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# 975 DONNYBROOK ROAD FARMSTEAD

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## Location

975 DONNYBROOK ROAD DONNYBROOK, WHITTLESEA CITY

## Municipality

WHITTLESEA CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2383

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

The farmstead at 975 Donnybrook Road and its associated domestic and agricultural buildings are of significance.

The site is historically and archaeologically significant.

The site is of historical significance in that it is typical of the small farmsteads that appeared across the region in the early 20th century.

The property and its surroundings may contain archaeological deposits relating to its domestic and pastoral use at the beginning of the 20th century, and potentially even earlier.

Any archaeological evidence that may be obtained from the site would have some potential to add to the overall understanding and insight into the local social, economic and commercial development of the Donnybrook area from post-European contact onwards.

Interpretation of Site      The site represents a homestead and small dairy operation. It is typical of the small farmsteads that appear across the region in the early 20th century

Hermes Number      206187

Property Number

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## History

The land on which the current farmstead at 975 Donnybrook Road sits was initially part of Crown Portion 22, which was granted to John Hunter Patterson in 1840. Over the decades there have been several pastordlists that have farmed the lands; in particular, farmer John Abbott in 1874 purchased 327 acres of Crown Portion 22, which was bounded by Donnybrooke Road to the south. In 1888, 319 acres was transferred to farmer Robert Henry Abbott of Kalkallo before it was later passed on to his wife Alicia C. Abbott in 1894.

In 1903 Abbotts sold land which extended to the west of the 975 Donnybrook Road to Jonas M Stawell, a Civil Engineer of the Railway department of Sydney, and Stanley B Osborne 'of parts beyond the Seas Esquire'. In 1915 they then sold 221 acres (including 975 Donnybrook Road) to Richard Goss, a Donnybrook grazier. It was around this date that the current extent of the property was defined. In 1925 the farm was then sold to Joe Henderson, a farmer from Springfield.

The style and design of the house is dated to c.1910/20's and suggests it could have been constructed during the period of Goss or Henderson. In 2012, the farm buildings to the north of the house, included a milking shed and dairy, as well as bluestone paving, drystone walls and a well. These structures are thought to have been contemporary with the house. This farmstead has remained in its current incarnation since then; and has seen a continuation of owners over the next few decades. John Healy and John McKay solicitors in 1967, followed by John Healy and Win McKay (John McKay's Widow) from 1980. Then in 1984 it was lastly purchased by the Dibellas.

*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/>*