

## Miller's Homestead Statement of Significance – February 2019

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Miller's Homestead (former 'Melrose'), 30 Dorrigo Drive Boronia	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO25
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### What is significant?

Miller's Homestead and garden, also known as 'Melrose', at 30 Dorrigo Drive, Boronia is significant. The following buildings and features contribute to the significance of the place:

- The homestead, as constructed in 1888, including the interior.
- The outbuilding to the rear of the homestead.
- The elevated siting of the homestead, with clear views from the front verandah towards Corhanwarrabul (Mt Dandenong).
- The mature garden setting including the following significant trees: Poplar (*Populus x Canadensis*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), Weeping Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium floribunda*), Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus enedo*) and Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*), as well as Camellia japonica cultivars *Alba Plena*, *Lady Loch* and *William Bull* within the camellia walk.
- The low retaining walls of locally quarried stone to the beds adjacent to the verandah.

Non-original alterations and additions, including the kitchen fit out and toilets and bathrooms within the homestead, the interior of the outbuilding, the gazebo and windmill, all pathways, driveways and fencing, and plantings dating from 1985 onwards (except for the camellia walk) are not significant.

### How is it significant?

Miller's Homestead ('Melrose') is of local historic, architectural and aesthetic significance to the City of Knox.

### Why is it significant?

It is of historical significance as one of oldest surviving houses in the City of Knox and demonstrates the early development of the area following the opening of the land for selection in the 1870s. It is representative of the country estates established by wealthy citizens on the fringes of Melbourne in the late nineteenth century and its significance is enhanced by its rarity values as one of the few remaining examples in the municipality. It has associations with James John Miller, who was prominent in local affairs, promoted tourism, and was the first President of Ferntree Gully Shire. (Criteria A, B, D & H)

The house has representative significance as an intact example of an Italianate villa, with typical form and detailing including the symmetrical plan with canted bays windows on either side of a central entrance, and the return cast-iron verandah. Internally, the principal rooms retain original details including deep cornices, elaborate ceiling roses and marble or timber fireplaces. There is also an original brick lined cellar under the rear of the house. Of note are unusual details such as the use of French doors to all principal rooms, including within the canted bays, and the way the polygonal roofs above the bays merge into the main roof ridge. (Criterion D)

It has aesthetic significance as a fine and well-detailed Victorian Italianate house in a mature garden setting. The aesthetic qualities of the house are enhanced by its elevated siting and several mature trees including the Pin Oak, Poplar, Ironbark, Weeping Lilly Pilly and Strawberry trees that are landmark plantings within the local area. Views from the homestead to Corhanwarrabul also contribute to its aesthetic qualities. (Criterion E)

The camellia walk is of historical and horticultural significance as a remnant of the original garden layout and demonstrates of the popularity of the camellia in the nineteenth century. (Criteria A & D)

### Primary source

*Heritage Advice – HO25 Miller's homestead and Garden: 30 Dorrigo Drive, Boronia, March 2018.*