

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.