
Borrell's Farm ruins and site of market garden



1934 - Brimbank City Council
Post-contact Cultural
Heritage Study 2000



Borrells.JPG



Site 092 - Borrell's farm ruins
and site of market
gardens.jpg

Location

Old Calder Highway, KEILOR VIC 3036 - Property No 92

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO97

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2000

Statement of Significance

Borrells farm is of local social and historical significance as a remnant of the once prolific orcharding industry in Keilor, and for its associations with pioneering farmers, not the least being Jose Borrell and his family, an important local family who arrived as immigrants and introduced innovative horticultural practices, adapted from their Spanish homeland. The remaining structure is only a fragment of the former farm, but it acts as a physical

symbol for the social and historical events that occurred there.

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000; Brimbank - Melbourne Western Region Industrial Heritage Study, G. Vines & A. Ward, 1989; |
| Construction dates | 1860, |
| Hermes Number | 106269 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Description

Remnants of an early stone and brick building, which was adapted for domestic use and formed a portion of a larger house. The timber sections and outbuildings were demolished by the MMBW in the 1980s following fires and vandalism. The vicinity of the farm retains evidence of the former terraced market garden fields and orchards, although most of the fruit trees have long been removed. Some remnants survive near the edge of the terrace - possibly second generation regrowth. The house formerly had about eleven rooms, mostly of timber, apart from the surviving bluestone section, with accretions growing with the different families occupying it, and changes such as wall removal and verandah filling. The house was damaged extensively by intentionally lit fires in the 1980s when the property had been taken over by the MMBW as part of the Metropolitan Park. The remains, apart from the stone section, were then demolished, and the timber packing shed and other outbuildings were subsequently demolished, also by the Parks division of the MMBW. The ruin is presently fenced off in cyclone fencing, and the areas of the outbuildings appear to have been top-soiled. However, there is high potential for archaeological evidence of both the buildings, and discarded artifacts. For example, a depression to the south-west may indicate a former privy or well which is almost certain to contain domestic refuse and other artifacts possibly dating back to the nineteenth century.

Physical Conditions

Condition/integrity

The ruin is in poor condition and the site has very low integrity. However, as a physical symbol of the sites significance, the remaining ruined structure is valuable.

Historical Australian Themes

- 3 Developing local, regional and national economies
- 3.9 Farming for export

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/>