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## WANNAEUE HOMESTEAD (SITE)



Row of trees, looking west  
(note hedge at left side)

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### Location

504 Pascoe Vale Road, STRATHMORE VIC 3041 - Property No 201736

### Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO343

### Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

*What is significant?*

The *Wannaegue* site was occupied for over a century by one of Strathmore's earliest houses, erected in the 1870s by prominent local resident (and co-founder of Cobb & Co coaches) John Murray Peck (1830-1903). Subsequently occupied by his widow until her death in 1928, and thence by long-time Broadmeadows Shire Secretary A T C Cook (whose son also operated a poultry farm on the property), the house was demolished in

1980. The site, now occupied by a restaurant, retains remnant plantings in the form of Canary Island date palms, privet hedge and pepper trees, as well as a portion of the woven wire boundary fence along the Gaffney Street side.

How is it significant?

The *Wannaeye* homestead site is of historical significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

*Why is it significant?*

Historically, the *Wannaeye* site is significant for associations with the earliest house to be built in the Strathmore area. It also has associations with important local residents, namely its original occupant John Murray Peck, co-founder of Cobb & Co, whose family was responsible for two nineteenth century houses elsewhere in Strathmore that still survive, as well as associations with subsequent owner A T C Cook, Shire Secretary to the Shire of Broadmeadows for forty years. The remaining fabric, which evidently dates from Cook's tenure, includes mature trees and fencing that provides rare evidence of agricultural activity (in this case, poultry farming) that characterised this part of Strathmore well into the twentieth century but has since entirely disappeared.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - City of Moonee Valley Gap Heritage Study, Heritage Alliance, 2005;
Construction dates	1870, 1928,
Other Names	Wannaeye,
Hermes Number	29780
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The visible evidence of the former *Wannaeye* homestead is limited to the Gaffney Street frontage, where there is a row of four mature Canary Island date palm trees (*Phoenix canariensis*) at approximately nine metre centres. Alongside is a privet hedge, about 1.8 metres tall, which extended for about 35 metres long the site boundary. This hedge grows over a partly ruinous timber-framed woven wire fence that is the only surviving built fabric of the original *Wannaeye* property; it has been partly reinforced by a newer metal pipe railing. A number of large pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) exist at the river (eastern) end of the fence. It is likely that the fence and the palm trees date from c.1928, when Albert Cook took over the property.

## Historical Australian Themes

THEMATIC CONTEXT

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

4.1.2 Making suburbs

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

## Physical Conditions

CONDITION

The trees appear to be in excellent condition, but the remnant of original fencing, with its rotting timber members and rusty woven wire cladding, is in poor condition.

## **Integrity**

### INTEGRITY

The trees are substantially intact; the fence has been unsympathetically altered by the addition of a steel-framed support structure that, although assisting in its ongoing preservation, is a visually intrusive element.

*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/>*