
HO30 - Ruin, 'The Elms'



Ruin



Ruin



Ruin

Location

779 Gisborne - Melton Road TOOLERN VALE, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO30

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

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 Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1855,
Other Names	779 Gisborne - Melton Road Toolern Vale,
Hermes Number	29987
Property Number	

Historical Australian Themes

Melton Historical Themes: 'Pastoral'; 'Farming'

Integrity

Integrity - Damaged/Disturbed

Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Ruinous

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The ruin is situated on the east side of the Gisborne-Melton Road, approximately 500 metres south of the McPhersons Road intersection, Toolern Vale. It is impressively set, in an open undulating paddock, overlooking

the creek, with the Black Hills and Flagstaff Hills as a backdrop when viewed from the road.

The ruin consists of two perpendicular walls c.2 metres in height, meeting at a former window or door. The double walls are constructed of random rubble, unquarried stone, of both local bluestone and sedimentary varieties. Gaps in the wall facing have been plugged with smaller stones to contribute stability and a flat surface. Sides of openings have been constructed of roughly squared stones. Remnants of render and whitewash remain on outside surfaces. A few bricks have been used in parts of the walls. Repairs in modern mortar have been undertaken on some external surfaces.

Pepper trees on the creek below probably mark the former dairy.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>