

NR & NEW INTERNATIONAL SELECTION DOCUMENTATION MINIMUM FICHE

for office use

Wp/ref no

Nai ref no

composed by working party of: Australia

DOCOMOMO Australia



1 Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden

1.1	current name of building	Edgewater Resort & Spa	3
1.2	variant or former name	Sanitarium Health Food Company Factory	4
1.3	number & name of street	51 Main Street	5
1.4	town	Warburton	6
1.5	province	Victoria	7
1.6	zip code	3799	8
1.7	country	Australia	9
1.8	national grid reference		10
1.9	classification/typology	Industrial Food & Drink Processing	11
1.10	protection status & date	RAIA National Register 2003 Heritage Register of Victoria No. H0619 National Trust, State level, file No. G13039	

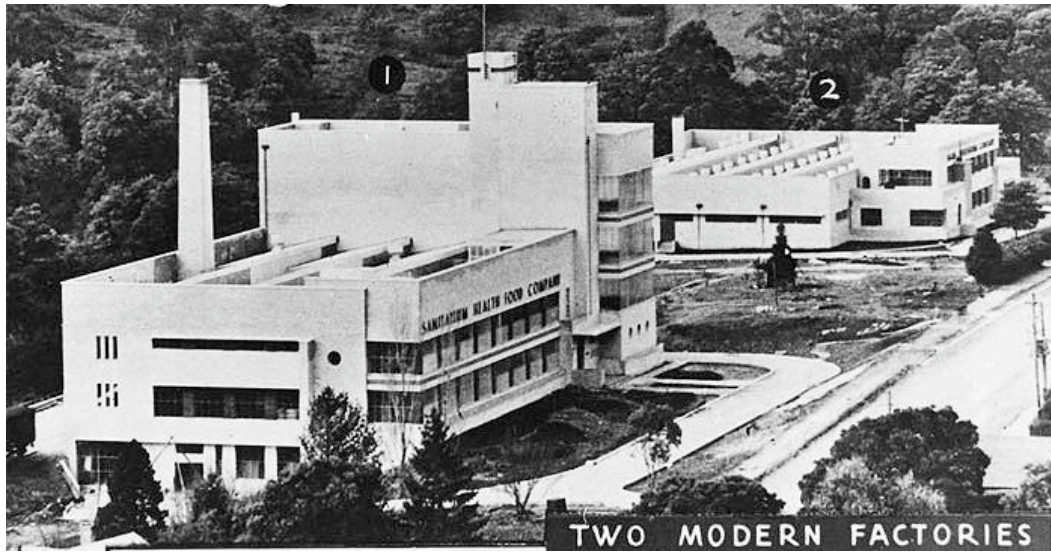
2 History of building

A factory for the Seventh-day Adventist Church owned Sanitarium Health Food Company was first established in Warburton in 1925.

In November 1934 the original building was badly damaged in a severe flood. 16 house blocks with a combined road frontage of more than 300 metres were purchased on the opposite side of the river. Construction of the new building

		began in 1936. It cost £39,000, and was in full production by 1938.	
2.1	original brief/purpose	Factory for the production of Granose biscuits	13
2.2	dates: commission/completion	Interwar Period (1919-1939): Moderne Style	14
		Prize winning architecture in the 'ultra modern style' of the late 1930s. In 1940 the complex was awarded the Street Architectural Medal by the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects.	
2.3	architectural designers	Edward Fielder Bilson (1892-1985)	15
2.4	others associated with building	Contractor: T R & L Cockam Pty Ltd	16
2.5	significant alterations with dates	Modified and extended in the early 1970s Factory closed 1997	17
2.6	current use	Resort & Tourist Centre	18
2.7	current condition		19
3	Description		
3.1	general description	Rectangular in the plan with a four level administration block at one end.	
3.2	construction	Steel framed with reinforced concrete floors	21
3.3	context	The factory was constructed at the eastern edge of the township of Warburton between the main road and the Yarra River. It is set in parkland of mature trees.	22
4	Evaluation		
4.1	technical	The complex was unusual because it incorporated its own hydro electric power generated supply which it shared with the Signs Publishing factory next door.	23
4.2	social	The complex was an embodiment of the Church's commitment to healthy living and the removal of church assets from major cities.	24
4.3	cultural & aesthetic	It is significant for its considerable aesthetic qualities, derived largely from the crisp architectural detailing and contrasting materials, the mature garden setting, and the focus of the buildings as dramatic punctuations in a predominantly forested setting.	25
4.4	historical	Indicating the growing community interest in health foods.	
4.5	general assessment	The Sanitarium Factory is significant for its skilful assembly of contrasting geometric, brick-clad forms and as an early example of the small group of non-residential buildings which successfully emulated European Modern architecture (particularly W M Dudok) and hence created a precedent for Australian post-war commercial and industrial architecture.	27

5 Documentation



- 5.1 principal references
- 5.2 visual material attached
- 5.3 rapporteur/date

Billson architectural drawings, State Library Victoria
B&W images from www.warburtonadventists.com
Colour image by Mick Stanic, Flickr.com
Peter Johnson, July 2008

28
29
30

