

# HO105 - Mt Cottrell Road Stock Yard, Ruins and Dry Stone Walls



Mt Cottrell Road stock yards and ruins



The partly filled bluestone-lined well



Stock yard



Ruins of the rubble bluestone house



The ruins of the rubble bluestone house



Dry Stone Wall K158 - northern boundary



Dry Stone Wall K158 - northern boundary



Dry Stone Wall K161 - Internal Stock Holding Yard



Dry Stone Wall K161 - Internal Stock Holding Yard



Dry Stone Wall K161 - Internal Stock Holding Yard



Dry Stone Wall K161 - Internal Stock Holding Yard



Dry Stone Wall K161 - Internal Stock Holding Yard





Dry Stone Wall K159 -  
eastern boundary

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## Location

1476-1570 Mount Cottrell Road MOUNT COTTRELL, Melton Shire

## Municipality

MELTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0141

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO105

## Heritage Listing

Melton City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

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.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1850, 1920, 1900,
Other Names	Mt Cottrell Sheep Wash, 1476-1570 Mount Cottrell Road, Mount Cottrell,
Hermes Number	30236
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### Physical Description -

The Mt Cottrell Road stock-yards, dam (alleged sheep-wash/dip), house ruin, dry stone walls and filled underground water storage tank, is a c.200 m long complex of largely intact and very substantial stone walls, which includes inner and outer yards, and a long (c.90 metres) stone fence joining the main yard area to a narrow dam (c.55 metres long), which is partly lined in fieldstones in the distinctive local manner, and is contained within dry-stone walls on its eastern and western sides.

The site also includes the ruins of well-constructed and substantial rubble bluestone building, most likely the original house. The maximum height of the walls is now c.1 metre, and the building was formerly about 11 metres by 8 metres, with evidence of an extension or an original addition (perhaps a pantry or store, or for animals). There is no obvious above-ground evidence of a chimney.

There is also a now-scarce and well-constructed uncapped bluestone underground tank of approximately two metres in diameter, now mostly filled. This is situated under peppercorn trees and in an area of other rubble with archaeological potential. Other elements of the site include a smaller dam and a shaped timber gatepost (very weathered, with a distinctive top) and a number of internal and boundary dry stonewalls, identified in detail below:

- An internal wall through the middle of the 2 properties, comprises two parts: a double post & wire dry stone wall in poor condition, 751-1000 mm high, 40 metres long, and with a wide base of 1400 mm; this is continued by another double stone and post & wire wall in poor condition, 950 metres long, of height less than 300 mm, and base 800 mm.

- Its eastern boundary (Mount Cottrell Road) is a more substantial double post & wire dry stone wall, in good condition. It is 350 metres long, with a wide 1500mm base, and height of 1001-1300 mm. Parts retain coping

stones, angled in places, and is smooth faced, with plugging, through-stones and trench. It is generally of the typical more rounded fieldstone of the area, but also contains section of flatter stone, some split/quarried (perhaps with stone from the former house).- There is an internal stock holding yard, of double post & wire dry stone wall, in good (but variable) condition, of length c130 metres, base width 1200 mm, and height 1001-1300 mm. It contains some parts with coping stone, plugging, smooth facing, trenching and lichen. It is partly constructed of quarried/split stone, possibly recycled from the original house.- Western boundary of property of 1476-1518 Mt Cottrell Rd is a double post and wire dry stone wall, 751-1000 mm in height and in good condition.

An internal arrangement of paddocks of double post and wire dry stone walls in varying condition, and states of preservation.

Some of the dry stone walls show evidence of repairs throughout their life. In 2006 some were also subject of repairs as a result of the Pride of Place workshop on maintaining dry stone walls in Melton.

The site is situated within a reasonably intact farming landscape, a feature of which is remnant dry stone walls along both sides of Mt Cottrell Road to the south and north of the property, and Greigs Road, in various states of intactness. As well as the peppercorn trees, the site also includes some mature sugar gum trees planted along its northern and eastern boundaries, probably in the early twentieth century.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming', 'Water', 'Community: Towns and People'*

## **Integrity**

Integrity - The place is a ruin, and archaeological site, whose integrity has not been diminished by subsequent development (other than the original pastoral-farming pursuits).

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Conditions - The place is a ruin and archaeological site.

*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/>*