Heritage Overlay 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.

Description:

The house at 2120 Melton Highway, Melton has an open rural setting with little landscaping, apart from the open grassed area and few eucalypts.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a gable that projects at one side and a returned verandah formed under the main roof. These roof forms are clad in deep red painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel. Two early partially painted red brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

Other early features of the design include the timber framed double hung windows (some with nine paned upper sashes), timber framed doorway, and the turned timber finials on the gable ends.

The three-dimensional context and setting of the house is severely interrupted by the introduced flat roof carport at the side-rear, and an introduced house linked with a walkway at the front. Although these represent an intrusion on the original building, the essential Federation design qualities – including forms, construction and some detailing – have been retained.

Towards the rear of the site is also an early domical rendered brick underground water tank. These tanks are a typical part of nineteenth and early twentieth century rural properties in Melton and more widely in Victoria, and illustrate a form of water collection and infrastructure no longer practised. The design of the tank appears to be a variation of early nineteenth century

brick lined underground tank design published in J.C. Loudon's *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* in 1826, but widely employed in Australia only from the 1860s. It has a low segmental rather than high hemispherical dome.

History:

Contextual History

Huge pastoralist WJT (Big) Clarke had originally acquired the land on which the house is located at Crown sales in 1861, to add to his Rockbank estate.

By 1892, in addition to the land he purchased from the Crown, virtually all of the land in the Melton – Sydenham area that had been granted to small farmers, and even much of that which had been acquired under Selection Acts, was a part of Sir WJ Clarke's vast *Rockbank* estate.[1]

By the end of the nineteenth century historic changes were afoot. In addition to new taxes and the inherent difficulties of the pastoral industry, a new generation of farmers was restlessly surveying the vast pastoral estates about them. After Sir WJ Clarke's death in 1897, his son Sir Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke Bart inherited his title, estate and membership of Parliament. In that year he mused in Parliament about cutting up 40,000 acres of the Clarke estate to lease to dairy farmers. He was under some local pressure to make land available for farming, and declared himself keen not to 'disappoint public expectations.'[2] The Victorian Municipal Directory 1898 entry for Melton Shire made the first of a series of unprecedented reports on movements by big local landholders such as Rupert Clarke, Harry Werribee Staughton, and Harvey Patterson to sell and lease (often under the 'share system') large portions of their estates to small farmers and graziers.[3]

This 'break-up' of the large estates coincided with major developments in farming in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, as new science, technologies, fertilisers, transport and markets enabled huge productivity increases. With inventions such as the Babcok separator, the development of local co-operative creameries and butter factories, and advances in refrigeration creating new export markets, dairying in particular boomed.

And so the beginning of the twentieth century marked a major new era in the history of Melton. In 1905-06 Clarke's grandson, Sir Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke Bart., Clarke began subdividing and disposing of the vast *Rockbank* estate (and most of *Rupertswood-Red Rock* and *Bolinda Vale* estates) that had been so carefully acquired and tendered by his grandfather and father.[4] While much of his land was subsequently purchased by established neighbouring farmers and smaller graziers, it also provided the opportunity for new farming families to make a living in the district.[5]

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[1] State Library of Victoria, Shire Map Series, 821.1A (1892), Parish of Kororoit.

[2] *Sunbury News*: 31/7/1897, 7/8/1897, 4/9/1897.

[3] *Victorian Municipal Directory*, 1898, and following years.

[4] Michael Clarke, *'Big' Clarke* (Queensberry Hill Press, Melbourne, 1980), *passim*; Sir RTH Clarke Bart. sold the vast section of the Rockbank Estate that lay south of the Western Highway in November 1906; it would appear that he sold the northern portion about a year earlier. (PROV VPRS 560/P0, 35850); also CT Vol.3211 Fol.642206, pertaining to an 8000 acre portion south part of this estate; and also Shire of Melton Ratebooks from 1905-06 which record local farmers as owners of parts of the *Rockbank* estate.)

[5] Melton gained one of its most famous sons, Hector Fraser, international trap shooter, when his father John Fraser came to the area 'when the Rockbank station was cut up into farms (Alex Cameron, 'Melton Memoirs', p.20)

The northern section of the estate in Melton Shire was the first portion to be sold.

History of the Place

Donald McIntosh and his wife Mary (nee McDonald) brought their family from Inverness, Scotland to settle in Victoria in the nineteenth century.[6] It is believed they resided first in the Bulla area before moving to Toolern Vale where the family rented land on the Toolern Road, north of Thomas Smith's *Crichton*. Later they bought a number of parcels of land in the vicinity of Missens Lane.[7]

The family consisted of four sons, John born Melton 1874, Charles born 1884, Alexander and Donald, and five daughters, Euphemia, Christina, Jessica, Annie and Sarah.

Donald senior remained on the farm of 237 acres, John and Charles assisting him while Donald junior rented 205 acres from Thomas Grant of *Glen Elgin*.

Prior to the erection of the building Toolern Presbyterian Church services were held in the McIntosh home. Apart from their interest in the church the family was generally of a retiring nature. Alexander was elected to the Shire Council, but suffered from tuberculosis (as did a number of his siblings) and died in 1905 just weeks after his wife and sister.

The big pastoralists WJT (Big) Clarke had originally acquired the land at Crown sales in 1861 to add to his Rockbank estate. By 1892, in addition to the land he purchased from the Crown, virtually all of the land in the Melton – Sydenham area that had been granted to small farmers, and even much of that which had been acquired under Selection Acts, was a part of Sir WJ Clarke's vast Rockbank Estate.[8] Around 1904-6 Sir WJ Clarke's son Sir Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke, Bart., was subdividing and disposing of the vast Rocklands Estate that had been so carefully acquired and tended by his grandfather and father.[9] The section north of the Western Highway was the first portion to be sold.

In 1904 Donald junior, Charles and John acquired land from the Clarke estate – Lots 4 of Section 14 Parish of Kororoit 242 acres, and Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Section 15 of the same Parish, 320 acres, on the east side of Ryans Road.

Donald McIntosh senior died in 1908. Charles withdrew from the Kororoit land to work the family's Toolern Vale property. He died at Toolern Vale in 1962, aged 79 years, the last of the siblings. In his young days he had been a greyhound-racing enthusiast and a supporter of the Plumpton. Mrs Mary McIntosh resided with her children at Toolern Vale until her death at the age of 91 years in 1935. She was buried with her husband in the Melton cemetery. Five of her children, Christina, Jessica, Sara, John and Charles are buried in an adjoining allotment.
After Charles' departure Donald and John retained half shares in the c.400 acre property on Ryans Road. The Shire of Melton ratebook for 1915 shows Donald and Charles McIntosh as

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[6] Not to be confused with Alexander MacIntosh, of Greenhills, Toolern Vale, first President of the Melton Roads Board; or with Donald Mackintosh of *Oak Park* Mount Cotterell, World Champion trap shooter. (However Donald McIntosh's son Donald was the cousin of Donald Mackintosh the shooter.)

[7] Donald ('Doug') McIntosh however notes that the family lived on McPherson Lane (Melton Heritage Study Stage One Site No.36). Pers. conv. 8/3/2002.

[8] State Library of Victoria, Shire Map Series, 821.1A (1892), Parish of Kororoit.

[9] Michael Clarke, *'Big' Clarke* (Queensberry Hill Press, Melbourne, 1980), *passim*; Sir RTH Clarke Bart. sold the vast section of the Rockbank Estate that lay south of the Western Highway in November 1906; it would appear that he sold the northern portion about a year earlier. (PROV VPRS 560/P0 (35850); also CT Vol.3211 Fol.642206, pertaining to an 8000 acre portion south part of this estate.

joint owners of 401 acres 1 rood and 19 perches, being allotments 5-8 of Section 15 Parish of Kororoit 'with buildings'.[10] The present house appears then to have been built c.1914.

The house erected on the property is known locally as a 'Clarke house'. About six homes of similar design, apparently by the same builder, had been erected on land acquired when Clarke subdivided the Rockbank estate. Next door on Ryans Road the Hausler family had one of these homes erected, as did Matt Sheahan (off Leakes Road, near Water Reserve Road). Both of these have been demolished. About two kilometres east, Loft's (Percy Missen's home) was another. This is the only other of these houses that is known to survive. The homes were of timber, containing five rooms with 10' ceilings well suited to the climate.[11]

(Although in 1897 it was reported that Clarke had contracted a Mr Ploughman to erect of 10 homes on farms leased on the Rockbank estate, these would appear be different from the 'Clarke' houses now known to local memory.[12])

The family cropped the land, supplying hay to the Melton Chaff mills. They named the property *Balmoral Farm*. A 1917 notice in the *Melton Express* announces that D.McIntosh, 'of Balmoral Farm', had 500 bags of good clean Algerian oats for sale.[13]

Donald McIntosh married Margaret Nagle and had a family of eight children – Jessie, Donald (known as 'Doug'), Christina, Annie, Euphemia, Alexander, Jean and Marie. Neither son married and Euphemia and Christina died unwed. Annie married Tom Collins as a mature woman, thus becoming the sister-in-law of Bill Collins and niece by marriage to the Misses Paine. Tom Collins was killed and Annie was disabled in a road accident returning from church. They had erected a new home fronting the Western Highway beside the old Graham house east of the Toolern Creek.[14] Their property was sold and Annie's house was moved to *Balmoral Farm*. It is situated immediately in front of the old home to which it is connected by a walkway.

Another son Alexander worked for Cockbill Bros at their Toolern Vale knackery. Here and elsewhere he picked up considerable knowledge of rudimentary veterinary skills applying to horses, and was considered a 'good horse doctor' by local farmers.[15] Hugh Barrie, a horse breeder himself, considers McIntosh was a. Local farmers called upon him to treat their ailing animals. Alexander and brother Donald cropped the land and had a stock transport business, moving animals to Newmarket sale yards.

In February 1965, a bush/grass fire of massive proportions started in the hills behind Toolern, swept across the plains to Rockbank, destroying more than 20 homes, buildings, machinery, fencing, stock and vegetation. On McIntosh's land, the only structure left standing was the house. A photograph published in the *Age* newspaper shows an outline of an untouched house standing amid blazing haystacks and a ruined machinery shed.[16] All farm machinery was

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[10] Shire of Melton, *Ratebook*, 1915

[11] Charlie and Maise Finch, pers.conv. (Judith Bilszta); Donald McIntosh, pers.conv. (David Moloney, 8/3/2002). The Gilbertson property may have been another.

[12] *Melton Express*, 30/10/1897. (It is not at this stage known where these houses were, or if in fact they were erected.)

[13] *Melton Express*, 7/4/1917

[14] A motor cycle business is now on the site; an aboriginal scar tree that was on the block may still be there.

[15] Hugh Barrie, pers. conv. (J.Bilszta)

[16] *The Age*, 12/3/1965

lost, as was all fencing, stock and shelter trees. Apart from a shed, and fencing, nothing has been replaced.

The house was identified but not assessed in an earlier regional heritage study.[17]

History of Underground Tanks

Underground tanks were a typical component of nineteenth century rural properties in Victoria, and illustrate a form of water collection and infrastructure no longer practised.

Provision of a domestic water supply was critical to the establishment of any rural property that was not beside a permanent supply of water. 'The first essential was to secure a reliable water supply. Unless the farm bordered a permanent creek … the selector had to dig a dam for his animals and a well [sic] for the household supply.'[18] Especially in low-rainfall Melton, domestic water storage was critical, and relics of these systems is a key part of the heritage of the Shire. Many underground domestic 'wells' (as they are usually called) around Melton are in fact 'tanks' which, rather than tapping groundwater, were sealed cisterns for the storage of water from the roofs of buildings.

Underground tanks became only generally necessary in Australia from the 1850s, when increased population and Crown land sales ensured that many dwellings were unable to locate beside a stream. At the same time, as a result of the goldrushes, the mass introduction into Australia of the new product 'corrugated iron' made it feasible for ordinary people to be able to channel water into the underground tanks from roofs and guttering.[19] Underground tanks on small properties generally seem to have been located at the rear of the house; this might have enabled the roof runoff from dairy and other nearby farm outbuildings to also feed the tank.

The construction of wells goes back thousands of years, and designs for underground wells and tanks, such as contained in JC Loudon's *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture*, had been available to English farmers since at least the early nineteenth century.[20] These generally advocated cigar shaped cross-sections, with the domed top being mostly underground. This shape was also used in Australia, but on Melton rural properties they do not appear to have been used on early farms. Instead, the early tanks had vertical walls, and no domed covers. Most appear to have been constructed of local stone rather than brick, and without a low wall (as in romantic images of European wells) to ensure safety. Isolation and cost probably meant that they may have been sunk by the property-owners, at least in the case of early small farms. Examples of such tanks on small farms are the former Scarborough and Moloney properties on Mount Cottrell Road (Place Nos.293 and 292) which were constructed of bluestone in the 1850s and 1871, and for which no evidence of a cover remains. In terms of larger early (1850s) properties, *Glen Elgin* (Place No.39) has a low timber-framed gabled roof, clad in corrugated iron; and the tanks of *Tibbermore* (Place No.392), Mount Ida (Place No.002) and the Diggers Rest Hotel (Place No.067) both have flat corrugated iron covers on raised stone sides. (These covers, and sides, might have been added later, as gradual modernisation of the tanks was common.)

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[17] Chris Johnston/Context Pty Ltd, *Rural Heritage Study: Western Region of Melbourne* (Melbourne Western Region Inc.), p.137

[18] Cannon, Michael, *Life in the Country: Australia in the Victorian Age: 2* (Nelson, West Melbourne, 1978), p.149

[19] Hughes, Trueman, Ludlow, 'Wells and Underground Tanks', prepared for the Heritage Council of NSW (nd), *passim;* Cannon, *op cit*, p.150

[20] J.C. Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture*, Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green & Longman, London, 1826.

While domes were advocated in early British architectural literature, they appears to have only begun to be built in Australia in the 1860s. At that time there was a growing realisation of the dangers of uncovered wells and tanks in terms of sanitation, as well as safety. Unclean water could wash into uncovered tanks from dairies, and sometimes from cesspits, and vermin also obtained easy access:

> 'The typical countrywoman of the early days hardly moved a step from her threshold "to cast away indescribable filth". The contents of chamber pots, vegetable peelings, grease-laden water – all festered around the hut and blended with the nearby latrine to create a "peculiarly offensive" odour which attracted swarms of flies. Sometimes the fluids soaked through the soil into the well [sic], so that the family suffered from an intermittent "low typhoid" fever whose cause they did not suspect.'[21]

In 1885 *Martins Home and Farm* described uncovered underground tanks and wells as 'the family rat-trap'.[22] 'Common infections of the nineteenth century, such as typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria (which was known to have proved tragically fatal in the case of Melton's Kerr, Moloney and Wood families), tuberculosis and gastro-enteritis, spread rapidly in many country towns …. Efficient disposal of human excreta was a major problem.'[23] The connection between water pollution and public health, in particular diseases like dysentery, typhoid and even cholera were beginning to be appreciated.[24]

At the same time, technology was contributing to better health. As long as a bucket was necessary to draw water, it was not possible to cover the tops of tanks, or at best only to provide a rudimentary cover. Once a small and reasonably priced pump became available there was no further need for an open tank. The availability of domestic hand-pumps grew in the 1850s, and by 1860 NSW public buildings (schools and railway stations) specified domes as the standard form of construction for tanks.[25] It is also highly likely that the increasing access to good quality bricks, professional bricklaying skills, and cement, over the course of the late nineteenth century contributed to the proliferation of covered tanks in places like Melton.

The new tanks were still circular in plan, but constructed of brick, with approximately 9 inches of clay puddle behind the brick wall to keep the tank water-tight. The hemispherical dome, or segment of a dome, was also constructed with bricks. Both the interior of the tank, and the exterior of the dome, were cement rendered according to recommended practice.[26] Without internal inspection it is not known whether the cross-section of the tanks typically remained vertical, or cigar-shaped, which were both described in textbooks. Numerous domes in Melton appear to be segmental spheres, rather than hemispheres, and may have spread underneath the surface to a wider diameter tank cylinder, as per the textbooks. The domes were provided with a manhole on top (covered with a concrete cover), of minimum width 16 inches, to provide access for cleaning. Mr Jeff Robinson of Melton West recalls entering the tank on the family farm to repair internal render.[27] The opening also enabled the cool water to be used for refrigeration: perishables and jellies (for setting) were lowered into the water in a bucket.[28]

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[21] Cannon, *op cit*, p.151

[22] Cited in Hughes *et al*, *op cit*, p.19.

[23] Cannon, *op cit*, pp.255-6

[24] Hughes *et al*, o*p cit*, pp.19-24

[25] *ibid*, pp.32-33

[26] Eg, Albrecht, CE, *Measurements and Dimensions of Tanks and Dams* (Melbourne, Arnell and Jackson [1885?]), pp.30-33

[27] Mr Jeff Robinson, personal conversation, 14/2/2006. This contradicts the Hughes *et al* survey of tanks in NSW, which found that internal render was rare in domestic tanks (pp.55-56).

[28] Hughes et al, op cit, pp.32-80.

The only known Australian heritage study of underground tanks (conducted in NSW), claims that they were only superseded by the familiar corrugated iron tanks (on tankstands to provide water pressure) in the 1890s, when 'the galvanised above-ground tank was in widespread use.'[29] In Victoria however Miles Lewis claims that '*the corrugated iron rainwater tank was manufactured in Melbourne by the later 1850s, and spread very rapidly despite claims that the zinc coating would poison the water*.'[30] Anders Hjorth's recollections of Melton in the 1860s state that: '*The water supply was very deficient; a few had iron tanks, and some under-ground ones*.'[31] He may however have been referring to the square plate-metal 'ships tanks' (shipping containers, usually for foodstuffs, that were designed in Britain for recycling in this manner) that are most usually found these days on larger properties, rather than the larger corrugated steel version that became more common. A survey of remaining underground tanks on nineteenth century Melton properties might reveal the extent to which galvanised iron (or steel) header tanks were used as an alternative. We know that underground tanks continued to be built in the early twentieth century, and that today there are many properties that have both underground tanks (most not in use) and corrugated steel header tanks. As access to hand, petroleum or electric pumps permitted, they may have been used in conjunction.

While domes probably became widespread from the 1860s for domestic use, it cannot be categorically inferred that the absence of a dome means that the tank was built before that time. On the other hand, the presence of a dome does not necessarily mean that the tank was built after this time, as apparently the building of a dome over a tank often took place many years after the original construction.[32] The best assumption that can be made in terms of dating tanks is that, water being essential to habitation, they were built at or very soon after the construction of the original dwelling on a site. So in the case of this property, it is very likely that the tank was built c.1914. The low segmental rather than high hemispherical design of the dome is consistent with this assumption.

Tankbuilders known to have operated in Melton Shire in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries include WA Cecil, Tom Collins (c.1890-1913), and Augustus Schebler ('known for his workmanship' according to Collins).[33]

Thematic Context / Comparative Analysis:

Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming', 'Water & Fire'

Historical Comparison:

The Dwelling: The sale of the vast Clarke pastoral estate as small farms in the early twentieth century was a turning point in the history of Melton Shire. Only 24 houses and substantial sites associated with this event now remain. Of these places, heritage citations have been prepared for 11 places, including 63 Greigs Road. These places are:-

Places for which heritage controls are proposed:-

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[29] Hughes *et al, op cit*. (Austral Archaeology also conducted a study of early Chinese wells on the Koorong, South Australia.)

[30] Lewis, Miles, *Physical Investigation of a Building: National Trust Technical Bulletin 9.1* (National Trust of Australia, Victoria, 1989).

[31] Hjorth, Anders, 'Recollections of Melton 1861-67', in M&DHS Newsletter, February 2001.

[32] Hughes *et al, op cit*, p.3

[33] Robinson, *op cit*; also Tom Collins memoirs, part of which were reproduced in the M&DSH Newsletter of December 2000.

Place No.438	House, *Bonnie Doon*, Rockbank (1906)
Place No.120	House, *Gollers Court*, Melton Highway Sydenham (1906-11)
Place No.372	House, 65 Hopkins Road, Truganina (c.1910)
Place No.360	House, *Mount Cottrell* Homestead, Rockbank (c.1910)
Place No.407	House, 1/6 Judd Court, Rockbank (c.1910): one of six houses on Clarke Estate reputedly by the same builder (c.1910)
Place No.237	House, 2120 Ryans Road, Melton: one of six houses on Clarke Estate reputedly by the same builder; with scarce hand-pump still attached to underground tank (c.1914)
Place No.457	House (former Casey), Water Reserve Road, Rockbank
Place No.102	House, *Arrunga* (early 20C)
Place No.075	House, 2-180 Davis Road, Diggers Rest (c.1914).
Place No.152	House, *Plumpton Park*, Diggers Rest (c.1922)
Place No.103	House (Tyquins), 932 Holden Road, Diggers Rest (1931)

Places for which heritage controls are not proposed:-

Place No.084	House, 219 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest
Place No.470	House, Beattys Road, Rockbank, much altered
Place No.401	House, *Fairview Park*, 686 Leakes Road, Rockbank (1905-08)
Place No.315	House, Beatty's Road, Rockbank (early 20C)
Place No.456	House, Water Reserve Road, Rockbank (c.1900-10, 1960s)
Place No.299	House, *Penlee Farm*, Mount Cottrell Road, Mount Cotterell
Place No.348	House, *Kintbury*, 318-386 Faulkners Road, Mount Cotterell
Place No.452	House, *Stoneleigh*, Troups Road, Tarneit
Place No.453	House, *Camelot Lodge*, 230 Troups Road, Rockbank
Place No.371	House, 405 Greigs Road, Rockbank
Place No.107	Trees, Holden Road, Diggers Rest: large avenue of cypress trees, remains of *Lyndhurst Lodge*.

Place No.095	Outbuilding, bluestone blacksmith, Finches Road, Melton; date 1913 inscribed.
Place No.344	Ruinous house near Kororoit Creek, ruinous, concrete.

Most surviving Clarke estate places are located in the centre and north of the Shire, in the Parishes of Kororoit and Holden. In the southern parishes of Derrimut and Pywheitjorrk, which were vast Clarke landholdings, only eight places survive, two of which are recommended for heritage controls.

This dwelling is said to have been one of six constructed of similar design by the one builder in the early twentieth century, for farms created in the break-up of Clarke's Rockbank Estate. In addition to this dwelling, the only other one of these which survives today is the original Macintosh house at 1967 Melton Highway, which has been restored, and whose setting is also more intact.

Underground Tanks:- In terms of underground tanks, this is one of quite a number of such tanks remaining in the Shire. A minority of these (not including this one) are publicy visible, being situated at the front of a property near a road. Significantly, this is one of only four known tanks (identified in Stage One of the Heritage Study) to retain its early handpump. The others are:-

Place No.273	The dwelling (1055 Exford Road Exford) associated with this tank has recently been demolished and it is not known whether its tank and handpump survive.
Place No.156	An intact relic of an archaeological site - the former Bald Hill (later Millett's) hotel, Raglan Street Aitkens Gap. It is situated close to the road, and is a candidate for further investigation and report in any future heritage study.
Place No.401	House (Fairview Park), 686 Leakes Road Rockbank. An excellent handpump but a small dome in only fair condition.

None of these other places are proposed for Heritage Overlay protection in the current study (although Place No.156 should be considered in a future study). It should be noted also that no comprehensive survive of handpumps was attempted in this study, and it is quite likely that others survive in the Shire.

Condition:

Good

Integrity:

Moderately intact (original building)
Substantially altered (context & setting of original building)

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion in the Melton Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay.

Recommended Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls:

External Paint Controls:	*No*
Internal Alteration Controls:	*No*
Tree Controls:	*No*
Outbuildings and/or Fences:	*Yes* – underground tank

Other Recommendations:

- An archaeological survey of the tank has the potential to provide further information regarding the evolution of tank construction, water management, and domestic lifestyles in the dry Melton Plains area, and is desirable.

Domed cement rendered brick underground tank, with iron handpump.