

Incorporated Document

Volume 6 - Statements of Significance Heritage Overlays 001-124

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Heritage Overlay No.: 001
Citation No.: 281
Place: 'Eynesbury' Homestead and Station

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury
Critical Dates: 1841, 1872, 1925, 1955
Existing Heritage Listings: Victorian Heritage Register H362
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the heritage study had been exhibited. Eynesbury was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the heritage study being written.



Statement of Significance:

Eynesbury, Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury, is of State heritage significance. It was one of four properties into which Simon Staughton's *Exford* station, established in 1841, was subdivided for his sons after his death in 1863. The *Eynesbury* station of approximately 20,000 acres was inherited by his second son, Samuel Thomas Staughton MLA. *Eynesbury* remained unsubdivided until redevelopment for residential purposes commenced in the early 2000s, at which time it was the largest pastoral property within 300 kilometres of Melbourne. It consequently retains an extensive collection of pastoral buildings and works, representing the different eras of *Eynesbury's* long existence as a major pastoral property. Some buildings have been demolished, usually more recent places, such as two 1960s-1970s brick veneer houses, machinery and hay sheds, water tanks, windmills, and garages.

The early-mid twentieth century shearing complex is of Local heritage significance. Although dating to the twentieth century and situated away from the heritage core, this extensive shearing complex is

integral to the heritage of a major sheep station. Remnant 'Staughton posts', such as those at the junction of Telephone Road and Springhill Road Parwan are of integral to the place and of high significance.

The original homestead is the two-storey bluestone building which forms the central core of the house. It was begun in 1872-5 for ST Staughton and in 1885 Melbourne architect Guyon Purchas was employed to undertake its remodelling, possibly due to his recently completed design for *Wirridgil* (1883-4) at Camperdown for Thomas Manifold. Wealthy pastoralists Staughton and Manifold, and Guyon's architect father Albert, were members of Melbourne men's clubs, which brought them into contact with each other. The homestead is set within a designed landscape and a complex of buildings has developed around this core. The front façade of the homestead is flanked on either by side single storey pavilions with polygonal bays added by Purchas in 1885. During this phase of construction the roof of the two storey core was raised and the centrally placed widow's walk constructed. Two single storey wings were also added to the rear of the building at this time, forming a three-sided service courtyard with concave verandah roof. Construction is in coursed bluestone with hipped corrugated iron roofs and stuccoed chimneys. Quoins, widows walk and the eaves detailing are other features.

A formal garden features mature fig, magnolia, silk, pyramid, silky oak cypress and eucalyptus trees, with radial paths encompassing three sides of the house within perimeter walls and a curved sunken ha-ha wall of quarried bluestone rubble. In addition to the 1885-6 alteration, various ancillary buildings were constructed on the extensive property from at least as early as the 1870s. Two substantial bluestone buildings located at the rear of the house originally contained staff quarters and stables. The former would appear to date from the 1885-6 addition and the latter from either the early 1870s building or the 1885-6 addition. Along with the main house these buildings enclose three sides of a grassed service quadrangle. The fourth edge is defined by the roadway. A rare and important private ornamental lake with island is situated to the north-west.

Many vernacular buildings were constructed over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Two buildings would appear to pre-date the homestead itself: the drop slab stables, which may date from the 1860s or earlier, and a small bluestone cottage to the north of similar age. A group of structures which were constructed to serve the homestead in the 1870s and 1880s includes a remarkably intact polygon shaped weatherboard meathouse with decorated bargeboards and finials, beside an early brick smokehouse, and a large and rare water header tank constructed of large section local grey box. There is an early dairy, a killing shed, a bag store shed, and stables. Two early-mid twentieth concrete silos demonstrate their formwork construction, with slip tie straps remaining in the concrete; their roofs, of corrugated iron, are octagonal in one case and gabled in the other.

To the north in the grey box forest is a large, altered, brick former shearers' quarters, c.1890s, with two tall corbelled chimneys, and a domed underground tank in front. The associated woolshed no longer remains, and the present shearing complex further to the north dates from c.1925 and c.1955. The early twentieth century timber woolshed is a four-stand shed of unusual arrangement, perhaps modified to work with the steel framed and press-metal roofed 1950s nine-stand woolshed to which it is linked. The sheds are situated in an intact complex of sheep races with intact ancilliary features such as drencher, inspection shed, truck loading ramps, water tanks, and killing house. Adjacent is a highly intact complex of accommodation quarters for the shearers, consisting of weatherboard, galvanised iron, fibro-cement, and brick quarters, with a meat shed and other ancilliary buildings.

To the north of the homestead is an early bluestone cottage, possibly pre-dating the homestead, and to the south is another small cottage contemporary with the homestead. A substantial weatherboard manager's house to the north-west was built c.1915; two identical prefabricated Myer houses were erected to the south by Baillieu after his purchase of the property in 1947. At the south-east of the property is a substantial cutting and causeway built to form a road that leads down to where a bridge crossed the Werribee river. It is believed that the bluestone cobbled road, cutting and bridge were constructed in the 1850s. The entrance to the property from this road passes through an unprepossessing gate and enters an avenue marked by Canary Island palm trees, radiata pines, and natives thickened with sugar gums.

There are also a number of objects of significance associated with the place. These include:- a lever wool press marked 'Humble & Son 'Ferrier' brand, No1331, Made in Geelong' c.1903, located under the north east verandah of the old Shearer's Quarters; a horse drawn tipping scoop c.1890 marked 'Gaston Bros Pty Ltd Makers, Kensington Vic. No.146' located 3 metres west of c.1860s horizontal slab shed; a harvester and associated parts marked 'TR Robison Company, Victoria, Harvester 'The Federal' No.15582, 12/5/20' inside the horizontal slab shed; a billiards table and associated fixtures, c.1886, in the homestead billiards room pavilion; the interior of the homestead meathouse retains fittings and early graffiti; the water header tank retains fixtures such as float measure and ladders; and the shearing complex has remnant line shafting with deisel and electricity power sources, wool classing tables, bale stencils, wool bin, lectern, killing gallows and platforms, meat chopping blocks, and other fittings and furnishings. In addition to one of the most extensive grey box forests on private land in Victoria, the *Eynesbury* volcanic plain also supports remnant stands of casuarina. While the eastern, Eynesbury Road, portion of a composite dry stone wall and post and two-rail fence has been demolished, an extensive part of this wall passes through the northern portion of the grey-box forest in an east-west direction.

Eynesbury, Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury, is aesthetically and architecturally significant at the State level (AHC E1). The homestead complex, consisting of the homestead, the formal garden, staff quarters, stables and quadrangle, is of architectural and aesthetic significance as a complete planned precinct of buildings of the same period, and of high integrity. The *Eynesbury* homestead itself is of architectural significance as a distinctive large bluestone building, Colonial Georgian in character and constructed in two phases. It is also of architectural significance as one of the most important works of Melbourne architect Guyon Purchas, together with the Camperdown homesteads at *Wirridgil* (1883-4) and additions at *Purrumbete* (1901). The *Eynesbury* homestead formal garden and ha-ha wall is of aesthetic significance as a rare and intact example of a formal garden design, which integrates the axial design of the homestead with a spoked path pattern and a ha-ha wall. The trees of the inner homestead form a strong aesthetic link with the greater pastoral landscape of the outer property and are an essential part of the garden's layout and understanding. The fully executed ha-ha wall is a rare example, with a specially created ditch and affiliated retaining wall, allowing unimpeded views from the homestead. The prefabricated Myer houses are historically and architecturally important as rare and highly intact examples of one of the many prefabricated houses constructed by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation and marketed by the Myer Emporium during the world-wide shortage of housing following the Second World War.

Eynesbury, Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury, is historically significant at the State level (AHC A4, B2) as a large and highly intact rural estate which has operated continually as a working pastoral and farming concern from the squatting era in Victoria until the turn of the twenty-first century. It is also

illustrative of the pastoral industry which once dominated the Melton district. Physical evidence of many phases of development of the property are evident, the most significant being the phase following the separation of the property from the parent station *Exford*. This resulted in the homestead complex of the 1870s and 1880s and a number of ancillary buildings and structures. Some other individual features and works, such as the cutting and road to Staughton's bridge, the timber header tank, and the ha-ha wall are of particular historical interest. Most of the buildings and works on the property are important as representative rather than as outstanding examples of their type and contribute to *Eynesbury* as an exceptional representation of pastoralism since the early years of European settlement in Victoria. Accordingly the buildings and works associated with the twentieth century, which constitutes by far the longest era of *Eynesbury's* history, are also an integral part of the heritage significance of the place. This includes, in particular, the highly intact early and mid twentieth century shearing complex, which is of Local historical significance. The mid twentieth century shed and other improvements are also expressive of the rural investment which resulted from the 1950s wool boom. The c.1930s grain silos are expressive of the changes in rural land-use at the beginning of the twentieth century, and also the later change from hay to grain farming in the district; they are of Local historical significance. The *Eynesbury* homestead complex is also of historical significance for its long association with the Staughton family, one of the largest owners of freehold land in colonial Victoria, only rivalled in this region by the Clarke and Chirnside families.

The Staughton family were residents who played major roles in the local community. Samuel Staughton contributed to the community through his role on the first Road Board (1862), as a member of the Shire Council (President in 1867), as a magistrate and Justice of the Peace and finally as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Bourke from 1883 until his death in 1901. From 1947 until its current redevelopment it has been associated with the Baillieus, a prominent twentieth century business and political family. The grey box forest on *Eynesbury*, which constitutes the most extensive vestige of a forest which once covered a broad part of western Melton Shire, is also of cultural and historical significance, having:- been a formidable natural barrier to early surveyed roads; provided shelter for brigands during the gold-rushes; created ancillary income for farmers; and after the construction of the Melbourne to Ballarat Railway, created a significant firewood and fence-post industry at Melton. Similarly, the stands of casuarina on the *Eynesbury* volcanic plain are a vestige of a species which originally (with the volcanic eruption points themselves) was the only remarkable feature of the Keilor-Werribee Plain, but which is now virtually absent east of the Werribee River having been consumed for fuel and, during the gold-rush years, fodder for bullock teams.

Eynesbury, Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury, is scientifically significant at the State level (AHC C2). It has potential to provide information regarding the pastoral settlement and development of Victoria, and considerable potential to educate regarding rural history.

Eynesbury, Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury, is socially significant at the Local level (AHC G1). It is widely recognised in the Shire of Melton as the major mansion and pastoral estate associated with the pastoral foundation of the municipality.

Overall, *Eynesbury*, Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury, is of State heritage significance.





Heritage Overlay No.: 002
Citation No.: 269
Place: Exford Homestead

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Exford Road
Critical Dates: 1843
Existing Heritage Listings: Victorian Heritage Register H316
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the Heritage Study had been exhibited. Exford Homestead was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the Heritage Study being written.



Statement of Significance:

Exford, Exford Road, Melton South, is of State heritage significance as one of the earliest surviving residences in Victoria. It is also of great importance and rarity due to its vernacular construction in *pise de terre*. This homestead is part of a significant complex which includes early and notable bluestone structures, in varying conditions, ranging from a large utilitarian coachhouse, small

ornamented lodgings, a terrace containing servants quarters and blacksmith, and distinctive early fences. Overall, the complex constitutes a cultural heritage precinct of very high significance in an equally significant cultural landscape.

Exford, Exford Road, Melton South, is architecturally and aesthetically significant at the State level (AHC E1). The homestead is of immense architectural importance due to its age and its vernacular construction in pise, surviving examples of which are very rare. The oldest, central part of the homestead is thought to date from c.1843 and is constructed of pise within a framework of corner tree trunks, over a stone cellar. An attic within the hipped roof (originally shingle clad) incorporates dormer windows that were added later. The homestead has had several additions, the latest being the 1920s billiard room, which contribute to its significance. A rendered rubble and pise kitchen and store building behind the homestead features timber shingles under later corrugated iron, and is likely to date to the same period as the original homestead. The complex also features a collection of 1850s era bluestone buildings. Two small cottages are distinctive and important examples of the rare picturesque Gothic style; their distinguishing features include round arched windows and doors, fan lights, and tapered bluestone pinnacles adorned with orbs. The orb is also the identifying feature of the 'Staughton' timber fence and gate posts which were placed regularly along the Exford pastoral estate boundaries. These have now virtually disappeared from across the wider Exford station, so the considerable collection of these posts on the homestead complex, of durable local grey-box, and dating to the fencing of the station probably in the 1850s, is extremely significant.

A similar design on the bluestone woolshed, now on an adjacent property, has bluestone pinnacles surmounted by fleur-de-lys in the place of orbs. Another semi-ruinous small bluestone building in the former orchard paddock has the quality of a folly, with picturesque details including pointed stone arch windows. A very large stone coachhouse, with the date 1856 inscribed above the central door, has Romanesque style arched openings, and a rear skillion addition that was formerly a dairy. A ruinous bluestone terrace comprising workers quarters and a blacksmith is a very rare type of rural building. The complex also includes:- a weatherboard meathouse; a saddlery with later garage, part of which is of primitive vertical slab construction; a weatherboard stable; and a mid twentieth century weatherboard shearing shed. Two very large underground water tanks, with timber gable roofs, survive; they appear to have been renovated over time. To the south of the homestead, extending down to the river flat, is a rectangular paddock of approximately three acres which was a former orchard or garden. It is defined on the north and west sides by a rare, perhaps unique, style of fence which comprises a quarried stone base with mud mortar, and tall pickets atop. This enclosure is also defined by remnant rows of mature exotic plantings, primarily Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*) on the west, pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) on the south, and Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*) on the east. Other mature exotic trees include cypress, fig, and mulberry trees, particularly near the homestead. The complex retains a number of original or early internal building fittings and equipment, including ovens, remains of a blacksmith bellows, line shafting in the coachhouse lean-to, and timber wall fittings in the 1920s billiard room; there are likely to be other early or significant furnishings and fittings in the homestead, woolshed and other outbuildings. The homestead setting is integral to the significance of the place, and sets it apart from most comparable heritage places in Victoria. The homestead is situated on a picturesque bluff, enabling it to take advantage of the views over the Werribee River near its junction with Toolern Creek. The prime qualities of this site were recognised in 1841 when it was designated as the village reserve for the district; it appears also to have been

selected as a dwelling site prior to the arrival of Simon Staughton. This crucial undeveloped area south and west of the homestead preserves the view from the homestead across the Werribee River, and enhances its setting. It also enables the key elevation of the homestead complex to be seen and appreciated in its rural landscape context from surrounding points including Exford Road and the Melton Reservoir park. Remnant native vegetation and exotic vegetation associated with the homestead are integral to this landscape setting.

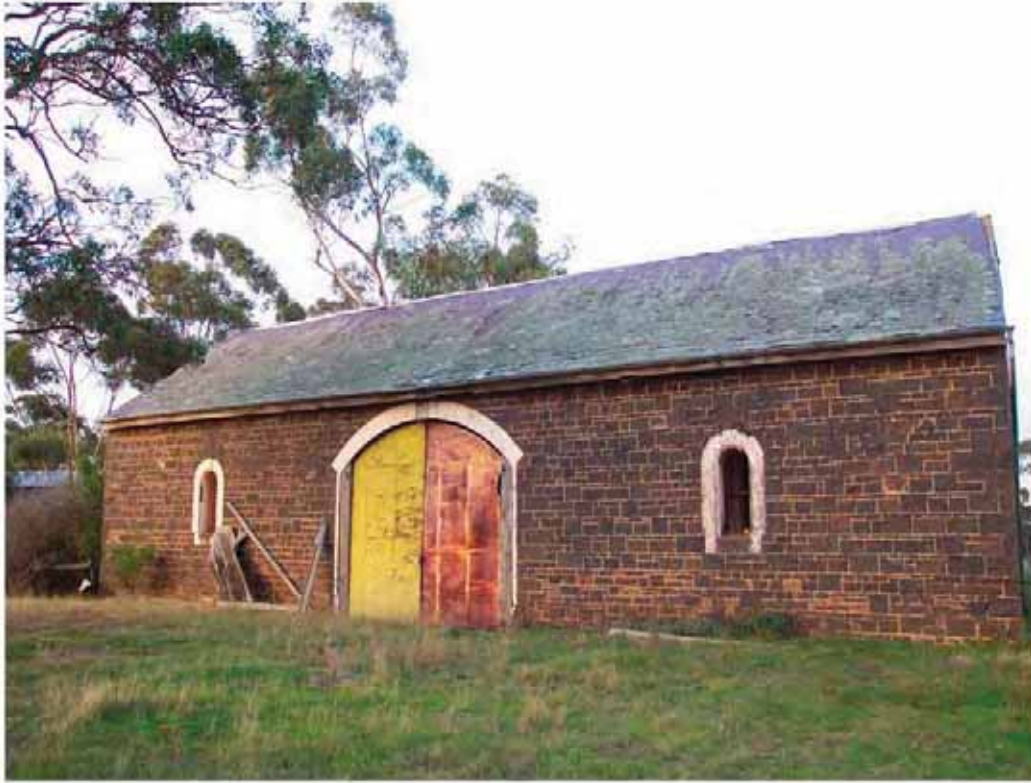
Exford, Exford Road, Melton South, is historically significant at the State level (AHC A4, B2). Dating from c.1843, the homestead is one of the earliest surviving residences in Victoria. *Exford* station was a vast pastoral run of some 70,000 acres acquired by pastoralist Simon Staughton in 1842, and increased significantly by him as freehold became available in the 1850s. Staughton was also a Melbourne banker and prominent land investor whose property portfolio included hotels such as the Exford in Melbourne, the Prince of Wales in St Kilda, and the Steam Packet in Williamstown, as well as premises on Staughton Place in Melbourne, the Eastern Arcade, and the land upon which a beneficiary of his estate built the Royal Arcade. *Exford* also has strong historical associations with the pioneering of the Melton district. It was the first of the numerous large pastoral estates, some with mansions and grand homesteads, established by Staughton's descendents within the Shire, including *Eynesbury*, *Nerowie*, and the former *Brooklyn*. Members of the Staughton family were leaders in the political, social, sporting and religious life of the district. While the homestead is early and thus comparatively restrained architecturally and in size, the prime siting and substantial size of the complex conveys the former size and wealth of one of Victoria's larger pastoral runs, situated on rich volcanic plains near to Melbourne. Early fences on the complex may be associated with an Aboriginal clan who lived and were employed on the property, and some of whom were buried there. The extensive collection of 1850s bluestone buildings is expressive of the prosperity and development of *Exford* in the wake of the gold-rushes. The dominance of Melton municipality by *Exford* and several other large pastoral estates in the nineteenth century increasingly became a source of grievance to local farmers, and contributed to the break-up of these estates in the early twentieth century. Share farming was practised on *Exford* at the close of the nineteenth century, and in the early twentieth century *Exford* became one of the Victorian Closer Settlement Board's high profile estates. Its subdivision into farms contributed to the growth of the nationally significant Melton chaff industry in the early twentieth century, and stimulated the construction of new community facilities and infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, a school and a hall. The mid twentieth century timber shearing shed on the property is expressive of the rural investment which resulted from the 1950s wool boom.

Exford, Exford Road, Melton South, is scientifically significant at the State level (AHC C2). It is an extensive complex which includes rare and significantly intact buildings and structures that have potential to provide information and education regarding early skills and materials, and the operation of an early pastoral estate in Victoria. An area of broken crockery and bottles may mark the location of huts shown on early 1850s plans which may pre-date the *Exford* homestead. The ruinous c.1850s bluestone terrace includes a blacksmith which has design features and artefacts with potential to provide information regarding blacksmithing and the management of an early pastoral estate. Fences and remnant stone walls have the potential to provide information regarding former pastoral property management, early skills, and relationships with Aboriginal people in the contact period.

Exford, Exford Road, Melton South, is socially significant at the Local level (AHC G1). The homestead is widely recognised as the earliest building within the municipality; the broader complex is a substantial and prominently located landmark within the municipality. The Staughton family is commemorated in the town of Melton by the Staughton Memorial Lamp and fabric from the original Christ Church Anglican church. Graves of Aboriginal people may survive on the property, although possibly now flooded by the Exford reservoir.

Overall, *Exford*, Exford Road, Melton South, is of State heritage significance.





Heritage Overlay No.: 003
Citation No.: 286
Place: 'Strathtulloh' Homestead, Greigs Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1402-1600 Greigs Road, Melton South
Critical Dates: 1840, 1848, 1853, 1869
Existing Heritage Listings: Victorian Heritage Register H317
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the heritage study had been exhibited. Strathtulloh was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the heritage study being written..



Statement of Significance

Strathtulloh, 1402-1600 Greigs Road, Melton South, is significant as an early property in Victoria, retaining different eras of pioneering dwellings, ranging from a ruin to a fine Colonial style homestead. The property has close historical association with the early settlement of the Melton district, and was owned by the Henty family in the 1840s.

The *Strathtulloh* property was alienated by the Crown in 1840 to Charles James Garrard, who sold it in 1848 to Charles and Stephen Henty, whose sister Jane and her husband Samuel Bryan lived there in the late 1840s. In 1853 the property then passed to William Tulloh, after whom the homestead was named. A primitive bluestone ruin of near the Toolern Creek, built of vesicular bluestone and mud mortar, is of unknown origin. It has commonly been assumed to pre-date 1840, and to have belonged to the original holder of the *Exford* lease, Dr Watton or Port Phillip Association member Dr Cotterill. This is unlikely, as the 1841 census records Dr Watton, and everyone else in the district, as living in a 'wood' dwelling. It may instead have been the residence of Garrard, and the Bryans, in the 1840s and an early map names a site near here as 'Bryan's outstation'.¹ It is assumed that the two-level stone building that became the kitchen is the earliest intact building on the site, and was the first homestead; it is likely to date to the 1840s or 1850s. The main homestead is a substantial villa constructed of random coursed bluestone, with a verandah facing three sides, attic bedrooms with dormer windows, a fan light over the front door, a hipped roof originally clad in slate, and a large cellar. Although demonstrating characteristics of pioneering construction, such as unworked log beams, pit sawn beams, hand-sawn lintels and colonial door locks, documentary evidence shows that it was built c.1869. The homestead has now been structurally repaired and decoratively restored; a sympathetic new semi-detached rear extension was added in the early years of the 21st century. The former kitchen building has also undergone minor repairs and alterations.

The property also contains evidence of what appears to be a ford over Toolern Creek, and evidence of a track towards it in line with the 1850s alignment of Greigs Road to the north of the homestead. It contains remnant almond trees and elm trees along the creek, and a remnant track from the ruin up the escarpment.

Strathtulloh, 1402-1600 Greigs Road, Melton South, is architecturally significant at a State level (AHC E1). *Strathtulloh* homestead is a particularly intact example of an early homestead dwelling, built in the Colonial style of architecture which was prevalent amongst homesteads throughout Victoria. The crude use of local stone and pit sawn timber for the erection of both the kitchen and main house at *Strathtulloh* demonstrates the typical resourceful construction technique of early dwellings. It is also of interest as a contrast with nearby *Exford*, an earlier Colonial homestead of different materials, but with similarities such as the dormer windows. Both were prominently sited above the Werribee River with the Toolern Creek valley between them.

Strathtulloh, 1402-1600 Greigs Road, Melton South, is historically significant at a State level (AHC A4). *Strathtulloh* was one of the early parcels of rural land to be alienated in Port Phillip, and probably the first in the Shire of Melton. It is also significant for its associations with the members of the Henty family, farmers, traders and pastoralists whose permanent settlement at Portland has generally been regarded as the first European settlement in Victoria. It demonstrates different eras and standards of dwellings housing in pioneering Victoria.

¹ Map, Parish of Mooradoranook, Sydney M3, Malcolm, 1850.

Strathulloh, 1402-1600 Greigs Road, Melton South is scientifically significant at a State level (AHC C2). The ruins by the Toolern Creek are archaeologically important for their considerable age, likely dating from the 1840s. The remnants of the track and ford across Toolern Creek are also of potential significance in terms of information regarding early, goldrush and perhaps pre-goldrush, road patterns and construction.

Overall, *Strathulloh*, 1402-1600 Greigs Road, Melton South, is of State significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 004
Citation No.: 428
Place: 'Deanside' Woolshed Complex

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 96-103 Reed Court, Rockbank
Critical Dates: 1864
Existing Heritage Listings: Victorian Heritage Register H810
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the heritage study had been exhibited. Deanside was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the heritage study being written.



Statement of Significance:

Deanside, the former *Rockbank* shearing shed and headstation complex, 96 – 103 Reed Court Rockbank, is significant as an early and large stone shearing shed, as a significantly intact pastoral complex, and as a key component of the Clarke pastoral empire which was the most significant supplier of sheep to the Newmarket saleyards in the nineteenth century. WJT Clarke obtained possession of this site in 1853, and may have moved the managers house from WC Yuille's homestation at the Rockbank Inn site; otherwise building of the present complex did not commence until after a destructive fire in 1864 when the woolshed, designed by leading architects Reed and Barnes, was built. In 1876 it was reported that 'nice houses' were replacing the huts at *Rockbank*, part of a program of improvement undertaken in the late 1870s - early 1880s by (later Sir) WJ Clarke. Other improvements of this era included the complex of large dry stone wall dams across the *Rockbank* station, the largest of which is adjacent to this complex (now on a different property), and stone wall construction in the 1880s. The complex now consists of a group of six buildings, all

constructed of bluestone with galvanised corrugated iron roofs, five of which have now been restored. These are the shearing shed, manager's house, shearers' quarters, boundary riders' quarters, what is commonly known as the cook's house, and stables, which may include a former dairy. The shearing shed had several nineteenth century extensions, but it is possible to distinguish its original and later arrangements and fabric. It includes relics of plant, such as a gantry and line-shafting, which may be original or early. The property also contains a bluestone ruin with a substantial gable end (which appears to have been a killing shed), a large bluestone underground tank, a causeway across the Kororoit Creek, a number of dry stone walls generally in fair-poor condition, and a pig-sty and lime (or brick) kiln (The many recently constructed dry stone walls are not included in this citation.) In addition there are a number of mature exotic plantings, including remnant pine and hawthorn trees.

Deanside (the former *Rockbank* pastoral station), *Rockbank* is architecturally significant at a State level (AHC E1, D2). The 16 stand bluestone shearing shed was designed by leading Victorian architects Reed and Barnes. It is amongst the earliest substantial woolsheds remaining in Victoria. It is the most substantial building on the former *Rockbank* pastoral estate, and the largest former shearing shed in the Shire of Melton. The use of bluestone throughout the complex is distinctive and provides a visual unity, as well as a connection with the volcanic landscape in which it is situated.

Deanside (the former *Rockbank* pastoral station), *Rockbank* is historically significant at a State level (AHC A4, H1). It is significant for its association with notable pioneers WC Yuille, and particularly with Australia's mid nineteenth century pastoral giant WJT Clarke, and with his son Sir WJT Clarke who was Victoria's leading citizen in the late nineteenth century and Australia's first baronet. With the *Bolinda Vale*, *Red Rock* and *Rupertswood* estates, *Rockbank* was part of the vast Clarke pastoral holding north-west of Melbourne, which was initiated controversially when WJT Clarke claimed an obscure provisions of old land legislation to force out the pastoral pioneers, including WC Yuille who had held the *Rockbank* pastoral lease.

The complex is expressive of the everyday workings of the pastoral industry which generated the wealth of the Clarke pastoral empire, and as such compares with Sir WJ Clarke's lavish *Rupertswood* mansion at Sunbury. This unadorned working complex is also aptly associated with WJT Clarke, the pragmatic self-made founder of the Clarke empire, whose great pleasure in his old age was to personally select the sheep to be walked from *Rockbank* to the Newmarket saleyards. The complex is expressive of the importance of the massive 40,000 acre (16,000 hectare) *Rockbank* station within the Clarke pastoral empire, in particular for the fattening and delivery of sheep (especially the important Comeback, merino-Leicester cross, whose breeding was greatly advanced by Clarke) for the Newmarket meat trade. In 1875 a massive 36,000 sheep were shorn at *Rockbank*; there were also 800 head of cattle on the station.

The complex, and especially the large shearing shed, conveys a sense of the scale of the *Rockbank* station, whose domination of the Melton Shire was an increasingly acute grievance to local farmers, which in turn contributed to the break-up of the estate in the early twentieth century. It remains as substantial evidence of the pastoral era, and the former proximity of large pastoral estates to Melbourne.

Deanside (the former *Rockbank* pastoral station), *Rockbank* is scientifically significant at a Local level (AHC C2). The complex provides the potential to provide information that will add to the understanding of Victoria's nineteenth century pastoral industry, particularly on the western plains of

Melbourne. In addition to the woolshed, dwellings and stable, the complex also includes a number of places such as tanks, fords, and ruins about which little is currently known.

Deanside (the former *Rockbank* pastoral station), Rockbank is socially significant at a Local level (AHC G1). The place is believed by older local residents to also include graves of former quarry workers killed on the property.

Overall, *Deanside* (the former *Rockbank* pastoral station), Rockbank is of STATE significance.







Heritage Overlay No.: 005
Citation No.: 253
Place: **Former Christ (Anglican) Church School Hall, 2-4 Unitt Street**

Other Names of Place: Christ Church Worship centre and Opportunity Shop
Location: 2-4 Unitt Street, Melton
Critical Dates: 1899
Existing Heritage Listings: Register of the National Estate, Place ID 5491, Register of the National Trust B3146
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the heritage study had been exhibited. The Former Christ (Anglican) Church was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the heritage study being written.



Statement of Significance:

The former Christ Church Sunday School Hall at Unitt Street, Melton is significant as a moderately intact, weatherboard church hall, in the Victorian Picturesque style. The hall is an historical legacy of the development of the Anglican Christ Church in Melton in the nineteenth century. Built in 1899, it is the only remaining built structure on the site of the original, bluestone church. The bluestone church

was demolished in the 1990s and the only relics remaining are a stained glass window in the garden and the metal belltower.

The former Christ Church Sunday School Hall at Unitt Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1) Although there have been changes to the building, addition and removal of porches, the building still demonstrates original design qualities of the Victorian Picturesque style. These qualities include the steeply pitched gable roof form, the corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, timber framed window openings and wooden gable finials.

The former Christ Church Sunday School Hall at Unitt Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2) It is the only remaining building on the site of the now demolished Christ (Anglican) Church, and as such represents the changing fortunes of the Anglican church in Melton. Its modest size and simple style probably reflects the size and beliefs of the congregation that built it, and the sorts of activities for which it was used for many decades. It is now a very busy opportunity shop run by the church.

Overall, the former Christ Church Sunday School Hall at Unitt Street is of LOCAL significance.



Heritage Overlay No.: 006
Citation No.: 260
Place: Former Presbyterian Church and Hall,
 Yuille Street

Other Names of Place: Former Scots Presbyterian, Uniting Church

Location: 15-19 Yuille Street, Melton

Critical Dates: 1867

Existing Heritage Listings: -

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the heritage study had been exhibited. The Former Presbyterian Church was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the heritage study being written.



Statement of Significance:

The Uniting Church (originally the Scots Presbyterian Church, built 1865-67) and adjacent former Church Hall / Sunday School (built 1938), Yuille Street, Melton, are significant for their associations

Consultant: David Moloney (2009)

with the development of the Presbyterian (and later Uniting) Church in the local area from 1867 until the present day, and as a representative example of a Victorian Rudimentary Decorated Gothic style for the church (albeit extended and altered), and an interwar style for the hall.

The Uniting Church building is architecturally significant at a Local level (AHC D2). Although altered and extended at one end, it still clearly demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Rudimentary Decorated Gothic style. These qualities include the steeply pitched and parapeted gable roof form clad in slate tiles, coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction, small projecting triangular ventilation roof dormers, large pointed arched window on the gable end (except the introduced external cladding) and the smaller pointed arched window openings on the side facades (all of which feature Decorated Gothic window tracery), projecting bluestone buttresses, pointed arched doorway to the original church (with trefoil opening and bell above) now part of the interior of a later addition.

The adjacent former church hall, now kindergarten facility, is architecturally significant at a Local level (AHC D2). It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar style. These qualities include broad gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, three round galvanised ventilation stacks, and face brick chimney with a soldier-coursed capping. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the face brick wall construction, broad eaves, timber bargeboards in the gable ends, timber framed double hung windows and the single door openings.

The Uniting Church and former church hall are historically significant at a Local level (AHC A4). It was built after Melton's 'United' church and school, erected by Protestant denominations in 1857 in an effort to share resources in the pioneering era, was replaced by individual churches in the 1860s. The church became the home of and is expressive of the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, begun in Melton from the early 1970s, and formally concluded by the formation of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977. The new additions and functions of the church are expressive of the increase in Melton's population especially in the 1970s, and the changing nature of the parish's ministry. The church is one of only three remaining nineteenth century churches, and one of only two remaining bluestone churches, in the Shire of Melton.

The Uniting Church and former church hall are socially significant at a Local level (AHC G1). It is recognised and valued by the Uniting Church community in Melton as a symbol of their faith, and the history of local participation in Presbyterian and Uniting Church faith education from the early years of Melton until the present day.

Overall, the Uniting Church building and church hall, Yuille Street, Melton is of LOCAL significance



Heritage Overlay No.: 007
Citation No.: 226
Place: 'The Willows'

Other Names of Place: -
Location: The Willows Historical Park, 76-82 Reserve Road, Melton
Critical Dates: Original construction: c.mid 1850s.
Existing Heritage Listings: Shire of Melton Planning Scheme (HO7); RNE (State); National Trust (Classified)
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Willows homestead, 76-82 Reserve Road, Melton, is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian styled homestead, as one of few surviving mid nineteenth century homesteads in the Melton Shire, and as a nineteenth century homestead built of unusual rendered random rubble wall construction with sturdy buttresses to the original portion of the dwelling. Situated within The Willows Historical Park, the original homestead is likely to have been built in the mid 1850s.

The Willows homestead is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style and represents one of the few surviving examples of this type in the Melton Shire. These qualities include the broad hipped, shingle roof form,

together with a smaller hipped roof that represents an early addition (which also contributes to the significance of the dwelling), the whole forming an M roof configuration. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, encircling verandah supported by solid timber posts, three rendered masonry chimneys with corbelled tops, timber framed double hung multi-paned windows, timber framed door openings, four panelled timber door on the entrance, two small timber framed windows flanking the entrance doorway, smoothly rusticated quoinwork and voussoirs with the keystones having a vermiculation pattern surrounding the window and door openings, and the sturdy rendered masonry buttresses on the original portion of the building.

The Willows homestead is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, B.2) for its association with the establishment of the local pound, as a scarce example of a reasonably intact building from the original era of farming in the Shire, and for its long association with the Minns family who were prominent in the local community and local government over several generations.

The Willows homestead is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC F.1). The rendered random rubble wall construction and particularly the sturdy buttresses that project from the original portion of the dwelling, represent an unusual form of nineteenth century construction.

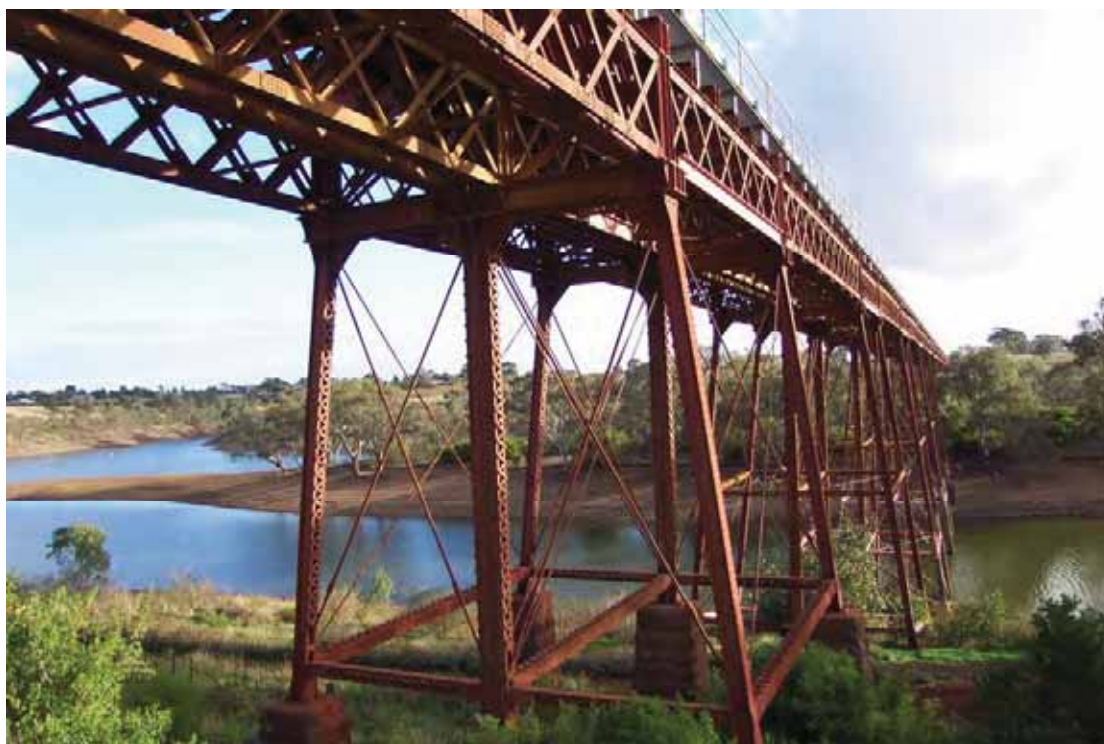
The Willows homestead is socially and aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G.1, E.1). It is a local history landmark, recognised for its special picturesque and townscape values by a community that was undergoing rapid transformation. This public sentiment culminated in its purchase and restoration by the Shire with the assistance of the local community and heritage organisations. It is now the headquarters of the Melton and District Historical Society and the centrepiece of a local heritage park.

Overall, The Willows is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 008
Citation No.: 265
Place: Melton Viaduct

Other Names of Place: Melton Railway Viaduct
Location: Melton Reservoir, Melton
Critical Dates: 1886
Existing Heritage Listings: -
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the heritage study had been exhibited. The Melton Viaduct was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the heritage study.



Statement of Significance:

The Melton Viaduct, opened in 1886, is of State heritage significance as a very large and visually distinctive wrought iron, lattice girder trestle bridge over the Werribee River (now Melton Reservoir). It comprises 18.3 and 9.1 metre spans, in a generally alternate arrangement, of total length 375 metres, and standing 38 metres over the Werribee River. Wrought iron small section iron was used to build tension trussed trestle legs, which supported four lines of rivetted wrought-iron deck-type double lattice trusses. It has bluestone abutments and pier bases of coursed rock-faced bluestone with drafted margins. The larger half-piers, now usually submerged in the Melton Reservoir have sharp tapered

cutwaters and curved coping at the tops. While designed to carry two rail tracks it has only ever been used as a single track line. Despite several alterations to its deck structure, it remains an outstanding example of a lighter structural design employing open metal trestle supports and metal truss girders.

The Melton Viaduct is scientifically significant at the State level (AHC F1). It demonstrates a technical accomplishment in the history of bridge construction during the nineteenth century. It is one of Australia's largest early metal bridges. When opened it was the second longest Australian metal truss bridge, after the 1862 Moorabool railway viaduct (396 metres) whose trusses were replaced with steel girders in 1918. It was also the third longest Australian metal bridge, after the Moorabool viaduct and the 1878 Echuca rail / road metal plate girder bridge (442 metres). Its advances in design and construction, while not revolutionary, represented important shifts in engineering and railway construction, including incremental construction with travelling cranes, prefabrication of components, and use of tensioning rods for stability and simplification of construction. It was a landmark in the transition of railway engineering, most noticeable in Victoria's 1880s railway boom, from very substantial and over-engineered British main-line railway practice (the Melbourne-Bendigo and Geelong-Ballarat lines) to efficient and cost-effective 'light line' all-metal railway engineering practice of late nineteenth century North America. It is one of the best, and possibly the first, Australian example of a lightweight metal truss and metal trestle bridge.

The Melton Viaduct is aesthetically and architecturally significant at the State level (AHC E1). Its slender metal frame trestles, bedded on low masonry piers, combine with metal trusses to create an exceedingly light, elegant, but still imposing structure. It is a dramatically scaled and distinctive landmark in an unusually attractive setting, spanning two arms of the Melton Reservoir and the intervening peninsula.

The Melton Viaduct is historically significant at the Regional level (AHC A4). The direct Melbourne to Ballarat railway link of which the Melton viaduct was the major engineering work contributed significantly to the history and development of Victoria. This new link reflected Ballarat's diversifying economy as well as the commercial and political influence of the metropolis. Construction of the bridge, and the associated large workers camp, were extensively photographed, documenting an important episode in local history. The railway enabled the development of new industries in the Melton area, notably the timber industry and a chaff industry of national importance, greatly facilitated the later transition of the Shire from a pastoral to a farming economy, and struck a major blow to Melton township's era as a wayside town servicing Ballarat road (especially coach) traffic.

The Melton Viaduct is socially significance at the Local level (AHC G1), as a landmark in the locality and to recreational users of the Melton Reservoir Park.

Overall, the Melton Viaduct is of State heritage significance.



Heritage Overlay No.: 009
Citation No.: 257
Place **Djerriwarrh Bridge**

Other Names of Place: Deep Creek Bridge

Location: On old Ballarat Road (disused route), across Djerriwarrh Creek, north of the present crossing of the Western Freeway.

Critical Dates: 1858-59 (Construction)

Existing Heritage Listings: RNE: VHR H1658

Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The old Ballarat Road Bridge over the Djerriwarrh Creek west of Melton, built 1858-59, is significant as a rare and highly intact example of a bridge built to accommodate gold-rush traffic, and for its unusual design and materials. The Djerriwarrh Bridge is architecturally significant at a STATE Level (AHC E1, F1). It is one of Victoria's oldest bridges of any type, and a rare intact 1850s road bridge. It is a notable and scarce example of a round or Roman arch bridge in Victoria. It is a rare sandstone masonry arch bridge in Victoria.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge is historically significant at a STATE Level (AHC A4, B2, D2) for its association with the internationally significant Victorian goldrush, and as a rare surviving example of a place built to accommodate 1850s gold-rush traffic. Its context of earlier tracks and fords associated with the original Portland Road has significance as rare evidence of pre gold-era transport in Victoria.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge and its cultural landscape context is scientifically significant at a STATE Level (AHC C2). The bridge retains tool marks associated with its quarrying. The related quarry, also has a high potential to provide information relating to gold-era construction practices.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge is aesthetically significant at a STATE Level (AHC D1, E1). The bridge itself is high, is constructed of an unusual bridge-building material, and has a rare and distinctive round arch. Its dramatic natural setting has been recognised as notable from the time of the goldrush.

Heritage Overlay No.: 010
Citation No.: 317
Place: Rockbank Inn

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Beatty's Road, Rockbank
Critical Dates: 1853
Existing Heritage Listings: Victorian Heritage Register H1933
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE

Note: This citation contains only a statement of significance. It was commissioned after the Heritage Study had been exhibited. Rockbank Inn was included in the schedule to the heritage overlay prior to the Heritage Study being written.



Statement of Significance:

The former Rockbank Inn site, Beatty's Road Rockbank, is significant as a ruin and archaeological complex with potential to provide further information of the 1840s pastoral era, of an early 1850s goldrush wayside hotel, and a local rural hotel of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The remains of the Rockbank Inn comprise three ruinous bluestone structures, believed to have been the hotel, a store building and a stable. The former hotel building features pointing and stone lintels. The site also includes a quarry, a roughly cobbled track, an avenue of pepper tree plantings, and stone retaining works on the creek bank. The remains of the hotel are located next to the remains of Beatty's Bridge on Kororoit Creek, and on Beatty's Road, formerly one of the main roads to Ballarat from Melbourne.

In the 1850s diggers on their way to the gold fields frequented the Rockbank Inn. The earliest section was possibly constructed c.1853 for Melbourne wine and spirit merchants James Stewart and John 'Como' Brown, when they acquired the land from pastoralist William Cross Yuille. Stewart and Brown owned several hotels in Victoria and Brown was a noted builder in Melbourne in the 1840s. However the earliest section of the inn may have been part of Yuille's improvements when he sold his pre-emptive right to Stewart and Brown in 1853. The only definite date of construction is 1855, when architect Charles Laing designed bluestone additions to the hotel for John Gray. Gray owned the inn from c.1855 until sold by his trustees in 1870. There are contemporary accounts of visits to Rockbank Inn in c.1854 by William Kelly, Irish author and barrister and in the same year a stopover by a troop of soldiers marching along the Ballarat Road to face the Eureka rebels. These were members of the 12th and 40th foot and gun parties for HMS Electra and HMS Fantome. The inn later became a residence, and was occupied continuously for about 90 years by the Beatty family before being finally abandoned in c.1960.

The former Rockbank Inn, Beatty's Road Rockbank is historically significant at a State level (AHC A4, B2). The Rockbank Inn site is historically significant for its associations with diggers on their way to the gold fields around Ballarat, and with the soldiers involved in the suppression of the Eureka rebels in December 1854. It constitutes rare evidence of a wayside goldrush-era hotel, in ruinous condition, but of relatively high integrity due to its location on a road which did not prosper. The early, derelict timber 'Beatty's Bridge' opposite contributes to its significance.

The former Rockbank Inn, Beatty's Road Rockbank is scientifically significant at a State level (AHC C2). The Rockbank Inn site is archaeologically significant for its demonstrated ability to provide information about the occupation and usage of the inn during the nineteenth century. The site has a high potential to produce artefacts relating to its mid to late nineteenth century occupation. The archaeological process has a potential to produce more information about the method of construction and materials used during the various building phases of the inn.

The former Rockbank Inn, Beatty's Road Rockbank is architecturally significant at a Local level (AHC D2). Although now in mostly ruinous condition, it was designed at least in part by distinguished architect Charles Laing, in the Georgian style in the Victorian period.

The former Rockbank Inn, Beatty's Road Rockbank is socially significant at a Local level (AHC G1). Local historical memory has it that three graves were situated on the site, one of which is known to have been washed away (and the others are no longer readily identifiable), and that the former stables were used as an early coach staging post. Its part in local community life was demonstrated by the substantial gathering of Melton identities who gathered there in the late 20th century, while it was abandoned but still intact, to toast its memory.

Overall, the former Rockbank Inn, Beatty's Road Rockbank is of State significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 013
Citation No.: 002
Place: **Lynuulg Homestead, 477-569 Bensons Road**

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 477 - 569 Benson Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Present house built c.1916.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Lynuulg Homestead, 477-569 Benson Road, Toolern Vale, c.1916, is significant as a moderately intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm complex in a rural, landscaped setting. The homestead includes a retrospective Late Victorian styled main house, gabled underground tank, water tank and timber stand, rear hipped timber outbuilding, rare surviving draughthorse stabling and altered shearing shed. The mature Canary Island palms and other exotic trees and plantings contribute to the landscaped setting. Lynuulg is in a rich farming area, which may originally have been used for grape growing. It represents one of very few surviving early twentieth century farm complexes in the Melton Shire

featuring a small collection of intact farm buildings. The main house also represents one of a small number of surviving Late Victorian styled timber homestead dwellings.

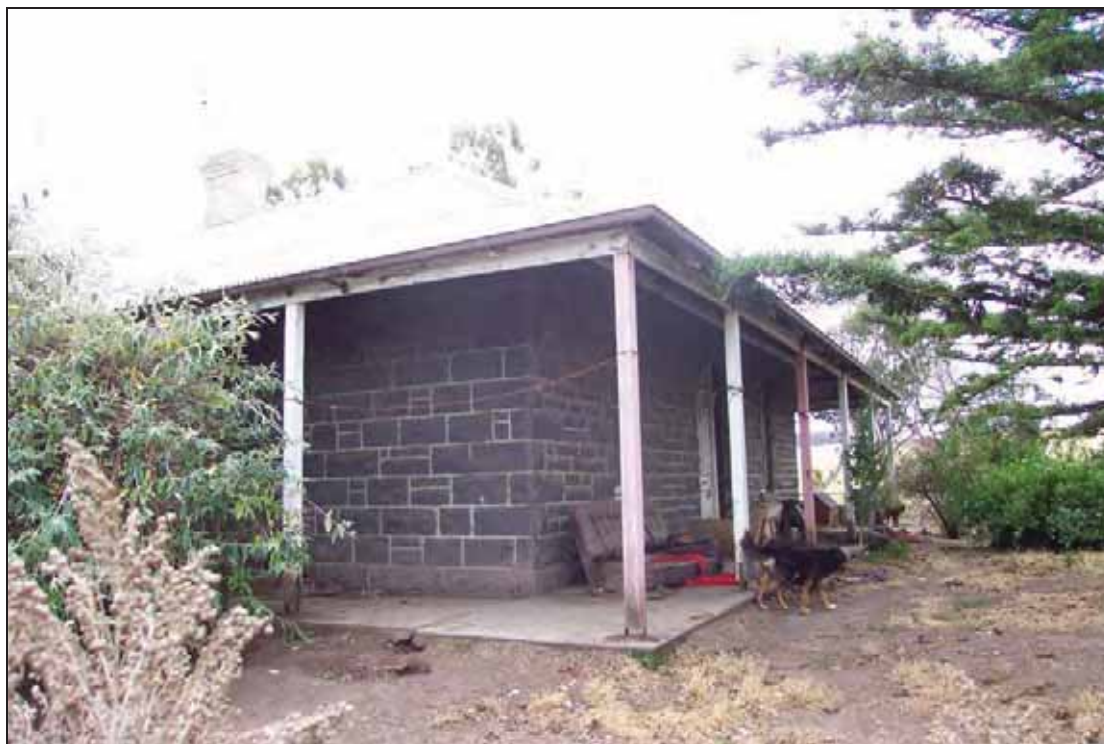
Lynuulg homestead, at 477-569 Benson Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended, the main house still demonstrates some original design qualities of a retrospective Late Victorian style. These qualities include the long hipped roof form and the encircling verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, narrow eaves, and the timber framed double hung windows. The gable roof form and construction of the nearby underground tank, hipped roof form and construction of the rear outbuilding, gable form and construction of the rare surviving draughthorse stabling, water tank and timber log stand, remnant milking/shearing shed structure and the landscaped setting (mature Canary date palms, main house garden and nearby conifers) also contribute to the aesthetic and architectural significance of the place.

Lynuulg homestead at 477-569 Benson Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It is associated with the old, well-known, and locally prominent Kitson, Cameron and Hunt families. In particular, the property has associations with Samuel Kitson, the first farmer to introduce back delivery reaping machines in the neighbourhood and a first-prize winner for wheat in the exhibition at Crystal Palace, London, in the 1850s. It is rich farming land, and may originally have been associated with grape growing, and it is the only place remaining in the Shire associated with the 'Novel Industry' provisions of the 1862 Land Act, used for wine grape growing in this area. The underground tank with gabled roof is a good illustration of a form of nineteenth and early twentieth century water storage technology in the Shire.

Overall, Lynuulg homestead at 477-569 Benson Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 014
Citation No.: 005
Place: ‘Glencoe’, 518-610 Blackhill Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: *Glencoe:* 518-610 Blackhill Rd, Toolern Vale
 Dry Stone Walls: 572-618 Blackhill Rd, Toolern Vale
 134-166 Ryans Lane, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Constructed c.1860s-70s.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

Glencoe, 518-610 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is significant as a predominantly intact nineteenth century farm complex associated with the pioneer pastoralist John Beaty and his son Andrew. The bluestone homestead is an intact example of a Victorian style, while the Victorian vernacular bluestone horse stall/dairy, horizontal timber slab fowl house, dry stone pig pen, extensive dry stone walls and

Norfolk Island Pine trees are a tangible legacy of the Beaty family's pastoral developments. The homestead represents one of few surviving nineteenth century homestead buildings in the Melton Shire.

The homestead at 518-610 Blackhill Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form and the encircling verandah on three sides. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, brick chimney (but not the overpainting), elaborate front timber framed doorway with large four panelled timber door and sidelights and highlights, timber framed double hung windows, and the bluestone window sills. The two large Norfolk Island Pine trees also contribute to the significance of the homestead setting.

The horse stall/barn/dairy outbuilding is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the long hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and the rubble bluestone wall construction. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the open horse stall at one end of the building, supported by large log posts, and the rudimentary timber post and rail stalls.

The fowl house outbuilding is architecturally and scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2, F1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style and contextually unusual horizontal timber slab wall construction, reflective of nineteenth century vernacular building technology. Apart from the wall construction, these qualities include the simple elongated gable roof form and galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding.

The extensive system of largely intact dry stone walls, including some quite high examples, and the dry stone pig pen are aesthetically, historically and scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC F1). They demonstrate an unusual and now rare form of nineteenth century fence construction, and contribute to an impressive and intact early pastoral cultural landscape. The walls vary in quality and in age, some, along Blackhill Road are much later in date than the internal walls and of lesser significance, but provides an interesting contrast to the well-built earlier walls.

The property is of historical significance at the LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1) for its association with the Beaty family, an early and prominent Melton pastoral family. It is one of the oldest houses in the Shire.

Overall, *Glencoe* Homestead, 518-610 Blackhill Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 015
Citation No.: 006
Place: House, 'Angus Downs', Blackhill Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 546-570 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: c.1880s: erected on the site.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

The house known as *Angus Downs*, 546-570 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian vernacular style and as an historical legacy of the original family subdivision of Andrew Beaty's *Glencoe* homestead in the late nineteenth century.

The property is of LOCAL level historical significance (AHC A4, H1) for its association with the Beaty family, an early and prominent Melton pastoral family; it remains in the ownership of a descendent of this family. It is also of significance for its association with the 1970s alternative lifestyle movement, which saw numerous groups of mainly young people experiment with back-to-the-land and community lifestyles.

The house known as *Angus Downs* is of architectural interest. Although possibly relocated and undergoing restoration works, the house still demonstrates some original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form, together with the skillion verandah that projects at the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, modest scale, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves, central timber framed doorway with four panelled timber door, and the flanking early timber framed 12 paned double hung windows, and the timber verandah posts.

Overall, the house known as *Angus Downs*, 546-570 Blackhill Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 016
Citation No.: 007
Place: House, 2-200 Porteous Road

Other Names of Place: Formerly 'Braemar' (*Melton Park* Manager's residence).
Location: 2-200 Porteous Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Construction, c.1900-1910.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 2-200 Porteous Road, Toolern Vale, formerly 'Braemar', is significant as a predominantly intact example of an Edwardian style built c.1900-1910, and for its association with the *Melton Park* estate.

The house at 2-200 Porteous Road, Toolern Vale is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the minor gable and broken back verandah that project towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, deep red painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, broad eaves, face brick chimney with a multi-corbelled top, square timber verandah posts with incised bandings, timber verandah brackets and fretwork valance, timber

framed double hung windows and timber window architraves, timber framed front doorway with sidelight and highlight and the decorative gable infill (stucco panelling and wide vertical timber battening).

The house at 2-200 Porteous Road, Toolern Vale is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). The house was built by Harvey Patterson for the manager of his *Melton Park* estate before 1916. The building is significant for its associations with the *Melton Park* homestead and its thoroughbred horse industry, with the movement to 'break-up' the large pastoral estates at the turn of the century, and with the Closer and Soldier Settlement Acts of the early twentieth century. It is also of significance for its association Harvey Patterson, pastoralist and chairman of directors of BHP during his ownership of *Melton Park*. Through introducing mining bores into the district, Patterson was also indirectly responsible for the discovery of bore water, developed by the Melton community into a vital resource in the very dry district. *Melton Park* was the first major racehorse stud and training estate established in the district, an activity which afterwards became prominent, to the extent that in the late nineteenth century the Melton Shire has adopted 'thoroughbred country' as the motif of the municipality.

Overall, the house at 2-200 Porteous Road, Toolern Vale is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 017
Citation No.: 008
Place: 'Melton Park', 691-801 Bulmans Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 691-801 Bulmans Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Construction: 1889
Existing Heritage Listings: Identified as being of 'Local' significance in Western Region, Rural Heritage Study (M28).²
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Melton Park at 691-801 Bulmans Road, Toolern Vale, is a predominantly intact example of the Victorian Picturesque style. It is associated with the development of the Melton Park Estate by Harvey Patterson in 1889. It also has broader associations with the pastoral and early horse racing industries in

² 'Rural Heritage Study, Western Region' (Context Pty Ltd, Western Region Commission, 1994), pp.129-130

Melton Shire, and with the break-up of the large estates in the early twentieth century. The significance of the 1889 house and timber stable is enhanced by its setting of mature cypress, peppercorn and other exotic trees and underground tanks, and tankstands.

The main house at *Melton Park* at 691-801 Bulmans Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered, it still demonstrates original and unusual design qualities of a Victorian Picturesque style. These qualities include the two steeply pitched gable roof forms, two rendered brick chimneys with projecting tops, decorative timber bargeboards and the decorative gable infill (herringbone pattern timber panelling and the timber finials/pendants). Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, single storey height and the green painted galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding. The timber/iron stables and the garden setting (mature cypresses, peppercorns and other exotics) also contribute to the significance of the place.

Melton Park at 691-801 Bulmans Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It is a major property in the history of the Shire, significant for its associations with the historic *Green Hills* pastoral estate, with the thoroughbred horse industry, and later with the movement to 'break-up' the large pastoral estates at the turn of the century, and the Closer and Soldier Settlement Acts of the early twentieth century. It is also significant for its direct association with Harvey Patterson, pastoralist and chairman of directors of BHP during his ownership of *Melton Park*, who built this dwelling in 1889. Through introducing mining bores into the district, Patterson was indirectly responsible for the discovery of bore water, which was developed by the Melton community into a most important resource in the very dry district.

Melton Park was the first major racehorse stud and training estate established in the district, an activity which since became prominent to the extent that in recent years the Melton Shire has adopted 'thoroughbred country' as the emblem of the municipality. The distinctive and substantial weatherboard/iron stable building, once thought to have been a goldrush-era Cobb & Co changing station, is consequently of considerable historical, as well as structural, significance within the Shire. It is also of significance for its association with James Greig, Melton Shire President 1922-23, and his family, who were notable in Melton Shire history.

Melton Park at 691-801 Bulmans Road is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). Since its establishment it has been a prominent part of the landscape and consciousness of the residents of the Shire, and was identified as being a place valued by the community at a heritage study forum. The continuation of horse breeding and horse training at *Melton Park* adds to its significance.

Overall, *Melton Park* at 691-801 Bulmans Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 018
Citation No.: 009
Place: Paine’s Cottage, 152-176 Chapmans Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 152-176 Chapmans Road, Toolern Vale. (Allotment 76A, Section 42, Parish of Yangardook)
Critical Dates: Construction: late 1860s - 1892. Possibly relocated to the site c.1890.
Existing Heritage Listings: ‘Paines Well’ (Place of Interest).³
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

³ Johnson, C, ‘Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne’ (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), pp.175-6

Paine's Cottage at 152-176 Chapmans Road, Toolern Vale, is a late nineteenth century dwelling, possibly relocated to this site c.1890. It is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian vernacular style, as a scarce representation of a selector's dwelling in the Shire, and for its association with the Paine family. The possible relocation of the dwelling to this site is not unusual, as the Shire has a history of relocated nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings.

Paine's Cottage at 152-176 Chapmans Road is architecturally significant at a local level (AHC D.2). Although possibly relocated and having introduced chimneys and window shutters, the cottage still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple steeply pitched roof form clad in unpainted galvanised corrugated steel, narrow eaves and the single storey height. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, and the symmetrical composition of the front façade with central timber framed doorway and flanking timber framed windows. The rear timber stable and dairy and the Italian cypresses also contribute to the significance of the setting.

Paine's Cottage at 152-176 Chapmans Road is historically significant at a local level (AHC A4 B2). It is one of the more intact of only a few surviving nineteenth century 'Selection' era dwellings in the Shire. It is a scarce surviving nineteenth century weather-board house remaining in the Shire. The house and property are indicative of the small size of selections in the Djerriwarrh forest, which made it necessary for their owners to have an ancillary income, such as timber splitting, carting, or produce dealing. The remnant post & rail and stone front boundary fence contributes an appreciation of the original small size and isolation of the few farms that were cleared from the surrounding forest. Evidence of charring is evocative of the important theme of 'water fire' in the Shire's history. An underground stone-lined tank (possibly a well) is also expressive of this theme. A timber stable/dairy, constructed partly of vertical slab and partly saplings, and bark shingle also contributes to an understanding of the place as an early small farm. Still known locally as 'Paines Cottage', the place is also significant for its long association with the Paine and Collins families, early and prominent names in the social and civic histories of the Shire of Melton.

Paine's Cottage at 152-176 Chapmans Road is socially significant at the local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, Paine's Cottage at 152-176 Chapmans Road is of LOCAL heritage significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 019
Citation No.: 018
Place: Cornwall Park Stud

Other Names of Place: Former: 'Gnotuk Park' (or 'Notuk Park') farm, guest house; former: 'Toolem Park Stud'.
Location: 2389-2485, Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: Construction: 1897. Major internal remodelling: 1960s, 1980s.
Existing Heritage Listings: Identified as a 'place of interest' in Western Region, Rural Heritage Study (M20).⁴
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Cornwall Park Stud, 2389-2485 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest, is significant as a moderately intact example of an unusual Federation styled main house and former coach house

⁴ 'Rural Heritage Study, Western Region' (Context Pty Ltd, Western Region Commission, 1994), p.176

buildings associated with the turn of the century break-up of the *Melton Park* estate. Although the interwar Bungalow styled cottage appears to have been relocated to this site, it now contributes to the setting of the place. One of the prime pastoral and farming properties in the district, the (former) *Gnotuk Park* property became more prominent when its main homestead was adapted for use as a guest house in the early twentieth century.

The main house at Cornwall Park Stud, Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of an

unusual Federation style. These qualities include the prominent, elongated gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the substantial gable that projects towards the rear, the minor verandah gable that projects towards the front and continues along the side and towards the rear and the front verandah formed as an extension of the main roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, surviving slate tile roof cladding with terra cotta ridge decoration (verandah gable), hipped roofed wing (possibly representing a significant early addition), two prominent face red brick, strapped and corbelled chimneys, modest eaves, timber verandah posts with projecting capitals and decorative solid curved timber brackets, open timber lattice fretwork valances between the corner verandah posts, rectangular bay window with timber framed casements and highlights, paired timber framed double hung windows, turned timber finials on the gable ends, timber ventilators in the gable ends, stuccoed gable ends, and the terra cotta ridge decoration on the gabled verandah.

The former coach house/stables at Cornwall Park Stud, 2389-2485 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and converted into a residence, it still demonstrates original design qualities of the Federation era. These qualities include the elevated gable roof form (with attic space) and the side single storey hipped roofed wing. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, face brick and multi-corbelled chimney, modest eaves, timber framed multi-paned windows, and the timber framed single door opening on the hipped wing.

The nearby interwar Bungalow styled cottage, although possibly relocated to the site, also contributes to the significance of the setting of the place.

Cornwall Park Stud, at 2389-2485 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). Known as 'Gnotuk Park' for most of its history, it is one of the best-known of the Melton farm properties established in the historic break-up of the large pastoral estates at the turn of the twentieth century. The property had been part of the well-known *Greenhills* and *Melton Park* estates, at various times associated with Victorian identities Sir Samuel Gillot, the Hoadley family, and Denis Gowering. During the ownership of Robert Ennis the property became a local centre for innovation in agricultural machinery, with various patented devices trialled on the property. The large homestead, built for grazier J Black in 1897, was used by the Swan family as a guest house for holiday-makers in the 1930s and 40s, further adding to the local prominence of the property. Its late twentieth century conversion into a horse stud, and its community use as part of the Djerriwarrh Festival under the present Trescowthick ownership, continue the historical prominence of the property within the local community.

The homestead and coachhouse complex is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). 'Gnotuk Park', as it is still known by many locals, was identified as being a place valued by the community at a heritage study forum.

Overall, Cornwall Park Stud, Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 020
Citation No.: 019
Place: Former Condon's Dairy, 1397-1457
Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Likely construction: c.1850s; partial repair: c.2000.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is significant as a moderately intact example of a rare surviving example of a Victorian vernacular random rubble farm outbuilding in the Melton Shire. It is also a relic of the early Irish farming enclave at Toolern Vale

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2, D2). Although altered (with its repaired southern wall), the outbuilding still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form clad in colourbond steel, and the random rubble wall construction with evidence

of an early rendered finish. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the small window opening with timber lintel, single door opening and the remnant low random rubble walling at the northern end providing evidence of a former building. The mature adjacent redgum also contributes to the significance of the place.

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It was associated with the Condon family from the mid nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries, and for at least one hundred years, until the present day, the property has been known as 'Condon's Paddock'. The then-ruinous building was identified in the 1983 autobiography of Condon descendent Professor Vincent Buckley, who had been awarded a personal Chair by Melbourne University, and in whose posthumous honour the university instituted the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize. The building is also a rare relic of the only significant Irish farming enclave to have established in the Shire. Although the Irish were the most numerous ethnic group in the early decades of the Shire's history, they were small in terms of land ownership, and this part of Toolern Vale was the only place with a concentration of Irish farmers sufficient to institute a Catholic school in the 1860s.

Overall, the outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 021
Citation No.: 020
Place: ‘Toolern Park’, 1558 – 1672 Diggers Rest-
 Coimadai Road

Other Names of Place: ‘The Campbell Estate’
Location: ‘Toolern Park’: 1558-1672 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale
 Dry Stone Wall: 942-992 Gisborne Melton Rd, Toolern Vale
 1714-1790 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Mid nineteenth century; c.1911.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Toolern Park homestead, 1658-1672 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a surviving nineteenth and early twentieth century farm complex still partly owned by descendents of the original owners, the Campbell family. Established before 1866, the remnants of the original house are

identified by the brick rubble and nearby mature conifer and other plantings (that indicate the original driveway). The existing timber house has significance as an intact example of an Edwardian style. Two dry stone walls contribute to the significance of the place. There is also a large dam with bluestone retaining walls on the property; a smaller dam is now on a new allotment in the same ownership.

The house at Toolern Park, 1658-1672 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style. These qualities include the recessive hipped roof form, together with the gable and skillion verandah that project towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall construction, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled cappings, narrow eaves, timber verandah posts with simple timber brackets, timber framed double hung windows (including the tripartite windows under the front verandah and projecting gable) and the timber bargeboards and decorative timber gable infill. The nearby mature conifers (as indicated in the Description below) also contribute to the significance of the place.

The property's substantial dry stone walls and brick remnants of the ruins of the original house are scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C.2, F.1). The brick remnants have the potential to yield interpretive information about the historical development of the property, while the dry stone walls probably date to the early-mid 1850s, and represent a type of mid-nineteenth century construction that is now redundant. The larger wall incorporates the remnant of a post and top rail fence, a vestige of their use by the Oaklands Hunt Club during the twentieth century.

Toolern Park homestead, 1658-1672 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, H.1) as one of the notable early farms in Melton, and for its association with James Campbell, one of Toolern Vale's earliest settlers, and his descendents, including Dr Archie Campbell.

Overall, Toolern Vale homestead, 1658-1672 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 022
Citation No.: 024
Place: House, 'Kuloomba', 2203 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road

Other Names of Place: Original name: 'Oakbank'.
Location: 2203 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Construction: Circa early twentieth century.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house known as *Kuloomba* at 2203 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale is significant as a predominantly intact example of a late Federation style. Built c.1904-1907 the eucalypt trees, outbuildings and farm sheds within the property also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house and outbuildings known as *Kuloomba* at 2203 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road are architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). The main house demonstrates original design qualities of a late Federation style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form,

together with the projecting minor gables at the front and side that are linked by the return bullnosed verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, green painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, four brick chimneys, three with dentillated and corbelled tops, and one with terracotta pots, modest eaves, timber verandah posts, decorative timber fretwork verandah valance, timber framed double hung windows, decorative gable infill (stucco panelling, vertical timber battening and the timber brackets), galvanised steel finials at the apex of the main roof and the window hood at the front. The timber outbuilding to the rear of the house, probably an accommodation building for farm workers, has original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include a steeply pitched gable roof, timber weatherboard cladding and a brick and metal chimney. The laundry building to the east of the house has a similar design with a steep gable roof and weatherboard cladding, though it appears to be of a later date, with both outbuildings contributing to the setting of the place.

The house known as *Kuloomba* at 2203 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). Known originally as 'Oakbank', the property and house were the product of the historic break-up of the well-known *Greenhills* and then *Melton Park* pastoral estates at the end of the nineteenth century. The property is also of local historical significance for its association with the locally prominent Barrie family.

Overall, the house known as *Kuloomba* at 2203 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 023
Citation No.: 027
Place: War Memorial, Toolern Vale

Other Names of Place: First World War Memorial
Location: In Reserve, off Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: c.1920
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The First World War Memorial off Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a memorial to the local soldiers who fought and died in the First World War between 1914 and 1919. It has further significance as an unusual example of a commemorative monument, with its repousse copper upright plaque featuring Art Nouveau detailing.

The First World War Memorial off Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC. D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities that include the unusual Art Nouveau detailing and construction in the upright repousse copper plaque. Other important qualities include the flanking concrete rectilinear columns and bluestone base.

The First World War Memorial off Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is historically and socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, H.1, G.1). It is associated with the local soldiers who fought and died in the First World War between 1914 and 1919. It is recognised and valued by the local community for cultural and commemorative reasons. As one of the few structures of any sort to survive the fire that consumed the hamlet in 1965, it is of additional importance to the town's history.

Overall, the First World War Memorial off Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No. **024**
Citation No.: **029**
Place: **Farm Complex, 1229-1279 Gisborne-
Melton Road**

Other Names of Place: Funston's Farm
Location: 1229-1279 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Construction: c.1856 (stone ruin); c. 1870s (weatherboard
cottage); 1931 (main house); c.late nineteenth century
(garage/former dairy); c.early twentieth century (farm
sheds).
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The farm complex, comprising two weatherboard houses, a bluestone ruin, a brick garage, an underground tank, and brick foundations at 1229 – 1279 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale are significant as an intact physical legacy of possibly the last surviving nineteenth and early twentieth century farming property beside the Toolern Creek. The buildings on the site provide a tangible understanding of the development of the site. The surviving stone ruins represent remnants of an early structure, possibly a cottage, the adjacent timber cottage, underground tank and hand-made brick garage

reflect developments in the second half of the nineteenth century, and the existing main house providing an understanding of developments during the interwar (c.1920s-1940s) era. The main house, timber cottage, underground tank and brick garage appear to be in good condition.

The house and associated buildings at 1229 – 1279 Gisborne-Melton Road are architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). The main house demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Bungalow style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with the minor gable and skillion verandah that project towards the road. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, face red brick chimney, broad eave with exposed timber rafters, timber verandah posts, paired timber framed double hung windows, timber framed doorway with panelled and glazed timber door, window hood, and the gable infill (panelled and timber battening).

The cottage demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, large hand-made brick chimney, modest overhangs, beaded edged timber weatherboard wall cladding, symmetrical configuration of the main façade with its central doorway and the flanking timber framed twelve paned double hung windows, and the timber shingling under the existing roof cladding. The vernacular construction methods of the cottage includes bush pole joists and a lack of stumps. The small brick gabled garage also contributes to the architectural significance of the place, while the surviving stone ruins and underground brick tank contribute to the significance of the setting of the place.

The house and associated buildings at 1229 – 1279 Gisborne-Melton Road are historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). The stone ruin dates to c.1856 (built for J Jones), the weatherboard cottage was built for J Jones c.1870s, the main house was built for J Funston in 1931, and the garage dates to the late nineteenth century. It is the only nineteenth and early twentieth century small farm complex remaining beside the Toolern Creek, whose original subdivision was designed to facilitate such development. It is one of only three places to have survived the devastating 1965 Toolern Vale fire. It is one of only two places in the Shire with evidence of three generations of farming houses. It is associated with pioneering families in the Toolern Vale district, and with the *Green Hills* pastoral estate.

The random rubble ruins and brick foundations are also historically and scientifically significant (AHC C.2) because of their potential to provide an understanding and appreciation of nineteenth century farm life and settlement at Toolern Vale.

Overall, the house and associated buildings at 1229 – 1279 Gisborne-Melton Road are of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 025
Citation No.: 030
Place: House, 1374-1404 Gisborne-Melton Road

Other Names of Place: Mayfield, *Hurley House*
Location: 1374 – 1404 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: 1889
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 1374 – 1404 Gisborne-Melton Road is significant as a predominantly intact example of an unassuming Victorian style dwelling, and for its associations with early farming families in the Shire.

The house at 1374 – 1404 Gisborne-Melton Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although slightly altered and unassuming in design (which is typical for a number of timber cottages in the Melton area for the era), the house still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the recently added encircling verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single symmetrical composition at the front, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal

roof cladding, modest eaves, central timber framed front doorway, timber framed double hung windows and the timber verandah posts.

The house at 1374 – 1404 Gisborne-Melton Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). Situated on one of a limited number of surviving Melton Shire properties that pre-date the break-up of Melton's large Clarke, Staughton, Taylor, and Patterson pastoral estates, the construction of the house is expressive of both the typical generational change amongst pioneer families, and the general revival of farming, that occurred in the early twentieth century. It is associated with the Burton, Hurley, and Ferris families, pioneering farming families of the Shire.

Overall, the house at 1374 – 1404 Gisborne-Melton Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 026
Citation No.: 032
Place: House 'Creighton', 1618 Gisborne-Melton Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1618- Gisborne-Melton Road, Melton
Critical Dates: c.1895 (construction of main brick house); rear brick addition (1919-20)
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Creighton, 1618 Gisborne-Melton Road, Melton, is significant as a predominantly intact and contextually rare local example of a face brick Late Victorian style with Federation style rear additions. Built c.1895 for Isaac Robinson, and extended c.1920, the significance of the dwelling is enhanced by its front garden setting and particularly the two mature Canary Island Palm trees.

Creighton, 1618 Gisborne-Melton Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original and contextually rare design qualities of a Late Victorian style with Federation style additions. The original Late Victorian qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, hipped roof form and encircling verandah, and the galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the rendered brick chimneys, narrow eaves, cast iron verandah valances and brackets, timber framed double hung windows and the central four panelled timber door at the front. The original Federation qualities of the rear additions include the single storey gable roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel, rendered brick chimneys, face brick wall construction and stuccoed upper walls. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the timber framed double hung windows arranged as banks of three (with highlights) in the gable ends, round windows under the side verandah, and the decorative gable infill (timber battening and stucco panelling and the timber brackets. The mature Canary Island Palm trees at the front, symmetrically placed and with a circular planting bed in front of them in the manner of the period, also contribute to the significance of the place.

Creighton, 1618 Gisborne-Melton Road is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC B2, H1). The Robinson family were leaders in the development of the highly important hay growing industry in Werribee-Melton area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and have also been prominent in the Melton and Diggers Rest chaff mills. The family was represented on Melton Shire Council for most of the twentieth century, with Isaac Robinson of *Creighton* being a three-time Shire President. *Creighton* is also one of very few predominantly intact face brick Late Victorian styled dwellings of local cultural heritage significance in the Shire of Melton, and is situated in a prominent location on a main road.

Overall, *Creighton* at 1618 Gisborne-Melton Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 027
Citation No.: 035
Place: **House & Outbuilding, 310-360 Gisborne - Melton Road**

Other Names of Place: Pineview
Location: 310-360 Gisborne-Melton Road Toolern Vale (Allotment B Parish of Yangardook)
Critical Dates: Construction: 1874
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 310 Gisborne-Melton Road Toolern Vale is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian style dwelling constructed in rendered brickwork and as a historical legacy of farming developments in the Melton Shire in the nineteenth century. The rear outbuilding, mature cypresses and rural setting also contribute to the significance of the place. The house and dairy were built in 1874 for John and Margaret McPherson, of a prominent pioneering Toolern Vale family.

The house at 310 Gisborne-Melton Road Toolern Vale is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the encircling verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, rendered brick wall construction, corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding, brick chimney, stop chamfered timber verandah posts, timber verandah floor, timber framed, 12 paned double hung windows, front timber framed doorway with highlight, and the smooth rendered masonry quoinwork. The rear gabled outbuilding constructed of rendered brickwork with smooth rendered masonry quoinwork, narrow vertical wall openings, single door opening with timber door and the galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, together with the nearby mature cypress trees, also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 310 Gisborne-Melton Road Toolern Vale is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is an example of a homestead built by a successful larger farmer, of which there were a few in the northern parts of the Shire. It also testifies to the prominence of Scottish settlers in the farming history of the Shire, particularly in early Toolern Vale. It is also significant for its association with the McPherson family, a successful pioneering family in Toolern Vale.

Overall, the house at 310 Gisborne-Melton Road Toolern Vale is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 028
Citation No.: 036
Place: **Ruin, 'McIntosh Cottage', 687 –777
Gisborne–Melton Road**

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 687-777 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale (Lot 1 TP 608391, (CA 47, Parish of Yangardook)
Critical Dates: Construction: by mid 1860s
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The McIntosh Ruin, 687-777 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a now scarce relic of the first farming period in the Shire, of the Scottish enclave in Toolern Vale in this period, and as the site of the first Presbyterian services in Toolern Vale. The ruin of the dwelling, built by the early 1860s, is a contributory part of an early and attractive cultural landscape of high significance in both the pastoral and farming histories of the Shire.

The McIntosh Ruin, 687-777 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at the Local level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is situated on the site of an important early 1840s outstation of the *Green Hills* pastoral station, at that time the largest and most developed sheep run in the Shire. The hills of this area, stretching to Gisborne and towards Sunbury, are also of wider significance in the history of Victoria's settlement, as the meeting place of the two streams of Port Phillip's European settlers, the 'overstraiters' from Tasmanian and the 'overlanders' from New South Wales. This upper Toolern Creek valley, between Bensons Road and Toolern Vale, subsequently became a rich part of the farming history of the Shire. The place is a contributory part of a cultural landscape that contains a concentration of early farm dwellings and structures (including dry stone walls), now mainly ruinous due to bushfires and the passage of time, and views from Gisborne-Melton Road over the rich farmlands and attractive valley to the ranges and plains beyond. The ruin is also a now-scarce relic of the 'first farming' period of the Shire: on farms purchased from the Crown in the 1850s, rather than the later the Selection Acts, or created in the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the early twentieth century. It also testifies to the prominence of Scottish settlers in the farming history of the Shire, particularly in early Toolern Vale.

The McIntosh cottage was a centre of this community, being the site of the first Presbyterian services in Toolern Vale, prior to the building of a church. The place is also significant for its association with the McIntoshs, a very old and large Melton family which still farms in the Shire. The abandoned dwelling, finally destroyed in the major 1952 Toolern bushfire, is also expressive of the major role of bushfires in the Shire of Melton. The domed underground tank, stripped of its concrete render to reveal the bricklaying construction technique, contributes to the significance of the place as an expression of an early method of water storage no longer practised.

The McIntosh Ruin, 687-777 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is scientifically significant at the Local level (AHC C2). The ruin is rare, perhaps unique, in the Shire for its primitive construction with the flat sedimentary rubble stone of its immediate locality. It is a quite finely crafted vernacular structure with the potential to provide further information about early construction techniques and lifestyles in the Shire of Melton.

Overall, the McIntosh Ruin, 687-777 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 029
Citation No.: 037
Place: Former ‘Yangardook’ Cottage, 575-685
 Gisborne–Melton Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 575-685 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale (CA 47, Parish of Yangardook)
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.1860s); Restoration: 1970s.
Existing Heritage Listings: ‘Place of Interest’ (Rural Heritage Study)⁵
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

⁵ Johnston, C, ‘Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne’ (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), Site M25, pp.35, 175-6

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a rare stone cottage surviving from the first farming period in the Shire, and of the Scottish enclave in Toolern Vale in this period. The cottage, built c.1860s, is the major contributory element of an early and attractive cultural landscape of high significance to both the pastoral and farming histories of the Shire. The place is now situated near a large new house and ornamental lake, which provide an interesting contrast to the restored small cottage, which represents a comfortable farming lifestyle in pioneering times

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is architecturally significant at the Local level (AHC D2). Although partially reconstructed, the cottage demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, squared coursed bluestone wall construction and the window and door openings. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, modest scale, symmetrical arrangement of the windows and door on the main façade, timber framed multi-paned double hung windows and the corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding.

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at the Local level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is situated in the vicinity of an important early 1840s outstation of the *Green Hills* pastoral station, at that time the largest and most developed in the Shire. The hills of this area, stretching to Gisborne and towards Sunbury, are also of wider significance in the history of Victoria's settlement, as the meeting place of the two streams of Port Phillip's European settlers, the 'overstraiters' from Tasmanian and the 'overlanders' from New South Wales. This upper Toolern Creek valley, between Bensons Road and Toolern Vale, subsequently became a rich part of the farming history of the Shire. The place is the major contributor to a cultural landscape that contains a concentration of early farm dwellings and structures (including dry stone walls), now mainly ruinous due to bushfires and the passage of time, and views from Gisborne-Melton Road over the rich farmlands and attractive valley to the ranges and plains beyond.

The ruin is also a now-scarce relic of the 'first farming' period of the Shire, which date to the creation of farms purchased from the Crown in the 1850s, rather than the later the Selection Acts, or created in the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the early twentieth century. It is one of only four known reasonably intact stone farming cottages remaining in the Shire. It also testifies to the prominence of Scottish settlers in the farming history of the Shire, particularly in early Toolern Vale. It was built by Peter McDonald, a leading member of the large Scottish community in the Shire, and a forebear of numerous large and prominent Melton families, including the Robinsons, Raleighs, and McIntoshs. It is also associated with the McIntosh family, which acquired the property after McDonald's death in 1888.

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is socially significant at the Local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, the former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 030
Citation No.: 038
Place: **Ruin, 'The Elms', 779-859 Gisborne - Melton Road**

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 779-859 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale (CA 44, Parish of Yangardook)
Critical Dates: Initial construction c.1855-1861; destruction by fire 1965.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Ruin of *The Elms*, 779-859 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a now scarce relic of the first farming period in the Shire, and of the bushfires that have been a major theme in the history of the Shire. The ruin of the dwelling, built by the early 1860s, is a prominent part of an early and attractive cultural landscape of high significance in both the pastoral and farming histories of the Shire.

The Ruin of *The Elms*, 779-859 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at the Local level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is situated in the location of an important early 1840s outstation of the *Green Hills* pastoral station, at that time the largest and most developed in the Shire. The hills of this area, stretching to Gisborne and towards Sunbury, are also of wider significance in the history of Victoria's settlement, as the meeting place of the two streams of Port Phillip's European settlers, the 'overstraiters' from Tasmanian and the 'overlanders' from New South Wales. This upper Toolern Creek valley, between Bensons Road and Toolern Vale, then became a rich part of the farming history of the Shire. The place is a prominent part of a cultural landscape that contains a concentration of early farm dwellings and structures (including dry stone walls), now mainly ruinous due to bushfires and the passage of time, and views from Gisborne-Melton Road over the rich farmlands and attractive valley to the ranges and plains beyond. The ruin is also a now-scarce relic of the 'first farming' period of the Shire: on farms purchased from the Crown in the 1850s, rather than the later the Selection Acts, or created in the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the early twentieth century. To a lesser extent, through its association with the Russell and McIntosh families, the place is also associated with the Scottish enclave in Toolern Vale in this early period. The place, destroyed in the notorious 1965 bushfire that destroyed most houses and all community and commercial buildings in the township of Toolern, is also expressive of the major role of bushfires in the Shire of Melton.

The Ruin of *The Elms*, 779-859 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is socially significant at the Local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, the Ruin of *The Elms*, 779-859 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL

Heritage Overlay No.: 031
Citation No.: 039
Place: ‘Glen Elgin’, 766-858 Gisborne-Melton Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 766-858 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale (Lot 1 PS 438440)
Critical Dates: Brick barn/stables construction: pre-1876; House construction: unknown (c.1921); Rubble standstone cottages: unknown (c.1944)
Existing Heritage Listings: ‘Place of Interest’ (Rural Heritage Study)⁶
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

⁶ Johnston, C, ‘Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne’ (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), Site M3, pp.35, 175-6

Glen Elgin, 766 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a surviving and substantial example of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm complex comprising a timber Federation styled main house (albeit altered), substantial brick stables, timber open shed, substantial stone-lined underground tank with a gabled galvanised corrugated steel roof, galvanised corrugated steel and timber shearing shed, two random rubble interwar cottages (one in poor condition), and cattle yard bound by timber post and rail fencing. The setting of the place, comprising a long drive having mature Monterey cypresses, is significant as are the mature conifers, palm tree and other plantings associated with the main and former house gardens. The property was originally established c.1855 by prominent Toolern Vale pioneer and Melton citizen Thomas Grant, and developed as a nationally celebrated Ayershire cattle study by his son, TA Grant, also a prominent local citizen. The date of the present house is unknown, but is likely to have been built for Grant son-in-law A Tedcastle c.1920. The rubble sedimentary stone cottages and another outbuilding on the property are significant for their association with Italian prisoners of war during the Second World War.

Glen Elgin, 766 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is aesthetically and architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). The complex of farm buildings, including the Federation styled main house (albeit altered), substantial brick stables, timber open shed, substantial stone-lined underground tank with a gabled galvanised corrugated steel roof, three-stand shearing shed, two random rubble interwar cottages and similar shed, cattle yard bound by timber post and rail fencing, together with the long drive with Monterey cypresses, the main house garden with mature conifers, palm tree and other plantings, the Algerian Oak, Bunya Bunya Pine and Osage Orange in the vicinity of the original homestead, and the seven English Oaks spaced along the road boundary, demonstrate those significant architectural and visual qualities.

In particular, although altered, the main house demonstrates some design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the complex of gable roof forms clad in galvanised corrugated steel, asymmetrical composition, two storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, timber framed windows, brick chimneys with rendered tops, timber framed windows, timber bargeboards, and the return verandah supported by timber posts.

The brick stables demonstrates original design qualities that include the elongated steeply pitched gable roof form and skillion wing clad in galvanised corrugated steel, hand-made brick wall construction, brick chimney with a corbelled top, timber framed window and door openings (except the large opening at one end) and the timber loft door.

The two random rubble cottages demonstrate original design qualities of an interwar vernacular style, including the gable roof forms, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, timber barge boards, stone and red brick chimneys, modest eaves with exposed timber rafters (small cottage), timber framed window and door openings and the single storey height.

Glen Elgin, 766 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It is situated on the site of an important early 1840s outstation of the *Green Hills* pastoral station, at that time the largest and most developed in the Shire. The hills of this area, stretching to Gisborne and towards Sunbury, are also of wider significance in the history of Victoria's settlement, as the meeting place of the two streams of Port Phillip's European settlers, the 'overstraiters' from Tasmanian and the 'overlanders' from New South Wales. This upper Toolern Creek valley, between Bensons Road and Toolern Vale, then became a rich part of the farming history of the Shire. The place is a contributory part of a cultural landscape that contains a concentration of early farm

dwellings and structures (including dry stone walls), now mainly ruinous due to bushfires and the passage of time, and views from Gisborne-Melton Road over the rich farmlands and attractive valley to the ranges and plains beyond. The ruin is also a now-scarce relic of the 'first farming' period of the Shire: on farms purchased from the Crown in the 1850s, rather than the later the Selection Acts, or created in the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the early twentieth century.

Glen Elgin also testifies to the prominence of Scottish settlers in the farming history of the Shire, particularly in early Toolern Vale. It was associated with Scotsman Thomas Grant, pioneer and leader of the Toolern Vale community, councillor of the Melton Roads Board, treasurer of the Melton Agricultural Society and, with his wife Janet, greatly involved in the local Presbyterian church. In the period of his son Thomas Alexander *Glen Elgin* became a nationally known Ayreshire stud property. TA Grant was a contributor to local causes, in particular the establishment and ongoing success of the Toolern Vale Mechanics Institute and, with his wife Mary (nee Blackwood), the local Presbyterian church.

Glen Elgin is also significant for its association with the Italian Prisoner of War farm labourer scheme 1943-47. This scheme was the result of the victories of the Australian infantry in the Western Desert Forces during the Second World War with the consequent high number of Italian prisoners, and the war induced rural labour shortage in Australia. Italian POWs employed on *Glen Elgin* constructed the three random rubble sedimentary stone buildings on the property for their own accommodation and other purposes. Bhutan cypresses near one of the cottages are also likely to date to this period.

Glen Elgin, 766 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is socially significant at the Local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in the community forum held as part of this study.

Overall, *Glen Elgin* off the Gisborne-Melton Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 032
Citation No.: 041
Place: Hjorth’s Farm, 163 Hjorths Road

Other Names of Place: Anders Hjorth’s ‘New Thrustrup’ Farm
Location: 163 Hjorths Road (Allot. 59B, Parish of Yangardook), and 163 Hjorths Road, (Allot. 59H, Parish of Yangardook), Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: 1867 (establishment of property); c.1870s (construction of dam and terraces)
Existing Heritage Listings: ‘Place of Interest’ (Rural Heritage Study, Western Region of Melbourne)⁷
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

⁷ Johnston, Chris, *Rural Heritage Study, Western Region of Melbourne* (Context, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), p.34

Hjorth Farm, at 163 Hjorth Road Toolern Vale is significant as a substantial, evocative, and rare example of early intensive farming in the Shire, as a result of the Selection Acts, and the skills of Danish immigrant Anders Hjorth. Although the house and outbuildings have been demolished, the stone wall dam, terraces and other evidence of the irrigation system constitute significant evidence of an unusual, creative and well-known farm in the district.

Hjorth Farm, at 163 Hjorth Road Toolern Vale is aesthetically significant at a local level (AHC D2). It includes a unique example of an early sedimentary stone dam in the Shire; it is also a unique example in the Shire of a dam used for horticultural purposes. Erected single-handedly across a gully over several years, the reservoir is a solid structure with a vertical wall several metres high, of mortared sedimentary stone and brick, founded on solid stone, and holding a wide earth wall which is also a track. Although subject to minor repairs in terms of introduced brickwork and mortar, the dam has a high degree of integrity.

Hjorth Farm, at 163 Hjorth Road Toolern Vale is historically significant at a local level (AHC A4, B2). It is demonstrative both of the important part played by Selection Acts in enabling labourers to access small farms, and of the intensive farming skills of a European immigrant to make a success of a small farm in land of generally low production value. Through his interest and skills in intensive farming Hjorth was able to transform a small acreage of the 'barren scrubby ranges' beside the Djerrivarrh Creek into a successful dairy and horticultural farm. The property is of historical interest for its demonstration of some of Hjorth's innovative adaptation of European small farming traditions to unpromising local country, sometimes in the face of scepticism by neighbours. His irrigated terraces enabled him to grow a good selection of fruit trees, and provided quantities of lush green feed and vegetables, as well as preventing soil loss in wet weather. He also built a cow shed, and experimented with grasses suitable to the dry climate of Australia. Anders Hjorth lived to a great age, and was a noteworthy person in the Melton community in his time. A son, Ralph Hjorth MP represented the local area in the Victorian Parliament.

Hjorth Farm, at 163 Hjorth Road Toolern Vale is scientifically significant at a local level (AHC C2). It has at least two sets of terraces, with low sedimentary stone walls, upon which is the remnant of an orchard. Agricultural pipes, landforms and other evidence also remain from Hjorth irrigation system. These, and the remnant landforms and other detritus have the potential to contribute new information to our understanding of early farming in Melton Shire, especially in relation to the adaptation of European traditions to local conditions. Similarly, any evidence of the butter cellar would have potential to contribute to this understanding.

Hjorth Farm, at 163 Hjorth Road Toolern Vale is socially significant at a local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of local heritage significance in Community Forum held as part of this heritage study. Anders Hjorth is of continuing significance to the the Melton community as a consequence of his historical memoir: 'Recollections of Melton 1861-1867', through which a great deal of the early history of Melton is known today.

Overall, Hjorth Farm, at 163 Hjorth Road Toolern Vale is of LOCAL heritage significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 033
Citation No.: 043
Place: 'Norwood', 78 – 132 Hoggs Road

Other Names of Place: 'Melliodora Park', Vernon Davey's Former Bird Sanctuary.
Location: 78-132 Hoggs Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: 1916: the house relocated to the site; 1933: the Naturalists Cabin built.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road, Toolern Vale, established in 1916, is significant as a bird sanctuary and bird observers centre from the early 1930s until 1965. It was well-known locally, amongst school groups from Melbourne's western suburbs, and in the amateur ornithological community. The historical values of the place are embodied in the Federation style dwelling (albeit relocated and altered) and in the Naturalists Cabin. This latter building is also significant as an intact and unusual interwar outbuilding that continues to reflect the past bird sanctuary function of the site.

'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road is historically significant at a REGIONAL level as a rare and important expression of the amateur interest in native birds, and the incorporation of this interest into the education curriculum, particularly through the Gould League's 'Bird Day' in the inter-war decades. The 'Naturalists Cabin' is an outstanding, and rare (perhaps unique) representation of this important Australian historical theme.

'Norwood', 2088-2126 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, is of architectural interest. Although relocated and extended in c.1928, the alterations made at this time also contribute to an appreciation of the historical value of the place today. It demonstrates design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the recessive hipped roof form, together with the minor gable that projects towards the front and the return broken back verandah that projects at the front and side. Other intact qualities include the elevated single storey height, asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, face brick chimney, modest eaves, square timber verandah posts, timber framed double hung windows, timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, and the rudimentary gable infill (battening and panelling).

The 1933 Naturalists Cabin outbuilding is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities for a modest interwar building. These qualities include the simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters and the large vertically boarded timber doors with small early viewing windows. It is missing a small original verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the cement sheet panelling with a central timber batten in the gable end. The building is distinguished by the survival of its hand painted name plate entitled 'The Naturalists Cabin', and the hand-painted panel of a Grey Thrush above the door.

Overall, 'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 035
Citation No.: 048
Place: 'Wattle Grove' House & Shed, 117-125
McPherson Road

Other Names of Place: Former Malcolm McPherson property.
Location: 117 - 125 McPherson Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Construction: likely mid 1880s
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 117 - 125 McPherson Road Toolern Vale is significant as a moderately intact and contextually substantial example of a Late Victorian style. Most likely built c.1885, the house is associated with the locally prominent Malcolm McPherson, former Shire President. A rear shearing shed also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 117 – 125 McPherson Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the convex profile encircling verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding,

corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding, face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, narrow eaves with decorative timber brackets, symmetrical composition of the front façade with the timber framed doorway having a four panelled timber door and sidelights and highlights, and the flanking timber framed windows, and the other timber framed windows on the side elevations. The rear gabled addition contributes to an understanding of the historical evolution of the building. The nearby gabled, galvanised corrugated steel 2-stand shearing shed, with timber structural frame (including log posts) also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house and shed at 117 - 125 McPherson Road are historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1). It is one of a limited number of surviving Melton Shire farms that pre-date the break-up of Melton's large Clarke, Staughton, Taylor, and Patterson pastoral estates. It is directly associated with Malcolm McPherson, long serving Shire Councillor (1894-1920) and multiple Shire President, called the 'father of municipal life' in Melton by the local press at the time of his death. The house is also a scarce surviving intact property associated with the enclave of Scottish immigrants who would appear to have been the dominant farming landholders in early Toolern Vale.

Overall, the house and shed at 53-105 McPherson Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 036
Citation No.: 055
Place: 'Greenhills', 1260-1398 Diggers rest-
Coimadai Road

Other Names of Place:

Location: 1260-1398 Diggers Rest Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale. (Lot 6, LP 201866)

Critical Dates: Establishment of station: 1837; Construction of present house: c.1903 (extension 1980s).

Existing Heritage Listings: 'Place of Interest' (Rural Heritage Study)⁸

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Greenhills, Toolern Vale, is significant as a predominantly intact example of a Federation style homestead built by Walter Browne in c.1903. The setting of the homestead (including outbuildings,

⁸ Johnston, C, *Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne* (Melbourne Western Region Inc., 1994), p.176

former gardens, dams and relics of dry stone walls) also contributes to an understanding of the heritage values of the place, dating back to the pioneering era of this early pioneering Victorian pastoral property. Historically, *Greenhills* was one of the first pastoral runs, and centres of European settlement, established in the Shire of Melton.

The *Greenhills* pastoral estate, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It was a noted early Victorian pastoral property established by John Hunter Patterson, prominent pastoralist and member of the early Port Phillip community, and Victorian MLA and Treasurer in the 1850s. Patterson established the property very early in 1837, making *Greenhills* one of the very first pastoral runs and centres of European settlement in the Shire of Melton. It was a very large run, of some 40,000 acres extending nearly to Bacchus Marsh in the west, and the largest population centre in the present Shire of Melton recorded in 1841. The station became the basis of the road system and early settlement of the Toolern Vale district, which was initially named after the station. The property was associated with John Batman's daughters Eliza and Adelaide who married the station's Collyer brothers; with Cr A Macintosh, the first President of the Melton Roads Board; MI Browne; Cr Walter Browne JP (who built the present house); and other Victorian pioneering pastoralists including George Hyde and George Urquhart.

The *Greenhills* homestead, Toolern Vale, is architecturally significant at a Local level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the hipped roof forms clad in galvanised corrugated steel, and the encircling verandah featuring a gabled portico at the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, timber weatherboard wall cladding, strapped brick chimneys with terra cotta pots, paired turned timber verandah posts with solid timber fretwork between, more elaborate timber fretwork valances to one side, timber verandah floor, timber framed double hung windows (including the projecting banks), decorative gable infill and the turned timber finial to the verandah portico.

The *Greenhills* pastoral estate, Toolern Vale, may be of scientific significance at a Local level (AHC C2). It appears to retain evidence of the garden enclosure of a very early pastoral homestation.

The *Greenhills* pastoral estate, Toolern Vale, is socially significant at the local level (AHC G1). It was the subject of an excursion by the Melton and District Historical Society in the late twentieth century. It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, the *Greenhills* pastoral estate and homestead, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 037
Citation No.: 059
Place: *'Pinewood'* Homestead, 783-829 Blackhill Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 783 - 829 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: Constructed 1876; (1855, 1859)
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Pinewood, at 783 - 829 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is significant as a predominantly intact nineteenth century farm complex associated with the pioneer pastoralist John Beaty, son John and descendents. The 1876 bluestone homestead is a predominantly intact example of a Victorian style and one of few surviving Victorian styled homesteads constructed in bluestone in the Melton Shire. The property also contains some notable plantings, including old *Pinus radiata*, hawthorn plantings and an old pear tree, and in particular a very old 'Canary Island Pine' tree. There are also all-stone drystone paddock walls.

Pinewood, Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, hipped roof form clad in slate tiles and the rendered chimneys. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the bluestone wall construction, location of the return verandah, narrow eaves, central timber framed main doorway with highlight and the flanking timber framed double hung windows, together with the brick kitchen at the rear. The old trees also contribute to the significance of the homestead setting.

The extensive system of substantial and largely intact drystone paddock walls are aesthetically, historically and scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC B2, D2, F1). They demonstrate an unusual and now rare form of nineteenth century fence construction, and contribute to an impressive and intact early farming cultural landscape.

Pinewood, Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is of LOCAL level historical significance (AHC A4). It is one of relatively few intact bluestone farming homesteads remaining in the municipality. It is also significant for its association with the Beaty family, an early and prominent Melton farming-pastoral family who occupied the property from at least 1855, and may have occupied it from 1848; John Beaty, grandson of the property founder, was six times a Melton Shire President.

Pinewood, Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The site and vicinity of the original homestead may provide archaeological evidence of local historical significance.

Overall, *Pinewood*, at 783 – 829 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 038
Citation No.: 061
Place: Stone Cottage, 189-193 Blackhill Road

Other Names of Place: ‘Shepherd’s Cottage’, Foard’s Shepherd’s Cottage
Location: 189-193 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale (Lot 1 LP135563)
Critical Dates: Construction: by late 1860s. Destruction of timber portion by fire: c.1945. Repair, c.1970 – 1990.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL⁹



Statement of Significance:

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as an altered example of a Victorian vernacular style small cottage, one of few surviving buildings in the Shire associated with

⁹ If further evidence can be found to indicate that it was a squatting era shepherd’s cottage, this level of significance should be reviewed

the Selection era, and possibly also a rare place associated with the earlier squatting era. The building dates from at least the 1860s, and may be as early as the 1840s.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is of architectural interest. Although altered, the cottage still demonstrates some original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form, random rubble wall construction, single storey height and the modest scale. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the random stone chimney breasts, single door and window openings and the location and form (if not the extent) of the front skillion verandah. The corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding is also appropriate, although not original or early.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is a scarce example of a surviving building in Melton Shire associated with the Selection Acts, and a rare example of a reasonably intact stone dwelling from that period. There is some evidence that the building dates to the earlier period (1840s) of John Aitken's *Mount Aitken* squatting run. Aitken has been credited as being Victoria's first inland settler. He was the second settler (after John Batman) to bring sheep to Port Phillip, and was the colony's leading flockmaster in its early decades, revered for having improved merino sheep more than any other. The timber portion of the dwelling was destroyed in a fire c.1945, and the remaining stone portion is testament to the major role of bushfire in the Shire's history and heritage. An incomplete ring of stone walls that survives, in poor condition (some non-professionally repaired) around the crown of the hill to the south (on an adjacent property), associated with either the selection or pastoral eras, is contributory to the significance of the place.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is socially significant at the local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study, and was visited in an early Melton and District Historical Society excursion. Since c.1970 its heritage values have been recognised by successive owners, who have conducted various repairs to the place, and by photographers and artists.

The Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The cottage and dry stone walls may provide archaeological evidence of local historical significance regarding early pastoralism.

Overall, the Cottage at 189-193 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 039
Citation No.: 062
Place: **House & Bullock Track, 847-1071
Blackhill Road**

Other Names of Place: Kororoit Park Stud
Location: 847-1071 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: 1855 (land granted to John Beaty); c.1926 (house built for Misses Beaty and Robert Beaty).
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 847-1071 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale has significance as a predominantly intact example of an interwar homestead Bungalow style. Built in 1928, the house appears to be in good condition. It is set amongst some mature eucalypts and there are numerous farm fixtures, particularly the Sunshine gates and now rare wooden haystack elevator that contribute to the significance of the place. The visual connections to the remaining evidence of the early ford and bullock track at the foot of the hill are of further significance.

The house at 847-1071 Blackhill Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar homestead Bungalow style. These qualities include the broad, steeply pitched gambrel roof form, together with the minor gable that projects towards the front and the return broken back verandah formed under the main roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, elongated face red brick chimney, stop chamfered timber verandah posts, rudimentary solid timber verandah brackets, timber framed double hung windows (arranged singularly and in groups), timber framed doorway and the decorative gable infill (panelling and timber battening). The farm fixtures, notably the Sunshine gates and rare wooden haystack elevator also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 847-1071 Blackhill Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1) for its association with the Beaty family, who have been prominent in the rural history of Toolern Vale and the Shire of Melton. Robert Beaty was a third generation member of this family whose establishment of this Dorset sheep stud property 'Kororoit Park' continued the family's pastoral and farming traditions, and the associations of this land with John Beaty, who purchased it in the 1850s.

The surviving evidence of the former bullock track to the Gisborne district is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C.2). It has the potential to contribute to a wider understanding of the history of the Post-Contact occupation of the area.

Overall, the house and evidence of the bullock track, 847-1071 Blackhill Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 040
Citation No.: 063
Place: Plumpton Hare Enclosure

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 847 Blackhill Road, Toolern Vale
Critical Dates: c.mid 1870s.
Existing Heritage Listings: Victorian Heritage Inventory, site H7822-0146
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The place comprises the remains of one of three original Sir WJ Clarke hare enclosures. It consists of well-built foundations of drystone walls, which once formed three sides of a large enclosure, situated around a redgum tree.

The hare enclosure site is of historical significance at the LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is the most substantial surviving remnant of the three hare enclosures built by Sir WJ Clarke in Diggers Rest as part of his pioneering of the sport of greyhound coursing in Australia. There is no other known fabric surviving from this historic development of the sport at Diggers Rest, which included the establishment of the first greyhound coursing Plumpton in Australia. It is also a rare, and the most substantial, physical fabric associated with the sport of greyhound coursing remaining in the Shire of

Melton, where the sport was particularly prominent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Heritage Overlay No.: 041
Citation No.: 065
Place: Aitken's Gap Pine Avenue, Calder Freeway

Other Names of Place: Pine Avenue, The Gap

Location: Calder Freeway, Diggers Rest.

Critical Dates: Early twentieth century.

Existing Heritage Listings: none

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The plantation of mature Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) is significant as the most substantial evidence of the existence of the Gap township, which originated as a wayside service centre for gold-rush traffic on the Mt Alexander Road. Recent upgrading of the Calder highway into a freeway has removed most of the south-western side of the avenue, and considerably diminished the aesthetic significance of the plantation. The avenue is likely to have been planted by the Shire of Melton, but may also have associations with the Country Roads Board.

The avenue is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is the most substantial remaining evidence of the former gold-rush wayside settlement of The Gap, which declined dramatically after the

internationally significant rush to Mount Alexander subsided, and after the opening of the railway (1859/1862). It is also one of a distinguished series of old conifer plantings on this route, since renamed the Calder Highway, most of which have now been bypassed. It is also the most prominent remaining example of a type of street planting associated with the Shire of Melton.

The avenue is also scientifically (horticulturally) significant at the LOCAL level on account of the age of the trees, which would appear to have been planted sometime in the early twentieth century. It is representative of conifer street plantings which were popular in the 1860-80s, but of which there are now very few examples remaining in Victoria (AHC B.2). If it dates back to the nineteenth century, it would be one of the oldest remaining avenues of this species.

Overall, the remnant Monterey Pine avenue at the Gap is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 042
Citation No.: 066
Place: **Diggers Rest Railway Station & Platforms, Calder Highway**

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Old Calder Highway, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: c.1859; 1928.
Existing Heritage Listings: National Trust (State)
Local Historical Theme: Transport
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL (station building); STATE (platforms)



Statement of Significance:

The Diggers Rest Railway Station, located on the Old Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is significant as a moderately intact example of an interwar station building representing a contemporary style of railway station buildings for the period. It was built in 1928 as part of the new level crossing controls necessitated by the rise of the motor vehicle, and appears to be in good condition. The place is also a legacy of the infrastructure development of the historic Melbourne and Echuca railway (1859-1864). The bluestone platforms are part of the earliest fabric of this historic railway, probably dating to c.1858-59.

The Diggers Rest Railway Station, located on the Old Calder Highway, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). Although slightly altered, the railway station building demonstrates some original design qualities for an interwar station building. These qualities include the long hipped roof form, together with the hipped roof that projects at the side at one end. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, malthoid tile roof cladding, face brick chimney with a soldier course capping, broad eaves, cantilevering skillion verandah supported by steel columns connected to curved steel brackets and beams, galvanised corrugated steel verandah roof cladding, and the window and door openings (but not the framed construction). The railway platforms, including the coursed squared rubble bluestone walls and concrete surface, also contribute to the significance of the place.

The Diggers Rest Railway Station, located on the Old Calder Highway, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It expresses the history of the town from its inception as a consequence of the Mount Alexander goldrushes, and in the early twentieth century. It also demonstrates the need for better crossing controls that were associated with the rise of the motor car in the early twentieth century.

Despite the partial reconstruction on the down side, the bluestone platform is historically significant at the STATE level as the most intact of the earliest station platforms (with Sydenham and Sunbury) to operate on the Melbourne to Bendigo railway line, which was Victoria's first government railway and subsequently its 'Main Line'; and as an expression of this railway's use of bluestone, and the high construction standards used on the line, which were never repeated, and which made it the greatest public work in Australia up to that time. The Melbourne to Echuca Railway is classified at the State level by the National Trust, which deems all the line's original fabric (such as bluestone platforms) to be of State significance.

Overall, the Diggers Rest Railway Station, located on the Old Calder Highway, is of LOCAL significance, while the bluestone platform is of STATE significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 043
Citation No.: 067
Place: **The Diggers Rest Hotel, 1434-1466 Calder Highway**

Other Names of Place: Lock's Oval Hotel (late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries)

Location: 1434-1466 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest

Critical Dates: Established 1852; construction of present (double-storey) building 1854; known renovations and minor extensions: c.1926, 1939, 1976. Burnt-out October 2008.

Existing Heritage Listings: None

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL.



Statement of Significance:

The Diggers Rest Hotel, at 1434-1466 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, constructed in 1854, is significant as one of the few Mount Alexander Road goldrush wayside hotels known to survive, and the only known surviving example of the many wayside hotels that were established between towns during the goldrush. Architecturally, the original Victorian building has been compromised by additions, primarily during the interwar period. Historically, these same additions also demonstrated the revival of

the Mount Alexander Road as a competitor to rail transport with the advent of the motor car, a far-reaching transformation which almost certainly saved the hotel from demolition.

The Diggers Rest Hotel, at 1434-1466 Calder Highway, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although recently burnt and now in a ruinous state, it still demonstrates nineteenth century and interwar design qualities. The nineteenth century qualities include the composition of the massive two storey rough stone and brick walls the chamfered corner, , single window openings and main entrance doorway. The interwar qualities include the shallow-pitched gambrel roof form, broad eaves, and the timber framed window and door openings on the ground floor, and the two side additions.

The Diggers Rest Hotel, at 1434-1466 Calder Highway, is of historical significance at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, B.2) as a rare wayside hotel associated with one of the most dazzling goldrushes in world history, and with Australia's largest goldrush. Wayside hotels are expressive of a major phenomenon of the goldrush event – unforgettable for its participants – of the trip to the diggings. The throng that pushed up Mount Alexander Road in the early 1850s was of historic proportions, and often exposed to major hardships and dangers. Wayside hotels were the most significant type of place on this road, in terms of their number (an average of about one every three kilometres on the dry Keilor Plains); their grandeur; and their associations with the colourful days of the early goldrush (including the sheer scale of the traffic, bushranging, bullockies, and Cobb & Co staging posts). At the time these hotels, including the two-storey masonry Diggers Rest Hotel, were the grandest and most dominant type of building in the rural parts of the colony. They were typically distinguished from town and goldfields hotels by their incorporation of a blacksmith for cart repair, and large stables.

The Diggers Rest Hotel is one of few surviving Mount Alexander Road goldrush wayside hotels, and an even rarer example of a purpose-built (early 1850s) goldrush wayside hotel. It is the only known surviving intermediary (situated between towns) goldrush wayside hotel on the road. It is also set apart by having been one of the few hotels identified in goldrush-era maps as a waymark of the journey to the Mount Alexander goldfields. Its undeveloped and relatively isolated setting, dominated by the double-storey hotel, preserve it as a striking representation of a goldrush intermediary wayside hotel. Although much of the rear of the hotel was substantially impacted by grading in recent years, it retains potential to provide archaeological evidence of the repair facilities (blacksmith and wheelwright shops), and also Cobb & Co stables. Its evocative name also contributes to the place as an expression of the goldrush. Its relative proximity to the headstone and grave of a journeying digger contributes to an understanding of the nature of the journey, and the role of hotels as mortuaries. Its interwar alterations and additions are historically significant as expressions of the revival of both the highway and the hotel as a result of the advent of motor traffic. This transformation almost certainly saved the hotel from demolition, which was the fate of most other wayside goldrush hotels in the early twentieth century.

The hotel is also historically important at the LOCAL level as the place after which the small township of Diggers Rest was almost certainly named.

The Diggers Rest Hotel, Calder Highway, is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The site has the potential to provide archaeological evidence that would contribute to the history of the goldrush era.

The Diggers Rest Hotel, Calder Highway, is socially significant (AHC G.1) at a LOCAL level as a place which is the recognised locally for its goldrush history, and valued as a place of recreation and community.

Overall, the Diggers Rest Hotel, Calder Highway, is of LOCAL heritage significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 044
Citation No.: 068
Place: Former Diggers Rest School, 1290 Calder Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1290 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: 1916
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former School building, at 1290 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is significant as a moderately intact example of the ‘Edwardian single room’ school building type established by the Public Works Department for the Education Department in the early twentieth century. Although relocated to this site, the building still demonstrates early design qualities and is a legacy of the PWD’s stylistic development for the period, and the subdivision of nearby pastoral estates for farming in the early twentieth century.

The former School building, at 1290 Calder Highway, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although relocated, it still demonstrates original design qualities of an “Edwardian single

room” school building type established by the Public Works Department for the Education Department in the early twentieth century. These qualities include the floating gambrel roof form, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, and the bank of three timber framed twelve paned double hung windows with three paned hopper sashes above. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the modest scale, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, face brick chimney and the corrugated sheet metal roof cladding.

The former School building, at 1290 Calder Highway, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is an expression of the history of State primary education in the area, and in particular the small schools that were built, and shifted, to accommodate fluctuating rural populations. It is also expressive of the competing claims of the Holden and Kororoit districts for a school in the nineteenth century, and the break-up of the large nearby pastoral estates in the early twentieth century.

The former School building, Calder Highway, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It has been restored by the community, and houses the Diggers Rest historical society.

Overall, the former School building, Calder Highway, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 045
Citation No.: 069
Place: *Sanger Grave, 1286-1292 Calder Highway*

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1286-1292 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest (Reserve east of the railway line).
Critical Dates: Death: 1854; Original headstone c.1856; Reinterment of remains, reconstruction of headstone, and construction of present monument: c.1992
Existing Heritage Listings: None.
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The JA Sanger grave at 1286-1292 Calder Highway Diggers Rest is of heritage significance as a rare, possibly unique, monument to the the goldrush travellers who walked to the Mount Alexander and other central Victorian goldfields in the great rushes of the early 1850s. Sanger and his mate were killed when the tilt dray under which they were sleeping tipped onto them when its back prop was displaced, possibly by horses (or perhaps thieves) pulling at feed in the dray, or else by intoxicated revellers as a

prank. In c.1992 the grave, threatened with destruction, was relocated to a park beside the former Highway in Diggers Rest. The brick monument now contains the cremated ashes of Sanger, and a reconstruction of the badly weathered original headstone. It is a rare and important place, indicative of the many burials that were carried out with minimal formality and outside reserved cemeteries in the colony's frontier days.

The JA Sanger grave, at 1286-1292 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is associated with one of the most dazzling goldrushes in world history, and with Australia's largest goldrush. The throng pushing up Mount Alexander Road in the early 1850s was of historic magnitude, and faced hardships and dangers of sometimes epic proportions. The trip up to the diggings was an integral and distinctive part of the goldrush phenomenon, and memorable one to the diggers. Most diggers, like Sanger, travelled the road on foot, camping out and in poor weather sleeping under drays.

This may be the only marked grave surviving to testify to those who fell by the wayside on the Mount Alexander Road in the early 1850s. While many died on the journey as a result of mishap, sickness and murder, and were buried beside the road, few headstones appear to have been erected, and none are known to survive.

The grave also constitutes evidence of the considerable American presence on and contribution to the Victorian goldfields, as well as to the international dimension of the goldrush phenomenon. The Americans were one of the many 'foreign' (non-British) minorities on the goldfields. Reported visits to the grave by American servicemen during the Second World War demonstrates its significance as a *de facto* memorial to the Americans in the goldrushes.

The history of the grave, including its possible association with the name of the township of Diggers Rest, has been a subject of interest for Victorians over many years, as evidenced by articles and debates in major metropolitan newspapers during the 1930s and 40s. The relative proximity of the Diggers Rest Hotel (the more likely origin of the township name) to the grave is historically significant, as the bodies of the diggers were probably taken to the hotel after the accident.

The JA Sanger grave at 1286-1292 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1), as evident in the local community's maintenance of the grave, and careful relocation of it to an accessible and prominent location in the township.

Heritage Overlay No.: 046
Citation No.: 073
Place: House, 1376-1432 Calder Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1376-1432 Calder Highway Diggers Rest (Lot 1 TP 381510)
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.1910); Relocation: c.1940
Existing Heritage Listings: 'Local Interest' (Rural Heritage Study)¹⁰
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 1376-1432 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is significant as a predominantly intact example of a rudimentary transitional Late Victorian and Federation style. Built in the early twentieth century and moved to the present site around the time of the Second World War, the house shows signs of

¹⁰ Johnston, C, 'Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne' (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), Site M65, pp.34, 172, 174

substantial deterioration in the weatherboard wall cladding and front verandah in particular. The main roof has been recently reclad in corrugated sheet metal roofing.

The house at 1376-1432 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). Although relocated, it demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary transitional Late Victorian and Federation style. These qualities include the simple gambrel roof form that traverses the site, together with the hipped convex verandah that projects towards the road. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, face red brick chimney, narrow eaves, central timber framed doorway with four panelled timber door, twelve paned timber framed double hung windows, timber verandah posts with simple timber capitals, and the timber fretwork verandah valance.

The house at 1376-1432 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is associated with two of the Diggers Rest industrial proprietors, Robinson Brothers (Chaff Mill), and EA Tame (Wire Wire Fence Co.). It is by far the oldest and most intact house remaining in the town of Diggers Rest. It is prominently situated, on the Calder Highway, close to the road, and relatively isolated. The coppiced gums contribute a rural character to the place.

Overall, the house at 1376-1432 Calder Highway is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 047
Citation No.: 075
Place: House, 2-180 Davis Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 2-180 Davis Road, Diggers Rest (Lot 4, LP 6069)
Critical Dates: c.1914
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 2-180 Davis Road, Diggers Rest, is significant as one of the most intact and refined examples of a timber Federation style in the Shire and for its early setting amongst mature cypresses and other exotics, the front being defined by the timber picket fence. The house was built c.1914 on one of the allotments sold in the break-up of the massive Clarke pastoral estate. It appears to be substantially intact with the interior of the house intact with all its period detailing.

The house at 2-180 Davis Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original and outstanding design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the minor gables that project at the front and side that are linked by a broken back return verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, unpainted galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, broad eaves, five face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, stop chamfered timber verandah posts with decorative incised bands, arched decorative solid timber fretwork valances with fan-light motifs, projecting rectangular bays on the gable ends with banks of three timber framed casement windows having highlights above, corner window bay with similar timber framed casements and highlights above, bracketed timber window hoods above the projecting bays, timber framed door opening with sidelights and highlights, and the decorative gable infill (stucco panelled and vertical timber battening). The mature cypresses and other exotic trees, and the front timber picket fence, contribute to the significant setting of the place. The farm buildings on the west side of the driveway contribute to the setting of the place and to an understanding of its significance as a working farm.

The house at 2-180 Davis Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4) as a representative example of one of the many small to medium sized farm homesteads established as a consequence of the historic break-up of the large pastoral estates in Melton Shire in the early twentieth century, in particular the Clarkes' vast *Rockbank* estate. It is also expressive of the new farming prosperity in that period.

Overall, the house at 2-180 Davis Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 048
Citation No.: 077
Place: Former Murphy Dam

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 209-247 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest (Lot S2 PS 434718)
Critical Dates: Construction: likely mid-late 1850s.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former Murphy dam, at 209-247 Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest, is significant as an example of a type of dam constructed in nineteenth century Melton by some small pastoralists and farmers in an attempt to counteract the extremely dry local climate. Its dry-stone construction with roughly worked bluestone is aesthetically pleasing, and an excellent example of a small dam of this type in Melton.

The former Murphy drystone wall dam, Diggers Rest, is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is a small example of at least five similar, very well built, dry stone dam structures in the Shire, three of which were built on the Clarke Rockbank pastoral estate. These dams express the importance of water in the extremely dry local climate. They may also have been related to the

difficulty of excavating large 'tanks' (paddock dams) in the area, much of which has high bluestone bedrock. It appears to be an early dam, built c.early-mid 1850s. It is of particular interest for having been built by a small farmer / dairyman, rather than a pastoralist or large farmer. Built by James Murphy, a pioneering Diggers Rest farmer, it contributed to the success of his small farm and the survival of his family on the otherwise dry-land property for at least two generations. The associated remnant drystone wall complex, of unusual plan, is likely to date at least partly to the 1850s, and is also of historical significance.

The former Murphy drystone wall dam, Diggers Rest, is aesthetically and structurally significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2). It is a neatly constructed and highly intact dry-stone structure, with a vertical face on the dam side constructed of partly shaped local bluestone and fieldstone. Although now overgrown with reeds it still holds water.

The former Murphy drystone wall dam, Diggers Rest, and the associated complex of drystone walls, in various condition, are scientifically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC C2) for their potential to provide further information in regard to early farming practices, especially in the dry plains areas of the Melton Shire.

Overall, the former Murphy drystone wall dam, at 209-247 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 049
Citation No.: 080
Place: Former Army Radio Station Diggers Rest

Other Names of Place: Australian Army Transmitting (or Sending) Station.
Location: 107 – 207 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: Establishment of Transmitting Station: 1942; Construction of Building 1944.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former Army Radio Transmitting Building, at 107-207 Diggers Rest -Coimadai Road at Diggers Rest, is significant for its association with the US presence in Australia in 1942; with Australian Army's international radio communication during and after the Second World War; as an apparently rare surviving example of this type of building; and as the only significant wartime building remaining on the Army's Diggers Rest and Rockbank radio transmitting and receiving stations.

The former Army Radio Transmitting Building at 107-207 Diggers Rest is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, B2, H1). The place is significant for its associations with the American wartime presence in Australia, and in particular, the presence of General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme

Commander of Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific during the Second World War, in Melbourne in 1942. The Diggers Rest transmitting and Rockbank receiving radio bases were established for the USA military command in Melbourne during the crisis year of 1942. These radio bases are rare places developed in this very dark period of the nation's history, when Japan had invaded Australia's northern neighbours, and attacked Australia itself. As the war moved northwards after the naval battles of the Coral Sea and Midway and the defeat of Japan's New Guinea campaign, and as US troops began their Pacific island-hopping offensives, communications facilities also moved north, and by early 1943 the Diggers Rest and Rockbank bases had been vacated by the Americans and handed over to the Australian Army.

This building, erected by the Australians in 1944, is the only significant wartime building remaining at either the Diggers Rest or Rockbank stations. Although it takes the form of the common portable prefabricated bow-roofed Nissen and similar styled huts built by British and American forces for wartime service, it is much larger than these standard buildings, and was customised to accommodate radio transmitting equipment (none of which remains). It may be an example of an 'Armco hut' manufactured in Australia during the Second World War. Although other examples may survive elsewhere, at this stage no other examples are known to have been definitely identified in Australia.

The building succeeded a woolshed that in 1942 the American signals unit had converted into a transmission station to link MacArthur with the United States and the Pacific military fields of operation. Built by the Australian Army in 1944, the building was used for communication with London (and possibly Moscow). By the war's end the building was the Australian Army's link with London and other Commonwealth centres in South-East Asia (Delhi, Kandy, Singapore and Wellington), and Rabaul in New Guinea. The building was also the lynch-pin of communication between the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, handling all UK, NZ and Indian traffic between Melbourne and Japan (Kure).

In the decades following the war, at least until the construction of a new transmission building in the late 1950s, the building was the Australian radio link with the 'British Commonwealth' (or 'Empire') Army Wireless Chain. This was a strategic radio relay network which linked the British War Office and Defence Ministry with Canada, East and West Africa, Ceylon, Singapore, Middle East, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. The building also played a critical role in international radio coverage of the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956.

The building is also expressive of the particular suitability, as found in comprehensive early surveys, of the Shire of Melton for international radio transmission and reception purposes. Its huge flat spaces, lack of radio 'noise' and trees, and uninterrupted proximity to Melbourne control centres made Melton prominent in early international 'wireless' ventures.

The former Army Radio Transmitting Building at Diggers Rest is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities associated with late interwar and postwar semi-cylindrical military huts. These qualities include the semi-cylindrical and bowed roof form that terminates at ground level, lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof and wall construction, regularly arranged flat rectangular skylights, horizontal bank of elevated windows and the timber framed double hung windows (arranged singularly and in pairs). The projecting flat-roofed porch also contributes to the architectural significance of the design.

Overall, the former Army Radio Transmitting Building at 107-207 Diggers Rest is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 050
Citation No.: 082
Place: Former Clarke Dam

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 544-618 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.mid-late nineteenth century).
Existing Heritage Listings: The site, described as 'Clarke's Dam, Melton Shire' is listed in the Victorian Heritage Inventory: H7822-0147
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is significant as a rare and the third largest known drystone wall private pastoral dam in Victoria. It is also the third of the large dams in a series of at least four large and medium sized drystone dams built on the former WJT Clarke *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest appears to be substantially intact.

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is structurally and aesthetically significant at the STATE level (AHC D2, E1, F1) as a well constructed and visually impressive structure employing an unusual construction technique. Its random rubble form

uses unworked bluestone, characteristically split fieldstone, without mortar, in a style that appears to be essentially based on drystone wall construction techniques, but using large stones. Its wall is roughly coursed, each course using similar sized stones. As with the *Rockbank* headstation dam, and the Plumpton dam with which it compares most closely, the dam contains an angle towards its centre. Its design is unique and slightly more sophisticated than comparable Clarke dams in incorporating a (lower) rear drystone wall behind its earth wall embankment, and stone-lined overflow channels at both ends of dam. Its intact rural context contributes to the dam's aesthetic. It retains its coping stones, and appears to be of high integrity. Together with other similar dams built on the Clarke *Rockbank* estate, it represents an innovative design solution to local climatic and geographical challenges.

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is historically significant at the STATE level. (AHC B2, H1) It is important as one of the three most substantial examples of the series of at least four large and medium sized dams built by Clarke in the Shire of Melton as part of his *Rocklands* pastoral property. No comparable structure or group of structures, comprising long stone dam walls over wide shallow gullies, is known elsewhere in Victoria. This grand scheme was a local response to the particularly low rainfall of the plains area, the difficulty of sinking 'tank' dams in the shallow bedrock of the area, and the local availability of bluestone. Smaller Melton pastoralists and farmers constructed much smaller and more makeshift dams which were also variations on the same principle. The dam is also significant for its association with Australia's mid nineteenth century pastoral giant WJT Clarke, and his son Sir WJT Clarke, Victoria's leading citizen in the late nineteenth century, and Australia's first baronet. The dam is expressive of the strategic and inherent importance of the 40,000 acre *Rockbank* property to the Clarke pastoral empire, especially in relation to the fattening and delivery of sheep for the Newmarket meat trade. It also conveys a sense of the scale of the *Rockbank* station, whose domination of the Melton Shire was an increasingly acute grievance to local farmers, culminating in the break-up of the estate in the early twentieth century. It is a major relic of the era of large pastoral estates close to Melbourne.

Overall, the former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is of STATE significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 051
Citation No.: 102
Place: House, 'Arrunga'

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 77-347 Holden Rd, Plumpton (Sec.31 Parish of Maribyrnong) Lot No.3
Critical Dates: Unknown (early twentieth century)
Existing Heritage Listings: 'Local Interest' (Rural Heritage Study)¹¹
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house known as 'Arrunga' at 77-347 Holden Road, Diggers Rest, is significant as a moderately intact, although rudimentary, example of a Late Federation style. Built in the early twentieth century, the house has experienced some alterations and additions, but the original design qualities are still clearly discernible.

¹¹ Johnston, C, 'Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne' (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), Site M65, pp.34, 170-171

The house known as 'Arrunga' at 77-347 Holden Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates some original design qualities of a rudimentary Late Federation style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with two gable roof forms that project at the front and side and the return bullnosed verandah that accentuates the overall diagonal composition. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, two face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, narrow eaves with decorative timber brackets, turned timber posts with decorative timber brackets, timber verandah fretwork valances, interwar Bungalow styled banks of timber framed double hung box windows under the projecting gables, other timber framed double hung windows, timber window brackets, and the timber framed doorways. The mature cypresses and eucalypts also contribute to the significant setting of the place.

The house known as 'Arrunga' at 77-347 Holden Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is a representative example of the many small to medium sized farms and homesteads established as a consequence of the historic break-up of the large pastoral estates in Melton Shire in the early twentieth century, in particular the Clarkes' vast *Rockbank* estate.

Overall, the house known as 'Arrunga' at 77-347 Holden Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 052
Citation No.: 103
Place: House, 932 Holden Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 932-1036 Holden Road, Diggers Rest (Lot 1 PS 448042)
Critical Dates: 1931
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 932-1036 Holden Road, Diggers Rest, is significant as a predominantly intact example of an interwar homestead Bungalow style, the composition reflecting Federation design. Built in 1931 for the Tyquin family one of the allotments sold in the break-up of the Clarke pastoral estate, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the road. This house appears to be the most intact and substantial example of an interwar homestead Bungalow style in the Melton Shire. It has recently undergone extensive heritage renovations.

The house at 932-1036 Holden Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar homestead Bungalow style. These qualities

include the central hipped roof form, together with the projecting minor gables linked by the return verandah formed as an extension of the main hipped roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two red brick chimneys, broad eaves with exposed timber rafters, round, tapered concrete verandah columns supported by rendered brick piers with concrete cappings, flat roofed faceted bay window, timber framed double hung windows and the timber framed doorways. The timber post and woven wire fence and scrolled metal gate also contributes to the significance of the place and has been recently replaced by a replica fence type.

The house at 932-1036 Holden Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is an example of one of the many small to medium sized farms and homesteads established as a consequence of the historic break-up of the large pastoral estates in Melton Shire in the early twentieth century, in particular the Clarkes' vast *Rockbank* estate.

Overall, the house at 932 Holden Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 053
Citation No.: 110
Place: Holden Road Dam

Other Names of Place: 'Colglenn'
Location: 625-833 Holden Rd, Plumpton
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown.
Existing Heritage Listings: Identified in Western Region, Rural Heritage Study, as 'local interest'.¹²
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The large pastoral dam at 625-833 Holden Road, Plumpton is significant as a probable Clarke *Rockbank* estate dam - one of a unique series known in Victoria - and also as the best example of a more typical

¹² 'Rural Heritage Study, Western Region of Melbourne' (Context Pty Ltd, Western Region Commission, 1994), pp.89, 170-1, 173

style of nineteenth century dam of the Melton plains area, where water management was an especially critical issue.

The large pastoral dam at 625-833 Holden Road, Plumpton is structurally significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2) as a large and relatively intact example of a nineteenth century building form in the Shire of Melton. Its use of fieldstone or floaters as shoring on the dam wall is typical of the dams built by many smaller pastoralists and farmers in the Shire, and contrasts with the more professionally built walls on other Clarke dams. This use of the rocks may also have been a form of 'consumption' or use of the fieldstones.

The large pastoral dam at 625-833 Holden Road, Plumpton is historically significant at the LOCAL level. (AHC B2) It represents a building form that is no longer generally practised and in danger of being lost in the Shire of Melton. It is expressive of the importance of water management in the Shire of Melton, whose especially low rainfall has been a major influence in its history.

Its likely origin, as one of a series of at least four large and medium sized drystone dams to have been built on the Clarkes' *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton, is also of historical significance. No comparable structure or group of structures, comprising long stone dam walls over wide shallow gullies, is known elsewhere in Victoria. These structures were a local response to the particularly low rainfall of the plains area, the difficulty of sinking 'tank' dams in the shallow bedrock of the area, and the local availability of bluestone. Smaller Melton pastoralists and farmers constructed much smaller and more makeshift dams which were also variations on the same principle. The dam is also significant for its likely association with Australia's mid nineteenth century pastoral giant WJT Clarke, and his son Sir WJT Clarke, Victoria's leading citizen in the late nineteenth century, and Australia's first baronet. As such, the dam would have been integral to the 40,000 acre *Rockbank* station's role in fattening and delivery of sheep for the Newmarket meat trade. With the other Clarke dams, it conveys something of the scale of the *Rockbank* station, whose domination of the Melton Shire was an increasingly acute grievance to local farmers, culminating in the break-up of the estate in the early twentieth century.

Overall, the large pastoral dam at 625-833 Holden Road, Plumpton is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 054
Citation No.: 117
Place: Bridge over Kororoit Creek, Melton Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Melton Highway crossing of Kororoit Creek (at 37 km post), Plumpton.
Critical Dates: Likely c.1859-60 (original arch span); 1870-71 (girder span); 1955 & 1968 (new deck).
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The bridge over the Kororoit Creek, Melton Highway, Melton, is significant as one of few nineteenth century stone road bridges in the Melton Shire, as one of the few early round arch road bridges in Victoria, for its combination of an arch and a girder span, and for its likely early date. Probably built c.1860, it had a girder span added in 1870, with some interesting and rare design features. In the 1950s and 60s the parapets and original timber superstructure of the girder span were replaced with a concrete superstructure, and the masonry parts of the bridge may also have been sympathetically widened. It is moderately intact.

The bridge over the Kororoit Creek, Melton Highway, is historically and scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, F.1). It illustrates a contextually rare form of stone bridge construction, being one of few nineteenth century stone road bridges in the Melton Shire. It is associated with one of Victoria's primary early roads from Melbourne to Portland, with the original Ballarat goldrush road, and was the main coach road between Melbourne and Ballarat until replaced by the railway in 1889. It is a scarce and probably very early example of a round or Roman arch bridge in Victoria. It is unusual within Victoria for having both an arch and a girder span, which demonstrates the event of the 1870 superflood, which devastated bridges throughout Victoria, and prompted a significant review of bridge design in the colony. The different spans are also likely to express the funding of the original bridge by the colonial government in the gold-era, and the funding of the new span by local government in the farming era. While modifications to its superstructure have compromised the ability of the girder span to demonstrate these changes, the rare shaped bluestone corbels and bluestone paved floor contribute especially interesting and illustrative feature with research potential.

Overall, the bridge over the Kororoit Creek is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 055
Citation No.: 119
Place: House, 974-1048 Melton Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 974-1048 Melton Hwy, Plumpton
Critical Dates: c.1906-07
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 974-1048 Melton Hwy, Plumpton has significance as a moderately intact example of an unassuming Victorian style and as one of few remaining houses associated with the historically significant Closer Settlement Board Overnewton Estate subdivision of 1905-6.

The house at 974-1048 Melton Hwy, Plumpton is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although unassuming in design (which is typical for a number of timber cottages in the Melton area for the era) and missing a front verandah, the cottage still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form and modest eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, modest scale, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, central timber framed doorway with four panelled

timber door and highlight. The rear sections of the house have been renovated and altered but do not detract unduly from the original portion at the front.

The house at 974-1048 Melton Hwy, Plumpton is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is a scarce remaining example in Melton Shire of small farmhouses built as a result of the Closer Settlement Board's subdivision of prominent pastoralist William Taylor's Overnewton Estate into 79 farms. The Overnewton Estate was one of the earliest, largest, and best-known of the estates created under the Closer Settlement Act 1904. It is expressive of one of the major themes of Australia's history - the contest between large pastoralists and small farmers for the land - and the abiding power of the yeomanry ideal well into the twentieth century. The partial dry stone wall along the front boundary almost certainly dates to the pastoral era. This contrasts with the Monterey cypresses around the property that is likely to have been planted in conformity with the Closer Settlement Board's landscaping requirements for the property. Both the wall and the shelter planting enhance the historical significance of the place.

The original farm context of the property, including its open rural setting, its remaining mature Cypress trees, and dry stone wall, contribute to the historical and aesthetic significance of the place.

Overall, the house at 974-1048 Melton Hwy, Plumpton is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 056
Citation No.: 120
Place: 'Gollers Court', 1366 Melton Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 1366-1496 Melton Hwy, Plumpton
Critical Dates: Constructed: c.1906-11
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Gollers Court at 1366-1496 Melton Hwy, Plumpton, is significant as an unusual example of a transitional Late Victorian/Federation styled house with concrete wall construction. Built c.1906-11, the property also has a remnant concrete tank with construction similar to the rear later skillion wing of the house. *Gollers Court* was burnt in a fire in 2008 and so is now in a ruinous state. It is also significant as a representative example of the farmhouses built as a result of the break up of the Clarke *Rockbank* estate, a watershed in the history of the Shire of Melton.

Gollers Court at 1366 Keilor-Melton Highway is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC. D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a transitional Late Victorian and Federation style. These qualities include the broad gambrel roof form, together with the shallow concave verandah that

projects towards the front and the skillion wing at the rear. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, symmetrical composition, camerated concrete or reinforced concrete wall construction (including internal walls), two tapered roughcast chimneys with terra cotta pots, modest eaves, turned timber verandah posts, decorative cast iron verandah brackets, smooth-rusticated quoinwork, and the concrete window sills.

Gollers Court at 1366 Keilor-Melton Highway is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4) as one of the most distinctive, intact and prominently situated remaining examples of the many small to medium sized farm homesteads built in the Melton Shire the early twentieth century, which are expressive of both the historic 'break-up' of the large pastoral properties in that era, in particular the massive Clarke *Rockbank* estate, a turning point in the history of the Shire of Melton, and also of the new farming prosperity in that period. The place is also significant for its commemoration of the part of EV Goller, and other small investors/graziers who were acquired property in Melton Shire during that period.

Gollers Court at 1366 Keilor-Melton Highway is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC F.1). It illustrates a form of unusual camerated and/or reinforced concrete wall construction for a domestic building of the very early twentieth century and is of importance for contributing to an understanding of concrete technology of that era.

Overall, *Gollers Court* at 1366 Keilor-Melton Highway is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 057
Citation No.: 125
Place: Norton Ruin

Other Names of Place: Former Norton House
Location: 1912-1962 Melton Highway, Plumpton (Lot 2 PS447290)
Critical Dates: Construction: mid-late 1850s; major repair and reoccupation c.1905.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Norton Ruin at 1912-1962 Melton Highway, Sydenham West is significant as one of the most substantial relics of the early small-farming period in the Shire. It stands in stark testimony both to the wretched seasons of the early 1860s which forced many farmers out of the district and resulted in the land being reclaimed by large pastoralists; and to the historic contest in Australia between small farmers and large pastoralists for land, expressed in the repossession of the property for farming in the early twentieth century under the provisions of the 1904 Closer Settlement Act.

The Norton Ruin at 1912-1962 Melton Highway, Sydenham West is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). The place is associated with the first farming phase in the district, which was assisted by the Crown's 1850s alienation of good quality land along creek frontages in reasonably

affordable allotments, subdivided further by the Victoria Freehold Land Society in the name of prominent Victorians Thomas Fulton, Lauchlan MacKinnon and Frederick James Sargood. In particular, the place is associated with the Newnham and Chandler families, who with others had come to Australia at the initiative of a Sussex chapel of the Primitive Baptist denomination to relieve the situations of its poorer members. These families, engaged in general farming, bacon curing, and selling their produce on the Bendigo goldfields and in Melbourne, were the core of a small settlement of adherents of this denomination in Melton Shire. Some of the circumstances and difficulties of their lives, and significant insights into early small-farming in the Melton Shire, are preserved in John Chandler's book *Forty Years in the Wilderness*.

The place is equally associated with the exodus of small farmers, including the Newnhams and the Chandlers, from the area as a result of the hardships in the form of drought, wheat rust, caterpillars, and cattle pluro-pneumonia in the early 1860s, and the consequent annexation of many of their properties by the dominant pastoralists of the Shire, in particular WJT Clarke of the Rockbank estate and William Taylor of the Overnewton estate.

The place is also associated with the break-up of the pastoral estates in the early twentieth century, a key event in Australia's history, expressive of the long running contest between small farmers and large pastoralists for the land, and of the abiding power of the yeomanry ideal well into the twentieth century. It marked a major new era in the history of Melton Shire, then dominated by huge pastoral estates. The general revival of small farming at the turn of the century, and the effects of the Closer Settlement and later the Soldier Settlement Acts, transformed local economic and social life, and necessitated infrastructure for new communities, such as primary schools. One of these, the former Sydenham West state school, the eucalyptus sheleter planting of which survives, was situated on land excised from the Norton property, and prior to its closure was conducted in a weatherboard house that had been located on the property. The bluestone house was made habitable and reoccupied by the Norton family, who purchased the property in the Closer Settlement Board's subdivision and sale of the Overnewton Estate. The Overnewton estate was one of the first, the largest, and the best known of the pastoral estates turned over to farming under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act 1904. Although the family has not been associated with the property for many decades, it is still known locally as the Norton property.

The place is also one of the most substantial and best preserved of the few remaining relics of the first phase of small-farming in the Shire of Melton. It is also one of relatively few surviving of the numerous farm cottages that were originally built beside watercourses, rather than close to roads as became the norm in later times.

Its ruinous state still dominating a near intact nineteenth century rural setting, powerfully evokes a sense of the passage of time, and past ways of life.

The Norton Ruin at 1912-1962 Melton Highway Sydenham West is scientifically significant at the local level (AHC C2). It includes some unusual design features and building techniques that have the potential to provide information regarding early farming lifestyles in the Shire of Melton.

The Norton Ruin at 1912-1962 Melton Highway Sydenham West is socially significant at the local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, the Norton Ruin at 1912-1962 Melton Highway Sydenham West is significant at a LOCAL level.

Heritage Overlay No.: 058
Citation No.: 127
Place: House, 911 Melton Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Main Historic Place: 911-935 Melton Hwy, Plumpton
Historic Avenue of tree(s): 821 – 909 Melton Highway, Hillside
Critical Dates: 1906
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 911 Melton Highway, Sydenham, is significant as a moderately intact example of a rudimentary Late Victorian / Federation era style, and as one of few remaining houses associated with the historically significant Closer Settlement Board Overnewton Estate subdivision of 1905-6. Built in 1906, the house appears to have been altered and extended but its primary Late Victorian / Federation design qualities are still discernible.

The house at 911 Melton Highway is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended, it still demonstrates some original design qualities of a rudimentary Late

Victorian / Federation style. These qualities include the hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the face red brick chimney and narrow eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the central timber framed doorway and flanking timber framed windows, and the location of the front verandah.

The house at 911 Melton Highway is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is one of few remaining Melton Shire houses built as a result of the Closer Settlement Board's subdivision of prominent pastoralist William Taylor's Overnewton Estate into 79 small farms. The Overnewton Estate was one of the earliest, largest, and best-known of the estates created under the Closer Settlement Act 1904. It expresses one of the major themes of Australia's history - the contest between large pastoralists and small farmers for the land - and the abiding power of the yeomanry ideal well into the twentieth century. The row of Monterey Cypresses along the frontage is likely to have been planted in conformity with the Closer Settlement Board's landscaping requirements for the property, and contributes to the historical significance of the place.

Overall, the house at 911 Melton Highway is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 059
Citation No.: 133
Place: 'Rocklands', 211 Mt Aitken Road

Other Names of Place: 'Garden of Eden'
Location: 211 Mt Aitken Rd, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: Construction: c.late 1850s - 60s.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

Rocklands homestead at 211 Mount Aitken Road, Aitkens Gap, is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian styled homestead and as a physical legacy of pastoral life at Aitkens Gap in the nineteenth century. *Rocklands* was built for William Beaty, one of three brothers who established substantial homesteads in the area, the others being *Pinewood*, and *Glencoe*, a large bluestone building. *Rocklands* also has significance for its uninterrupted views to Koroit Creek from its prominent elevated site, and for its remnant ornamental garden and orchard that is surrounded by a rubble stone wall. The homestead represents one of few surviving 19th century homestead buildings in the Melton Shire.

Rocklands homestead at 211 Mount Aitken Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and the polychromatic brick chimney with the

decorative bracketed and corbelled top that adorns the roofline. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, rendered brick wall construction, narrow eaves with elaborate, paired timber brackets, central timber framed doorway with the round-arched fanlight above, timber framed double hung windows, rendered window sills, rectilinear drip moulds crowning the door and window openings with flanking pointed ends, and the keystone punctuating the drip mould of the main doorway. The remnant ornamental garden and orchard, and the rubble stone wall nearby, also contribute to the significance of the place.

The property is of LOCAL level historical significance (AHC A4, B2, H1) for its local scarcity as a substantial masonry homestead, for its representation of the early European history of the locality, and for its association with the Beaty family, an early and prominent pastoral family in Melton. It is one of the oldest houses in the Shire of Melton.

Overall, *Rocklands* homestead at 211 Mount Aitken Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 060
Citation No.: 136
Place: ‘Mount Aitken’ Site & Ruin

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 740-794 Mt Aitken Road, Diggers Rest. (Allotment A2, Parish Buttlejorrk)
Critical Dates: 1836-1857; c.1867-68 (construction)
Existing Heritage Listings: ‘Place of Interest’ (Not assessed), Rural Heritage Study.¹³
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL¹⁴



Statement of Significance:

¹³ Johnston, C, *Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne* (Melbourne Western Region Inc., 1994), p.143

¹⁴ The place has a high potential to be of State level significance as a relatively intact, historically important and rare ‘first settlement’ site of the Port Phillip district.

The *Mount Aitken* Site and Ruin, 740-749 Mt Aitken Road, Diggers Rest, is of at least local heritage significance as a major nineteenth century stud property under John Aitken and Henry Beattie; and also for its associations with key events in Australia's history:- the European foundation and 'first settlement' of the Port Phillip / Melbourne district; and 'first contact' period encounters between the Aboriginal and European peoples. It is the more important because of the scarcity of other recorded physical evidence of these events in the Port Phillip district.

The *Mount Aitken* Site and Ruin, 740-749 Mt Aitken Road, Diggers Rest, is historically significant at a STATE level (AHC A4, B2, D2, H1). John Aitken was the first European to settle in the Shire of Melton. He was also one of the first pastoralists to land sheep at Port Phillip. Aitken had been planning to cross Bass Strait as early as 1833, and on 20th July 1835, the day before Fawkner's *Enterprize* departed to lay claim to the foundation of Melbourne, Aitken left Launceston in the *Endeavour* to prospect the pastures which John Batman had discovered across the Strait.

On 22nd March 1836 Aitken sailed again with 1600 sheep; in May 600 of these arrived at the *Mount Aitken* run which he had selected on his 1835 exploration. This has been described as Victoria's first inland occupation of sheep country. For two decades Aitken was revered as the colony's leading flockmaster, described as the 'first and most useful of our wool kings'. Historians have also judged his *Mount Aitken* stud to have been the most significant contributor to the improvement of Victoria's merino sheep up to the 1860s. In addition to being a famous sheep breeder, Aitken was also a respected and popular citizen of the pioneering European community. He named the Pentland Hills, and Governor Sir Richard Bourke named Mount Aitken after him. He was elected as mediator and representative in relation to social and pastoral issues, and for sporting occasions; citizens donated a portrait of him to the Melbourne City Council.

However his relations with the local native population were tense, and his *Mount Aitken* station became the scene of an encounter which would appear to have been instigated by Aboriginal peoples' anxiety to reclaim their country. The hill district from Sunbury to Gisborne, and including Mount Aitken, was the meeting place of the two streams of Victoria's first European settlers (overstraiters and overlanders), and is of key significance in the pastoral development and history of the state. The early painting 'View from Mt Aitken looking towards the Dandenong Ranges' depicting the open woodland and prime grasslands that were the *raison d'être* for the European occupation of Victoria, is indicative of this historical significance.

The place is also significant for its associations with stud-livestock breeder Henry Beattie, whose *Mount Aitken* Hereford stud was one of the best and most famous in Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His breeding of Comeback sheep (English Leicester - Merino) made a significant contribution to the development of one of Australia's most useful general-purpose wool and meat sheeps, taken up by mixed farmers in south-east Australia from the early twentieth century. His Shropshire sheep and Clydesdale horse breeding programs were also of note. Beattie served four separate terms as President of the Shire of Melton.

Despite disturbance of the property, it is likely that some archaeological evidence of the Aitken era dwellings, outbuildings or other works survives. It is also likely that evidence survives of part of the original track to the station, which formed one of the alternative routes of Victoria's first inland road, the Mount Macedon Road (and the Mount Alexander Road during the goldrush). Early drystone walls also survive. The original purpose and date of the large ruin, likely to have been built by John Beattie, is not known at this stage. The mature conifer and other shelter plantings on the site are

representative of common pastoral and farming practices of a later date, and contribute to the significance of the place.

The *Mount Aitken* Site and Ruin, 740-749 Mt Aitken Road, Diggers Rest, is scientifically significant of at least LOCAL level (AHC C2). Archaeological fabric on the site, and the ruin, have the potential to produce rare information regarding the first European occupation of Port Phillip and the Shire of Melton, and also of contact-era Aboriginal occupation of the site.

Overall, the *Mount Aitken* Site and Ruin, 740-749 Mt Aitken Road, Diggers Rest is of at least LOCAL heritage significance.”

Heritage Overlay No.: 061
Citation No.: 144
Place: **Bluestone Cottage & Ruinous Timber Dwelling**

Other Names of Place: Mungovan's Selection.

Location: 2-88 Mt Cottrell Road, Melton (Lot 1 TP131609; Crown Allotment 2A, Section 17, Parish of Kororoit.). The property is situated south-west of Mount Kororoit Farm, and across Kororoit Creek.

Critical Dates: Bluestone house and dry stone walls: late 1860s; weatherboard house unknown (c.late nineteenth early twentieth century).

Existing Heritage Listings: None.

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The bluestone cottage, ruinous timber cottage, and the associated dry stone walls at 2-88 Mt Cottrell Road, Melton, are significant as a rare surviving example of late nineteenth century farm life. The bluestone building, and dry stone walls were constructed in the late 1860s; the ruinous timber dwelling appears to have been built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The bluestone cottage, ruinous timber cottage, and the associated dry stone walls at 2-88 Mt Cottrell Road, Melton, are architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2, E1). Although the windows are missing, the building still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple steeply pitched hipped roof form clad in unpainted galvanised corrugated steel, bluestone wall construction, very narrow eaves, timber framed doorway with timber boarded door, timber framed window openings and the brick chimney. The internal white washed wall finish and rendered brick fireplace also contribute to the significance of the place. The timber cottage further contributes to the significance of the place but given its ruinous condition, it is not expected to be retained. The highly intact dry stone walls demonstrate the skilled craftsmanship of the stone-wallers trade. Adjacent peppercorn and red gum trees, and the view over the nearby Kororoit Creek also contribute significant aesthetic value to the setting of the place.

The bluestone cottage, ruinous timber cottage, and the associated dry stone walls at 2-88 Mt Cottrell Road, Melton, are historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). The bluestone building is a scarce surviving example of a substantially intact nineteenth century stone cottage in the Shire of Melton. It is also a rare and, historically, highly intact, expression of a 'Selection Act' property in the Shire. In addition, it was probably an example of 'dummying', a widespread abuse of the selection process in Australia by pre-existing landholders. Its ability to be interpreted is greatly enhanced by the existence of a map of the property showing the bluestone cottage and dry stone walls at the time that they were erected. It is also significant for its association with the Moylan family, and its eventual incorporation in the adjacent Mount Kororoit Farm estate. The Moylan family were noteworthy participants in local sporting, social, religious, and political life. They were known widely for their hospitality, and active in the local Catholic Church; John senior and Michael junior were Councillors of the Shire of Melton. The property's paddocks were said to have been a favourite hunting ground in Victoria, and also hosted events by the Melton Coursing Club as well as early aviation enthusiasts. The dry stone walls on the property are highly intact and rare examples of high and long all-stone walls in the Shire of Melton. They are significant parts of a broader Mount Kororoit Farm dry stone wall precinct that is of State significance.

The bluestone cottage, ruinous timber cottage, and the associated dry stone walls at 2-88 Mt Cottrell Road, Melton, are socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, the bluestone cottage, ruinous timber cottage, and the associated dry stone walls at 2-88 Mt Cottrell Road, Melton, are of LOCAL heritage significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 062
Citation No.: 146
Place: **Mount Kororoit Farm Homestead Complex**

Other Names of Place: Moylan's former *Brookville* homestead.
Location: 2-88 Leakes Road, Plumpton
Critical Dates: First house/kitchen unknown (probably c.mid 1850s); present homestead c.early 1870s; shearing shed 1897.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.¹⁵
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



¹⁵ The property was assessed as being of Regional heritage significance in Johnston, C, 'Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne' (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), pp.34, 161. Johnston described the property as being:- 'Of regional if not state significance, as a fine example of a pastoral property retaining an extraordinary range of buildings and features.' The dry stone walls of the wider property (at least) are definitely thought to be of State heritage significance, and are recommended as being of such in the Melton Dry Stone Walls Heritage Study.

Statement of Significance:

Mount Kororoit Homestead, 2-88 Leakes Road, Plumpton is significant as an important surviving example of a nineteenth century farm complex defined by the intact grouping of Victorian styled timber buildings (main house, detached kitchen/cottage, small outbuilding, stables, and shearing shed) within a rural setting enhanced by the layout and location of buildings and yards, and as further distinguished by the dry stone walls, peppercorn and palm trees and the quarry faced sheep holding yard beside the Kororoit Creek. The property was built up in the mid to late nineteenth century by John Moylan; the house was likely built in the early 1870s.

Mount Kororoit Homestead, 2-88 Leakes Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2, E1). Collectively, the small complex defined by the main house, detached kitchen/cottage, small outbuilding, stables, and shearing shed, demonstrate original and early design qualities that reflect the era and technology when the farm was established.

The main house has architectural significance as it demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. Possibly the second main house on the site, these qualities include the hipped roof form and encircling verandah, single storey height, and the rendered brick chimney with elaborate dentillated coursing and cornice. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, timber framed front doorway, and the timber framed double hung windows with six paned upper sashes.

The rear detached timber kitchen/cottage has architectural significance as it demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the elongated hipped roof form and the rear skillion wing. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, unpainted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, lack of eaves, substantial masonry chimney, timber framed doorway and the timber framed window openings.

The rear small outbuilding has architectural significance as it demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form clad in green painted galvanised corrugated steel and the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height and the two timber framed door openings.

The stable building has architectural significance as it demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. Although substantially deteriorated, these qualities include elongated hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, large timber posts that support the structure and which are particularly visible on the open, longitudinal side, and the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding.

The 1897 shearing shed has architectural significance as it demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. A large landmark building reflecting its functional importance for the farm, these qualities include the elevated gable roof form flanked by skillion wings and the elevated single storey height. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, small, horizontally proportioned timber framed multi-paned windows on the gable ends and as clerestorey lights on the upper side walls of the main central gabled section, vertical timber boarded doors and the turned timber finials on the gable ends. Internally, the timber stud construction, open timber deck floor and sheep pens defined by the timber framed and clad

partition walls is typical for the shearing shed design of the nineteenth century and very early twentieth centuries.

Mount Kororoit Homestead, 2-88 Leakes Road, has aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It demonstrates important visual qualities that reflect the nineteenth century character of the farm complex, as defined by the layout and location of buildings and yards, dry stone walls, quarry faced stone holding yard beside the Kororoit Creek, peppercorn and palm trees and the water tower behind the main house.

Mount Kororoit Homestead, 2-88 Leakes Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1). Together with the Grant's *Glen Elgin*, the Beaty family's properties in the north of the Shire (*Pinewood, Glencoe and Rocklands*), and Hopkins' *Rocklands* at Truganina in the south, it was one of a few successful nineteenth century large farms / small grazing enterprises in the Shire of Melton; with them it was a major contributor to the dry stone wall heritage of the Shire. It is significant for its association with the Moylan family, noteworthy participants in the sporting, social, religious, and political life of the Melton district. The property was always known for its hospitality. Its paddocks were said to have been a favourite hunting ground in Victoria, and in this capacity the property hosted a Vice-Regal party. The property had bred coursing dogs for the Sir WJ Clarke's Diggers Rest Plumpton; later, during John Moylan junior's presidency of the Melton Coursing Club the paddocks of Mount Kororoit Farm hosted greyhound coursing. John Moylan junior also kept racing horses. In 1913-14 he also hosted a significant early aviation event on Mount Kororoit Farm. The Moylan family had also been active in the local Catholic church, and both John senior and Michael junior had been Councillors of the Shire of Melton. He had also been known locally for his inventiveness, evidence of which may survive on the property in the form of the partial remains of a wool press. Some of the very well constructed all-stone dry stone walls on the homestead block are very rare within Victoria for their placement of large stones above smaller fieldstones; their condition attests to the effectiveness of this technique. Others are very rare examples within Victoria of the 'galloway' or 'filigree' form. They are significant parts of a broader Mount Kororoit Farm dry stone wall precinct that is of State significance.

Mount Kororoit Homestead, 2-88 Leakes Road, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, Mount Kororoit Homestead, off Mount Kororoit Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 063
Citation No.: 151
Place: Plumpton Dam

Other Names of Place: Plumpton Park
Location: 412-518 Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (likely 1850s – 1880s).
Existing Heritage Listings: Identified in Western Region, Rural Heritage Study, as being of ‘at least Regional’ significance.¹⁶
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The Plumpton Dam at 412-518 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest is significant as a rare, and the second largest known, drystone wall private pastoral dam in Victoria. It is also the second largest of a series of

¹⁶ ‘Rural Heritage Study, Western Region of Melbourne’ (Context Pty Ltd, Western Region Commission, 1994), pp.161, 163-64

at least four large and medium sized drystone dams built on the former WJT Clarke *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. The Plumpton Dam on Plumpton Road Diggers Rest is almost completely intact.

The Plumpton Dam at 412-518 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest is structurally and aesthetically significant at the STATE level. (AHC D2, E1, F1) It is a very substantial and impressive structure, approximately 140 metres long, which continues to operate as a dam. It is a finely constructed bluestone structure, employing an unusual construction technique of 'dry' construction, without mortar. Unlike the similar *Rockbank* Headstation Dam, all of its stones are roughly worked or squared. Its wall is roughly coursed, each course using similar sized stones. The massive coping stones, of uniform size and well laid, make a significant contribution to the unique aesthetic value of the place. The dam wall contains an angle towards its centre. The earth embankment behind the wall appears to have retained its shape and original form to a unique degree. The excellent integrity and condition of the drystone wall face contribute to the dam's very high aesthetic value, as does its intact rural context. The dam also retains intact return abutment walls at both ends. Together with other similar dams built on the Clarke *Rockbank* estate, it represents an innovative design solution to local climatic and geographical challenges.

The former Plumpton Dam at 412-518 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest is historically significant at the STATE level. (AHC B2, H1) It is the second-largest of a series of at least four large and medium sized drystone dams to have been built on the Clarkes' *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. No comparable structure or group of structures, comprising long stone dam walls over wide shallow gullies, is known elsewhere in Victoria. This grand scheme was a local response to the particularly low rainfall of the plains area, the difficulty of sinking 'tank' dams in the shallow bedrock of the area, and the local availability of bluestone. Smaller Melton pastoralists and farmers constructed much smaller and more makeshift dams which were also variations on the same principle.

The dam is also significant for its association with Australia's mid nineteenth century pastoral giant WJT Clarke, and his son Sir WJT Clarke, Victoria's leading citizen in the late nineteenth century, and Australia's first baronet. The dam is expressive of the strategic and inherent importance of the 40,000 acre *Rockbank* property to the Clarke pastoral empire, especially in relation to the fattening and delivery of sheep for the Newmarket meat trade. The massive structure also conveys a sense of the scale of the *Rockbank* station, whose domination of the Melton Shire was an increasingly acute grievance to local farmers, culminating in the break-up of the estate in the early twentieth century. It is a major relic of the era of large pastoral estates close to Melbourne.

The dam is also significant for its associations with Australia's first 'Plumpton' greyhound coursing enclosure, built by Sir WJ Clarke immediately adjacent to the dam in 1882-83, from which its name derives; and with Harry Houdini's 1910 flight, one of the claimants to the first powered flights in Australia, which occurred on the same paddock.

Overall, the Plumpton Dam at 412-518 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest is of STATE significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 064
Citation No.: 152
Place: 'Plumpton Park', 412-518 Plumpton Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 412-518 Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: c.1922
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Plumpton Park at 412 Plumpton Road Diggers Rest is significant as an intact example of a small early twentieth century farmstead with a moderately intact interwar homestead Bungalow styled dwelling. Built c.1922, the house has experienced some alterations.

The house at Plumpton Park, 412 Plumpton Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended towards the rear, the house still demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar homestead Bungalow style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the minor hipped roof that projects towards the side and the broken back return

verandah formed under the main roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, deep red painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, broad eaves with exposed timber rafters, timber verandah posts, capped timber verandah balustrade, timber framed double hung windows with nine paned upper sashes and the timber framed front doorway. The windbreak of mature cypresses contributes to the setting of the place.

Plumpton Park at 412 Plumpton Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is an example of the small farming established in the wake of the break-up of the large pastoral estates that dominated the Shire of Melton in the nineteenth century, in particular those associated with the Clarke estate (AHC A.4 and D.2). This was a turning point in the history of Melton Shire. With the name Plumpton Road, its name recalls Australia's first 'Plumpton' greyhound coursing enclosure, built by Sir WJ Clarke to the south west of the farmstead. This site is also significant for the adjacent Clarke's Plumpton Dam (identified separately), and for Harry Houdini's 1910 flight, one of the claimants to the first powered flights in Australia.

Overall, Plumpton Park at 412 Plumpton Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 065
Citation No.: 164
Place: Rocklands Dam, 131-199 Townsings Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest (Lot 2 PS 510632)
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.late nineteenth century).
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former *Rocklands* dam at 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest is significant as an example of a type of dams that was constructed in nineteenth century Melton by small pastoralists and established farmers in an attempt to counteract the extremely dry local climate. Its dry-stone construction with roughly worked bluestone is also aesthetically pleasing, and an excellent example of one type of dam structure in the area.

The former *Rocklands* dam at 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest is aesthetically and structurally significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2). It is a neatly constructed and highly intact dry-stone

structure which uses partly shaped local bluestone and fieldstone. It is a fully functional and moderately sized dam of the area.

The former *Rocklands* dam at 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC B2). It is a more moderately sized example of at least four other similar, very well built, dam structures in the Shire, three of which were built on the Clarke *Rockbank* pastoral estate. These dams express the importance of water in the extremely dry local climate. They may also have been related to the difficulty of excavating large 'tanks' (paddock dams) in the area, much of which has high bluestone bedrock. It is believed to have been built by William Beaty, of the pioneering Diggers Rest family that has been prominent in local affairs.

Overall, the *Rocklands* dam is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 066
Citation No.: 168
Place: Bridge Road Bridge

Other Names of Place: -
Location: Carrying Bridge Road over Toolern Creek, Melton South
Critical Dates: 1913 (Construction)
Existing Heritage Listings: None¹⁷
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Bridge Road Bridge is an early (1913) and relatively intact example of a concrete girder bridge built by Sir John Monash for the Shire of Melton. It was built to provide railway station access to the

¹⁷ The bridge was identified as being of local heritage significance in a Monash University typological study of Sir John Monash concrete bridges: Lesley Alves, Alan Holgate, Geoff Taplin, *Monash Bridges Typological Study: Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Victoria, 1897-1917* (Monash University, Faculties of Engineering and Arts, second edition, September 1998)

new farming areas being opened by the break-up of the pastoral estates, in particular the Closer Settlement Board's Exford Estate. Its setting in a deep gully enhances its aesthetic significance.

The Bridge Road Bridge is aesthetically and technically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC F1). It is an early, moderately intact example of a reinforced concrete girder bridge in Victoria. It is a fine intact example of (later Sir) John Monash's functionalist approach to bridge-building in reinforced concrete as the most economical way of providing a permanent structure on country roads. It dates to the formative period in concrete beam and slab construction, which became widespread in the 1910s and 20s.

The Bridge Road Bridge is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It was designed and built by prominent Australian John Monash, and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Company. The bridge is also significant as the major expression in Melton of the public works associated with the new farming era associated with the break-up of the Shire's vast pastoral estates, and in particular with the extensive work of the Closer Settlement Board. More generally the bridge is an excellent example, in period engineering style, of the early twentieth century policy of building bridges to connect farms with railway stations, and in particular the demand for such roads and bridges by the farmers on newly subdivided pastoral estates.

Overall, the Bridge Road Bridge is significant at a LOCAL level.

Heritage Overlay No.: 068
Citation No.: 177
Place: 'Kippenross', 429-455 Bulmans Road

Other Names of Place: -
Location: 429-455 Bulmans Road, Melton West
Critical Dates: 1915
Existing Heritage Listings: Identified as being of 'Local' significance in Western Region, Rural Heritage Study (M28).¹⁸
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

'Kippenross' at 429-455 Bulmans Road, Melton, is significant as a predominantly intact and elaborate local example of a Late Victorian Picturesque style and as an historical legacy of the prosperous horse stud and later hay property established by the Miller, Watt and Robinson families. The underground

¹⁸ 'Rural Heritage Study, Western Region' (Context Pty Ltd, Western Region Commission, 1994), pp.130-131

tank, which has its top removed also contributes to an understanding of the evolution and development of the place, and the use of nineteenth century technology.

'Kippenross' at 429-455 Bulmans Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). Although sympathetically extended at the rear, the house demonstrates several original design qualities of a Late Victorian Picturesque style. These qualities include the hipped roof forms, together with the minor gable that projects towards the front and the encircling verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, polychrome brick wall construction, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, two face red brick chimneys with projecting rendered tops, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets, small gabled entrance portico on the verandah, turned timber verandah posts, timber verandah floor, elaborate timber framed doorways with four panelled timber doors and sidelights and highlights (including the decorative glazing featuring fox hot scenes, elaborate timber work, pendant and turned timber finial in the gable end, full length timber framed double hung windows, stone window sills, and the face red brick. The small gabled laundry outbuilding, underground rendered tank and the avenue of Sugar Gums nearby, also contribute to the significance of the place.

'Kippenross' at 429-455 Bulmans Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It was associated with *Melton Park* estate established by Harvey Patterson, pastoralist and director of BHP, and later with the late nineteenth century movement to 'break-up' the large pastoral estates. Through introducing mining bores into the district, Patterson was also indirectly responsible for the discovery of bore water, which was developed by the Melton community into a vital resource in the very dry district. The property 'Kippenross' was early associated with Laura Miller, the daughter of Hon. William Pearson, pastoralist, mining investor, politician and horseracing identity of *Kilmany Park* in Gippsland. Her husband Percy Miller was a prominent figure in the establishment of the Melton Sparrow Shooting Club whose membership soon included state, national and international champion shooters. The 'Kippenross Cup', awarded to the winner of the Melton Championship shooting team matches, was donated by Miller. Three generations of the Robinson family, Melton's pioneering hay making farmers, lived on the property, including George Errol Robinson, who served four terms as Melton Shire President, and who died on the way home to 'Kippenross' from a Council meeting. A member of the Robinson family served on Council for most years in the twentieth century. GE Robinson's family donated the President's Seat – the carved chair used by Melton Shire Presidents since 1966.

'Kippenross' at 429-455 Bulmans Road is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). The property was identified as a place valued by the community at a heritage study forum.

Overall, 'Kippenross' at 429-455 Bulmans Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 069
Citation No.: 181
Place: Melton Cemetery

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Corner of Centenary Avenue and O’Neills Road, Melton
Critical Dates: 1861-62 (establishment)
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Melton Cemetery on the corner of O’Neills Road and Centenary Avenue is significant; as the only official cemetery to have existed in the Shire of Melton; for its historical and social significance to the district; for the architecture of its headstones and graves; for its relatively meagre beautification, which is to some extent expressive of the distinctive dry climate and rocky ground of the district, and as the place of interment of locally and nationally notable persons.

The Melton Cemetery is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). The architecture of many of its headstones, and the arrangement of many of its graves, portray changes in style and taste since the 1860s; a number display a skilful use of carved marble. The cemetery is a good example of funerary customs and tastes dating from the mid-nineteenth century in a predominantly rural district.

The Melton Cemetery is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC B2, H1). It is thought to contain the remains of numerous Aboriginals, and the remains of many of the district's early European settlers. Its headstones record much of the history of the area. Famous horticulturalist Baron von Mueller originally chose trees to beautify the cemetery. While it is unlikely that any specimens of his exotic species survive (two associated with him are thought to have been removed, and the few exotic species that survive in the cemetery are poor specimens), the she-oaks that predominate today were also a major species recommended by von Mueller. Although far from traditional in terms of its plantings, the cemetery is a prominent example of the thwarted attempts by Europeans to establish traditional plantings in the dry and bushfire-prone climate, and on the rocky ground that characterises the Melton district.

The Melton Cemetery is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC, G1). It is valued by many of Melton's residents whose ancestors, family or friends are buried there.

Heritage Overlay No.: 070
Citation No.: 188
Place: Darlingsford Barn

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 13-15 Darlingsford Boulevard, Melton
Critical Dates: Construction: c.early 1870s
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Darlingsford Barn, at 13-15 Darlingsford Boulevard, Melton, is significant as the only physical legacy of a small farm that was situated on this site from at least 1862 until the 1970s, and which was one of the most prominent and successful in the Melton area. This Victorian vernacular] styled building has been substantially altered and converted into a function centre.

Darlingsford Barn at 13-15 Darlingsford Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is a rare relic of a farm building from the original (c.1850s-80s) farming period in the Shire. It is almost certainly associated with Cr Ralph Parkinson JP, twice President of the Shire of Melton, a progressive farmer who introduced steam traction engines and threshing machines into the district, and who was a pioneer of use of manures of various descriptions on pasture as well as crops, local carter,

and renowned for his local charity. The farm itself was one of the most successful in Melton, having subsequently been associated with the racehorse interests of Cr Richard Manning, proprietor of the Raglan Hotel, and also President of the Shire of Melton; and CE Barrie, prominent in the important Melton chaff industry, and owner of chaff mills in Melton, Parwan, Footscray and Diggers Rest.

Darlingsford Barn at 13-15 Darlingsford Road is aesthetically and socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC E.1, G.1). It is a distinctive and quite imposing farm building, situated near the centre of Melton, near the picturesque Toolern Creek, and constructed of the bluestone that is geographically and historically so closely associated with the locality. The efforts of the community to preserve it as an historical landmark were eventually realised in its restoration for a community function centre (although much damage had been done to the building before this could be achieved).

Darlingsford Barn at 13-15 Darlingsford Road has architectural interest. The broad gable roof form and coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction are important Victorian vernacular design elements that may reflect the original form and construction of this considerably altered building.

Overall, the former Darlingsford Barn is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 071
Citation No.: 189
Place: Melton South State School No. 3717

Other Names of Place: Formerly known as 'Melton Railway School'.
Location: 34-46 Exford Road, Melton South
Critical Dates: 1923
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

The Melton South State School No.3717, 34-46 Exford Road, Melton South, is significant for its associations with the development of State education in this area of Melton. Built in 1923, the original school building also has significance as an example of a modest interwar school design, and while it has been substantially extended and altered, the original form and design is clearly discernible.

The original building of the Melton South State School No.3737, 34-46 Exford Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although extended and altered, it still demonstrates some original design qualities for an interwar school building. These qualities include the broad gable roof form, together with the minor gable that projects at the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, wide eaves, decorative gable infill (timber brackets, panelling and timber

battening and the timber lattice ventilators), small timber framed windows on the front gable (currently boarded over) with concrete lintels and sills, and the 'Melton South School No.3717' title panel between these windows.

The Melton South State School No.3717, 34-46 Exford Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is an expression of the State primary school system, and of the formation of the 'Melton Railway Station' community at the time, and of its efforts to have a purpose-built school for their children. With the railway station building itself, it is the only remaining early public building remaining in Melton South.

The Melton South State School No.3717, 34-46 Exford Road, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It is recognised and valued by the Melton South community for educational reasons.

Overall, the Melton South State School No. 3717, 34-46 Exford Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 072
Citation No.: 193
Place: House, 2 Exford Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 2 Exford Road, Melton South
Critical Dates: Originally constructed c.1929-1930; Relocated and rebuilt on current site: 1939-1940.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 2 Exford Road, Melton South, has significance as intact example of an interwar Bungalow style. The house was originally built in Diggers Rest c.1929, and moved to its present location c.1939-40.

The house at 2 Exford Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Bungalow style. These qualities include the hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with gable roof forms that project at the front and side (towards the rear) that are linked by the flat roofed porch. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, unpainted galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding,

horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, face brick chimney with a soldier course top, wide eaves, timber brackets supporting the projecting gable ends, projecting flat roofed faceted bay windows under the projecting gables, timber framed double hung windows, face brick corner porch pier and the timber shingling, small timber brackets and oval timber ventilation openings in the gable ends.

The house at 2 Exford Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC B2, H1) for its association with the Robinson Brothers chaff mills in both Diggers Rest and Melton South. It is a rare surviving place directly associated with the highly important hay and chaff industries in the region, Melton chaff being regarded as the best in Australia. As all of the chaff mills having since burnt down this is the perhaps the only remaining building associated with the industry in the Shire.

Overall, the house at 2 Exford Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 073
Citation No.: 195
Place: House, 54-56 Exford Road

Other Names of Place: The house and farm were originally known as *Glenloth*.
Location: 54-56 Exford Road, Melton South
Critical Dates: Construction: c.1910
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 54-56 Exford Road, Melton South, formerly known as *Glenloth*, is significant as a predominantly intact example of an Edwardian style. It is a good example of a house built as a result of the activities of the Closer Settlement Board's sale of the former Staughton Exford Estate. It is also significant for its association with its original owner, Austin Exell, who conducted a model farm on the property,

The house at 54-56 Exford Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the minor gable and bullnosed verandah that project towards the road. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, galvanised

corrugated steel roof cladding, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, modest eaves, face brick chimney with a multi-corbelled top, timber framed double hung windows, timber framed front doorway, bracketed timber window hood on the front gable and the timber truss and bargeboards on the front gable end.

The house at 54-56 Exford Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is one of few remaining Melton Shire houses built as a result of the Closer Settlement Board's subdivision of the major Staughton pastoral estate, *Exford*. The Exford Estate was one of the earliest, largest, and best-known of the estates created under the Closer Settlement Act 1904. It expresses one of the major themes of Australia's history - the contest between large pastoralists and small farmers for the land - and the abiding power of the yeomanry ideal well into the twentieth century. The break up of the massive pastoral estates at the beginning of the twentieth century marked a major new era in the history of Melton. The Shire was transformed by the Closer Settlement and Soldier Settlement Acts, as the emergence of new communities necessitated new roads and bridges and new primary schools. While the former *Glenloth* house is now in a suburban context and has completely lost its farming context, its proximity to and historical links with some important infrastructure products of the Exford Estate - the Melton South primary school, and the Bridge Road concrete bridge - adds to its significance. The property is significant for its association with Mr Austin Exell, for whom it was built, who conducted a model farm on the property. Other settlers of the new estates also included some of Melton's most historically celebrated residents, such as international trap shooter Hector Fraser. Other sons of the new farmers are commemorated on memorials of the world wars. The Exford Estate is also of significance as the estate in where, with Colbinabbin, the Board introduced English immigration as part of the development of its closer settlement estates, and prepared the land in anticipation of their arrival. The former *Glenloth* house is also significant for its association with Austin Exell, who established a model Fresian dairy and prizewinning stud on the property, then known as *Glenloth*.

Overall, the house at 54-56 Exford Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 074
Citation No.: 199
Place: 'Parklea', 148-200 Abey Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 148-200 Abey Rd, Melton South (Off Fraser Street)
Critical Dates: Construction of house: 1935
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

'Parklea' at 148-200 Abey Rd, Melton South, is significant as an intact example of a modest interwar Bungalow style house, and for its association with the locally prominent Robinson family. The rear outbuildings may be earlier than the Interwar Bungalow.

The house at 148-200 Abey Rd, Melton South, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a modest interwar Bungalow style. These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the verandah gable that projects towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, green painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, brick chimney, broad eaves with exposed timber rafters, brick verandah piers,

timber framed double hung windows (including the banks of three at the front), timber framed door opening with sidelight and the gable infill (sheet panelling and vertical timber battening).

'Parklea' at 148-200 Abey Rd, Melton South, is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC E.1). The setting of the property demonstrates important visual qualities as defined by the long drive flanking mature peppercorn trees, mature cypress trees nearby the house and the rear outbuildings.

'Parklea' at 148-200 Abey Rd, Melton South, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC B2, H1). It is a relatively scarce remaining example of an interwar farming property in the Shire. It is also associated with the Robinson family, who were Melton's pioneering hay making farmers. A member of the family was represented on the Melton Council for most years in the twentieth century; the Robinson family donated the 'President's Seat', the carved chair used by Melton Shire Presidents since 1966. The outbuildings, tank stand and huts and plantings constitute noteworthy evidence of an earlier farming complex.

Overall, 'Parklea' at 148-200 Abey Road, Melton South is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 075
Citation No.: 208
Place: Former Melton Reservoir

Other Names of Place: Hannah Watts Park (Pond).
Location: Hannah Watts Park, High Street, Melton
Critical Dates: c.1879-1882
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former Melton Reservoir, now an ornamental duck pond in the Hannah Watts Park, High Street, Melton, comprises the excavated earth tank or reservoir, and a small bluestone structure on the Toolern Creek that was part of an inlet portal to the Reservoir.

The former Melton Reservoir, Hannah Watts Park, High Street, Melton, is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2, B2, H1) as Melton's major nineteenth century attempt to address its vulnerability to the particularly low rainfall of the district and provide a dependable supply of healthy drinking water in the town. Like every other early public work scheme attempted, the success of the Reservoir in achieving its objectives was limited, and the town was essentially dependent on bore and tank water until the provision of reticulated water from the Djerriwarrh Dam in 1963.

The former Reservoir was also used as a town swimming pool in the mid nineteenth century. In recent decades it was developed into Melton's most prominent passive recreation park, at the gateway of the Melbourne approach to the town. Its pre-eminent position in the town is highlighted by its being named after honoured resident Hannah Watts, the midwife of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Melton. Since the demolition of her former homes, *Lynch's Cottage*, and *Rosebank*, the former reservoir reserve has also acquired significance as the prime monument to a woman who was venerated in her time for her contribution to the local community.

Overall, the former Melton Reservoir on High Street Melton is of LOCAL heritage significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 076
Citation No.: 210
Place: Former Melton Courthouse

Other Names of Place: Melton Court House, Melton Tourist Information Centre.
Location: 323-329 High Street, Melton
Critical Dates: Constructed 1892.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The former Melton Court House (now the Melton Tourist Information Centre), 323-329 High Street, Melton, is significant as the only surviving brick example of a Federation styled court house building in Victoria. Built in 1892 at a cost of £857.11.0 by building contractors, Brooke and Brundell to a design by the Public Works Department Architect, Samuel E. Bindley, the former court house is predominantly intact.

The former Melton Court House is architecturally significant at a STATE level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style which are rare for a late nineteenth century court house building. These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the elevated gable roof form (comprising the court room) and the skillion verandah with gable entrance portico that projects towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical

composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, slate roof cladding, two face brick and multi-corbelled chimneys, modest eaves, three small horizontally-proportioned, flat-arched, timber framed 3-paned clerestorey windows with cream brick voussoirs in the court room gable end, decorative gable infill (stuccoed panelling and timber battening supported by timber brackets) in the court room and verandah gable ends, decorative timber gable bargeboards, turned timber verandah posts, decorative timber verandah brackets, framed turned timber fretwork valance in the verandah gable (and the framing only in the remainder of the verandah), flat-arched timber framed double hung windows with cream brick voussoirs and the timber framed doorway with transom above.

The former Melton Court House is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, H.1). It is one of only two early buildings remaining in Melton's main shopping street, and the only nineteenth century building in the street. Its design and construction quality express the historical role of government in the community, in particular in regard to law and order and the administration of justice.

Overall, the former Melton Court House is of STATE significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 077
Citation No.: 211
Place: War Memorial, Melton

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: High Street, Melton
Critical Dates: 1920s, 1998.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The First World War, Second World War, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials, on High Street Melton have significance as important memorials to the local soldiers who fought and died in these wars.

The obelisk war memorial on High Street Melton is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.1, E.1). It demonstrates important visual qualities that include the smooth finished granite obelisk supported by the stepped rough faced and tooled granite pedestal on a concrete base.

The war memorials on High Street Melton are historically and socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, H.1, G.1). They are associated with the local soldiers who fought and died in the First World War (1914-1919), the Second World War (1939-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953) and the Vietnam War (1962-1973). The earlier obelisk memorial is of the predominant and instantly recognisable form of war memorial erected all over Australia following the First World War. The recent memorial is also expressive of a veterans-led 1990s movement to heal social divisions created by the Vietnam War, and to accord due recognition to those who served in it. It was opened by the Australian Deputy Prime Minister in 1998. The prominent location of the memorials in the Melton townscape attests the high cultural and commemorative value in which they are held by the local community.

Overall, the First World War Memorial and Vietnam War Memorial off High Street, Melton, are of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 078
Citation No.: 212
Place: Staughton Memorial

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: High Street, Melton
Critical Dates: 1903
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Staughton Memorial on High Street, Melton, is significant as a memorial to Captain S.T. Staughton, D.S.O, M.L.A., scion of the locally prominent Staughton family who died at a young age.

The Staughton Memorial on High Street, Melton, is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC. D.2). It demonstrates some important early design qualities that include the fluted cast iron lamp stand

and ovoid lamp, and the tapered pedestal with the round-arched incised panel that relates the dedication of the memorial.

The Staughton Memorial on High Street, Melton, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC H.1) for its association both with Captain Staughton, awarded the DSO in the Boer War, and the Staughton family who were early settlers, large pastoral landholders, and patrons of local causes. It also conveys something of the importance of the British Empire within Australia at that time. Its form also preserves an early and evocative type of streetscape furnishing.

The Staughton Memorial on High Street, Melton, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It has been maintained by the local Council and community in the main street since its construction.

Overall, the Staughton Memorial on High Street, Melton, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 079
Citation No.: 213
Place: Former Melton Mechanics' Institute

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 222-230 High Street, Melton
Critical Dates: Removal of hall (now demolished) to the site: late 1890s; building of brick façade: 1910; enlargements and alterations: 1925; demolition of rear hall and replacement by the present Melton Community Hall: 1983.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Community'
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former Mechanics' Institute building, at 222-230 High Street, Melton, built 1910, has significance as a predominantly intact example of an elegant Late Victorian style and for its associations with the development of the local Mechanics' Institute, an organization that was first established in Melton in 1868. The building was at the core of the social life of Melton, particularly during the early twentieth century, and to a lesser extent until the site was transferred to the Shire in 1982. It remains as a landmark of the Melton townscape.

The former Mechanics' Institute building, at 222-230 High Street, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2, E1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary Late Victorian style. These qualities include the rendered parapet with the projecting cornice and flanking parapet piers, central decorative brick parapet and timber flagpole above the main entrance, panelled timber double entrance doors and fanlight accentuated by the rendered drip mould, and the two bays of round arched timber framed double hung windows featuring drip moulds and stringcoursing. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, stringcourse forming the horizontal band at window sill height on the front façade, hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and the face brick chimney with the projecting, rendered and corbelled top.

Although the original hall at the rear was demolished, and a new Community Hall was added adjacent to it in 1983, the three dimensional form and design of the Institute building is intact.

The former Melton Mechanics' Institute building, at 222-230 High Street, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It expresses the movement for education and self improvement and an informed participatory democracy which swept across Victoria in the latter nineteenth century, as well as a need for facilities for entertainment and community life in rural towns from the 1890s. It also represents community life in an era before electronic communication and the motor car became widespread, and when municipalities responsibilities were limited to provision of physical infrastructure services.

The Mechanics' Institute hall (demolished) and the library played a central role in the story of Melton social life, and in the development of its learning, culture, entertainment, celebration, commemoration and many community groups. The building on the site today - with the Court House the only remaining early community or public building remaining in High Street - is a tribute to the energy and talents of the very small Melton community over many years. Its substantial size, brick materials, and the evident use of an architect in its design, sets it apart from most other simple weatherboard Mechanics' Institutes that were built in smaller country towns in Victoria. The financing and upkeep of this building, which was community-owned until 1982, and built on land purchased by the community rather than granted by Government, itself contributed to the coming together of the Melton community in decision making and fundraising. Although the original hall is demolished, the 1983 Melton Community Hall adjacent is partly its successor, demolition of the Institute hall having been predicated on its construction.

The surviving brick front portion of the Institute was opened by the Hon. J Murray, Premier of Victoria in 1910.

The former Mechanics' Institute building, at 222-230 High Street, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It is recognised and valued by the Melton community as having been an important meeting place for cultural and recreational activities, and continues to make a significant contribution to the sense of place in Melton.

Overall, the former Mechanics Institute building, at 222-230 High Street, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 080
Citation No.: 214
Place: Walnut Tree, High Street Melton

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 222-230 High Street Melton, on lawn between Shire Chambers and Community Centre (Allotment 8 Section 1)
Critical Dates: 1930s.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Walnut Tree at 222-230 High Street Melton, planted by blacksmith Gordon Macdonald sometime between the 1930s and the early 1950s, is of heritage significance as the only remnant of the once-important blacksmith industry in Melton, and the site of the most historically important blacksmith in the Shire.

The Walnut Tree at 222-230 High Street Melton is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). The tree was planted by Melton's longstanding and final blacksmith, Gordon Macdonald, who operated the old blacksmith for 39 years. It commemorates the important economic role of blacksmiths in the township. Being situated on a major Victorian highway (the first Portland Road, and then the main coach-road to the goldfields of Ballarat and beyond), the township owed its foundation, and much

of its subsequent business, to wayside traffic. The site marks the location of one of the very early blacksmiths, established c.1854 during the goldrush, in an area where a number of other blacksmith shops subsequently established. It recalls the site of by far the longest running blacksmith in the Melton Shire, the site continuing in operation until 1961, its weatherboard building demolished c.1966. Both A Cameron and JB Whittington, prominent blacksmiths in the Shire, learnt their trades from A Blackwood at this site; the site was later associated with other prominent local blacksmiths W Whittington and G Macdonald. Blackwood and Cameron were also very prominent citizens, and leaders of numerous initiatives in the township.

The tree is also a healthy and prominent specimen of a species that is rare in the Shire. At an estimated at c.55 – 70 years of age, it is one of the oldest of the surviving exotic species in High Street.

The Walnut Tree at 222-230 High Street Melton is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). The tree was identified as being a place valued by the local community at a heritage study forum.

Overall, the Walnut Tree at 222-230 High Street Melton is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 081
Citation No.: 216
Place: Coronation Tree, Hannah Watts Park

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton
Critical Dates: 1952
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton, is of heritage significance as the expression of the Melton community's celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, and of local affection for the new monarch. It is also a very fine specimen of a Mexican cypress tree.

The Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1). It was planted by local dignitaries with all formality, and in the presence of the entire Melton State School No.430, to celebrate and mark the occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June 1953. It is expressive of the colossal popular interest in the monarchy and ties

with Empire at the time, as evident in the huge crowds that turned out to greet the young new monarch when she visited Australia the following summer. It is the only known public memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, and the monarchy, in the Shire. The tree is also prominently situated beside the main road, in the main public reserve.

The Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). The tree was identified as being a place valued by the local community at a heritage study forum. It is a very fine specimen of a Mexican cypress (*cupressus lusitanica*).

Overall, the Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 082
Citation No.: 220
Place: Melton Valley Golf Course

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Yuille Street, Melton.
Critical Dates: 1848-1855 (Pyke settlement) to mid twentieth century (establishment of Golf Club)
Existing Heritage Listings: Western Region Heritage Study (Pykes Graves).¹⁹
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street, is significant for the variety of locally important historical themes and events that are associated with the place, and with the remnant fabric which represents some of these events.

¹⁹ Walker, M, Johnston, C, Boyce, C, 'Melbourne Western Region Heritage Study: Evidence of Change' (Melbourne Western Region Commission, 1986), p.259

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). The links retain unique evidence of some important themes and events in the history of Melton. The 1850 and 1855 graves and headstones of the Pyke brothers, whose pastoral station on Toolern Creek (then 'Pennyroyal Creek') was the foundation of the settlement of Melton. Evidence survives, in the form of remnant road pavements and domestic trees and underground tanks, of the original street pattern of Melton, before this flood-prone area was largely abandoned in favour of the higher land, mainly to the west of Yuille Street. Lynch's Cottage, Melton's first hospital, established by the locally revered Hannah 'Grannie' Watts', was historically a highly important domestic building on these streets. Archaeological evidence may also exist in relation to other properties for which historical documentation exists, notably the Melton Hotel, the first hotel in Melton, and the place of the first meetings of the Melton Roads Board (Shire Council) and the first court proceedings in the district. Other sites include those associated with notable local farming and community identities such as Hornbuckle, Minns, and Cecil, such as underground tanks, and cacti. Archaeological evidence of sites of other former places (eg the first 'Combined Church', shops and a Temperance Hotel) that have also been referred to in local historical literature may survive.

The links also has associations with events and themes for which no physical evidence is likely to survive, but which are nonetheless historically significant at the local level. The links now incorporates the former Town Common, which accommodated the first Melton school, and the first church building in the town (the combined Protestant church), and the Gun Club, in which international shooters Donald Mackintosh, and Hector Fraser were nurtured. The area of the links was also the original site of other important sporting events in the town, including horse-races, holiday athletic and cycling sports meetings, coursing events, and hunt club meetings.

A *Pinus radiata* locally known as the 'dairy pine' marks the site of the most successful of the extremely important bore water exploration ventures in the 1890s; this was later the site of a milk cooler.

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). Numerous sites on the links were identified as places significant to the Shire in a Community Workshop.

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The site has the potential to provide archaeological information that assist in the understanding of early settlement in the town of Melton. The site also has a high potential to provide educational interpretation regarding the history of Melton.

Overall, the Melton Valley Golf Course is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 083
Citation No.: 221
Place: 'Raglan's Cottage', High Street

Other Names of Place: 'Raglan's Cottage'
Location: 237 High Street, Melton. (Allotment 7, Section 20, Township of Melton.)
Critical Dates: Nineteenth century (c.late 1850s).
Existing Heritage Listings: Western Region Heritage Study.²⁰
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Raglan's Cottage on High Street, Melton is significant as a now rare and prominent nineteenth century building in Melton. Although its renovation in c.1980 required some alterations, the existing external

²⁰ Walker, M, Johnston, C, Boyce, C, 'Melbourne Western Region Heritage Study: Evidence of Change' (Melbourne Western Region Commission, 1986), p.262

form and construction is a physical embodiment of the development of the residence/store in the nineteenth century. The building has low integrity due to recent renovations.

Raglan's Cottage on High Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is a rare nineteenth century building in the township of Melton, the only other remaining examples being the churches, the state school, and the buildings associated with The Willows. It is the only non-recent commercial building in Melton. Its rarity, its prominent siting (on the main road, and freestanding in an open setting), together with its characteristic nineteenth century construction materials (coursed-rubble bluestone and handmade brick), distinguish it as a key heritage building within the town. It is also situated near the Mechanics Institute, which is the only other building remaining in High Street built before the late twentieth century. It is also historically significant as a gold-era wayside facility, either a shop in its own right, or (likely) for its association with the former Lord Raglan Hotel ('The Raglan'), now demolished, which was Melton's second hotel and a major coach staging point, with large stables to accommodate the teams. Together with the walnut tree opposite it on High Street, marking the site of a former blacksmith, this place would appear to constitute the only remaining evidence of Melton's development as a wayside service town, originally *en route* to the Ballarat and Blackwood goldfields, and lasting until the opening of the direct Melbourne to Ballarat railway in 1889.

Raglan's Cottage on High Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). Although altered it continues to demonstrate some Victorian vernacular design qualities. These qualities include the front hipped roof form, coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction, red hand-made brick quoinwork, window and door openings, single storey height and the narrow eaves. The rear hipped roof form that projects at the side is sympathetic to the front portion, as is the recent corrugated sheet metal roof cladding.

Raglan's Cottage on High Street is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). The Melton Shire has contributed significantly to its restoration, and to the preservation of its amenity (setting and traffic access). It was also identified as a building significant to the Shire in the community workshop held as part of the heritage study.

Overall, Raglan's Cottage on High Street is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 084
Citation No.: 227
Place: Melton Weir

Other Names of Place: Melton Reserve Causeway
Location: Nixon Street Melton (over Toolern Creek)
Critical Dates: Construction: 1890
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The McKenzie Street Weir and Ford over Toolern Creek, built 1890, and now used only as a road causeway, is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2, B2). It represented the realisation of a local idea to mitigate the particularly low rainfall of the Melton district, and was also the second and last attempt to provide a dependable supply of healthy drinking water in the town by means of a major public engineering work. The idea for the weir appears to have originated in an idea of Shire Secretary Stewart in 1886 to build weirs where watercourses required to be bridged. The Council responded positively to the idea of combining bridges with dams, 'a dry district like this'.

While, like all other early public works attempted, the Weir does not appear to have been successful in achieving its objectives, and the town was essentially dependent on bore and tank water until the provision of reticulated water from the Djerriwarrh Dam in 1963.

The weir, now used only as a road, stands as a substantial testament to the problem of water in Melton, and a local attempted resolution of the problem.

Overall, the McKenzie Street Weir and Ford over Toolern Creek is of LOCAL heritage significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 085
Citation No.: 228
Place: House, 'Dunvegan'

Other Names of Place: Original Melton Police Station
Location: The Willows Historical Park, 68-74 Reserve Road, Melton
Critical Dates: C.early 1870s
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Dunvegan within The Willows Historical Park, 68-74 Reserve Road, Melton, is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian style. Originally built c.1870, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street. It was demolished and rebuilt on its present site in 1977.

Dunvegan within The Willows Historical Park, 68-74 Reserve Road, Melton, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). Although relocated to and reconstructed at this site, the house still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form, together with the verandah that projects at the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction, corrugated profile sheet metal roofing (but not the zincalume finish), narrow eaves, timber

verandah columns, bevelled timber verandah valances, vertical timber boarded fretwork verandah infill at the sides, central timber framed door opening with highlight, and the timber framed 12 paned double hung windows.

Dunvegan within The Willows Historical Park is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4 B2). As well as having been a residence, the building has served a variety of public uses, including the town's first police station (for which purpose it was originally built), Mechanic's Institute library, Civil Defence headquarters and State Emergency Service store. It is a rare surviving early bluestone building within the town of Melton.

Dunvegan is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). The relocation of the building in The Willows Historical Park is expressive the community's value of the old bluestone building, a relic of its early days, in a period of major redevelopment within the town.

Overall, *Dunvegan* within The Willows Historical Park at Melton is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 086
Citation No.: 229
Place: 'Macs Cottage'

Other Names of Place: The Willows Historical Park
Location: 68-74 Reserve Road, Melton
Critical Dates: c.1913-14
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house known as Macs Cottage in The Willows Historical Park, Melton, has significance as a moderately intact example of a Late Victorian style. Although relocated, the general form, construction and rudimentary detailing is reflective of late nineteenth and very early twentieth century architectural development.

The house known as Macs Cottage in The Willows Historical Park, Melton, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although relocated to this site, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal roofing, narrow eaves, central timber framed doorway with four panelled timber door and highlight above,

flanking timber framed double hung windows, and the turned timber verandah posts. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the setting of the place.

The house known as Macs Cottage in The Willows Historical Park, Melton, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4 B2). It is a rare remaining example of a turn of the century house in the town of Melton, and the only building associated with one of the town's original nineteenth century hotels.

Macs Cottage is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). The relocation of the building in The Willows Historical Park is expressive the community's value of the building and the former 'Mac's' (or Minns) hotel with which it was associated during a period of major redevelopment in the town.

Overall, the house known as Macs Cottage in The Willows Historical Park, Melton, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 087
Citation No.: 230
Place: House, 32 O'Neills Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 32 O'Neills Road, Melton
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.1905)
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 32 O'Neills Road, Melton, is significant as a moderately intact example of a Late Victorian style and for its associations with residential developments in Melton in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The house at 32 O'Neills Road is of architectural interest. Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, brick chimney (but not the overpainting), narrow eaves, corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding, central timber framed door opening and the turned timber verandah posts.

The house at 32 O'Neills Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC B2). It is now a rare example of a house of its period in Melton, and a unique representation of the town's history. This is enhanced by its prominent location. It is also expressive of the farming history of the Shire.

Overall, the house at 32 O'Neills Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 088
Citation No.: 232
Place: Former Wesleyan Methodist Church

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 66 – 76 Palmerston Street, Melton
Critical Dates: 1867
Existing Heritage Listings: none
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church at 66 – 76 Palmerston Street, Melton is significant as a moderately intact example of a Victorian Primitive Gothic Revival style and as an historical legacy of the development of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Melton in the nineteenth century.

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church at 66 – 76 Palmerston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). Although there is a recent small gable addition at one end, the Church building still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Primitive Gothic Revival style. These qualities include the parapeted steeply pitched gable roof form and coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the corrugated sheet metal roof cladding,

pointed arched timber framed windows openings (albeit currently blocked up), and the small vertical lancet in both gable ends.

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church at 66 – 76 Palmerston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is the oldest surviving church in the Shire of Melton, and as an expression of the importance of religion in the period. It also represents the post gold-rush period of community consolidation in which many small bluestone buildings were erected in townships on Victoria's basalt plains. Its modest size and simple style probably reflect the size, beliefs, and affluence of the congregation that built it.

Overall, the former Wesleyan Methodist Church at 66 – 76 Palmerston Street is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 089
Citation No.: 237
Place: House, 'Balmoral Farm'

Other Names of Place: McIntosh Property
Location: 2120-2224 Melton Highway, Melton.
Critical Dates: c.1914
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 2120 Melton Highway, Melton is significant as one of number of surviving weatherboard houses built in the first decades of the twentieth century as a result of the break up of the Clarke pastoral estate; and as one of only two surviving dwellings with Federation design qualities constructed by the same builder for properties created in the break-up of the Clarke estate. Also of significance is the underground domical rendered brick water tank at the rear, reflecting nineteenth century water storage practices no longer in use. The dwelling is of limited architectural interest as an altered example of a Federation style. Although the context and setting of the original house has been substantially compromised, the essential form, design and construction survive.

The house at 2120 Melton Highway, Melton is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is one of a number of surviving rural weatherboard houses built in the first few decades of the twentieth century which express the increasing rural prosperity and historic changes of the era, and in particular the break-up of the large pastoral estates, a major contemporary event in Australia's history. The break-up of the Exford, Overnewton and Melton Park estates, and most particularly Sir RHT Clarke's massive Rockbank estate, represented a major turning point in the history of the Shire. As one of only two surviving dwellings with Federation design qualities constructed by the same builder on former Clarke properties, it has a special association with the break-up of the Rockbank Estate. It is also of significance for its remarkable escape from the devastating 1965 bushfire, for which it gained publicity in statewide media. It is significant for its association with the McIntosh family, an early Melton Shire family, since its construction.

The underground tank at the rear of 2120 Melton Highway, Melton is historically and scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC B2, C2, D2). The rendered brick construction and domical form of the tank is reflective of an underground water storage design widely practised in Australia in the late nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries.

The context and setting for the dwelling have been substantially compromised by later reversible additions, although some original design qualities survive of a Federation style, providing limited architectural interest (there are considered to be more intact example of the type in the Melton Shire). The design qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with the gable that projects at one side and the returned verandah formed under the main roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, deep red painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two partially painted red brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, narrow eaves timber framed double hung windows (some with nine paned upper sashes), timber framed doorway, and the turned timber finials on the gable ends.

Heritage Overlay No.: 090
Citation No.: 240
Place: St. Dominics Roman Catholic Church

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Smith Street, Melton
Critical Dates: 1877
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

St. Dominics Roman Catholic Church, Smith Street, Melton, has significance as a predominantly intact example of a Victorian Early English Gothic Revival style and as a legacy of the development of the Catholic Church in Melton.

St. Dominics Roman Catholic Church, Smith Street, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Early English Gothic Revival style. These qualities include the steeply pitched gable roof, together with the minor gable porch at the front and the rear gabled vestry that projects at the side. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the face brick wall construction, slate roof tiles, modest eaves, pointed arched diamond leadlight windows, pointed arched lancet window with rendered drip mould in the gable end, face brick buttresses with

rendered copings, vertical timber boarded and pointed arched doors, decorative iron hinges to the porch doors and the crosses that adorn the gable ends.

St. Dominics Roman Catholic Church, Smith Street, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is one of only three remaining nineteenth century churches in the Shire of Melton, and the only one to be constructed in unrendered brick.

St. Dominics Roman Catholic Church, Smith Street, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G.1). It is recognised and valued by the local Catholic community of Melton as a symbol of their faith and their history of local participation in faith education.

Overall, St. Dominics Roman Catholic Church, Smith Street, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 091
Citation No.: 241
Place: CJ Melrose Memorial Cairn

Other Names of Place: Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn
Location: 398-446 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield (East bank of Arnold Creek, opposite CJ Melrose Memorial Reserve).
Critical Dates: 1936, 1976
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The reconstructed 'Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn', at 398-446 Clarkes Road Brookfield (opposite the Melrose Memorial Reserve) is significant as a simple vernacular memorial to the famous young Australian aviator who was killed in an air-crash on this site in July 1936. Originally built by the scout group soon after the fatal crash, in 1976 the deteriorated fieldstone cairn was reconstructed by the Melton and District Historical Society to mark the fortieth anniversary of Melrose's death. It is built of the same materials, of the same proportions, and in the same place as the original.

The reconstructed 'Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn' is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1). It is a monument to Charles James Melrose, a famous Australian pioneer aviator, who

attracted international attention in the great London to Melbourne Centenary Air Race of 1934 as the youngest pilot, the only solo pilot, and the only Australian pilot to finish the race. In an age in which aviation feats generated huge public interest, Melrose was universally admired for his modesty and pleasant bearing as well as for his achievements. After his death he was held up as a model for youth, and the construction of the original cairn by a Scout group is a testament to the admiration of youth for an Australian aviation hero.

The reconstructed 'Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn' is socially significant at the LOCAL level (AHC G1). It demonstrates the continuing respect of the Melton community for Melrose, first demonstrated by the rudimentary cairn improvised by locals at the time of the crash.

Overall, the reconstructed 'Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn' is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 092
Citation No.: 242
Place: House, 160 Station Street Melton

Other Names of Place: Overs House
Location: 160 Station Road, Melton (south-east corner of Barries Road)
Critical Dates: c.1956
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 160 Station Road, Melton South, is significant as a highly intact and substantial local example of a postwar waterfall Bungalow style. The house was built in the 1950s for Ted Overs.

The house at 160 Station Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a postwar waterfall Bungalow style, the only known highly intact example of its type in the Melton Shire. These qualities include the long low hipped roof form, together with the minor hip that projects at the front and the rear hip that projects at the side forming a triple fronted asymmetrical composition. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, cream brick veneer wall construction with incised darker brick horizontal bands, roof tiles, broad

eaves, dominant cream brick chimney with its square and double curved 'waterfall' capping in darker brickwork, metal framed and expansive windows including the corner windows, and the front pergola supported by decorative metal trussed columns. The front cream brick fence with regular bays of piers and open metal trusses and gate also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 160 Station Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4 B.2). It was constructed by builder EP (Ted) Overs, Melton's first estate developer, who was also prominent in the social life of the community. Overs' subdivisions and residential buildings predated the great period of residential development in the 1960s and 70s, contributing to Melton's development, and adding variety to the character of the town today. It was one of the first, and the most prominent and distinctive, 1950s brick dwellings in Melton.

Overall, the house at 160 Station Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 093
Citation No.: 245
Place: Melton South Railway Station

Other Names of Place: Formerly Melton Railway Station, Exford Railway Station
Location: Brooklyn Road, Melton South
Critical Dates: Construction of platform and goods shed: 1884; re-erection of signal box and office on site: 1898; station extensions: 1900; station extensions and remodelling: c.1990s.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.²¹
Melton Historical Theme: Transport
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL (at least)



Statement of Significance:

²¹ Andrew Ward's 1988 recommendation for inclusion in the then Government Buildings Register was never considered.

The Melton South Railway Station (including the station building, signal boxes and platforms), Brooklyn Road Melton South, is significant as a rare and moderately intact example of the 'Kaniva' style of railway stations of the late nineteenth century for the extension of the western railway to the South Australian border. Originally built in the town of Leeor in 1898, the station building was relocated to Melton South in 1898. The station represents the origin of the township of Melton South, and in particular its former timber and chaff mill industries.

The Melton South Railway Station is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of the Victorian 'Kaniva' style of railway station buildings. These qualities include the hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, rendered brick chimney with multi-corbelled top, timber framed double hung windows and timber framed door openings, narrow eaves and the broad skillion post-supported verandahs on the road and platform facades. The bitumen platform and the signal boxes also contribute to the significance of the place.

Melton is the oldest of only two remaining Kaniva type stations, a type that was built for the Western (Adelaide) Line. Further, it is the only Kaniva type station to remain in operation as a railway station.

The Melton South Railway Station is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4) as the first stage of the direct Melbourne to Ballarat railway, whose opening in 1884 was attended by dignitaries including the Victorian Premier (Duncan Gillies), Minister for Railways (Alfred Deakin), Solicitor General (James Balfour), and the Sir William Clarke MLC. It was an important new development in the Melton district, which facilitated the development of a number of industries in the area, notably timber and chaff milling, and general rural and town growth. In particular it was the cradle of the township of Melton South. Its central role in the establishment and early community life of this hamlet is illustrated by the operation of a post office from the station in the period 1891 to 1918, and in the name of the area's primary school (1911) as the 'Melton Railway School'. The station is one of very few extant early buildings in Melton South and one of only two surviving Melton South public building (the other being the 1923/25 brick school building). It is also also significant for its unusual origins, being transported from the small western town of Leeor in 1898, and completed in 1900.

Overall, the Melton South Railway Station is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 094
Citation No.: 251
Place: John Campbell Miles Farmhouse Site

Other Names of Place: Miles family homestead site
Location: Shamrock Place, Melton West (Allot. A1 Sec. 6 Parish of Djerriwarrh)
Critical Dates: Establishment pre 1892; Association with JC Miles: until at least 1930s; House survived until sometime between late 1930s and 1953.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The John Campbell Miles farmhouse site in Melton West is significant as a rare surviving relic of the small farms that established in Melton West from the time of Crown land sales in the 1850s; and for its association with John Campbell Miles, the founder and namer of the Mount Isa mining field.

The place consists of the land around the former Miles cottage, extending down to the gullies and flats of Djerriwarrh Creek. The site of the former cottage includes all ruinous fabric and detritus associated with the cottage, and potential archaeological evidence. It includes the small grove of peppercorn trees characteristically associated with early farmhouses, and other remnant plantings, such as prickly pear

and aloe, and, in the native scrub towards Djerriwarrh Creek, wild white irises. Evidence of an underground tank formerly used for domestic purposes is likely to survive. The place is also likely to retain evidence of gold prospecting undertaken by John Campbell Miles (including a shaft dug by him in his adult years).

The John Campbell Miles farmhouse site in Melton West is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). The scant remains of the place are representative of the negligible remaining evidence of nineteenth century small farming in the area west of Melton, and particularly along the Djerriwarrh Creek; the only other more substantial remaining places being two underground water tanks on nearby properties. Its isolated setting, closer to the water source of Djerriwarrh Creek than nearby roads and neighbours, is scarce evidence of early small farming practice.

Its isolated rural setting is also evocative of the reclusive itinerant bushman and prospector, John Campbell Miles, who in 1923 discovered the Mount Isa copper, lead, zinc, silver mine. By the late twentieth century Mount Isa was one of the world's great mines, and a major contributor to the Australian economy. Miles was raised at the cottage and commenced his life of prospecting on the Djerriwarrh Creek which forms the western boundary of the property. As an adult, until at least the 1930s, he intermittently returned to the property, lodging at the then dilapidated and deserted cottage, and sunk a prospecting shaft on one of the gullies of the creek.

The property is expressive of the pervading significance of 1850s Victoria, which had provided ordinary people across the world with new opportunities for wealth, originally from alluvial gold and subsequently from the developing economy and access to rural farms, and which was the origin of a caste of single male prospectors whose lifestyle and achievements are etched into Australia's national folklore. While Thomas Miles, like the majority of diggers, was unsuccessful, the name of his son John Campbell Miles is now celebrated in one of the world's most important mining towns

The John Campbell Miles farmhouse site in Melton West is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). It has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the small farming and domestic lifestyles in the dry Melton Plains area, and to the life of prospector John Campbell Miles.

Overall, the John Campbell Miles farmhouse site in Melton West is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 095
Citation No.: 252
Place: **Former Robinson House Tank, The Bullock Track**

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 122-142 The Bullock Track, Melton West
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (likely c.1888)
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The underground tank at 122-142 The Bullock Track, Melton West is significant as a rare surviving relic of the pockets of small farms that established in Melton West from the time of Crown land sales in the 1850s, as a vestige of the domestic water management that was particularly important on the dry Melton Plains, and for its association with the Robinson family.

The underground tank at 122-142 The Bullock Track, Melton West is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It and another similar underground tank nearby constitute the only substantial physical evidence of the pockets of farming that established in the West Melton area from the mid nineteenth century. It demonstrates the early provision of domestic water supply, a water

storage practice no longer in use, and the critical importance of water management in the dry Melton Plains district. Its final destruction by bushfire is also indicative of a major theme in the Shire's history.

It is also historically significant for its association with three generations of the Robinson family, which was prominent in the history of the Shire of Melton, and after whom a major road is named. The family is credited with developing commercial hay farming on the Melton Plains, previously thought too dry for such, in the late nineteenth century. The family thus pioneered a major twentieth century Melton rural industry, and paved the way for Melton's nationally famous chaff production. The Robinson Brothers also played a leading role in the local chaff milling industry through their ownership of chaff mills at Diggers Rest and Melton South. The family has also been prominent in civic affairs, a member of the family being a Shire Councillor for most of the twentieth century. GE Robinson's family donated the President's Seat – the carved chair used by Melton Shire Presidents since 1966.

The underground tank at 122-142 The Bullock Track , Melton West is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). It has the potential, with other tanks, to contribute to an understanding of the evolution of tank construction, water management, and domestic lifestyles in the dry Melton Plains area.

Overall, the underground tank at 122-142 The Bullock Track, Melton West is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 096
Citation No.: 254
Place: Melton State School No.430

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Unitt Street, Melton
Critical Dates: 1869-70, 1877, 1923-24
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

The Melton State School No. 430, Unitt Street, Melton, is significant as a moderately intact example of nineteenth century State School buildings. The original bluestone building at the far end of the school complex is a rare example of one of only seven Victorian Primitive Gothic styled bluestone Common School buildings in Victoria. The early bluestone addition has significance as one of the Victorian Education Department's "60 type" plans and the early twentieth century brick additions are representative of the Department's interwar design philosophy. Initially built in 1869-70, with the bluestone additions constructed in 1877 and the brick additions in 1924, the school has further significance with the establishment and development of State education in the Melton area.

The Melton State School No. 430, Unitt Street, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). Although slightly altered and extended, the original bluestone building demonstrates rare design qualities of a Common School Victorian Primitive Gothic style. These qualities include simple steeply pitched gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction, and the contextually wide eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the modest scale, single storey height, timber framed multi-paned windows with highlights or hopper sashes, and the narrow vertical ventilation lancet openings.

The early bluestone additions demonstrate original design qualities of the Victorian Education Department's "60-type" Victorian styled plan. These qualities include the gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, coursed, squared rubble bluestone wall construction and the timber framed multi-paned windows. The early twentieth century brick addition, with broad gambrel roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, face brick wall construction, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters and the timber framed windows, also contributes to the architectural significance of the place. The avenue of peppercorn trees along the school boundary further contributes to the aesthetic value of the school complex.

The Melton State School No. 430, Unitt Street, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2) as an early State School, and the only remaining nineteenth century school in the Shire of Melton. It has many historical associations with the life of the Melton community.

The Melton State School No. 430, Unitt Street, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It is recognised and valued by the local Melton community for educational reasons.

Overall, the Melton State School No. 430, Unitt Street, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 097
Citation No.: 256
Place **Djerriwarrh Early Crossing Place**

Other Names of Place: Deep Creek
Location: On old Ballarat Road (disused route), across Djerriwarrh Creek.
Critical Dates: Pre-1858-59
Existing Heritage Listings: VHI
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The old Ballarat Road crossing place over the Djerriwarrh Creek west of Melton, is significant as a rare and highly intact example of a crossing built to accommodate gold-rush traffic. It is also part of a pre gold-rush era crossing place of which evidence of gold-rush era development remains, including a sandstone quarry, tracks, fords, and archaeological evidence that could relate to gold-era shanties and hotels, or a later toll house or school.

The Djerriwarrh crossing place is historically significant at a Local Level (AHC A4, B2, D2) for its association with the internationally significant Victorian goldrush, and as a rare surviving example of a

place built to accommodate 1850s gold-rush traffic. Its context of earlier tracks and fords associated with the original Portland Road has significance as rare evidence of pre gold-era transport in Victoria.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge(1858-9) and its cultural landscape context is scientifically significant at a STATE Level (AHC C2). The bridge retains tool marks associated with its quarrying. The related quarry, below the present bridge, early fords and tracks, and archaeological evidence of nearby wayside places also have high potential to provide information relating to the ephemeral gold-era transport, construction practices, and the way of life.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge and its cultural landscape context is socially significant at a STATE Level (AHC G1). The bridge quarry, early fords, wagon ruts, tracks, cut and fill of an early road, and archaeological evidence of wayside places have special educational value through their potential to interpret the bridge and the era.

Heritage Overlay No.: 098
Citation No.: 263
Place: House, 'Nerowie'

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 155 Nerowie Rd, Parwan
Critical Dates: c. mid 1890s.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house known as *Nerowie* at 155 Nerowie Road, Parwan, has significance as an unusual example of a Victorian Picturesque style and as an historical legacy of residential and pastoral development in the Melton Shire in the late nineteenth century. Built c. mid 1890s for Stephen John Staughton, grandson of Simon Staughton of Exford, the significance of the dwelling is enhanced by its impressive elevated pastoral setting and pine shelter and ornamental plantings. The nearby weatherboard dairy and stone pine shelter plantation also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house known as *Nerowie* at 155 Nerowie Road, Parwan is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian Picturesque style. These qualities include the steeply pitched gable roof form that traverses the site, together with another steeply pitched gable that projects at one end. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single

storey height, asymmetrical composition, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, face brick wall construction, dichromatic brick chimney, narrow eaves, return verandah with a galvanised corrugated steel roof, timber framed window and door openings with timber framed double hung windows and timber and glazed doors with highlights, and the timber finials/pendants and trusses in the gable ends. The nearby weatherboard dairy and stone pine shelter plantation also contribute to the significance of the place. (These are located within the Shire of Moorabool.)

Nerowie is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC B2, H1). It was built for Stephen John Staughton, a President of the Shire of Bacchus Marsh, and third generation of the Staughton pastoral family, which, with the Clarkes and the Chirnsides, were the dominant landholders in north-western Port Phillip region in the nineteenth century. It was built in the final era of pastoral dominance, when political sentiment and economic forces combined to 'break up' huge pastoral estates in favour of 'closer settlement', or farming of the former grazing lands. Together with the other major Staughton properties (*Exford*, *Eynesbury* and *Staughton Vale*), it was sold by the family in the early twentieth century. With the nearby house at No. 285 Nerowie Road, it is the only surviving link with Stephen George Staughton and his demolished mansion, *Brooklyn*. The design of the homestead is also historically significant for its inclusion of a large room, with a number of internal architectural influences, including features of a church, including an apse plan, pointed arch stained glass windows, and statue niches. It would appear to have been a multi-purpose room, which could be used as a chapel by the Staughton family or, perhaps, visiting clergy of different denominations, a recreation room for the family, or a lodge for visiting hunt parties. Such use would accord with Australian pastoral homestead tradition; *Nerowie* might prove to be an outstanding expression of such practices within the actual homestead design.

Overall, *Nerowie* at 155 Nerowie Road, Parwan is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 099
Citation No.: 272
Place: 'Warrawong' Shearing Shed

Other Names of Place: Exford Shearing Shed
Location: 1182 – 1250 Exford Road, Eynesbury (Allot. 22 Sec.A, Parish of Mooradoranook)
Critical Dates: Construction c.late 1850s
Existing Heritage Listings: None (Identified in Western Region Rural Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1994)
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The Warrawong Shearing Shed at 1182 - 1250 Exford Road Exford is significant at the STATE level as a rare and unusual surviving Victorian styled bluestone shearing shed that once formed part of the major nineteenth century pastoral property of *Exford*. The woolshed most likely dates to the mid - late 1850s. The most comparable shearing shed in the Melton Shire is the bluestone building at *Deanside*, which forms part of a nineteenth century complex of pastoral buildings and is included on the Victorian Heritage Register. The building appears to be of moderate integrity. Nearby the woolshed are mid twentieth century mortared random rubble (fieldstone) gate piers, troughs and cattle ramps that contribute to the significance of the place. Adjacent to the shearing shed three large

concrete silos are of LOCAL significance as a legacy of the changing farming practices in the twentieth century and are comparable to the silos at *Eynesbury* Homestead, Melton South, that is also included on the Victorian Heritage Register. They are significant as the most striking evidence of the historic change of use of the property from a major sheep-run, to small farming; and also for their relatively early date (pre-1935), their use of corrugated formwork, and their association with prominent Melbourne industrialist JW Derham. Alterations to the shearing shed also demonstrate this historic change.

The *Warrawong* Shearing shed is architecturally significant at a STATE level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original and unusual design qualities of a Victorian style for a nineteenth century pastoral structure. These qualities include the symmetrical composition and particularly the narrow elevated gable roof form with lower flanking skillion wings, coursed random bluestone wall construction, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding and the tapered bluestone pinnacles adorned with crosses on the main gable end. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the window opening with vertical iron bars, double door opening at the side, and the timber framed window in the upper gable end. The nearby bluestone gate piers, together with the adjacent concrete silos, although of a different period of construction and function, also contribute to the significance of the place as a legacy of the transition from pastoral to farming use in the twentieth century.

The *Warrawong* Shearing shed is historically significant at a STATE level (AHC B2, H1). It is an early example of a superior quality stone shearing shed in Victoria, most probably built in the mid to late 1850s, by Simon Staughton, one of Victoria's most successful and notable squatters. With other pastoral dynasties – principally the Chirnsides and Clarkes – Staughton and then his sons dominated the ownership of the plains and uplands north-west of Port Phillip. With WJT Clarke he was by far the largest landowner in the Shire of Melton. His family became noted contributors to numerous Melton public causes.

The property is also historically significant as an exemplar of the historic early twentieth century transition, throughout rural Australia but particularly in Melton Shire, from large pastoral estates to small farming holdings. This transition was begun by Harry Werribee Staughton, and culminated in the Closer Settlement Board's 'Exford Estate', a famous and early estate of the Board. This association is demonstrated on the property by the evidence of conversions of the woolshed, the 1930s concrete grain and ensilage silos, and later water troughs and random rubble fence and gatepost construction, all evidence of the progressive farming that occurred on the property. The property also gains significance through its associations with several of its owners in this period, notably the internationally prominent early Australian woman racing driver Joan Richardson, and prominent early twentieth century industrialist JW Derham.

The property may retain archaeological evidence of the original *Exford* sheep washing complex, and sheep drafting yards, which would constitute rare evidence of important early pastoral practices, but at this stage there is insufficient evidence to locate this with accuracy.

Overall, the *Warrawong* Shearing shed at 1182 – 1250 Exford Road, Exford is of STATE significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 100
Citation No.: 274
Place: Former Dairy, 1180 Exford Road

Other Names of Place: Redden House and outbuilding
Location: 1180 Exford Road, Exford (Lot 1 PS 514964)
Critical Dates: Original construction: 1907-1911
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The dairy at 1180 Exford Road, Exford, is significant as a rare example of pise construction constructed between 1907 and 1911. It represents only one of two known buildings of this type of construction in the Melton Shire; the more substantial example being Exford Homestead, 255 Exford Road, Melton South. The dairy formed part the property initially owned by Exford Closer Settlement Estate selector Patrick Redden. The dairy appears to be in fair condition when viewed from a distance. A Late Victorian timber weatherboard dwelling is also located on the site is of historical significance and architectural interest. It is also significant for its representation of the Exford Closer Settlement Estate, and the historic break-up of Melton's pastoral estates in the early twentieth century.

The dairy at 1180 Exford Road is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC F.1). The dairy represents an unusual and now rare example of pise (rammed earth) construction in the Melton Shire.

The house and dairy at 1180 Exford Road are historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). They comprise good representative evidence of the break-up of the large pastoral estates at the turn of the twentieth century, which was a turning point in the history of Melton Shire. In particular they constitute a now scarce, and the most prominent and best remaining in-context example, of a farm homestead associated with the original Exford Closer Settlement Estate. The Exford Estate was one of the most prominent of the Victorian Closer Settlement Board's early estates, and with Colbinabbin Estate, the first to set apart part of the estate especially for British immigrants. The house and dairy constitute a good example of the turn of the century small farming way of life that flourished in the Shire, in their original open farm context. The house is also significant for its role as the Exford Post Office for eight years in the mid twentieth century.

The house at 1180 Exford Road has architectural interest. Although most of the verandah posts have been introduced, it still demonstrates some original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, unpainted galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, face red brick chimney with a corbelled top, narrow eaves, turned timber verandah post with decorative brackets, symmetrical composition of the front façade defined by the central timber framed doorway with four panelled door and highlight, and the flanking timber framed double hung windows, and the other timber framed double hung windows.

Overall, the house and dairy at 1180 Exford Road are of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 101
Citation No.: 276
Place: House, 865 Exford Road

Other Names of Place: -
Location: 865 Exford Road, Exford (Lot 1 TP 111335)
Critical Dates: Constructed c.1907; relocated c.1910
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 865 Exford Road, Melton South, has significance as a moderately intact example of a late Edwardian style. Built c.1907 and moved to its present site by 1916. It is also significant for its representation of the Exford Closer Settlement Estate, and the historic break-up of the Melton pastoral estates in the early twentieth century.

The house at 865 Exford Road, Melton South, is of architectural interest. Although relocated and altered, the house still demonstrates a rudimentary Edwardian style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the minor gable and the hipped verandah that project towards the road. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, unpainted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel

roof cladding, face brick chimney with a corbelled top, broad eaves with exposed timber rafters, timber bargeboards on the gable end and the timber framed front door opening.

The house at 865 Exford Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It comprises good representative evidence of the break-up of the large pastoral estates at the turn of the twentieth century, which was a turning point in the history of Melton Shire. In particular it is one of the most prominent and best remaining examples of the dwellings associated with the original Exford Closer Settlement Estate. The Exford Estate was a major early estate of the Victorian Closer Settlement Board and, together with the Colbinabbin Estate, also the first to dedicate part of the estate especially for British immigrants. The relocation of the house from a neighbouring Exford Closer Settlement Estate allotment occurred very soon after it was originally built, and contributes to an understanding of the operation of the Closer Settlement Act, and the failures that were a part of the schemes.

Overall, the house at 865 Exford Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 102
Citation No.: 282
Place: House, 'Glengallan'

Other Names of Place: Butler's Farm
Location: 77-207 Greigs Road East, Mt Cottrell
Critical Dates: c.1917
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house known as *Glengallan*, 77-207 Greigs Road East, Mt. Cottrell, is significant as a predominantly intact example of a Late Victorian style, with rear interwar additions that further contribute to an understanding of the historical evolution of the place. The main front part of the house was most likely built c.1917. It is also significant for its representation of the Exford Closer Settlement Estate, and the historic break-up of Melton's pastoral estates in the early twentieth century.

The house known as *Glengallan*, 77-207 Greigs Road East, Mt. Cottrell, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the encircling bullnosed verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, symmetrical composition, horizontal

timber weatherboard wall cladding, front timber wall cladding simulating ashlar blockwork, corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding, face brick chimneys with rendered tops having projecting cement coursing and cornices, turned timber verandah posts, front timber framed doorway with sidelight and highlight – and flanking timber framed tripartite double hung windows, other timber framed double hung windows, and the narrow eaves. At the rear, the gable addition representing changes during the interwar period also contributes to the significance of the dwelling. The intact design qualities of this portion of the dwelling include the single storey height, gable roof form clad in corrugated sheet metal, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, two face brick chimneys with soldier course tops, and the decorative gable infill (stuccoed panelling and vertical timber battening).

The house known as *Glengallan*, 77-207 Greigs Road East, Mt. Cottrell, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is one of few remaining Melton Shire houses built as a result of the Closer Settlement Board's subdivision of prominent pastoralist HW Staughton's *Exford* Estate, one of the earliest, largest and best-known of the estates created under the Closer Settlement Act 1904. It expresses one of the major themes of Australia's history - the contest between large pastoralists and small farmers for the land - and the abiding power of the yeomanry ideal well into the twentieth century. The break-up pastoral estates was a major event in Australia's history, and the break-up of the huge area of land represented by the *Rockbank*, *Exford*, *Overnewton* and *Melton Park* estates represented a major turning point in the history of the Melton Shire. The farm was a model for pasture improvement and cropping in the region, and a regular venue of farmers field days.

Overall, the house known as *Glengallan*, 77-207 Greigs Road East, Mt. Cottrell, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 103
Citation No.: 288
Place: **Farm Dairy & Trees, 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford**

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: House site: 30 Hickey Road, Exford (Lot 8 LP 92043); Shed: 35 Hickey Road, Exford 3338 (Lot 4 LP 92043)
Critical Dates:c. 1895-96
Existing Heritage Listings: 'Local Interest' (Rural Heritage Study)²²
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The former Hickey Farm at 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford, is significant as a late nineteenth / twentieth century small farm property with an intact example of a Late Victorian styled milking shed

²² Johnston, C, 'Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne' (Context Pty Ltd, Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), Site M8, pp.34, 117, 120, 121

on the opposite side of the road. Built in the mid 1890s, the building is key evidence of the development of dairy farming at the end of the nineteenth century, the progressive stance taken by Harry Werribee Staughton in developing share farming in the 1890s, and the Exford Closer Settlement Estate of 1907. On the opposite side of the road are peppercorn trees which are associated with the Late Victorian house of the Hickey farm.

The milking shed at 35 Hickey Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the projecting structure within the site and the small opening in the gable end that faces the road. The flanking mature peppercorn trees also contribute to the setting of the place.

The former Hickey Farm at 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). The two sites contribute an unusual and evocatively rural visual character to Hickey Road, expressive of the small farming era at the turn of the twentieth century. These historically and visually related sites, constitute unique evidence of the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the Shire of Melton at the turn of the twentieth century, which was a major turning point in the history of Melton. In particular they represent the late-nineteenth century revolution in the dairy industry, the progressive approach of Harry Werribee Staughton to changing political and economic circumstances, and the role of government legislators in facilitating small farm ownership through the Exford Closer Settlement Estate. The Hickey milking shed and associated farm plantings constitute a rare surviving dairy farm of the eleven built by Harry Werribee Staughton as part of his complete change from sheep grazing to share farming on *Exford* from the mid 1890s. The property is also a now-scarce remaining original farm associated with the Exford Closer Settlement Estate, one of the most prominent of the Victorian Closer Settlement Board's early estates.

The farm is also significant for its association with the Hickey family, who subsequently farmed a large part of the Exford Estate, from the Melton Weir in the north to near Exford Road in the south.

Overall, the former Hickey Farm at 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 104
Citation No.: 292
Place: Moloney's Farm Site and Water Reserve

Other Names of Place: 'Moloney's Water Reserve'

Location: Main Historic Place: 1884-1908 Mount Cottrell Road, Mount Cottrell (west side). Including former Moloney property and boundary dry stone walls; also the Water Reserve 2182-2356 Boundary Rd, Mt Cottrell (east bank of Werribee River).

Historic Dry Stone Wall: 2182-2356 Boundary Road, Mount Cottrell

Critical Dates: c.1871-72.

Existing Heritage Listings: None. Western Region Rural Heritage Study: 'worthy of assessment'.²³

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL

²³ 'Western Region of Melbourne, Rural Heritage Study', Context Pty Ltd, 1994, p.59

**Statement of Significance:**

The underground tank of the Moloney farm on Mt Cottrell Road Mt Cottrell, and the adjacent Water Reserve, are significant as good representative examples of the management of water for both domestic and stock use in farming areas, a particularly important issue in the dry plains country of Melton. This is one of the best remaining examples of a Selection-era underground tank in the Shire. The small, neat, roughly-squared bluestone lined tank has few comparisons in the Shire, most other nineteenth century stone-lined tanks being earlier, larger, and of slightly different construction. The Water Reserve is an important expression of the need to provide access to water for Selectors, as by this time almost all the stream frontage was already in the ownership of large pastoralists. The drystone wall property boundary fences also contribute the appropriate the nineteenth century farming context of the site, demonstrating the size of the property and the public access route to the Water Reserve, while some are also significant in terms of their professional construction, intactness and consequent aesthetic quality.

The Moloney underground tank is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2, B2). It is an essentially intact example of an underground tank for a small farm in the Selection era, and is different in scale, construction and materials from other earlier and later era underground tanks in the Shire. It is of small diameter, built of squared basalt with lime render (now mostly deteriorated). Its open (uncapped) design is an early style, now rare in the Shire. Like many surviving domestic underground tanks in the Shire, it together with associated plantings, is virtually all the evidence that remains of a former dwelling. It demonstrates the early provision of domestic water supply, and the critical importance of water management in the dry Melton Plains district. It represents a farming era and way of life that is no longer practised. The neat, well-built and largely intact tank is situated between two

peppercorn trees (*Shinus Molle, var. areira*) which are also distinctive features of nineteenth century farms. The pepper trees in a setting of bare plains, largely devoid of signs of human occupation, accentuate the isolation of the place, which was also a contributor to tragic outcomes when sickness struck. It testifies to the prime importance of water management for the survival of small farmers, particularly on the dry Werribee and Keilor plains.

The adjacent Water Reserve, access road and associated drystone wall fencing is also historically significant at a LOCAL level. (AHC D2, B2, E.1) Created at the same time that the Moloney selection was established, it expresses the desire to support small selectors in a dry climate, in a place where access to available watercourses had already been largely alienated. It is also historically linked to the farm site through being known locally as 'Moloney's Water Reserve', or 'Moloney's Recreation Reserve'. It is also expressive of the value in which an attractive water recreation feature has been held in the area.

The Moloney underground tank is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). It has the potential, with other tanks, to contribute to an understanding of the evolution of tank construction, water management, and domestic lifestyles in the dry Melton Plains area.

Overall, the remnant Moloney farm and associated Water Reserve is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 105
Citation No.: 293
Place: Mt Cottrell Road Stock Yards & Ruins

Other Names of Place: Mt Cottrell Sheep Wash
Location: 1476-1570 Mount Cottrell Road, Mount Cottrell
Critical Dates: c.late 1850s (original construction); c.1920 constr(possible abandonment of the house); mid twentieth century (probable uction/reconstruction of some walls).
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The ruin, dry stone walls and sheep yards at 1476-1570 Mt Cottrell Road are an extensive, substantially intact, and unusual complex of dry stone walls, and stone farmhouse ruins and plantings that date to the beginnings of freehold farming settlement in the Melton district in the 1850s. The dry stone walls are of varying integrity and condition, but overall substantially intact. The peppercorn and sugar gum trees contribute to the historical character of the site. The context of the site, in particular the dry stone walls along Mt Cottrell Road and Greigs Road, enhance its significance.

The ruins, dry stone walls and sheep yards at 1476-1570 Mt Cottrell Road are historically significant at a LOCAL level. (AHC A4, B2, D2) The partly dry-stone-wall lined dam is a characteristic and distinctive feature of the Melton area, where the especially dry climate, a high bedrock, and ample fieldstone induced this practice. The site is also of historical significance for its association with the George Scarborough, a very early and noted settler in Port Phillip, and for its potential to demonstrate changes in small-farming in an area dominated by large pastoralists. It is also of local historical significance as the site of the first pound in the Melton district, 1854-57; the pound and pound-keeper were highly important in nineteenth century rural communities. It demonstrates the early provision of domestic water supply, a water storage practice no longer in use, and the critical importance of water management in the dry Melton Plains district.

The ruins, dry stone walls and sheep yard are of scientific significance. (AHC C.2) The unusual configuration and relative intactness of the dry stone walls make the site of scientific significance for its considerable potential to demonstrate and provide further information about the nature of early small-farming practices, together with changes that have occurred in farming in the Melton district from the mid nineteenth century to late twentieth century. The ruins of the rubble bluestone building also has archaeological and interpretation potential for its ability to provide information regarding early settlement and living conditions of Melton district farmers. Similarly, survey of the bluestone underground tank also has the potential to provide further information about early farming practices and water storage in Melton Shire.

Overall, the ruins, dry stone walls and sheep yards at 1476-1570 Mt Cottrell Road are of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 107
Citation No.: 305
Place: House, 285 Nerowie Road

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 285 Nerowie Road, Parwan
Critical Dates: Construction: 1893-1910; Relocation c.1910 – c.1940.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at No. 285 Nerowie Road Parwan, is significant as a predominantly intact example of a Late Victorian Picturesque style, representing only one of four known dwellings of this style in the Melton Shire. Originally built in the 1890s or early 1900s as part of Stephen John Staughton's *Nerowie* estate, it was moved approximately c.1.5 kilometres from its original site, sometime after 1910.

The house at No. 285 Nerowie Road Parwan, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although relocated, it demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian Picturesque style. These qualities include the steeply pitched gable roof forms clad in corrugated sheet metal, modest eaves and the wide encircling verandah clad in lapped galvanised corrugated steel sheeting. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber

weatherboard wall cladding, brick chimney (albeit reconstructed), timber framed double hung windows, timber framed doorway, and the timber finials and pendants in the gable ends.

The house at No. 285 Nerowie Road Parwan is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC B2, H1). It was built c.1893 by Stephen John Staughton, President of the Shire of Bacchus Marsh, and third generation of the Staughton pastoral family, which, with the Clarkes and the Chirnsides, were the dominant landholders in north-western Port Phillip region in the nineteenth century. It was built in the final era of pastoral dominance, when political sentiment and economic forces combined to 'break up' huge pastoral estates in favour of 'closer settlement', or farming of the former grazing lands. Together with the other major Staughton properties (*Exford*, *Eynesbury* and *Staughton Vale*), *Nerowie* was sold by the family in the early twentieth century. The relocation of this house away from the brick section of the *Nerowie* homestead, onto another part of the property, literally demonstrates the 'break up' of this pastoral estate. With *Nerowie* it is a remaining link with Stephen George Staughton and his demolished mansion, *Brooklyn*.

Overall, the house at No. 285 Nerowie Road Parwan is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 108
Citation No.: 311
Place: Former Rockbank Beam Wireless Station

Other Names of Place: Former Australian Beam Wireless Receiving Station.
Location: 653-701 Greigs Road East, Mt Cottrell
Critical Dates: Built 1926; Opened 1927; Closed 1969.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.
Recommended Level of Significance: NATIONAL/STATE



Statement of Significance:

Rockbank Park, 653-701 Greigs Road, Rockbank, is significant as the substantially intact former residential quarters of the Australian Beam Wireless Receiving Station, which commenced operation in 1927, and possibly as a fine example of early twentieth century 'Commonwealth Departmental style' architecture (with particular Mission Revival overtones) in a landscape setting. It may have been designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Railways which was under the design control of J.S. Murdoch, Commonwealth Chief Architect and Director General of Works, and was built in 1926. The buildings and landscape setting at Rockbank Park appear to be remarkably intact.

Rockbank Park at 653-701 Greigs Road is architecturally significant at a STATE level (AHC D.2, E.1). The main building and associated four Bungalows demonstrate outstanding original design qualities that appear to relate to the Commonwealth's 'Departmental style' with specific Mission Revival overtones.

The original design qualities of the main building include the elaborate arched portico and carriage way that appears to draw on the Mission Revival design of the San Carlos Church, Monterey, U.S.A, together with the long hipped roof form and rear hipped roofed wings clad in terra cotta tiles: the whole forming a U plan. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, rendered brick wall construction, round ventilation turret, recessed verandahs under the main roof, paired vestigial and rendered verandah columns, regular bays of timber framed double hung windows and French doors, rendered brick chimneys and the broad eaves.

The four nearby cottages also demonstrate original design qualities typical of interwar Bungalow cottage design by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Railways and cottage types espoused by the Federal Capital Commission in Canberra. These qualities include the hipped roofs form clad in red-painted galvanised corrugated steel, rendered brick wall construction, broad eaves, simple rectilinear rendered brick chimneys, and the timber framed double hung windows.

Rockbank Park at 653-701 Greigs Road is aesthetically significant at a STATE level (AHC E.1). The substantial formal landscaped setting with mature Canary Island palms, Cypresses and other trees, open grassed areas and perimeter rose gardens, and a central drive to the main building and flanking cottages, have significant visual qualities. The landscaped setting appears to have been designed in the ‘Garden Town’ idiom of the Commonwealth Department of Works & Railways, which was also responsible for the development of Canberra (under the control of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee and Federal Capital Commission) in the 1920s. The ‘Garden Town’ has its roots in the English Garden City movement, landscape architecture of Walter Burley Griffin and his contemporaries, and the garden pavilion hotel designs and landscapes in U.S.A., including Santa Barbara, California. The metal entrance gates and surrounds also contribute to the significance of the place.

Rockbank Park at 653-701 Greigs Road is historically significant at the NATIONAL level (AHC A.4, H.1). It was the receiving station of the Australian ‘Imperial Wireless Service’ (generally known as ‘the Beam’ service), which in 1927 provided the nation’s first radio communication with Britain and North America, first through telegraphy, and then facsimile ‘picturegram’ services (1934). (It may also have provided Australia’s first wireless telephone link with Britain (1930), the first such connection between Britain and a Dominion.) These were the longest radio services of their type in the world. Together with aviation, international radio communication was the marvel of the early twentieth century. For many it represented a hope of strengthening the bonds of Empire, and helping nations to communicate. In isolated Australia the Beam Wireless was regarded as the communications miracle of its age.

Rockbank Park is also historically significant for its association with Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd which was the second largest radio company in the British Empire, and an Australian icon through its provision of broadcasting transmission equipment, and more popularly its design and manufacture of household radio (and later, television) receivers. In particular the establishment of the Beam service represents the greatest achievement of AWA’s Sir Ernest Thomas Fisk, the outstanding figure in the early history of radio in Australia. Fisk’s unswerving vision of a direct ‘one hop’ radio connection between Australia and Britain (and the rest of the Empire) persuaded Australian Prime Minister WM Hughes, whose strong advocacy in turn persuaded the whole British Empire to adopt this system rather than the relay system favoured by the British government. Fisk and AWA also participated in the technical development of this scheme: Australia’s distance and technical competence were critical in the inter-continental experiments conducted between Fisk and Nobel Prize winner Guglielmo Marconi, which established the suitability of short-waves for long distance transmission.

High-frequency short-wave transmission (combined with beam aerials) subsequently formed the operating system of the Imperial Wireless Service. *Rockbank Park* was also associated, from 1947, with AWA's successor in this field, the Overseas Telecommunications Commission. The OTC also played a leading role in communications research and development, particularly in relation to rhombic aerials (although nothing remains of this system on the site).

Rockbank Park is also of historical significance as one of the first radio reception/transmission stations established in Melbourne's western and north-western plains, which became a major centre of radio in Australia.

The complex may also be of historical significance for its associations with the Commonwealth Department of Works and Railways that was under the design control of J.S. Murdoch, Chief Architect and Director General of Works. Murdoch was Australia's first Commonwealth Government Architect.

Overall, *Rockbank Park* at 653-701 Greigs Road is of NATIONAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 109
Citation No.: 341
Place: Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road)

Other Names of Place: Neale Road
Location: In public reserve, in The Bridges, Caroline Springs
Critical Dates: Route likely to date to pre-gold period; construction of surface: unknown but likely to date to the early twentieth century.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road) cobblestone paving is significant as a scarce surviving remnant of early composite Telford and Macadam style stone road construction techniques, in use until the early decades of the twentieth century, after which developments they were superseded by asphalt and the advent of motorised traffic. Probably built in the early years of the twentieth century, the road is of a style that appears to have been particularly associated with the western and northern volcanic outskirts of Melbourne; the dozen or so remnants of such paving in Melton Shire would appear

to be one of the larger collections of such roads. Unlike most of these roads, Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road) is not subject to threat from future roadworks.

The Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road) road paving is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, B2, D2). The route itself was likely part of an early alternative route used by squatters situated on the Kororoit Creek to the lower crossings of the Maribyrnong River. It was formally proclaimed in the Parish of Derrimut survey c.1852. In the late nineteenth century all the land along the road was route acquired as part of the massive Clarke Rockbank pastoral estate, and it is unlikely that there would have been any need for a paved road until the break-up and sale of the estate for farming allotments in the first decade of the twentieth century. The making of 'knapped' roads (as they were known) was common practice in the Shire around this time.

The Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road) road paving is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). It is one of a small group of early knapped or cobbled basalt roads that survive in the Shire of Melton. These roads have the potential to be a significant repository of knowledge regarding early road construction, not only in the locality, but in Victoria. Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road) was identified as being of potentially high scientific and historical significance in an early study, and has since been subject to more detailed archaeological studies and conservation. It demonstrates a construction technique that is today both rare and, despite its relatively recent date, primitive in style. The volcanic areas to the west and north of Melbourne appear to have had a particular prominence in variations of this Telford style of construction, in which basalt was hand-hewn into rectangular shapes that were then wedged into a prepared earth foundation, with larger basalt blocks as edges, the whole being covered with crushed rock or 'metal'. While over a dozen of these roads were identified in this study, Old Rockbank Middle Road (Cobblestone Road) is one of only two that would appear not to be under threat of destruction by future road works. It is also the only one which has been subject to archaeological investigation, and has the potential to provide comparison with other stone based roads that may be subject to similar investigation in the future.

Heritage Overlay No.: 110
Citation No.: 359
Place: Kerr Farm Site, Boundary Road

Other Names of Place: Kerr Dairy Farm.
Location: 1780 – 1882 Boundary Rd, Mt Cottrell
Critical Dates: Property settlement c.1855.
Existing Heritage Listings: None.²⁴
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The ruinous former Kerr dairy farm complex 1780 – 1882 Boundary Road, Mt Cottrell is significant as a substantial relic of small farming practices, construction and lifestyle in the dry Werribee Plains area, and for its association with the Kerr family.

²⁴ Identified as ‘worthy of assessment’ in: ‘Western Region of Melbourne, Rural Heritage Study’, Context Pty Ltd, 1994, p.199

The ruinous Kerr dairy farm complex is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is expressive of a farming era and way of life that is no longer practised. The site includes the substantial ruin of a dwelling with walls approximately 1.5 metres high, a substantial complex of drystone wall stock yards, paddocks and boundary fences in various conditions, a shallow dam, the remains of a well or cistern, the remains of an unusual gatepost, a rock whose hollowed-out form appears to be the result of human action, and a cobbled area to the northwest of the house which may be the remains of a garden area or shedding. The farm is also significant for its association with the deaths of seven of the Kerr children, one of whom drowned in the property dam, and the other six who died within the space of a few weeks as a result of diphtheria. This demonstrates the difficulties of life on isolated nineteenth century farms such as Mt Cottrell, and the susceptibility of children to diphtheria and other deadly diseases from sanitary and other contemporary problems, such as small draughty houses. The Melton community shared something of the trauma of the family's tragedy at a distressing multiple funeral. Two other of the children are reputed to be buried on the property in a location known to family descendents.

The ruinous Kerr dairy farm complex is of scientific significance at the LOCAL level (AHC C2) for its potential to provide evidence of nineteenth century small farming practices and lifestyle in the dry plains area. The construction and layout of the former dwelling, the drystone walls, the steps to the dairy/cistern, the gate and fence-posts, and the hollowed stone, have the potential to provide further research and significant information contributing to a wider understanding of the occupation of the Werribee Plains area. If the steps are to a cistern rather than a dairy it would be of particular interest in regard to information about nineteenth century water management in the dry plains area.

The ruinous Kerr dairy farm complex is also of social significance at the LOCAL level (AHC G1) for its interpretative and educative potential regarding the small farming lifestyle in nineteenth century plains area.

Overall, the ruinous Kerr dairy farm complex is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 111
Citation No.: 360
Place: Mount Cottrell Homestead

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 167-177 Faulkners Road Mount Cottrell, Lot 2 PS 514261.
Critical Dates: Construction of house and tank c.1913.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Mount Cottrell Homestead at 167-177 Faulkners Road, Rockbank, is of architectural and historical significance as a moderately intact early twentieth century farm complex comprising a Victorian vernacular styled main house (with additions), machinery shed, stables, underground tank with rivetted ships tank above, and remnants of a shearing shed through the surviving concrete and brick sheep dip. These buildings and structures are a legacy of the establishment and development of the property from 1907 after the break-up of the Clarkes' *Rockbank* estate, and date to c.1913. The homestead represents one of very few surviving early twentieth century homestead complexes in the Shire, and is of added interest in being adapted from a shearers' quarters.

Mount Cotterell Homestead at 167-177 Faulkners Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). It demonstrates important design qualities of both Victorian and early twentieth century vernacular styles which in turn provide an understanding of the function of the homestead in the early twentieth century. For the main house, these Victorian vernacular design qualities include the elongated gable roof form, together with the skillion verandah that projects at the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, galvanised corrugated steel and cement sheet wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, timber verandah posts, brick chimney with a multi-corbelled top, gambrel roof form of the early addition and the timber framed window and door construction.

For the machinery shed and stables, these early twentieth century vernacular design qualities include the elongated gambrel roof forms clad in galvanised corrugated steel, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, timber louvred infill in the gambrel ends, timber posts with rudimentary timber brackets (machinery shed), galvanised corrugated iron wall cladding (machinery shed), horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding (stables), and the timber window openings (stables).

Mount Cotterell Homestead at 167-177 Faulkners Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4) for its evidence of the break-up of the immense Clarke *Rockbank* pastoral estate into smaller grazing (and farming) properties in the early twentieth century. This was a watershed in the history of the Shire of Melton. The long part of the house, constructed of corrugated iron, is of interest for originally being the property's shearers' quarters, the only known surviving early twentieth structure of this type in the Shire. The domed cement rendered underground water tank, together with the rivetted steel ship's tank above, represent nineteenth and very early twentieth century water storage technology and construction, common for the period, but no longer practised. This tank has recently been demolished by excavation. The dry stone walls on the property, almost certainly dating from the Clarke era, are also significant.

Mount Cotterell Homestead at 167-177 Faulkners Road is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The sheep dip and site of the former large shearing shed has the potential to contribute to a wider understanding of the early twentieth century farm processes on the property and in the Shire of Melton.

Mount Cotterell Homestead at 167-177 Faulkners Road is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). The property has the potential to help interpret early twentieth century mixed farming, in particular the incorporation of sheep (for wool and meat) into small farms in this period, and the associated initial use of large pastoral shearing sheds by nearby smaller farmers.

Overall, Mount Cotterell Homestead at 167-177 Faulkners Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 112
Citation No.: 372
Place: House & Outbuildings, Greigs Road

Other Names of Place: -
Location: 65-543 Greigs Rd East, Truganina
Critical Dates: Constructed c.1910 (between 1907-1916).
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The property at 65-543 Greigs Rd, Truganina, is significant as a rare, predominantly intact example of a small farm complex of Federation styled buildings in the Melton Shire. These buildings consist of a main house and an outbuilding, all being similarly designed with gambrel roof forms. Established c.1910, the significance of the place is enhanced by the long drive flanked by mature eucalypts and peppercorn trees and the rural setting. The property is also significant as one of the more substantial grazing-farming complexes built as a result of the break up of the Clarke *Rockbank* estate in 1906.

The main house at 65-543 Greigs Rd, Truganina is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation homestead style. These qualities include the gambrel roof form, together with the broken back encircling verandah and two minor gables

within the main roof that project at the front and comprise rectangular bay windows below the verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, symmetrical composition, deep red painted galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, three face brick chimneys with rendered bands and multi-corbelled tops, turned timber verandah posts with projecting capitals, decorative brackets and timber fretwork valances, timber framed casement windows, timber framed door openings, stuccoed gable infill and the timber truss decoration in the projecting gables at the front. One similarly-designed timber and galvanised corrugated steel outbuilding, with gambrel roof forms, together with the long drive flanked by mature eucalypts and peppercorn trees, also contribute to the significance of the place.

The property at 65-543 Greigs Rd, Truganina is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It was built as a consequence of the early twentieth century break-up of the pastoral estates, a turning-point in the history of Melton Shire. It is one of the more substantial and intact farm houses and complexes that were built on the Clarke family's massive *Rockbank* pastoral estate at the time. Its original acquisition by WJT ('Big') Clarke in 1865 is indicative of the unsuitability of much of the stoney and dry land for farming, and the particularly difficult seasons of the early 1860s; its incorporation into the Clarke pastoral empire at this time was common throughout the Shire. It was purchased by well-known real estate agent WS Keast when the *Rockbank* estate was broken up and sold by Sir Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke in 1906. It was occupied for most of the late twentieth century by well-known local grazier and former Werribee Mayor Baden Powell.

Overall, the property at 65-543 Greigs Rd, Truganina is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 113
Citation No.: 373
Place: 'Payne's Cottage'

Other Names of Place: 'Paine Cottage', 'Former Payne/Paine House'

Location: 638-688 Greigs Road East, Rockbank

Critical Dates: c.1860

Existing Heritage Listings: None

Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Payne House at 638-688 Greigs Road East, Rockbank, has historical significance as a prominent and scarce legacy, relatively intact, of the community of small farmers who settled the Mt Cotterell-Rockbank district in the 1860s and 70s. It was also associated with a prominent personality of that place and era. Although almost ruinous, part of building has been partly restored and reoccupied, and the historical significance of the place is embodied in the surviving Victorian vernacular styled fabric, and its bluestone construction which is typical of small farm cottage construction in the western volcanic plains in that era.

Payne house at 638-688 Greigs Road East is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2, B2). The bluestone cottage is one of only a two of its type remaining in the Mt Cotterell-Rockbank area from

this era, and one very few such places in the Shire. It had a long association with Mark Payne, a long serving Braybrook Shire Councillor, local farmer, contractor, carter, and butcher, known widely as the 'king of Mt Cottrell', and after whom 'Paynes Road' is named. The building is also testimony to the historical importance of fire in the municipality, having been partly destroyed in the devastating 1965 fires.

Payne House at 638-688 Greigs East Road has architectural interest. The building has surviving Victorian vernacular fabric that includes the long, simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, bluestone wall construction, distinctive hand made brick lintels, window and door openings and the lack of eaves. Accurate restoration and reconstruction of the building may elevate the building to local architectural significance status.

Overall, Payne House at 638-688 Greigs Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 114
Citation No.: 391
Place: 'Rocklands' Homestead & Farm, 619-653 Hopkins Road

Other Names of Place: Hopkins Homestead and Farm Complex
Location: 619-653 Hopkins Road, Truganina (Lot 1 PS 512501)
Critical Dates: c.late 1850s
Existing Heritage Listings: 'Place of Interest' (Rural Heritage Study)²⁵
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Rocklands Homestead, 619-653 Hopkins Road, Truganina, is significant for its moderately intact Victorian styled main house and rural setting defined by the nineteenth /early twentieth century dry stone walls, stands of gum and cypress trees and nearby dam that is visually connected to the main

²⁵ Johnston, Chris (Context P/L), 'Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne' (Melbourne Western Region, 1994), p.200 (W69)

house. Although the house has been altered, the early additions at the rear also contribute to the significance of the place as they provide an understanding of the evolution of the house over time. Built in the late 1850s for William Hopkins, and still owned by the Hopkins family, the house is most substantial of the few dwellings that remain as testimony to the small nineteenth century farming community in the Derrimut – Truganina plains area.

The main house at *Rocklands*, 619-653 Hopkins Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although the verandah has been altered/introduced, the house still demonstrates original and early design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the earliest section of the house with its double hipped (M) roof form clad in slate tiles, bluestone wall construction (but not the overpainting), painted brick chimneys, timber framed entrance doorway with sidelights and highlights, and the timber framed double hung windows. The timber sunroom on the south wall of the house, also contributes to the architectural significance of the house, particularly its hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding. The rear cottage, with kitchen and dining room, further contributes to the architectural significance of the place. In particular, the simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, timber framed double hung four paned windows with bracketed timber hoods above, painted brick chimney at the side, and the narrow eaves are those early design qualities that contribute to an understanding of the architectural evolution of the main house. The fine complex of dry stone walls near the homestead, outbuildings and farm sheds, stands of gum, garden surrounds and the visual connections to the dam and surrounding farm land also contribute to the significant setting of the place.

Rocklands, 619-653 Hopkins Road, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It is the most substantial of the few early farming-era dwellings (all built of stone) that remain in that part of the Shire south of the Western Highway and east of the Werribee River. It represents the Hopkins family's ability and fortune in surviving droughts and wretched seasons such as those of the 1860s, and the 1969 Truganina bushfire, which destroyed 45 houses nearby. Its evocative name is accentuated by the extensive complex of substantial all-stone dry-stone walls that comprise paddock fencing and stockyards around the homestead. The low rainfall of the Derrimut – Truganina plains area is expressed in the gaunt homestead garden, in which stunted cypresses, succulents and a thriving saltbush hedge (*Rhagodia spinescens*) are the primary surviving historical plants. The saltbush hedge, brought back from inland Australia in the early twentieth century, is very significant as an example of the use of a drought tolerant native species at a time well before the late twentieth century when these became popular, and in a period when most settlers planted the familiar introduced species, including drought tolerant plants from South Africa. The historical importance of water in the district is also expressed in the small dry-stone wall lined dam situated in front of the homestead. This finely constructed dam is an exceptional representation of the shallow dams, lined and built up with fieldstone (and less commonly roughly squared stone), across shallow drainage lines in the Melton plains areas. The homestead and farm complex is also significant for its ongoing association with the Hopkins family after which Hopkins Road was named. William Hopkins senior, William Hopkins junior, and Robert Duncan Hopkins were all councillors of the Shire of Braybrook, RD Hopkins being President at the time of Federation.

Overall, *Rocklands* Homestead at 619-653 Hopkins Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 115
Citation No.: 404
Place: Rockbank Community Hall

Other Names of Place: Rockbank Mechanics' Institute
Location: Leakes Road, Rockbank. (Lot 3, LP 7311)
Critical Dates: c.1920
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Community'
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall, Leakes Road, Rockbank, has significance as an important social centre for the local community, and as a mostly intact example of an interwar hall building.

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although the front flat roofed, brick toilet wing has been introduced and does not enhance the significance of the place, the hall still demonstrates original design qualities for an interwar building. These qualities include the long gable roof form clad in green painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel and the broad eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber

weatherboard wall cladding, regular bays of timber framed double hung windows at the sides, and the decorative gable infill (timber brackets and timber shingling).

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It expresses the movement for education and self improvement, and an informed participatory democracy which swept across Victoria in the latter nineteenth century and into the early decades of the twentieth century, as well as a need for facilities for entertainment and community life in rural towns. It also represents community life in an era before electronic communication and the motor car became widespread, and when municipalities responsibilities were limited to provision of physical infrastructure services.

The Mechanics' Institute / Hall has played an important role in the story of Rockbank social life, and in the development of its learning, culture, entertainment, celebration, commemoration, and community groups.

The building, with its distinctive inter-war architecture, also expresses a major era of growth in the Rockbank district and township following the break-up of the massive Clarke estate. It is one of only three remaining buildings (with the post office, and a private dwelling) of eight that represented the core of the town in the late 1930s. Its context of sugar gums and peppercorn tree plantings also contributes to this historic context.

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G.1). It is recognised and valued by the local community of cultural and recreational reasons.

Overall, the Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall, Leakes Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 117
Citation No.: 438
Place: 'Bonnie Doone', 339-365 Tarletons Road

Other Names of Place: 'Bonnie Doon'
Location: 339-365 Tarletons Road, Plumpton
Critical Dates: Construction: 1906
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Bonnie Doone at 339-365 Tarletons, Road, Rockbank, is significant as a predominantly intact example of a Federation style. Built in 1906 for Mr Irwin Gillespie, the house is in good condition. The galvanised corrugated steel stable, other outbuildings, underground tank and dry stone walls also contribute to the significance of the place. It is also significant as a representative example of the farms created as a result of the break up of the Clarke pastoral estate, a watershed in the history of the Shire of Melton.

Bonnie Doone at 339-365 Tarletons Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the steeply pitched

hipped roof forms, together with the broken back return verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two red brick chimneys with rendered and projecting tops and terra cotta pots, modest eaves with exposed timber rafters, turned timber verandah posts with decorative brackets and timber fretwork valance, timber verandah floor, and the timber framed doorway with timber door, sidelight and highlight. The galvanised corrugated steel outbuilding and underground tank also contribute to the significance of the place.

Bonnie Doone at 339-365 Tarletons Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is one of the larger of the surviving rural weatherboard houses built in the first few decades of the twentieth century which express the increasing rural prosperity and historic changes of the era, and in particular the break-up of the large pastoral estates throughout Australia. The break-up of Sir RHT Clarke's massive Rockbank estate represented a major turning point in the history of the Shire. The property is also significant for its association with the locally prominent Gillespie and Tarleton families.

Overall, *Bonnie Doone* at 339-365 Tarletons Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 118
Citation No.: 443
Place: Rockbank Headstation Dam

Other Names of Place: 'Deanside' Dam
Location: 1205 – 1231 & 1233 - 1287 Taylors Rd, Plumpton
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.mid-late nineteenth century).
Existing Heritage Listings: Not previously identified as a separate structure. Identified in Western Region, Rural Heritage Study, as part of the State significance 'Deanside' complex.²⁶
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The former *Rockbank* headstation dam at Taylors Road Rockbank is significant as a rare and the largest known drystone wall private pastoral dam in Victoria. It is also the largest of a series of at least four

²⁶ Rural Heritage Study, Western Region (Context Pty Ltd, Western Region Commission, 1994), pp.159,160

large and medium sized drystone dams built on the former WJT Clarke *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. It is now in different ownership from the nearby *Rockbank* headstation complex (including the bluestone 1864/1884 woolshed and 1870s cottages), which is included in the Victorian Heritage Register. Although now breached in the centre and not holding water, the *Rockbank* Dam is substantially intact.

The former *Rockbank* headstation dam at Taylors Road Rockbank is structurally and aesthetically significant at the STATE level (AHC D2, E1, F1) as a finely constructed and visually imposing bluestone structure, employing an unusual construction technique. Its random rubble form uses roughly worked and unworked bluestone, without mortar, in a style that appears to be essentially based on drystone wall construction techniques, but using much larger stones, and crushed bluestone ‘metal’ packing. It is capped with a course of larger and more regular coping stones. Together with other similar dams built on the Clarke *Rockbank* estate, it represents an innovative design solution to local climatic and geographical challenges.

The former *Rockbank* headstation dam at Taylors Road Rockbank is historically significant at the STATE level. (AHC B2, H1) Situated at the headstation, it is the largest of a series of at least four large and medium sized drystone dams to have been built on the Clarks’ *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. No comparable structure or group of structures, comprising long stone dam walls over wide shallow gullies, is known elsewhere in Victoria. This grand scheme was a local response to the particularly low rainfall of the plains area, the difficulty of sinking ‘tank’ dams in the shallow bedrock of the area, and the local availability of bluestone. Smaller Melton pastoralists and farmers constructed much smaller and more makeshift dams which were also variations on the same principle. The dam is also significant for its association with Australia’s mid nineteenth century pastoral giant WJT Clarke, and his son Sir WJT Clarke, Victoria’s leading citizen in the late nineteenth century, and Australia’s first baronet. The dam is expressive of the strategic and inherent importance of the 40,000 acre (16,000 hectare) *Rockbank* property to the Clarke pastoral empire, especially in relation to the fattening and delivery of sheep for the Newmarket meat trade. It also conveys a sense of the scale of the *Rockbank* station, whose domination of the Melton Shire was an increasingly acute grievance to local farmers, culminating in the break-up of the estate in the early twentieth century. It is a major relic of the era of large pastoral estates close to Melbourne.

Overall, the *Rockbank* headstation dam is of STATE significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 119
Citation No.: 457
Place: House, 107-121 Water Reserve Road

Other Names of Place: O'Neills Water Reserve
Location: 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank
Critical Dates: Original construction of main house c.1913; Construction of cottage c.1900; Extension to main house late twentieth century.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, is significant as a moderately-intact example of a Edwardian style with interwar styled windows. This dwelling represents one of three Edwardian/Federation dwellings in the Melton Shire with interwar design overtones. Built c.1913, the house also has a later hipped roof addition to one side. Also on the site is an earlier Victorian vernacular cottage that also contributes to the significance of the place. It is also a good representative example of the small farms created as a result of the break-up of the Clarke *Rockbank* pastoral estate, a watershed event in the history of Melton Shire.

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended, the house still clearly demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style with interwar styled windows. The design qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, hipped roof form and the side gable that projects towards the front, together with the return convex verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets, multi-corbelled brick chimney, timber fretwork verandah valance, timber framed double hung windows arranged in banks of three and the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights. The adjacent Victorian vernacular styled cottage also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is a good representative and increasingly scarce remaining example of a rural weatherboard house built in Melton Shire in the first few decades of the twentieth century as a result of the increasing rural prosperity and historic changes of the era. In particular it is a good representative example of farming homesteads created as a result of the break-up of the Clarkes' massive *Rockbank* estate, which was a major turning point in the history of the Shire. The place is also associated with the important history of dairy farming, and water reserves, in the Shire.

Overall, the house off Water Reserve Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 120
Citation No.: 460
Place: House, 1957-1963 Western Highway

Other Names of Place: -
Location: 1957-1963 Western Highway, Rockbank.
Critical Dates: Construction: c.1895
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: Local



Statement of Significance:

The house at 1957-1963 Western Highway, Rockbank, is significant as a moderately intact example of an unassuming Edwardian style. Built c.1895 probably for George Missen, the house has experienced some alterations and additions, but the original design qualities are clearly discernible.

The house at 1957-1963 Western Highway, Rockbank, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended, it still demonstrates original design qualities of an unassuming Edwardian style. These qualities include the shallow pitched hipped roof form, together with the minor gable and skillion verandah form that project towards the road. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, lapped galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, modest eaves, decorative

gable infill (panelling and timber battening), timber framed doorway with highlight, timber framed double hung window under the verandah, bank of three timber framed casement windows with highlights above, and the window hood supported by timber brackets.

The house at 1957-1963 Western Highway, Rockbank, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It is associated with the Missen family, prominent Rockbank early settlers, in particular George Missen, and his son Thomas George Missen. It is also one of relatively few allotments of land in the Shire released under the Selection Act, and one of few remaining early houses in Rockbank.

Overall, the house at 1957-1963 Western Highway, Rockbank is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 121
Citation No.: 461
Place: Former Rose & Crown Hotel

Other Names of Place: Sundowner Caravan Park Office
Location: 2057-2083 Western Highway, Rockbank
Critical Dates: 1875 (constructed)
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Sundowner Caravan Park office building (former Rose and Crown Hotel) at 2057 Western Highway, Rockbank, is significant as one of only two surviving hotel buildings in the Melton Shire. Although considerably altered, the historical significance of the place is embodied in the surviving fabric of both the Victorian and interwar periods.

The Sundowner Caravan Park office building (former Rose and Crown Hotel) at 2057 Western Highway is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is one of only two surviving intact nineteenth century hotels in the Shire. It has been the most substantial and enduring building in Rockbank, a hamlet that had not been identified or surveyed by the colonial government, and whose

beginnings and sense of place were closely associated with the hotel. The hotel is also significant as evidence of the purge of Victoria's hotels by the Licence Reduction Board in 1911, a result of the influence of temperance crusaders, medical opinion and middle class electors. It is also significant for its association with the large extended Missen family, one of the most successful Rockbank farming families, who had, with many others, arrived in Melton from South Australia for the 1860s Selection Act sales.

The Sundowner Caravan Park office building (former Rose and Crown Hotel) at 2057 Western Highway has architectural interest. The building has surviving fabric of the Victorian era and also of significant change during the interwar period. The architectural qualities of interest are the single storey height, bluestone wall construction (but not the painted finish), gable roof forms, skillion form of the front verandah, corrugated profile roof cladding, masonry chimney (but not the painted finish), wide eaves on the gable roof forms, front timber framed double hung multi-paned windows, central timber framed door opening, gable ventilator and the timber strapping.

Overall, the Sundowner Caravan Park office building (former Rose and Crown Hotel) at 2057 Western Highway is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 122
Citation No.: 462
Place: House, 2341-2421 Western Highway

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: 2341-2421 Western Highway
Critical Dates: Built 1898
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The house at 2341-2421 Western Highway, Rockbank, is significant as a moderately intact example of an unassuming Late Victorian style.

The house at 2341-2421 Western Highway, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered, the house demonstrates some original design qualities of an unassuming Late Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, together with the face brick chimney and narrow eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding,

front verandah supported by turned timber posts, central timber framed doorway and the timber framed double hung windows.

The house at 2341-2421 Western Highway, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2) as one of few early houses remaining in Rockbank, and is prominently situated on the Western Highway. It is also one of relatively few allotments in the Shire released under the Selection Acts. It also has significance for its association with the Pitson family, an early family in the district.

Overall, the house at 2341-2421 Western Highway is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 123
Citation No.: 476
Place: 'Dalgook' Farmhouse Complex

Other Names of Place: Morton Homestead
Location: Hume Drive, Taylors Hill. (Lot B PS 523563M).
Critical Dates: 1906
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

Dalgook, Hume Drive, Taylor's Hill, is significant as an unusual and predominantly intact example of a Federation style dwelling in a rural setting. Built in 1906 for H&N Fitzgerald as part of the Overnewton Closer Settlement Estate, the symmetrically composed timber dwelling features an atypical roof composition of a central hipped roof with flanking gables and encircling broken back verandah, a contextually elaborated recessed entrance porch with original doorpiece.

Dalgook, Hume Drive, Taylor's Hill, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates unusual and intact qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the central steeply pitched hipped roof form punctuated by flanking gables and the skillion broken back encircling verandah, face brick chimneys with roughcast tops, square timber verandah posts with solid, panelled

timber valance and curved solid timber brackets, timber verandah floor, and the central recessed entrance porch with contextually elaborate doorway featuring a panelled timber and glazed door, sidelights and highlights with Art Nouveau pattern leadlighting. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, paired full-length timber framed double hung windows, other timber framed double hung windows, and the roughcast gable infill with timber ventilators.

Dalgook, Hume Drive, Taylor's Hill, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is one of few remaining Melton Shire houses built as a result of the Closer Settlement Board's subdivision of prominent pastoralist William Taylor's Overnewton Estate into 79 small farms. The Overnewton Estate was one of the earliest, largest, and best-known of the estates created under the Closer Settlement Act 1904. It is expressive of one of the major themes of Australia's history - the contest between large pastoralists and small farmers for the land - and the abiding power of the yeomanry ideal well into the twentieth century. This is the most substantial of the houses built as part of the Overnewton and Exford Closer Settlement Estates in the Shire. The property was acquired by the Pecks in 1925, and its significance within the area is evident in the retention of the name Pecks Road for a nearby major road through a now suburban area.

The immediate rural setting, within a developing suburb, and its original farm context of a characteristic but now scarce Keilor Plains dry stone wall, with mature sugar gum and peppercorn trees, protecting a *circa* one hectare home paddock, with ornamental garden and farm sheds, is integral to the historical and aesthetic significance of the place. It is an extraordinarily intact example of a typical early twentieth century farmstead layout in the Shire.

Overall, *Dalgook*, Hume Drive, Taylor's Hill, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Overlay No.: 124
Citation No.: 477
Place: Grave, Ruin & Archaeological Site,
 Former 'Greenhills' Pastoral Station, 36-49 O'Connell Avenue

Other Names of Place: Formerly part of *Green Hills*
Location: 36-49 O'Connell Avenue Toolern Vale (Lot 4 LP 201866)
Critical Dates: c.1840s – mid/late nineteenth century.
Existing Heritage Listings: 'Place of Interest' (Rural Heritage Study)²⁷
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

²⁷ Johnston, C, *Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne* (Melbourne Western Region Inc., 1994), p.176

The grave, ruin and archaeological site associated with the former *Greenhills* pastoral station, situated at 36-49 O'Connell Avenue Toolern Vale, are significant for their association with the early pastoral and social life of the historically important *Greenhills* station, and their potential to provide information that might contribute to the understanding of early pastoral life and practices in Melton and Victoria. Historically, *Greenhills* was one of the first pastoral runs and European settlements established in the Shire of Melton. These places are the only known surviving buildings and works dating to the early (mid nineteenth century) era of the property.

The grave, ruin and archaeological site associated with the former *Greenhills* pastoral station, situated at 36-49 O'Connell Avenue Toolern Vale, are historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). *Greenhills* was a noted early Victorian pastoral property established by John Hunter Patterson, prominent pastoralist and member of the early Port Phillip community, and Victorian MLA and Treasurer in the 1850s. Established very early in 1837, *Greenhills* was one of the first and largest (40,000 acres) runs in the district, and in 1841 the largest population centre in the present Shire of Melton. The station became the basis of the road system and early settlement of the Toolern Vale district, which was initially named after the station. The property was also associated with prominent identities:- John Batman's daughters Eliza and Adelaide who married the station's Collyer brothers; Cr A Macintosh, the first President of the Melton Roads Board; Cr Walter Browne, JP; and other pioneering pastoralists in Victoria's history including George Hyde and George Urquhart.

Although the person whose remains lies in the grave is thought to have been a young woman who died in the late 1840s or early 1850s, her identity remains a mystery. The oldest and most enduring story is that it contains the remains of a Miss Batman, one of John Batman's daughters; another that it was a governess, perhaps a Miss Bateman (sic), who pined away waiting for her sailor love to return; another that it was a Miss Collier (sic), a friend or relative of an early station owner. It is representative of the many unmarked graves on the original *Greenhills* station, and in the area, which remain part of Toolern Vale lore, despite their location being all but forgotten, and their occupants (Aboriginal people, station workers, a government land surveyor, and returning diggers) only generally known.

The grave associated with the former *Greenhills* pastoral station, situated at 36-49 O'Connell Avenue Toolern Vale, is socially significant at the LOCAL level (AHC G1). The grave has always been a part of the Toolern Vale community's lore, and life, its repair having been tended to by both the station owners and the community over the years. Its current state reflects the 'heavily fenced in' grave as it was in the early twentieth century. It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

The ruin and archaeological site associated with the former *Greenhills* pastoral station, situated at 36-49 O'Connell Avenue Toolern Vale, are scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). They have the potential to provide information regarding early pastoral practices, in particular sheep-washing, that would contribute to a wider understanding of the pastoral industry in the Shire of Melton and Victoria.

Overall, the grave, ruin and archaeological site associated with the former *Greenhills* pastoral station, situated at 36-49 O'Connell Avenue Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.