
HO47 - House, 2-180 Davis Road, Diggers Rest



House



House

Location

2-180 Davis Road DIGGERS REST, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO47

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The house at 2-180 Davis Road, Diggers Rest, is significant as one of the most intact and refined examples of a timber Federation style in the Shire and for its early setting amongst mature cypresses and other exotics, the front being defined by the timber picket fence. The house was built c.1914 on one of the allotments sold in the break-up of the massive Clarke pastoral estate. It appears to be substantially intact with the interior of the house intact with all its period detailing. The house at 2-180 Davis Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original and outstanding design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the minor gables that project at the front and side that are linked by a broken back return verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height,

horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, unpainted galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, broad eaves, five face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, stop chamfered timber verandah posts with decorative incised bands, arched decorative solid timber fretwork valances with fan-light motifs, projecting rectangular bays on the gable ends with banks of three timber framed casement windows having highlights above, corner window bay with similar timber framed casements and highlights above, bracketed timber window hoods above the projecting bays, timber framed door opening with sidelights and highlights, and the decorative gable infill (stucco panelled and vertical timber battening). The mature cypresses and other exotic trees, and the front timber picket fence, contribute to the significant setting of the place. The farm buildings on the west side of the driveway contribute to the setting of the place and to an understanding of its significance as a working farm. The house at 2-180 Davis Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4) as a representative example of one of the many small to medium sized farm homesteads established as a consequence of the historic break-up of the large pastoral estates in Melton Shire in the early twentieth century, in particular the Clarkes' vast *Rockbank* estate. It is also expressive of the new farming prosperity in that period. Overall, the house at 2-180 Davis 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	1914,
Other Names	2-180 Davis Road, Diggers Rest (Lot 4, LP 6069),
Hermes Number	30034
Property Number	

Historical Australian Themes

Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming'

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The house at 2-180 Davis Road Diggers Rest is set on a large sizeable allotment with open grassed areas and mature cypresses and other exotic trees at the front and sides. The front is also characterised by a timber picket fence, approximately 1300 mm high, which complements the setting of the place.

The single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by a steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with minor gables that project at the front and side and are linked by a broken back return verandah. These roof forms are clad in unpainted galvanised corrugated steel. Broad overhangs are features of the eaves. Five early face brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops adorn the roofline.

An early feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by stop chamfered timber posts with decorative incised bands. The verandah also has early arched decorative solid timber fretwork valances with fan-light motifs.

The projecting rectangular bays on the gable ends with banks of three timber framed casement windows having highlights above, are early. The corner window bay, with similar timber framed casements and highlights above is also early.

The interior retains significant architectural and decorative detailing of the period with pressed metal on ceilings and upper walls, in some rooms, and original lathe plaster walls in others. Windows retain original coloured glass panes. Fireplaces in each room are original cast iron and tile with wooden mantles. Some rooms have original

wallpapers and friezes and in general the timber work is in excellent condition. Some floors show evidence of stump movement, but overall the house retains all its original internal and external features.

Other early features of the design include the bracketed timber window hoods above the projecting bays, timber framed door opening with sidelights and highlights, and the decorative gable infill (stucco panelled and vertical timber battening). The house appears to have two phases of development; the rear 5 rooms and joining breezeway may date from the 1930s.

There is a large underground tank to the west of the house with a large concrete cap over the top. The original pump is still intact on the top. There is boxthorn hedging around the sheep/goat yards and cypresses, which are under a great deal of stress around the house and up driveway. To the east of the house is a set of concrete tanks and a corrugated formwork tank and tank stands.

Integrity

Integrity - Substantially 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/>