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# HO119 - House, 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank



House

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## Location

107-121 Water Reserve Road GRANGEFIELDS, MELTON CITY

## Municipality

MELTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO119

## Heritage Listing

Melton City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, is significant as a moderately-intact example of a Edwardian style with interwar styled windows. This dwelling represents one of three Edwardian/Federation dwellings in the Melton Shire with interwar design overtones. Built c.1913, the house also has a later hipped roof addition to one side. Also on the site is an earlier Victorian vernacular cottage that also contributes to the significance of the place. It is also a good representative example of the small farms created as a result of the

break-up of the Clarke *Rockbank* pastoral estate, a watershed event in the history of Melton Shire.

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended, the house still clearly demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style with interwar styled windows. The design qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, hipped roof form and the side gable that projects towards the front, together with the return convex verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets, multi-corbelled brick chimney, timber fretwork verandah valance, timber framed double hung windows arranged in banks of three and the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights. The adjacent Victorian vernacular styled cottage also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is a good representative and increasingly scarce remaining example of a rural weatherboard house built in Melton Shire in the first few decades of the twentieth century as a result of the increasing rural prosperity and historic changes of the era. In particular it is a good representative example of farming homesteads created as a result of the break-up of the Clarkes' massive *Rockbank* estate, which was a major turning point in the history of the Shire. The place is also associated with the important history of dairy farming, and water reserves, in the Shire.

Overall, the house off Water Reserve 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	1913, 1900, 1960,
Other Names	107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, O'Neills Water Reserve,
Hermes Number	30273
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, is set in a rural location with views to the adjacent water reserve. The house is surrounded by open grassed areas punctuated with beds of shrubs and flowers and some trees, and rear outbuildings associated with the former Chickadee Poultry Farm.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, Edwardian styled dwelling is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a gable that projects towards the front. On the other side of the gable roof is a slightly lower hipped roof wing that appears to be a later addition. There is an original convex return verandah, together with a similar verandah on the later work. These verandahs are supported by timber posts with framed timber fretwork valances. A multi-corbelled painted brick chimney adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs with paired timber brackets are features of the eaves.

The timber framed double hung windows arranged in banks of three on the original building appear to represent changes during the interior period, as these windows are reflective of that era. Similar windows have been constructed in the later work. The raised concrete verandah floor also appears to have been introduced, as has the timber finial and truss in the gable end.

Another early design quality of the dwelling is the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights.

On the north side of the dwelling is a small cottage that may represent an earlier building on the site. This Victorian vernacular styled horizontal timber weatherboard dwelling has a simple gable roof form with a skillion verandah at the front. The roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. There is an early central timber framed doorway at the front and flanking timber framed double hung windows.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming'*

## **Integrity**

Integrity - Moderately intact

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Condition - Good

*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/>*