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# "ATHLONE" RUINS

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## Location

MIDLAND HIGHWAY GUILDFORD, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-1154

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The stone ruins and remnant garden mark the site of the residence of Mr William Johnston who died in 1909 and is credited with suggesting the name Castlemaine for the nearby town. The stone walls are reminders of the more intensive development during this era and the use of local stone in the early building. The site has potential for archaeological remains. The retention of the remaining stone work and exotic planting is desirable in the landscape to interpret the settlement patterns and building materials used in the area.

Hermes Number 13664

Property Number

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## History

The remaining stone footings, part walls and garden plantings including mature exotic trees were once the residence Mr William Johnston. The *Mount Alexander Mail* of February 1909 reported on his death at "Athlone", Guildford: "The death took place yesterday of one of the first residents of this district in the person Mr William Johnston at the advanced age of 89 years. Deceased was born at Castlemaine, Ireland and joined the army. He

was fighting in New Zealand and, leaving service there, he migrated to Victoria and when gold was discovered at Forest Creek he made for the district, and had resided here ever since. It is said that it was Mr Johnston who suggested to Captain Wright the name of Castlemaine for this town. The deceased leaves a widow and grown up family. The remains will be privately interred tomorrow afternoon."

*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/>*