

Roads End

Location

198-238 Beaumont Road, BERWICK, Casey City

Municipality

CASEY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1

Heritage Listing

Casey City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 6, 2004

What is significant?

'Roads End', comprising the house designed by Blackett and Forster and constructed between 1921-28, the associated complex of buildings and structures including the original stables and stable master's quarters, a small builder's cottage, and an old well and sundial, the formal entrance drive trees and entrance gates, and the mature garden setting, at 198-238 Beaumont Road, Berwick

How is it significant?

'Roads End' is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Casey. It is also of potential historic and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, 'Roads End' is significant for its associations with the noted surgeon Sir Sidney Sewell for whom the house was built, and who ran an important dairy complex there. As a partner in a joint dairying company formed with Edwin Flack of nearby Burnbank, Sewell helped establish one of Victoria's pioneer Friesian herds which held various Australian and world records for milk production.

Aesthetically, Roads End is of potential architectural significance to the State of Victoria as an outstanding and intact example of the work of the notable architectural firm, Blackett and Forster, and as an important representative of a hybrid architectural style of the 1920s era which incorporated the Arts and Crafts, Bungalow,

Shingle Style and Sydney Balcony Style idioms. The property is also significant for its spectacular garden setting, former entry drive specimen trees, its original stables and stable master's quarters, a small builder's cottage, and an old well and sundial, which are located near the site of a nineteenth century farmhouse where cheese was made and stored in the 1920s.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Casey - Casey Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Casey - Heritage of the City of Berwick, Context Pty Ltd, 1993;
Construction dates	1921,
Architect/Designer	Blackett & Forster,
Hermes Number	63058
Property Number	

Usage/Former Usage

Residential, farming

Physical Description 1

Roads End is constructed in a variety of materials, forming a complex Craftsmans Bungalow with a character suggestive of a sequence of different design intentions. However, this hybrid style appears to be a style characteristic of Blackett and Forster's work in the 1920s. It has been described as featuring the Arts & Crafts, Bungalow, Shingle Style and Sydney Balcony Style idioms (1).

The foundations and feature columns are constructed in bluestone. The ground floor walls are unpainted roughcast render and the upper level is a composition of gable sections with vertical timbers above a shingled apron. Exposed rafters in the eaves and consistent multi-paned sashed windows are characteristic bungalow features, as are the brick potted chimneys. Stone retaining walls, containing flower gardens, surround the house.

Roads End retains its original stables and stable master's quarters, and the original builder's cottage near the swimming pool (once the site of a lawn tennis court). A cheese factory building, or dairy, which once stood near an old well has gone, as has a weatherboard Federation style cottage destroyed by bushfire. However, the garden retains many unusual plantings collected from all over the world, some by the Sewells and many by the present owners. These include oaks, pines and elms and several Californian Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Giant Sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and other conifers. South-east of the house, near the site of the old farmhouse (which was used as a cheese factory), there is a collection of old statues, the old well and a sundial with the words around its base: 'Roads End Was Not the End of Time'. The impressive gates at the entrance to the property came from the former East Melbourne Market (2). The former entry drive, now part of Beaumont Road, retains fine specimen trees.

Sources

1. HBC File 6038593.
2. Inspection of property of 11 March 1993.

Physical Conditions

Good

Historical Australian Themes

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/>