

‘Thornbury Grange’, 13-15 Brassey Avenue, Highton Statement of Significance

May 2025

Heritage Place: ‘Thornbury Grange’, 13-15 Brassey Avenue, Highton

PS ref no: HO2043



Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025

What is significant?

Thornbury Grange at 13-15 Brassey Avenue, Highton, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. The key elements of primary significance to the place are:

- The original c.1905 weatherboard residence, including its verandah and chimneys.

Non-significant elements include:

- The contemporary boundary fence on the northern elevation of the site;
- Rear freestanding garage, and;
- Plantings.

How is it significant?

Thornbury Grange is highly intact example of a transitional Victorian style former homestead in Highton and is of historical, representative and associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

Thornbury Grange, at 13-15 Brassey Avenue, Highton, is of historical significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact 1905 former homestead now situated in a suburban context. The homestead is historically significant as it represents the historical transition from Highton’s farming use to its 20th century post-war urbanisation. (Criterion A)

The Thornbury Grange residence is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as an intact example of a transitional Federation-era residence constructed in earlier Late Victorian styling. Key features noted at Thornbury Grange which make it a representative example of a transitional Late Victorian style building include: its weatherboard construction, wraparound bullnose verandah with chamfered timber posts, decorative cast lacework unorthodoxly paired with timber detailing which was more a feature of the Edwardian and Federation era, paired timber eave corbels, hipped roof clad in galvanised corrugated metal sheeting, and its partially rendered chimneys which are more closely aligned with Edwardian trends. (Criterion D)

Thornbury Grange is of associative significance having been constructed originally for Edward Philpott the highly significant engineer who revolutionised Victoria’s rail network through the installation and implementation of interlocking signals and the points system which saw the expansion of State’s railways from 1876 to the mid-

1890s. Further, in 1910, Philpott was the first Mayor of the City of Geelong when the City was redefined as such from its earlier title as a town. (Criterion H)

Primary sources

Thornbury Grange, author: Benjamin Petkov, May 2025, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy, May 2025.

Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*