

Buninyong Village Heritage Plaques
26 plaques, project of Buninyong and District Historical Society
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Nugget Hotel, Learmonth St.

1854

A hotel has existed on this site since the very early days of Buninyong. It was originally a two storey brick building erected by William Smith in 1854 as the Nugget Hotel. The attached assembly room was capable of holding 500 people. The hotel was delicensed in 1917, and later owned by Doug Watkins, who operated a poultry farm here in the 1940s.

Presbyterian Church, Learmonth St.

1860

Constructed of brick in 1860, this handsome church replaced the earlier kirk on Hastie's Hill. It is a testament to the strength of Scottish Presbyterian values in early Buninyong, and to the pioneering pastor Rev. Thomas Hastie who served as minister here from 1847 to 1888. The church was designed by Benjamin Backhouse from Geelong. On the western wall a stained glass window commemorates Hastie's great service. The Presbyterian Church became the Uniting Church in 1977.

Buninyong Fire Brigade, Learmonth St.

1872

The Buninyong Country Fire Brigade dates its foundation to 1872, although there were earlier local volunteer brigades. In 1875 the Fire Brigade was given permission to erect a building on the Town Hall Reserve. In 1883 a handsome two storey brigade house was erected, which was destroyed by fire in 1898 and the bell was stolen. A new station was built that served into the 1950s, when it was demolished and the present station was built in 1955. The pride of the CFA is the old Merryweather Engine, ordered from London in 1899.

Town Hall & Court House, Learmonth St.

1886

Municipal government came to Buninyong in 1858, and in the early years Council met in various hotels. In 1886 this complex was built to house the Buninyong Borough Council, the Town Hall and the Court House, replacing an earlier building adjacent to the Gardens. The Italianate Town Hall was built of locally produced bricks. The architects were Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy of Melbourne. The builder was the local, Richard Rennie, and the interior was painted by the firm of Whitlaw and Ruddock. The Court closed in 1980, and the Town Hall moved to the control of the City of Ballarat in 1994.

Whykes Butcher Shop, Learmonth St.

1893

The Whykes family from Durham Lead commenced their butcher shop here in 1864. In 1893 this fine shop with residence was built, and the Whykes family continued their business, slaughtering their own meat at Durham Lead, until 2000, when the family retired from business. Since then the building has been home to several restaurants.

Adams's Store & Bakery, Learmonth St.

c 1853

When gold was discovered in August 1851, the Wesleyan John Adams arrived from Geelong and became a storekeeper at Golden Point. In January 1853 he was advertising his Buninyong store and bakery, and this building dates from that period. John Adams was a devout Methodist, and before the Wesleyan chapel was built in Warrenheip St., local Wesleyans gathered at his shop for their services. Other owners have been J W Wilson, Percy Lyne and the Eames Family who ran the store from 1930 until the 1980s.

National Bank, cnr Learmonth and Warrenheip Sts.

1868

Following the formation of the National Bank of Australasia in 1858, a branch was opened at Buninyong in April 1859 by Robert Gillespie. The present brick building, built on land purchased from John Adams, was completed in 1868, and served as the community bank until 1974, when it was sold by the banking company to become a private residence. The handsome edifice is typical of many country banks built in the nineteenth century.

Buninyong Coffee Palace, cnr Learmonth and Warrenheip Sts.

1899

From the early 1850s, this was an important commercial site. In February 1899 there was a devastating fire which destroyed all the wooden shops in this vicinity. The building was quickly rebuilt as the Buninyong Coffee Palace. Later uses included a watchmaker, fruit shop, confectionary shop, gift shop, video store and beauty salon. The Thornton family are particularly remembered for their excellent sponges and pies in the 1930s and 1940s.

Brydon and Hedrick Store, Learmonth St.

c 1850s

This is one of the earliest businesses in the village, established as a general store by Brydon and Hedrick from Geelong in the early 1850s. The names of the proprietors can still be on the façade. Peter Hedrick became the first Mayor of Buninyong in 1863, and an outstanding contributor to civic affairs. Later it was operated by David Kerr and Ern Tonkin, also civic leaders. In the 1950s this became Buninyong's first milk bar, then a sweet shop and café.

Issac's Grocer Store, Learmonth St.

c 1882

This building dates from the 1880s, when following a disastrous fire a brick shop with iron roof and cellar was built. In the 1920s Charles Issac took over the store and extended it. The store was renowned for its home delivery service to outlying farm properties. It operated continuously as a grocery store from the 1880s until 2012 when it closed as the Buninyong Supermarket and has since reopened as an old-fashioned haberdashery shop.

Caffrey, Blacksmith & Coachbuilder, Learmonth St.

c 1860

On the adjacent land, there was a blacksmith, wheelwright and coachbuilder from the 1860s. The Caffrey family operated a carriage factory from about 1870 until the turn of the century, followed in the twentieth century by Bill Burke and his son, who made his last wagon in 1948, by which time the motor car was replacing the horse, and the smithy closed.

Buninyong Post Office, Learmonth St.

1873

Buninyong's first post master was John Veitch, appointed on 1 January 1845. Non-official post offices operated from various Buninyong stores until this new post and telegraph office opened in October 1873, erected by the Public Works Department. It served as the post office until 2000.

Site of Buninyong Hotel, Learmonth St.

1853

This unusual sandstone wall is a relic of the old two-storey Buninyong Hotel, erected in 1853 by Margaret Jamieson. It was a white elephant that never succeeded, and her son built another Buninyong Hotel, of timber, on the RSL corner. Mother Jamieson's folly was demolished in 1873 by Dr. Sparling, who built the adjacent brick house around the same time. The stone comes from nearby Stone Quarry Lead.

Dr. Longden's House, Learmonth St.

1892

Dr. Frank Longden was appointed as a newly-graduated doctor to Buninyong in 1888, and served the people of Buninyong and district until his death in 1938. This house was built in 1892 as a wedding present from the bride's father to his daughter on the occasion of her marriage to Dr. Longden. The surgery was in the front room, and a dispensary was located in the garden.

Howard's Bootmaker, Warrenheip St

1899

The first shop on this site was destroyed in the devastating fire of February 1899, and rebuilt soon after. Mr. Howard was a bootmaker here in 1906, and in the 1920s Miss Nidschelin was a dressmaker. Later Thomas Jenkin operated a news agency and fancy goods store here, then a gift shop. Later it became a chocolate shop.

Eagle Hotel, Warrenheip St

c 1855

In 1854 the block was sold to Andrew Davies, a saddler, who built this impressive two-storey brick building. An application for a hotel license was made in 1856. One of the oldest buildings in Buninyong, it was classified by the National Trust. For many years from 1862 it was associated with the Wyatt family. In the fire of 1899,

the Eagle Hotel was consumed by the fire, but was quickly rebuilt. The hotel was delicensed in 1917, and subsequently has had many commercial uses, including bootmaker, butcher, fishmonger, second-hand store, garden centre, medical rooms and private residence.

Whykes Grocer Store, Warrenheip St

c 1865

This brick building was constructed in the 1860s by George Whykes. It has a cellar built for storage of butter, cheese and eggs. The Whykes family ran a grocery business from this site until the 1940s, when it continued under other hands until the 1960s. Then it became a second-hand store, gift shop, and a restaurant, before being threatened with demolition in 1993. A timely restoration ensures the continuing life of the building.

The Phillips's Cottage, Warrenheip St

C 1890s

It is unknown who built this cottage in the late nineteenth century, but it was certainly in existence by 1900. It was owned by the Whykes family for many years, then the Holland family, Murray Williamson and lastly Gordon and Betty Phillips, who operated the store next door in the 1960s. The old cottage was demolished in the 1970s and the site remained vacant until August 2010, when Buninyong's new Bendigo Community Bank was opened here.

Middleton's Ironmongery & Garage, Warrenheip St

c 1873

This shop was erected after 1873, and for many years was known as Middleton's ironmongery. In the 1920s the first petrol bowser in Buninyong was erected on the footpath. Since then it has had many different uses, as an antiques store, horse feed store and florist.

Buninyong Old Library, Warrenheip St

1861

In August 1856, local mill-owner and five-times Mayor Robert Allen purchased a large block of land fronting Warrenheip St and subsequently erected this building as a gift to the people of Buninyong in 1861, to be used as a public library and Mechanics Institute. It functioned until 1926. After the building was restored in 1988, it became an information and heritage centre.

Crown Hotel, cnr Learmonth and Warrenheip St.

1885

George Selleck was one of the many Geelong men who reacted to the announcement of discovery of gold at Buninyong in early August 1851 by proceeding to the village. He decided he would build a two-storey wooden hotel late in 1851, and it opened for business in early 1852. The hotel was home to many important civic events. The first meeting of the Buninyong Roads Board was held at the Crown Hotel on 30 August 1858. The hotel was destroyed by fire on 31 December 1884. The present brick hotel was quickly rebuilt. The architect was George Lorimer of Ballarat.

Netherby, Warrenheip St

C. 1860

This gracious house is one of Buninyong's earliest, associated with Dr. Sparling, a medical doctor in Buninyong. It incorporated some of the stone building material of the old Buninyong Hotel. A feature of the residence is the beautiful Victorian garden, laid out in the nineteenth century. Later the Graham family from the tannery, and the Howard family from the Box Factory, lived in this house, and from 1973 to 2012 it was the home of Derick and Shirley Leather.

Camellia Cottage, Warrenheip St

C. 1862

This pleasing Victorian residence was built for one of Buninyong's early medical practitioners around 1862. In 1865 Dr. C. Gavin Casey was medical practitioner at Buninyong, living at this

site. Later David Davies MLA lived here, followed by the Town Clerk James Jordan in the early years of the twentieth century. From the 1920s, the popular head master at the Buninyong State School, Mr William Nagle, lived here with his family and the house was a social centre of Buninyong.

Glencairn, Eyre St

c 1857

Robert Allen built this handsome brick house with its wide verandahs and steeply-pitched roof covered with thick iron sheets in 1857. The house and its large garden overlooked the township. In 1859 the artist Francois Cogne included an engraving of Buninyong from the front garden of the house in his *Ballarat Album*, published in Melbourne by Deutsch and Ferguson. Allen was Mayor of Buninyong from 1870 to 1876.

CLIFTON VILLA, Eyre St

1867

Built for the chemist Edward Newman, this house was based on the design of his wife's family home in Bristol, England. It is a fine example of pattern book Gothic architecture, with its decorative timber barge boards and distinctive brick twist chimneys. In 1881 it was purchased by grocer George Whykes who added a ballroom (since demolished) to cater for the many social events held here. In 1968 Ian Smith, an architect, bought it and commenced extensive restoration. The huge iron gates are from Queens Grammar school (now ACU Aquinas campus), in Mair Street, Ballarat

BUNINYONG BREWERY

1855

This bluestone and brick structure was built for Robert Allen in 1855. From 1857 until his death in 1873 Thomas Sheppard operated Sheppard's Crystal Malt Brewery on this site using waters from the Gong. In 1859 Sheppard was the first Chairman of the Buninyong Borough Council. For almost 100 years it was used as a barn and for storage, and fell into disrepair. Since the 1970s it has been restored for use as a home and function venue by its present owner