

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.

Lynuilig 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.

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