

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

**name:** Happy Valley Hall  
**Address:** Havilah Road ROSEWHITE  
**Place Type:** Hall Public  
**Citation Date:** 2007

**File No:** AS0344

**Significance Level:** Local



*Happy Valley Hall*

**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**      **VHR -**

**HI -**

**PS -**

## History and Historical Context

In 1839, William Forlonge was one of the first squatters in the Myrtleford area when he squatted at Happy Valley Creek which became the Happy Valley run. James Woodside, a Irishman, moved to the Running Creek from Kilmore where he had kept an inn. At Running Creek, he ran a store and was the local butcher, gold-buyer and carrier. In 1858, he acquired Happy Valley run for 108 pounds rent after it was sub-divided from the Barwidgee run. However, the rent was raised to 133 pounds which proved too expensive for Woodside and a large portion of the run reverted to Crown land. When it was released for free selection Woodside again obtained the major portion. James Woodside built the Happy Valley homestead circa 1880 on the 640 acres he had taken up as his pre-emptive right.

The Closer Settlement Board was set up in 1900 to open up rural Victoria for closer settlement. Large properties were bought and divided and leased to local farmers. Happy Valley, Barwidgee and Merriang were three estates bought up in the Myrtleford area. In 1919 after the WWI, the Board re-acquired the land for Soldier Settlement Scheme and sub-divided it for returning service men. On the Happy Valley Estate thirty-two lots were settled and only five were successful. With the closer settlement, roads and facilities followed. The Happy



Valley Estate school was opened in 1920.

Grace Magurie recalls in 'Recollections', 2006: "The Happy Valley Hall was opened in 1929. The people ran all types of sporting activities to raise funds to build it. Including wood chopping, horse events, foot races and nail driving. Mrs Godfrey Green walked all around the district selling passionfruit plants and dances were held in the school to raise money for the building. My father, Bill Maguire turned the electricity on in the hall in 1957" .

An entry/supper room was added to the building in later times, and the corrugated iron has been replaced recently. The Happy Valley Hall has continued to serve the local farming population to the present day.

References:

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Robertson K, 1973, Myrtleford Gateway to the Alps, Rigby, p. 98-99

Myrtleford and District Historical Society Inc, 2007, Recollections, p. 34

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.5 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns & cities.

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.

## Description

### Physical Description

The Happy Valley Hall is situated beside Havilah Rd, Rosewhite. The main hall is a rectangular building constructed of red brick laid in stretch course. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof with gablet inserts at each end of the ridge. There are no eaves.

The windows are four-pane sash type, with concrete-rendered flat gauged arches and brick-on-edge sills. The front and rear walls of the main hall each have two narrow brick buttresses, rising the full height of the walls to the guttering.

An entry/supper room has been added to the front of the building, in similar style but different brick type. There are three other entries to the main hall, one at each end and one at the rear. Concrete steps on brick ramps access the rear and one end door, taking account of the fall in the ground.

### Physical Condition

Good

### Usage / Former Usage

1929 - present: Public Hall

### Intactness

Good

### Recommended Management

Retain hall in present form and materials, allowing like-for-like replacements. External controls only

### Comparative Analysis



Small, unsophisticated community halls are common in small rural towns and communities of Victoria. Alpine Shire has a number of halls that are the only infrastructure to mark the locality of a once larger community eg Freeburgh, Gapsted, Upper Gundowring. The Happy Valley Hall has similar scale to these buildings, but is built of more substantial and permanent materials.

## Statement of Significance

### What is significant?

The large pastoral run 'Happy Valley' was purchased by the Closer Settlement Board in the early 1900s. After the WWI the farms were leased out for the Soldier Settlement Scheme. The Happy Valley Hall was built in 1929 to serve the increased rural community brought about by the Soldier Settlement Scheme. Funds for the solid red brick public hall were raised by the local community responding to the need for social interaction and community identity.

### How is it significant?

The Happy Valley hall is of historical and social significance to the Alpine Shire.

### Why is it significant?

The Happy Valley Hall is historically and socially significant as the only surviving community infrastructure serving the local rural population, and a tangible link to the Soldier Settlement Schemes after WWI. The hall is architecturally significant as a representative example of a small Victorian rural hall, reflecting in its scale, simplicity and materials the needs of the small community that it serves.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.

A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.

A.3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.

A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

### Criterion B

ITS POSSESSION OF UNCOMMON, RARE OR ENDANGERED ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.

B.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest

### Criterion C

ITS POTENTIAL TO YIELD INFORMATION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

C.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia

Criterion D

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF: (I) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL PLACES; OR (II) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.

D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

Criterion E

ITS IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS VALUED BY A COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP

E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community

Criterion F

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING A HIGH DEGREE OF CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR PERIOD

F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement

Criterion G

ITS STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

Criterion H

ITS SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OR WORKS OF A PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OF IMPORTANCE IN AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region

## Recommendations 2007

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited uses may be permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

**name:** Happy Valley Homestead  
**Address:** 713 Happy Valley Road ROSEWHITE  
**Place Type:** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date:** 2007

**File No:** AS0411

**Significance Level:** Local



*Happy Valley Homestead*

**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**      **VHR -**  
  
   **HI -**  
  
   **PS -**

## History and Historical Context

William Forlonge was one of the first squatters in the Myrtleford area when he squatted at Happy Valley Creek in 1839. This run became the Happy Valley run. By 1847, he had purchased the registered Barwidgee run and called the combined Happy Valley and Barwidgee runs - Barwidgee. In February 1851 William Cross Yuille held the licence on behalf of the Yuille brothers, and then in 1852 Richard Box purchased the run. In 1853 Box built the first weatherboard homestead at Barwidgee. In 1858, the run was re-divided back into the original two runs and Happy Valley run was sold to James Woodside and Barwidgee retained by Richard Box until 1875 (Robertson 1973 p34).

James Woodside, a Irishman, moved to Running Creek from Kilmore where he kept an Inn. At Running Creek, he ran a store and was the local butcher, gold-buyer and carrier. In 1858, he acquired Happy Valley run for 108 pounds rent after it was sub-divided from the Barwidgee run. However, the rent was raised to 133 pounds which proved too expensive for Woodside and a large portion of the run reverted to Crown land. When it was released for free selection Woodside again obtained the major portion.



## References:

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Robertson K, 1973, Myrtleford Gateway to the Alps, Rigby

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.

## Description

### Physical Description

The homestead was constructed c1880 and replaced an earlier timber building. Since construction the homestead has been modified and this includes extensive additions and renovations c2000. The c2000 additions are sympathetic and have not subsumed the original homestead and its distinctive architectural elements.

The homestead was constructed c1880 and anecdotal evidence has suggested that the bricks were made on the site. However, neither the source for the clay nor the site of the kiln has been identified. The brick bond is the English bond and the later additions have been constructed using the same brick bond. There are areas of tuck pointing that appear to be original.

The design of the house is typical for its period and this includes the verandahs, roofs and chimneys. The surviving original external timber joinery is typical.

The interior of the homestead has retained many of the earlier architectural features and these include decorative stained glass and some timber joinery.

### Physical Condition

Good

### Usage / Former Usage

1880-c2000: homestead

c2000-present: B&B

### Intactness

Good

### Recommended Management

Maintain external form, materials and architectural featuring that identify it as a station homestead of its era, per description.

### Comparative Analysis

Happy Valley and Barwidgee homesteads were built at the same time and by the same family but are different in design. Merriang homestead is the only Pre-emptive Right homestead similar in materials and design and from the same era. No original squatters huts survive in the Alpine Shire, and these homesteads of a later era are the only ones that relate to the early squatting runs in the Alpine Shire. However, these second generation



homesteads are relatively common elsewhere in the State.

## Statement of Significance

### What is significant?

William Forlonge was one of the first pastoralists in the Myrtleford area in 1839 when he squatted at Happy Valley Creek which became the Happy Valley run. By 1847, he purchase the registered Barwidgee run and called the combined runs - Barwidgee. In 1858, the run was re-divided back into the original two runs and Happy Valley run was sold to James Woodside.

The Happy Valley Homestead is a brick building, built in c1880 by James Woodside, and has additions added at different periods. The brick bond is the English bond and the later additions have been constructed using the same brick bond. The property remained in the Woodside family until the Government bought up large properties in 1919 for the Closer Settlement Scheme. The homestead was sympathetically renovated in c2000, and now functions as a B&B.

### How is it significant?

The Happy Valley homestead is of historical, social and architectural significance to the Alpine Shire.

### Why is it significant?

The Happy Valley Homestead is historically and socially significant to the Alpine Shire as a rare link to the squatting era of the Alpine Shire, and a reminder of early pioneering era of settlement and farming the land. The homestead is architecturally significant for its design as a good representative example of simple rural vernacular homestead construction from the 1880s.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

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B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.

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Criterion D

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## Recommendations 2007

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited uses may be permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-



# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

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Aboriginal Heritage Place

No