

Tait's Dairy, 2-20 Staceys Road, Connewarre Statement of Significance

May 2025

Heritage Place:	Tait's Dairy, 2-20 Staceys Road, Connewarre	PS ref no:	HO2053
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025

What is significant?

Tait's Dairy, at 2-20 Staceys Road, Connewarre, is significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Elements of significance are:

- The c.1849 bluestone dairy.

Elements that are not of significance are:

- All other structures onsite, including the primary residence and shedding.
- The livestock yarding.
- Boundary fencing.
- Any plantings or landscaping.

How is it significant?

Tait's Dairy at 2-20 Staceys Road, Connewarre, is of historical and representative significance for the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

Tait's Dairy is of historical significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact and early vernacular stone building constructed by James Tait following his arrival at Lake Connewarre with his family in 1849. On this basis, it is one of the earliest remaining post-colonial structures present in the municipality, and reflects one of the earliest waves of European occupation in region. Further, as the only tangible element remaining of Tait's former pastoral holdings, it is historically representative of the early agricultural pursuits in the region, as well as representing the devastating ecological impacts of recreational duck hunting in the 19th century. (Criterion A) Tait's Dairy, comprising the small stone structure at 2-20 Staceys Road, Connewarre, is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact Victorian vernacular dairy. Constructed using roughly hewn bluestone blocks in semi-formal courses and a simple gabled roof form, the dairy represents the establishment of freehold farms in the municipality as land speculators and squatters arrived the region. As one of the only early vernacular dairies still standing in the municipality, the structure is of great importance and significance to the City of Greater Geelong, representing the narrative of early colonial expansion and occupation. (Criterion D)

Primary sources

Tait's Dairy, 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*