

CLARENDON EYRE

Springbank

Place No. 147

ADDRESS 6 Robb Close
Bulleen

Last Update

DESCRIPTION

Condition Fair **Integrity** Minor modifications
Threats Deterioration **Key elements**
Designer

HISTORY

Clarendon Eyre (formerly Springbank) was built for Robert Laidlaw in 1879, within extensive gardens (now reduced by subdivision) and sited on a terrace above the Yarra River overlooking Bolin Swamp.

It is a large double-storey, slate, hip-roofed, triple-fronted, Italianate house. The frieze has many bracket pairs, with panels between and a cornice mould. There are quoins and string course at first floor level. The windows have architrave moulds with pendants, segmental heads and cast-iron balconettes, and the sills are supported by brackets. There is a hip-roofed verandah in the angle and another double-storey verandah on the south front. The verandahs have a dentillated cornice, cast-iron frieze over a timber transom, a cast-iron lace balustrade and cast-iron barley sugar columns. The first floor frieze has a scroll pattern.

The south front appears to be the main front, although curiously, the house seems neither to face Bulleen Road nor the river valley view. The single-storey T-shaped wing to the north has a massive external 'breadoven' and finely moulded dentilated cornice. The chimneys have deep classical moulds, brackets and recessed panels, and the chimney breast steps with a Viollet Le Duc Gothic gable. There is also a round-headed leadlight stair window, facing east.

Robert Laidlaw was a successful local farmer (winning various prizes for his potatoes and wheat in the 1850s). He started as a squatter in the area in conjunction with John Kerr in the early 1840s. In 1853 he bought 90 acres from the Carlton Estate and named his new farm 'Springbank', from which the house still takes its name.

Surviving garden elements include elms and a date palm on Bulleen Road, and a Red Gum and Moreton Bay Fig at 1 Robb Close (refer to separate citation in this Study).

The house needs repair, particularly the verandah and roof.

Comparable to "Tullamore".

Creation Date 1879

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Robert Laidlaw

5.01 - Squatters, selectors & small farmer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE A large late Italianate house architecturally of State significance with unusual massing and interesting details. Adjoining is a single-storey section which could be an earlier cottage.

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO147		Listed

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:

On VHR:

VHR Ref No:

Internal Alteration Controls:

Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls:

Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences:

Incorporated Plan:

Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management**Extra Research**

BIBLIOGRAPHY Context Pty Ltd, (1991), City of Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study