

---

## HO117 - Bonnie Doone



Bonnie Doone



Bonnie Doone

---

### Location

339-365 Tarletons Road BONNIE BROOK, MELTON CITY

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO117

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

---

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

*Bonnie Doone* at 339-365 Tarletons, Road, Rockbank, is significant as a predominantly intact example of a Federation style. Built in 1906 for Mr Irwin Gillespie, the house is in good condition. The galvanised corrugated steel stable, other outbuildings, underground tank and dry stone walls also contribute to the significance of the place. It is also significant as a representative example of the farms created as a result of the break up of the Clarke pastoral estate, a watershed in the history of the Shire of Melton.

*Bonnie Doone* at 339-365 Tarletons Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof forms, together with the broken back return verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two red brick chimneys with rendered and projecting tops and terra cotta pots, modest eaves with exposed timber rafters, turned timber verandah posts with decorative brackets and timber fretwork valance, timber verandah floor, and the timber framed doorway with timber door, sidelight and highlight. The galvanised corrugated steel outbuilding and underground tank also contribute to the significance of the place.

*Bonnie Doone* at 339-365 Tarletons Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4). It is one of the larger of the surviving rural weatherboard houses built in the first few decades of the twentieth century which express the increasing rural prosperity and historic changes of the era, and in particular the break-up of the large pastoral estates throughout Australia. The break-up of Sir RHT Clarke's massive Rockbank estate represented a major turning point in the history of the Shire. The property is also significant for its association with the locally prominent Gillespie and Tarleton families.

Overall, *Bonnie Doone* at 339-365 Tarletons 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	1906,
Other Names	339-365 Tarletons Road, Plumpton, Bonnie Doon,
Hermes Number	30269
Property Number	

---

## Historical Australian Themes

*Melton Historical Themes:* 'Farming'

## Integrity

Integrity - Substantially intact

## Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Good

## Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

*Bonnie Doone*, 339-365 Tarletons Road, Rockbank, has a rural setting and consists of a timber house, galvanised steel outbuilding, dry stone walls and underground tank.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by steeply pitched hipped roof forms, together with a broken back return verandah. These roof forms are clad in

galvanised corrugated steel. Two early red brick chimneys with rendered and projecting tops and terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs and exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

An early feature of the design is the return verandah, which has recently been extended to the north side of the house. It is supported by turned timber posts with decorative brackets and timber fretwork valance, and has a timber floor. Other early features of the design of the house is the timber framed doorway with timber door, sidelight and highlight, and the fact that the house is orientated to face the original track which ran along the south-west side of the house.

The stable which is located to the north-east of the house was converted from a dairy. It has galvanised corrugated iron wall cladding over much earlier, unclad external wooden framing and internal horizontal weatherboard cladding. The floor is cobbled with house bricks on the northern side with more recently poured concrete on the south side. The round yard at the end has a remnant box thorn hedge which adjoins the north-south running dry stone wall. There are numerous fruit trees planted along this wall and around the house.

Other features include the dry stone walls around the house and site (up to five courses), the ford site (poor condition), and underground tank which still holds water on the north side of the stable, the above-ground steel pipe with which is the remnant of Gillespies market garden irrigation system, and the Sunshine gate, which is in poor condition.

*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/>*