve the region's special features. One form of conservation which is very important, although it is not emphasised in the Act, is historic conservation.

1. VICTORIA The Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act 1978. First schedule.
2. Ibid. Section 3.
3. Hon. G.F. HAYES (Minister for Planning), Second Reading Speech of the "Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Bill."