

Keilor Market Gardens Cultural Landscape



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Location

Arundel Road and Milburn Road KEILOR, Brimbank City

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1999

The market gardens of Keilor are of regional historical significance as they are associated with the beginnings of irrigated horticulture in Victoria and have been continuously cultivated since the mid nineteenth century. The landscape is of regional significance as an expression of the early and long-lived farming practices adapted to the richer soils of the river terraces. The farms themselves also have long links with local families, such as the Milburns and Senserrick, and the pattern of houses and farm buildings reflect the original population distribution.

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	1870,
Hermes Number	45835
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The market garden cultural landscape covers a substantial area employing extensive irrigation systems and terracing. The irrigation systems are drawing on the Maribyrnong River, using pumps with both fixed and portable sprinkler systems. Terraces have been formed in levelling the fields with areas of steeply-sloping rough ground between. In some places the fields are divided by farm access tracks. The market garden area extends from Brimbank Park to near Overnewton Road, taking in only the alluvial terraces and centred on Arundel and Milburn Roads.

Most of the cultivated area is on the west bank of the Maribyrnong River, although smaller areas exist at Gumm's corner (no longer farmed, but once part of Borrell's farm) just opposite the Flora Street extension north of the freeway near Rio Vista Soils (also no longer farmed) and around Browns Road in the City of Hume. Another area of alluvial soil at the bottom of McNabs Road (also in the City of Hume) has also been cultivated. Immediately opposite the Brimbank proposed Cultural Landscape, are Heritage Overlay places in the City of Hume including HO255 Milburn's Weir, HO256 House (former Browns) Browns Road. Similarly, the Arundel Road Bridge, which is already included on the Victorian Heritage Register, straddles the municipal boundary.

The landscape is visually bounded by the top of the escarpment on the opposite side of the Maribyrnong to the north and east, by the Calder Freeway to the south and Overnewton College grounds to the west. As the municipal boundary follows the river, the escarpment and small areas of alluvial flat across the river are in the adjoining City of Hume. The landscape includes several places separately listed in the Brimbank Cultural Heritage Study including Milburn's Weir off Arundel Road Glenburn, The Grange, Hazelwood, and the Arundel Bridge.

The Site Number in the right hand column identifies places that are also individually listed in the Brimbank Heritage Study. The surviving houses that are contributory to the precinct include the following:

STREET Place DATE Contributory: Significance Level: Site Number

Arundel Road Keilor Market Gardens Cultural Landscape Heritage Area 1870s No Regional J

Arundel Road Frank Milburn's house 1900c. Yes Local 087

Arundel Road Grange Farm, David Milburn's 1868c. Yes Regional 033

Arundel Road Hazelwood, John Milburn's farmhouse 1892 c. Yes Regional 032

Arundel Road Milburn's Weir 1884 Yes State 013

Physical Conditions

As a landscape the area is at a high level of integrity due to the very active horticultural industry now underway. However, few of the original homes of Farm Buildings survive, most having been replaced with modern brick veneer houses and steel framed machinery sheds.

Historical Australian Themes

3 Developing local, regional and national economies
3.5 Developing primary production

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/>