

City of Melton Heritage Assessments Project 2018: Statements of Significance

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House at 398-428 Exford Road, Weir Views Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	House 398-428 Exford Road, Weir Views	PS ref no:	HO129
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What is significant?

The Federation weatherboard house at 398-428 Exford Road, Weir Views.

The weatherboard house originally had a symmetrical façade. It was later extended at the northern end in a similar manner to the original section so that the entry is located off-centre (towards the southern end). Two red brick chimneys survive to the southern elevation and the roof is clad in corrugated sheet metal. The original double hung sash windows have vertical glazing bars (that is the sashes are two-paned).

How is it significant?

The 'House' is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

The house at 398-428 Exford Road, Weir Views is historically significant for being an early weatherboard house, likely to have been constructed during the first decade of the 20th century. It is one of a few such buildings in the City which are a testament to its rural history.

The Federation period house has associations with the Exford Estate, of which it formed part until the turn of the 21st century. It was probably built for a farm manager or the like. The house faces the northern group of outbuildings to Exford Homestead (located on the opposite side of the road), including the woolshed, coach house and former blacksmith's forge and residence. Though the residence is now separated from these buildings by Exford Road, the house maintains a visual relationship with the outbuildings and was likely erected before the road was created in 1911. The Exford Estate is significant for its associations with the earliest phase of European occupation of the Port Phillip District (later Victoria). Initially occupied by Dr John Watton, a member of the Port Phillip Association, it was taken over by Simon Staughton in 1842 and was retained by the Staughton family (Harry Werribee and Harold Werribee) until the late 1920s. (Criterion A)

The house is of representative significance for being a relatively intact example of turn of the century house. It has a distinct lack of detailing, not uncommon for timber houses in a rural location. In its appearance, it is similar to the other houses built about the turn of the 20th century associated with the Closer Settlement Scheme that was undertaken on Exford holdings. (Criterion D)

Primary source

City of Melton Heritage Assessments Project 2018: Findings, RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants (November 2018)

This document is an incorporated document in the Melton Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Staughton Infant Grave Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Staughton Infant Grave 430-458 Exford Road, Weir Views	PS ref no:	HO130
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What is significant?

The grave at 430-458 Exford Road, Weir Views, and its associated setting including the nearby copse of trees and the view to the valley of Toolern Creek to the east. The gravestone is comprised of a rectangular basalt base with a bevelled upper surface, surmounted by a remnant piece of white marble (likely to have originally been a cross) bearing a carved inscription – 'Died 11th October 1880 aged 9 months and 20 days'. The grave is almost certainly that of infant Rupert Werribee Staughton, the fourth child of Harry Werribee and Anna Maria Staughton who owned the Exford Estate.

How is it significant?

The grave is of local historical, rarity and representative significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

The grave is historically significant as one of a few, but nonetheless rare, isolated marked graves in the Municipality with its original gravestone and in its original location. It is also the only known infant grave. It has strong associations with the prominent Staughton family, and the grave site is located on land that until recently was associated with the Exford Estate. (Criteria A & B)

The small basalt and marble gravestone is of representative significance for being a partly intact and original example. The base, a small basalt plinth, remains intact however the marble component, likely to have been a cross, has been broken. (Criterion D)

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Behlen Shed Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Behlen Shed Brooklyn Road, Melton South (on the railway reserve, part of 2-98 Staughton Street)	PS ref no:	HO131
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What is significant?

The mid-20th century prefabricated frameless steel shed.

The Behlen Shed is a prefabricated frameless steel structure, originally used as a grain shed/silo, with a distinct profile that allows a clear open span internally. The location of the original distribution auger/elevator is evident to the north (road) side as is another chute on the south (track) side. The format of the shed is windowless with three doorways on the track side. After it ceased being employed for grain or chaff, a large doorway was introduced to both short elevations.

How is it significant?

The Behlen Shed is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

Historically the Behlen Shed is significant as reflecting the extent of facilities required to support the chaff and grain industry in the municipality but particularly in the Melton South area, where the quality of the local grain and chaff was long recognised. It was erected during the mid-1960s for the Grain Elevator Board and was probably built as a storage shed initially with the elevator (distribution auger) and chute added by 1970. Due to the loss of the two nearby chaff mills to fire (in 1977 and 1987), the Behlen Shed is a potent reminder of the chaff mill and associated industry in the municipality generally but especially in the Melton South area where it was a major industry. (Criterion A)

The Behlen Shed is aesthetically significant as an imported prefabricated structure utilising the frameless Dubl-Panl system developed by the Behlen Manufacturing Company of Nebraska, USA. It was one of probably only 13 employed by the Grain Elevators Board of Victoria. The structure is frameless, has a distinct undulating profile, consisting of a variety of secondary corrugations, etc. imprinted in the sheets, which provides its inherent strength. (Criterion E).

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Former Melton Stud Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Former Melton Stud 325 Clarkes Road, Brookfield	PS ref no:	HO132
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What is significant?

The Federation period Melton Stud, including; the symmetrical weatherboard residence with hipped roof, brick chimney and verandah to the front and two adjacent Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), the grave of 'The Welkin' and one Sugar Gum and the weatherboard stallion box with hipped roof and attached exercise yard with approximately ten Sugar Gums that mark the outline of the original yard.

How is it significant?

The former Melton Stud is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Melton Stud is significant as an early thoroughbred stud in the Melton area, an activity for which the Municipality became noted. The stud was established in 1906 by highly regarded racehorse breeder E E D Clarke, brother of Sir Rupert Clarke. During his lifetime, Clarke was reported to be the 'biggest stake-winner of all time on the Australian Turf'. In the 29 years that Clarke owned Melton Stud, he purchased, bred and sold many renowned racehorses. The most famous of the horses he owned was the imported English horse 'The Welkin' whose grave is located at the site. At the time of his death, 'The Welkin' was noted as one of the most successful sires in Australia. Another of Clarke's noted horses was the Melton Stud bred 'Trivalve' who in a single year won the AJC Derby (Sydney), the Victoria Derby and the Melbourne Cup.

It is also significant for its associations with the subdivision of the substantial Exford Estate which occurred from the beginning of the 20th century and marked a major new era in the history of the Melton area. (Criterion A)

The former Melton Stud is of representative significance as an example of an early Federation period horse stud complex. It includes the original residence, outbuildings and planted Sugar Gums. The weatherboard house has characteristics typical of the Federation period including the hipped roof with continuous verandah and lapped corrugated metal sheeting, as well as the face brick chimney with terracotta pots and the symmetrical composition with central entry and timber sash windows.

The nearby timber stallion box is largely intact and retains original lapped corrugated metal sheeting to the hipped roof with galvanised ogee profile gutters, both typical of the period. The structure has a timber stable door to the front and a band of louvres to the upper part of the walls.

The thirteen mature Sugar Gums, which were planted when the stud was established, contribute to the setting of the house and the grave which is located close to the property entry. Many of the Sugar Gums in the vicinity of the stallion box mark the boundary of the attached exercise yard. The location of the house at the southern end of the property, high on the riverbank overlooking the reservoir but oriented towards the outbuildings and paddocks, contributes to an understanding of the former stud, reflecting both the premier location of the land and the important standing of the horses. (Criterion D).

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House and Outbuildings (Tara Stud) Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	House and Outbuildings (Tara Stud) 2-6 Sherwin Court, 2 Killarney Drive, 2a Sherwin Court, Melton	PS ref no:	HO133
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What is significant?

The weatherboard house at 2-6 Sherwin Court, Melton and the three largely intact outbuildings (stables, large gabled shed and small office building) as well as the metal horse walker at 2 Killarney Drive and the row of 11 cypress trees on the adjacent public reserve (2A Sherwin Court).

The Old English Revival style house has a gable roof clad in terracotta tiles a squat clinker brick chimney and multi-paned timber windows. In addition to the house, both the stables and the office building have similar decorative treatments to the gable end including timber bargeboards terminating with a curved section and overlapping boards with rounded ends (excluding the office building).

How is it significant?

The house at 2-6 Sherwin Court, Melton is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Melton. The three largely intact outbuildings, the horse walker (2 Killarney Drive) and the associated row of cypress trees (2A Sherwin Court) are of historic significance and representative significance.

Why is it significant?

Historically Tara Stud is representative of the facilities employed during the mid-20th century for the horse industry, which was an important industry for the Municipality from the late nineteenth century. The site has a long association with equine activity as it was part of the 'sports paddock' which was used for various events including hunt club gatherings during the 19th century. From 1959, Tara Stud was owned by Russell George O'Shea who was secretary of the Metropolitan and Country Trotting Association and owned successful trotters including 'Tara Dream'.

Historically the site is also associated with notable local identities including the Hornbuckle family and later was occupied by the Nixons who were related to the Hornbuckles. (Criterion A)

The single storey house at 2-6 Sherwin Court, Melton is of aesthetic significance for being a largely intact, weatherboard example of the Old English Revival style. The design is distinguished by the feature brickwork detailing to the entry porch and vertical batted boards to the gable ends. Possibly no other example of this style exist in the Municipality. (Criterion E)

The Tara Stud outbuildings (at 2 Killarney Drive) are of representative significance as largely intact examples of horse facilities constructed during the mid-20th century. The small office building and the large shed incorporate decorative timber detailing to the gable ends which relate to that of the house and reflect the high quality of the facilities. The horse walker contributes to understanding the former use of the site whilst the row of mature cypresses (2A Sherwin Court) contribute to the setting of the former stud. (Criterion D)

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Water Reserve, Beattys Road Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Water Reserve, Beattys Road 660A Beattys Road, Bonnie Brook	PS ref no:	HO134
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What is significant?

The water reserve (land) adjoining the east side of Kororoit Creek, north of Beattys Road and including the dry stone wall on the north-eastern side. The reserve (landscape) is located at the important Beattys Road crossing of Kororoit Creek.

The relatively flat parcel of land is located close to the ruins of the former Rockbank Inn and has a rural context. Temporarily reserved in 1876, the site remains undeveloped and includes a small number of trees. It has an approximate area of 7 hectares.

How is it significant?

The Beattys Road water reserve is of local historical significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

Historically the Beattys Road water reserve is significant as a place that was set aside when the Village Reserve adjoining Kororoit Creek was subdivided into smaller lots during the 1870s. It is historically associated with both Beattys Road, which was once part of an early route used by diggers travelling between Melbourne and Ballarat, and the nearby Rockbank Inn, which accommodated some of these travellers.

More broadly, land for water reserves was set aside across the dry plains of the Melton area to support both smaller local farmers and travellers with stock by providing access to watercourses which had otherwise been largely restricted through private ownership. The reserve on Beattys Road is one of only a few identified rural water reserves that remain in the City of Melton. These water reserves were an important local resource in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The drystone wall located on the north-east side of the reserve also reflects the early practices of private landowners on Melbourne's western plains. (Criterion A)

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Former Fulham Park Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Former Fulham Park 1267-1289 Beattys Road, Grangefields	PS ref no:	HO135
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What is significant?

The remnants of the Victorian stone cottage at the former Fulham Park and the nearby riveted vessels (movable elements). The modest, circa 1860s cottage has a symmetrical format and retains an early chimney to each side.

How is it significant?

The remnants of the cottage and the nearby vessels are of local historical and representative significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the remains of the cottage are significant as a relic of early settlement in the Melton area and was likely constructed during the selection era of the 1860s when a number of small farmers settled in the Rockbank district. The site is also significant for its association with the operations of the Cockbill family who established a successful pig and poultry stud at Rockbank during the early 20th century and also operated a knacker. The riveted vessels located to the south-east of the cottage are likely some of the only fabric that remains from the industrial activities of the Cockbill Brothers who operated in the area for almost 50 years.

Having been partly damaged by the devastating 1965 Toolern Vale fire, the ruin is also a testament to the destructive fires which destroyed many buildings in the municipality. (Criterion A)

The circa late-1860s cottage is a representative example of a Selection era dwelling, of which few survive in the Melton area. Although now ruinous, the remains of the basalt building are typical of small farm cottages constructed in the western volcanic plains in that era. Typical characteristics include the modest size, symmetrical composition with central doorway and the use of undressed basalt. (Criterion D)

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Beattys Bridge Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Beattys Bridge Beattys Road, crossing of Kororoit Creek, Aintree	PS ref no:	HO136
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What is significant?

The remains of the timber bridge known as Beattys Bridge which crosses Kororoit Creek and the stone cobbles located to the west of the bridge. The 3-span bridge has unhewn piles, stringers and corbels with large sawn cross beams and remnants of a circa 1930s longitudinal deck.

How is it significant?

The remains of Beattys Bridge and the nearby stone cobbles are of local historical significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Beattys Bridge ruins are significant as the remains of a timber vehicular bridge from the late 19th/early 20th century, of which only a few remain in the City of Melton. Beattys Road had been part of a major route from Melbourne to Ballarat. The crossing of the road over Kororoit Creek has associations with both the nearby water reserve and the Rockbank Inn which began as an early 1850s goldrush wayside inn and was later used by the Beatty family as a residence for about 90 years. The cobblestone road pavement is also associated with this important crossing. (Criterion A)

As one of only a few extant timber bridges in Melton, the remnants of Beattys Bridge have the potential to yield information that could contribute to an understanding of how the construction of timber vehicular bridges evolved from the 1890s, when part of the extant bridge was probably constructed, through to circa 1930s when the superstructure of the bridge was likely changed. The cobbles located to the west of the bridge are one of only a few knapped or cobbled basalt roads that survive in the City of Melton. These roads, which were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, have the potential to yield information about early road construction in Victoria. (Criterion C)

The remnant structure of Beattys Bridge is of representative significance as a timber bridge with a longitudinal deck that became a standard type constructed by the Country Roads Board and municipal councils post-1930. The use of round, unhewn log stringers and corbels was common for road bridges that were constructed both during and after the 1890s depression. (Criterion D)

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Tibbermore Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Tibbermore 687 Hopkins Road, Truganina	PS ref no:	HO137
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What is significant?

The original basalt part of Tibbermore at 687 Hopkins Road, Truganina, which has been incorporated into the rear part of the building. It was built for Robert Henry Faragher, probably circa 1860s-1870s.

In addition, possibly the water tank, outbuildings, and other items in the vicinity of the main house may also date to an early phase/s of development at the site.

There are also sections of drystone walling which are significant and are included in the Mt Atkinson Dry Stone Wall Precinct (HO203).

The Federation period component of the house (front part) has some heritage value in its form, though it has been much altered. The house was enlarged in 1903 for Finlay McPhail. The alterations were probably due to damage sustained by a 1968 bushfire. The Federation period component has the potential to be more sympathetically presented or possibly reconstructed, if documentation survives or investigations are undertaken to reveal earlier detailing.

How is it significant?

Tibbermore at 687 Hopkins Road, Truganina is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Melton.

Why is it significant?

Tibbermore at 687 Hopkins Road, Truganina is historically significant for being an early basalt house. Although its date of construction has not been confirmed, it is likely to date to the 1860s or 1870s. It was one of a few such buildings, or remnants of buildings, which survive in the municipality and which are evocative of an early phase of European settlement in the area.

It has associations with Robert Faragher, an early occupant and prominent citizen in the district. He was probably living at the site by 1856 a few years after he emigrated from England. The Faragher family retained the property for nearly half a century. (Criterion A)

Tibbermore at 687 Hopkins Road, Truganina is of representative significance for incorporating a relatively intact, basalt component within a larger Federation period house, which although altered externally, retains its early 20th century form. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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