
MERINO TOWNSHIP



Merino Precinct



merino.JPG

Location

High Street, MERINO, Glenelg Shire

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Glenelg Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The present township of Merino, located on the Portland -Casterton Road, dates from the early 1840s and appears to have pre-empted the closer settlement afforded by the Land Selection Acts by several years. The first buildings were Paddy Curtain's eating house, located on the banks of the Merino Creek and the waterholes to the north of the township. The plan of suburban allotments around in the Parish of Merino in 1855 shows only four sections laid out. A more detailed survey undertaken of the town in 1857, when the area was formally gazetted shows then allotments, many already sold, and only two permanent buildings on the land of F. Egan, on the southwest corner of Hare and High Streets. Interestingly, no reserves are set aside in the original survey, although the Catholic Church was granted land in 1861. The Merino Creek, which once provided a reliable water source to the early inhabitants of the town, has acted as a barrier to development to the west, and all subsequent development has occurred up the hill to the east of the town. The town is laid out in the standard grid pattern, with High Street being the main commercial and civic street. The main civic buildings are clustered together, the Court

House (moved in from Digby in 1870), the Police Barracks (former), the Mechanics Institute and the Post Office all stand near the corner of Burke and High Streets. The streets running parallel to High Street, ascending up the slope of the hill contain most of the early residences, the school and the religious buildings. The industry of the town was also located in the centre, often adjacent to the creek, such as the brick Flour Mill, built in 1857. Unlike most towns of this size, Merino has a main carriageway running through the centre of the road reserve, with service roads on both sides, and plantings between the main and service roads. These are mainly part of the World War One Avenue of Honour, planted in 1932 to replace the street trees (Radiata Pines). They are supported by the war memorial, dating from 1918, located in the centre of the town on the corner of Maud and High Streets. The churches are located high on the hill overlooking the town, and are outside of this precinct. The town is in good condition and retains a good level of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Merino Heritage Precinct is of historic, cultural, social and architectural significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Merino Heritage Precinct is of historic significance as a township dating from the early 1840s, as one of the chain of small settlements between Portland and Casterton, which developed as the major centres in the area, and for representing the emergence of various aspects of agriculture, especially closer settlement, soldier settlement and diaring in the area. It is of social significance as the focus for the community's commerce, religion, education and recreation, roles that continue to the present. The architectural significance of the town lies in range of buildings constructed from local materials over a long period of time, ranging from the fine religious buildings through to the humble timber cottages which remain.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002;
Construction dates	1840,
Other Names	Merino Township Precinct,
Hermes Number	52937
Property Number	

Usage/Former Usage

Continues as a township

Physical Description 1

The Township of Merino is located in a deep valley, adjacent to the Merino Creek, which once provided a reliable water source to the early inhabitants of the town. The creek has acted as a barrier to development to the north, and all subsequent development has occurred up the hill to the south of the town. The town is laid out in the standard grid pattern, with High Street being the main commercial and civic street. The main civic buildings are clustered together, the Court House (moved in from Digby in 1870), the Police Barracks (former), the Mechanics Institute and the Post Office all stand near the corner of Burke and High Streets. The streets running parallel to High Street, ascending up the slope of the hill contain most of the early residences, the school and the religious buildings. The industry of the town was also located in the centre, often adjacent to the creek. Unlike most towns of this size, Merino has a main carriageway running through the centre of the road reserve, with service roads on both sides, and plantings between the main and service roads. These are mainly part of the World War One Avenue of Honour, which are supported by the war memorial, located in the centre of the town on the corner of Maud and High Streets. The churches are located high on the hill overlooking the town, and are outside of this precinct.

The contributory and significant elements within this precinct are:

CONTRIBUTORY PLACES.

All mature street trees in Hare, Maud, Annesley, Henty, Burke Streets, Merino

- . Timber house, 18 Hare Street, Merino
- . Timber shop and residence, 13 Maud Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 20 Maud Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 21 Maud Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 30 Maud Street, Merino
- . Timber House and garden and *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Palm), 32 Maud Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 28 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 33 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 40 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 59 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 63 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Timber cottage, 35 Henty Street, Merino
- . Timber House 37 Henty Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 52 Henty Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 56 Henty Street, Merino
- . Timber House, 60 Henty Street, Merino
- . Hills Garage, 4253 Portland-Casterton Rd, Merino
- . Shop (former) and residence, Lot 1, TP545557, Portland-Casterton Rd, Merino
- . Brick Shop, 5 High Street, Merino
- . Brick Shop and Residence, 7 High Street, Merino
- . Shop and Residence, 9 High Street, Merino
- . Shop, 12 High Street, Merino
- . Shop, 18 High Street, Merino
- . Wilson Lodge, 13 High Street, Merino
- . Bakery and Confectionary Shops and outbuildings, 14 High Street, Merino
- . Pair of Shops, and single fronted metal tile shop, 15 High Street, Merino
- . Timber Shop, 32 High Street, Merino
- . Brick Shop, 34 High Street, Merino
- . Pair of Shops, 36 High Street, Merino

. Commercial premises, 40 High Street, Merino

SIGNIFICANT PLACES

- . Avenue of Honour, High Street median strip, Merino
- . Flour Mill (former) and *Quercus robur* (English Oak), 2 Maud Street, Merino
- . Bank of Victoria (former), 5 Maud Street, Merino
- . Catholic Church and land, 29 Maud Street, Merino
- . State School (former), 58-60 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Timber House, garden and fence, 23 Annesley Street, Merino
- . Merino Court House, 4 High Street, Merino
- . Merino Post Office (former), 8 High Street, Merino
- . Merino Public Hall, 10 High Street, Merino
- . Brick Cottage and garden, 20 High Street, Merino
- . Merino Hotel, 30 High Street, Merino

Physical Conditions

Very Good

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 2 Peopling Australia

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

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/>