
HO103 - Former Dairy and Trees



Farm house



Side elevation of farm house



Milking Shed / Barn and
Pepper Trees

Location

30 and 35 Hickey Road EXFORD, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO103

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former Hickey Farm at 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford, is significant as a late nineteenth / twentieth century small farm property with an intact example of a Late Victorian styled milking shed on the opposite side of the road. Built in the mid 1890s, the building is key evidence of the development of dairy farming at the end of the nineteenth century, the progressive stance taken by Harry Werribee Staughton in developing share farming in the 1890s, and the Exford Closer Settlement Estate of 1907. On the opposite side of the road are peppercorn trees which are associated with the Late Victorian house of the Hickey farm.

The milking shed at 35 Hickey Road, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel and the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the projecting structure within the site and the small opening in the gable end that faces the road. The flanking mature peppercorn trees also contribute to the setting of the place.

The former Hickey Farm at 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, D2). The two sites contribute an unusual and evocatively rural visual character to Hickey Road, expressive of the small farming era at the turn of the twentieth century. These historically and visually related sites, constitute unique evidence of the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the Shire of Melton at the turn of the twentieth century, which was a major turning point in the history of Melton. In particular they represent the late-nineteenth century revolution in the dairy industry, the progressive approach of Harry Werribee Staughton to changing political and economic circumstances, and the role of government legislators in facilitating small farm ownership through the Exford Closer Settlement Estate. The Hickey milking shed and associated farm plantings constitute a rare surviving dairy farm of the eleven built by Harry Werribee Staughton as part of his complete change from sheep grazing to share farming on *Exford* from the mid 1890s. The property is also a now-scarce remaining original farm associated with the Exford Closer Settlement Estate, one of the most prominent of the Victorian Closer Settlement Board's early estates.

The farm is also significant for its association with the Hickey family, who subsequently farmed a large part of the Exford Estate, from the Melton Weir in the north to near Exford Road in the south.

Overall, the former Hickey Farm at 30 & 35 Hickey Road, Exford 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	1895,
Other Names	30 Hickey Road, Exford (Lot 8 LP 92043); Shed: 35 Hickey Road, Exford 3338 (Lot 4 LP 92043),
Hermes Number	30232
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The former Hickey farm at 30 and 35 Hickey Road, Exford has a rural setting comprising peppercorn trees and other plantings. Very close, on the opposite (north) side of the road, now on a different property, is the milking shed that was also part of the property. The two properties contribute an unusual and evocatively rural visual character to Hickey Road, expressive of the small farming history of the early twentieth century.

Opposite the house site is the milking shed. This single storey, modestly scale (although elevated), horizontal timber weatherboard, Late Victorian vernacular styled building is characterised by a gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel. There is a small opening in the gable end. Other early parts of the structure project within the site. The wall cladding is in poor condition, having suffered considerable weathering.

Historical Australian Themes

Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming'

Integrity

Integrity - Substantially intact milking shed, and house site.

Physical Conditions

Physical Conditions - Poor - milking shed

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/>