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## HO20 - Former Condons Dairy



Condons Dairy



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### Location

1397 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road TOOLERN VALE, MELTON SHIRE

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO20

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is significant as a moderately intact example of a rare surviving example of a Victorian vernacular random rubble farm outbuilding in the Melton Shire. It is also a relic of the early Irish farming enclave at Toolern Vale

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2, D2). Although altered (with its repaired southern wall), the outbuilding still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form clad in colourbond steel, and the random rubble wall construction with evidence of an early rendered finish. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the small window opening with timber lintel, single door opening and the remnant low random rubble walling at the northern end providing evidence of a former building. The mature adjacent redgum also contributes to the significance of the place.

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It was associated with the Condon family from the mid nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries, and for at least one hundred years, until the present day, the property has been known as 'Condon's Paddock'. The then-ruinous building was identified in the 1983 autobiography of Condon descendent Professor Vincent Buckley, who had been awarded a personal Chair by Melbourne University, and in whose posthumous honour the university instituted the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize. The building is also a rare relic of the only significant Irish farming enclave to have established in the Shire. Although the Irish were the most numerous ethnic group in the early decades of the Shire's history, they were small in terms of land ownership, and this part of Toolern Vale was the only place with a concentration of Irish farmers sufficient to institute a Catholic school in the 1860s.

Overall, the outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road is 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,
Other Names	1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Toolern Vale, Condon's Dairy',
Hermes Number	29966
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The outbuilding at 1397-1457 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road has a rural setting, being surrounded by plantings, a mature eucalyptus tree and some corrugated galvanised steel fencing. It is visible from the Coimadai - Diggers Rest Road, the major east-west road in the locality.

The single storey, random rubble, Victorian vernacular styled outbuilding is characterised by a simple gable roof form clad in colourbond steel. The walls appear to have been rendered at an early period, with the render now peeling away. The northern wall has been repaired as has the southern end. There are no eaves. A small window opening (with a timber lintel) is situated in the northern gable end, with a single doorway on the southern gable. The floor level is lower than the external ground level by 1000mm.

Attached to the northern end of the building is remnant low random rubble walling of a former building. The former owner advises that there were rubble 10 metres to the north of the outbuilding indicatig a third room/building (possibly an outside kitchen to the mainhouse).[1] The northern wall also shows evidence of plaster remains around the window frame.

[1] Helen Kirpatrick (nee Hurley), Submission to draft Heritage Study, 28/05/2007.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming'*

## **Integrity**

Integrity - Moderately intact

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Condition - Fair

*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/>*