

## ROYD

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<b>Address</b>	61-63 Mount Street, Eaglemont
<b>Significance</b>	Local
<b>Construction Date</b>	1901
<b>Period</b>	Federation
<b>Date Inspected</b>	January 2021



### Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

*Royd* at 61-63 Mount Street, Eaglemont is significant. It was constructed in 1901 on an allotment in the Eaglemont Estate for Henry Vines Champion and wife, Christiana. Henry was a civil engineer, then in partnership with his younger brother, Alfred Champion, an architect. The Champion brothers were almost certainly responsible for *Royd*'s design. In 1938, the property was sold by Henry's daughter to Dr Edgar Alexander North, a medical scientist with the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories at Parkville. He and his wife remained in residence until the mid-1960s.

*Royd*'s significant elements are its original footprint and gambrel roof, clad in slate, terracotta crests and finials, exposed rafter ends (to the side elevations), and red-brick chimney. The façade with its three-street facing gables with bargeboards, timber screens and ventilators, as well as return hipped-roof verandah with red-brick plinth (including three arched openings) and timber decoration (turned timber posts with moulded capitals, triangular brackets and balustrade with crosses), weatherboard cladding, three front tripartite bay windows, and multi-panelled door with sidelights (if original) are also significant.

The several mature exotic trees that characterise the front garden, specifically the Lebanon cedar (*Cedrus Deodara*), Algerian oak (*Quercus canariensis*) and the row of Pencil Pines (*Cupressus Sempervirens*), are complementary to the garden setting of the place.

Later additions, including the rear wing and verandah, garage/workshop, and garden paths and steps, are not significant.

## How is it Significant?

*Royd* is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Banyule.

## Why is it Significant?

*Royd* is of historical significance as a commodious timber villa from the early Federation period. It illustrates the gradual emergence of the Eaglemont Estate as an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century pocket of affluence within the municipality, typified by residences of architectural pretension in established gardens that attracted professionals like the original occupant, the well-regarded civil engineer Henry Champion. *Royd's* role as the Melbourne-residence of Dr North, a leading postwar medical researcher, who, amongst other advances, pioneered the introduction of the triple antigen vaccine is also of some associational note. North and his wife were ardent gardeners and are likely responsible for many, if not all, of the mature exotics in the front garden. (Criterion A)

*Royd* is of aesthetic significance as a substantial and generally intact, architect-designed weatherboard example of the Queen Anne style from the early Federation period. The more formal roof composition and restrained picturesqueness of the gable and verandah with pronounced geometric timber detailing are distinguishing, reflecting a less typical variant of Federation architecture. Such considered design emphasises the prominence of the return verandah – its presence also underscored by the red-brick plinth with arches – and the villa's elevated ridgeline siting and deep set-back from the street. Together with the informally planned garden, resplendent with mature exotic trees, such attributes endow *Royd* with a sense of distinction and exclusivity, indicative of a historic and continuing architectural trend in Eaglemont. It is the principal known timber example of its idiom in the municipality. (Criterion E)

## Description

*Royd* is a large-scale, single-storey residence, situated parallel to the ridgeline, at the rear part of a substantial rectangular allotment on the west side of Mount Street (split-level in the vicinity of the site). The deep setback and elevated siting confer a prominence to the residence. The sizeable front garden slopes in an undulating manner to the footpath and includes lawn and an array of mature exotics, including a Lebanon cedar (*Cedrus Deodara*), Algerian oak (*Quercus canariensis*) and Pencil Pines (*Cupressus Sempervirens*).

These tall exotic trees likely stem from the planting efforts the second occupants, the Norths, and contribute to *Royd's* stately character and garden setting. It is unknown if the existing low drystone retaining wall (volcanic rock) at the front of the place is original or early; however, there was likely always some masonry breast wall at this location. There is no evidence that the front of the property has ever been fenced. The brick steps at the front of the property and splayed stairs (dwarf walls) forward of the house are contemporary additions.

At the rear, the allotment abuts an unnamed concrete right of way. A double gabled and weatherboard garage/workshop was constructed to the rear boundary in the late 1990s. Rear and side timber paling fences are non-original.

A series of architectural drawings prepared by Andrew Fedorowicz for modifications to *Royd* (dated May 1998) inform this assessment and are referred to below.<sup>1</sup>

*Royd's* original footprint was capped by a low-peaked gambrel roof (partly altered, see below) incorporating three street-facing gables.<sup>2</sup> The latter arrangement is comprised of a central gablet (small gable) flanked by a pair of larger gables. This symmetrical composition imparts a formality to the design, one less common for its type and idiom (see below), albeit still picturesque in intent. The gable ends feature timber decorative elements, consisting of bargeboards that break forward with timber screens, behind which are louvred ventilators. The smaller central gable is surmounted by a timber finial whereas the larger flanking

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Fedorowicz, ARAIA, *Proposed Alterations for Mrs Sheehan at 63 Mount Street, Eaglemont*, dated 11 May 1998 – provided by the City of Banyule

<sup>2</sup> In Australia, a gambrel roof is generally defined as a hip with small gablets under the ridge.



gables are surmounted by terracotta ball finials. The restrained, geometric detailing to the verandah and gable ends is striking and in conjunction with its elongated form, readily distinguishes *Royd*.



The main part of the roof is clad in slate, which was replaced during the late 1990s. Drawings note that the original terracotta cresting (faceted and pierced to the ridgeline) were re-used or substituted like-for-like 'if necessary'. Rafter ends are exposed to the primary roof (mainly to the side elevations). There is also a tall red-brick chimney with strapwork, pronounced corbelling and dual terracotta pots to the east roof plane.

A hipped roof verandah that returns to the north defines the frontage of *Royd*. It is clad in non-original corrugated metal sheeting and supported by turned timber posts with distinctive moulded/stepped capitals and triangular brackets. Saltire (Scottish) crosses are included in the timber balustrade. The verandah is raised above a red-brick plinth, characterised by three evenly spaced rounded arches (with voussoirs) to the remaining original section, with timber batten infill (possibly doors providing access to the subfloor).

In the late 1990s, the verandah was extended forward in the northwest via a faceted-like projection (a 'balcony/patio') and adjacent timber stairs provided. The hipped roof was also extended partly over the projection. Posts, brackets and balustrade matched the original. Despite this not altogether unsympathetic modification, the original character of the long return verandah and its key role in the facade's composition remains readily interpretable.

As part of an extension to the south elevation, a small part of the verandah return was lost. The extent of change to the northern return is unclear, but it appears that at least the verandah posts/detailing was replaced like-for-like. *Royd*'s verandah original central timber stair has also been removed. The extant type of the verandah deck is not known.

*Royd*'s 1901 extent is of timber-framed construction and clad in painted weatherboard.





Royd, 1980s, showing the original verandah with central timber stair – plinth screened by vegetation  
(Source: Graeme Butler, survey images, *Heidelberg Conservation Study*, 1985 – used with permission)



Royd's extant façade

Additions were constructed at Royd in the late 1990s, replacing some of its original rear wing and back verandah (refer to undated MMBW plan in Site-Specific). The design and scale of the rear additions were relatively respectful, echoing the established character and continuing the high-quality material palette. An original gable – facing the backyard – was partly retained in this later scheme. As part of this modification, the southern section of the primary gambrel roof (likely a mirror design of the intact north part) was altered into a hip.





Aerial photograph of *Royd*, viewed obliquely from the south, with original primary and verandah roof approximately indicated by the red shading (Source: Nearmap, November 2020)

Beneath the gables, set in the verandah wall, are three large timber-framed, tripartite bay windows. The flanking pair are faceted with long double-hung sashes, while the centre is a square bay with paired casement windows and toplights. Its base did have shingled boards (in the 1980s). A door to the right of the central window has been infilled. What appears to have always been the main entrance remains in the north elevation of *Royd*, at the end of the verandah's return. Its panelled timber door with sidelights is assumed original.

Other windows at *Royd*, mostly timber-framed double-hung sashes or casements grouped to the rear, are the outcome of changes in the late 1990s.

*Royd* is classifiable as Queen Anne revival in style, notwithstanding the malleability of the descriptor. This label primarily derives from the red-brick, terracotta-tiled houses with rendered trim and white-painted sashes designed in England by Richard Norman Shaw and others during the 1870s that often incorporated Dutch motifs but bore little similarity with the architecture of Queen Anne's chiefly 17<sup>th</sup>-century reign. With its transfer to Australia by London-trained architects and proliferating architectural/building journals over the 1880s, the English Queen Anne was dramatically recast, particularly around the turn of the century. Several architectural historians suggest it is better understood as a 'broad agreement' in architectural principles than a style.<sup>3</sup>

In Melbourne, the Queen Anne idiom signalled a radical departure from the 'boom time' excesses of the late Victorian era. The 'Free' and eclectic red-brick or timber 'villas' that emerged abandoned academic imitation or formalism, instead emphasising irregularity in planning/massing and reducing applied (or non-functional) ornamentation. Before petering out with the First World War, such a design scene was vibrant and transformative. Underlying its expression was a profound embracement of the English Arts & Crafts movement, the Ruskinian vision that materials should be employed with regard to their nature and valorisation of labour. This belief was paired with a then permeating Anglo-Saxon national sentiment; the desire that buildings should say something of the new nation and their local context.<sup>4</sup>

*Royd* is indicative of the 'broad agreement' that characterised progressive architecture in the Federation period, although its overall aesthetic is comparably restrained for a Queen Anne-style residence. Such repose is distinctive and likely arises from the natural advantages of the site. In that, the careful siting of the villa high on its ridgeline, combined with the scope for a well-planted deep front garden and multiple viewpoints of the place from the lower street, afforded an essential 'drama' that obviates the need for a bolder facade. Such allotments were not typical for Melbourne suburban subdivisions at the time. The linear return verandah at *Royd* and its simplified primary roof form also reflects the tendency of some Queen Anne-designs to subtly integrate aspects of the vernacular homestead, both as a necessary climatic device and a gesture to regional antecedents.

<sup>3</sup> Julie Willis and Philip Goad, 'A Myth in its Making: Federation Style and Australian Architectural History', in Andrew Leach, Antony Moulis and Nicole Sully, eds, *Shifting Views: Selected Essays on the Architectural History of Australia and New Zealand*, UQP, 2008, p133

<sup>4</sup> Conrad Hamann, 'Against the mainstream: the inclusive tendency in Victoria's architecture, 1890-1984', in Alan G L Shaw, ed, *Victoria's Heritage*, 1986, chapter 8

## History

### Context

The City of Banyule covers the unceded Country of the Wurundjeri-willam people, who have inhabited and managed its landscape for thousands of generations and maintain an ongoing cultural connection.<sup>5</sup> The lightly wooded grasslands of what became known as 'Ivanhoe' and 'Heidelberg' were quickly targeted for sheep runs and by timber-cutters from the 'illegal squatter camp' downstream of the *Birrarung/Yarra* at Melbourne (est. 1835).<sup>6</sup> Much of the area, surveyed and ordered as the Parish of Keelbundora, passed rapidly into private hands via an auction in Sydney Town in 1838.<sup>7</sup>

Over the following decade, a patchwork of 'prestige' estates emerged, along with a surveyed township – *Warringal* (possibly Wurundjeri for 'eagle's nest'), later 'Heidelberg' – on the river's west bank.<sup>8</sup> Productive river flats, and the demands of the gold diggings further afield, encouraged market gardening, orchards and (gradually, due to soil exhaustion and flooding) dairying; activities mostly undertaken by tenant farmers.<sup>9</sup>

The neat area of hilly terrain between Heidelberg and Ivanhoe, dominated by 'Mount Eagle' and generally referred to as Eaglemont from the 1900s, remained relatively embryonic during the first several decades of settlement. From the 1840s, it was divided between a pair of expansive agricultural estates, 'Leighton' (north) and 'Hartlands' (south), attracting attention for its rustic and scenic qualities and panoramic views. Following the partial breakup of Hartlands in 1853, a residence was constructed at the summit of Mount Eagle for the politician John Henry Brooke. The name of the peak was adopted for Brooke's landscaped estate, which he reforested with then-fashionable conifers (the variety of such trees in the suburb today may originate from this 'pinetum').<sup>10</sup> The holding passed through multiple hands, and the house accommodated some of the celebrated *plein air* artists in the late 1880s, fixing the 'Heidelberg School' within Australia's artistic consciousness.<sup>11</sup>

Suburban growth, characterised by a generally 'high class of homes', advanced steadily over the ridges and hillsides of Eaglemont over the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in the north-western part of the locale (formerly Leighton, subdivided as the 'Eaglemont Estate'). In 1914, Peter E Keam – an avid town planning enthusiast – commissioned Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin to design a progressive Garden City Movement-infused subdivision for the Mount Eagle estate. The Griffins innovative plan retained trees and featured contour responsive curvilinear streets, common reserves and generous allotments, and was advertised as 'Eaglemont'. Two years later, on lower land to the northeast, again at the behest of Keam, the Griffins prepared a similar subdivision at the Glenard estate, previously a farm. The presence and associations of artists, the Griffins (who lived at Glenard at *Pholiota*, a self-designed Knitlock house for five years) and other creative types, such as the architect Harold Desbrowe-Anneer, instilled Eaglemont with something of a bohemian, even alternative reputation.<sup>12</sup> The opening of the Eaglemont railway station in 1926 supported intensified suburban growth over the late Interwar period.

### Site-specific

The subject land derives from Portion 2 (420 hectares) of the Parish of Keelbundora, purchased (along with portions 1 and 3) by Thomas Walker in 1838. A Sydney-based Scottish banker and 'philanthrope' with an eye for marketable land across the colony, Walker's intention in the Port Phillip District was speculative from the start. He commenced subdividing his acquisitions as early as mid-1839, amassing enormous profit.<sup>13</sup>

The northern part of Portion 2, some 146 hectares, including the subject property, was purchased by the 'overlander' Joseph Hawdon – the founder of the 'Banyule Estate' (part of Portion 6) – and became known as the Leighton. Hawdon sold it to

<sup>5</sup> Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, October 2018, pp15-20, available online

<sup>6</sup> James Boyce, *1835: The Founding of Melbourne & The Conquest of Australia*, Black Inc. 2011, pxi

<sup>7</sup> Keelbundora stems from a European rendering of Kulbundora – the name of the eldest son of the important Wurundjeri *ngurungaeta* (essentially 'head man') Billibellary. ('Suburban Native Names', *Argus*, 28 April 1906, p5). One of the earliest manifestations of local governance in the Port Phillip District (1840), the fluctuating borders of municipal Heidelberg mirrored its growth, as it was reformatting into a Road District (1860), Shire (1871), City (1934), and amalgamated as the City of Banyule (1994).

<sup>8</sup> Donald S Garden, *Heidelberg: The Land and Its People 1838-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1972, p13; and Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, p15

<sup>9</sup> Robert P Whitworth, *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, F F Bailliere, 1879, pp237

<sup>10</sup> Fox Paul, *Clearings: six colonial gardeners and their landscapes*, Melbourne University 2004, p183

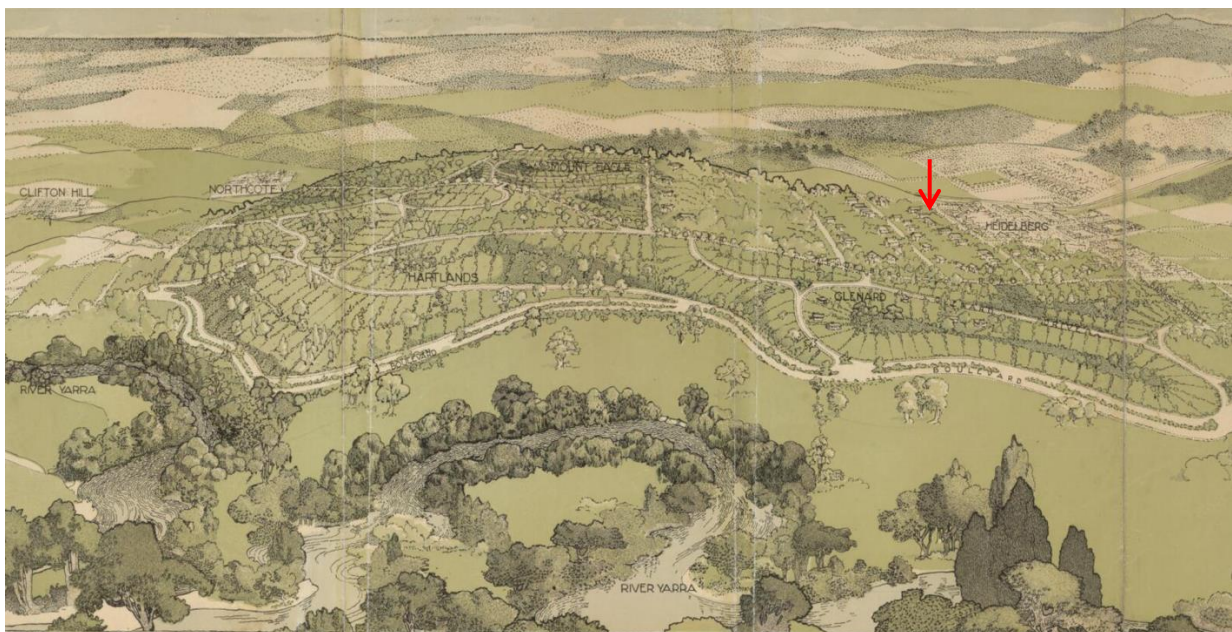
<sup>11</sup> Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, sections 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.5, and 2.3.10; and Janine Rizzetti, 'Heidelberg', in Richard Broome et al, eds., *Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960*, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 2016, p282

<sup>12</sup> Don Garden, 'Eaglemont', *eMelbourne*, The University of Melbourne, July 2008, available online

<sup>13</sup> W Joy, 'Walker, Thomas (1804-1886)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 1967, available online

members of the Bolden family, important cattle breeders in Port Phillip District, in 1840.<sup>14</sup> By the end of the decade, it was being leased to a handful of tenant farmers. In 1885, at the outset of Melbourne's 'Land Boom', local representatives for the Boldens put Leighton up for sale as two large-scale lots divided by Lower Heidelberg Roads. The subject place formed part of the 81-hectares western offering, acquired by a wealthy Fitzroy draper, John Christopher – it seems likely as a front to a syndicate who had previously been rebuffed from purchasing Leighton for subdivision.<sup>15</sup>

Besides selling a strip of land for the railway (1888), Christopher retained the holding until 1890, when it was transferred to the recently formed 'Eaglemont Estate Company', of which he was a key stakeholder.<sup>16</sup> By this stage, the western part of Leighton was routinely referred to as the 'Eaglemont Estate', while the adjoining eastern section (previously 'Glenard Farm') had been rechristened the 'Mount Eagle Estate'. The company had procured the latter in 1888, with the intention to oversee a pair of high-status (and lucrative) residential subdivisions. Accordingly, wide roads were laid (such as Mount Street, initially Main) and well planted with English trees. Provisions were also stipulated on contracts as to the expenditure and quality of prospective housing.<sup>17</sup> By at least 1913, the estates were described as one 'where the streets are planted with English trees, now in all their umbrageous beauty, and which differentiates the land to be offered from that in other parts'.<sup>18</sup> Opening sales, however, were disappointing as the overheated Melbourne market had entered a phase of contraction. The onset of the 1890s Depression proved terminal, with none of the lots offered as part of the Eaglemont Estate bought between 1893 and 1899.<sup>19</sup>



Extract from an artist's impression of the Eaglemont area in 1916

Approximate location of Royd, immediately south of the township of Heidelberg, is identified by the red arrow

(Source: *Sale brochure for Glenard Estate, Mount Eagle, Victoria*, Eric Milton Nicholls collection, NLA, Bib ID 3701541)

The pace of sales picked up in the Eaglemont Estate with the turn of the century. At this time, Christian Hall Champion – the wife of a well-regarded civil engineer, Henry Vines Champion – purchased the subject allotment in August 1901. A covenant attached to the title stated:

no dwelling – house building or erection whatsoever (exclusive of fences outbuildings and stables relating---thereto or to be used therewith) to cost less than £500 may be erected ... [no] brickmaking quarrying fellmongering ... butchering or other noisome offensive or ... dangerous pursuits operations or manufactures ...<sup>20</sup>

<sup>14</sup> P L Brown, 'Bolden, Armyne (1817-1843), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 1966, available online

<sup>15</sup> Garden, *Heidelberg: The Land and Its People 1838-1900*, 28-31, 92, 141-3

<sup>16</sup> Certificate of Title, vol 220, folio 900

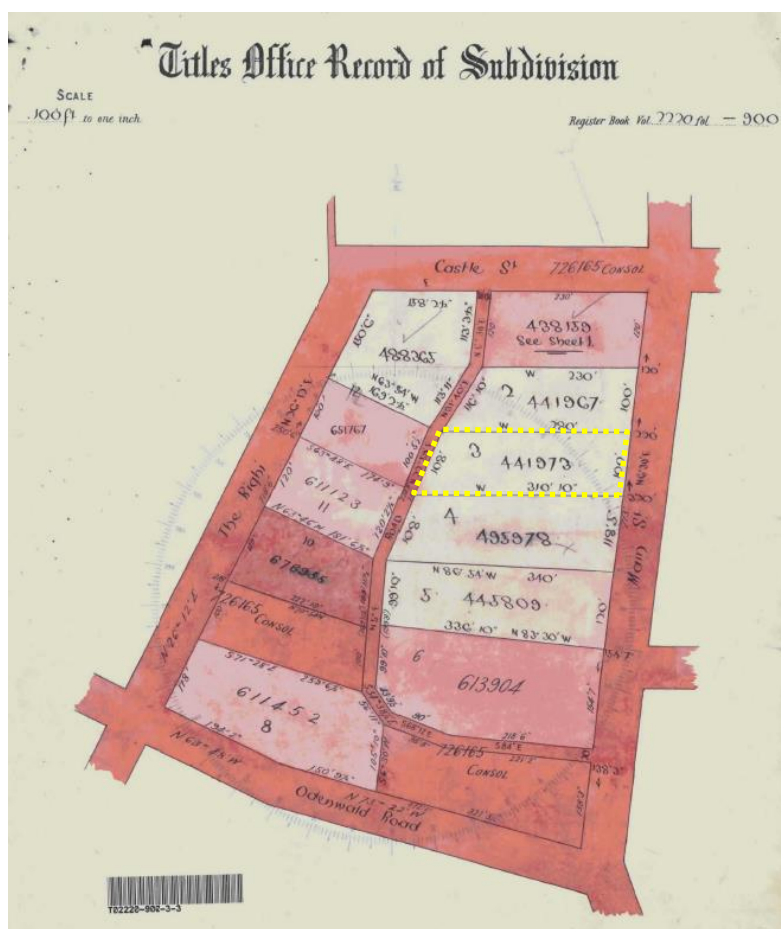
<sup>17</sup> Garden, *Heidelberg: The Land and Its People 1838-1900*, p151-2

<sup>18</sup> 'Charming Heidelberg', *Herald*, 11 December 1913, p5

<sup>19</sup> Garden, *Heidelberg: The Land and Its People 1838-1900*, pp182-3

<sup>20</sup> Certificate of Title, vol 2832, folio 336





Subdivision map of the block bound by Castle Street (north), The Righi (west), Odenwald Road (south), and Main/Mount Street (east). Subject allotment is outlined in dashed yellow (LP 4245).

Note presence of the existing right of way to the rear (identified as a 'Road').  
(Source: Certificate of Title, vol 220, folio 900)

The Champions appear to have brought the property with the intention of establishing it as their personal residence. At the time, Henry was in partnership with his younger brother, Alfred Champion, a registered architect, practising under the name 'H.V. and A. Champion, Architects, Civil Engineers & Licensed Surveyors'. The Champion brothers were almost certainly responsible for the design of *Royd* (a name that descends from Old Norse for forest clearing).

A press article concerning the supply of drainage mains for Main/Mount Street in July 1901 noted that:

The purchasers—Messrs M. Omerod, G.A. Evans, and H. V. Champion—intend building at once. The houses, with land will cost from £1200 to £1500 each.<sup>21</sup>

Such a figure was well above average in the Federation period. Interestingly, it was also noted that Henry's advice as a civil engineer was sought by the Eaglemont Estate Company for the best means of 'cut[ing] down' and 'fix[ing]' the levels of the thoroughfare itself. It is plausible he may have had a role in the split-level format of Main/Mount Street.

In late August 1901, the Champions' practice issued a tender notice for the 'Erection of a Wooden Villa and Stabling, &C., at Heidelberg' in *The Age* (just days after the formal transference of the land), which was almost certainly for *Royd*.<sup>22</sup> Another newspaper in September that year noted that contracts for 'new villas on Eaglemont, Heidelberg' had been signed, including by one of the Champions, suggesting that construction was imminent.<sup>23</sup> The City of Heidelberg rate book records Henry in residence at the property in 1901.<sup>24</sup> The *Sands & McDougall's Directory of Victoria* lagged, not listing any Champions in occupation until its 1904 edition.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>21</sup> 'Heidelberg Council', *Mercury and Weekly Courier*, 12 July 1901, p2

<sup>22</sup> 'Advertising', *Age*, 17 August 1901, p3

<sup>23</sup> 'Buildings on Eaglemont', *Mercury and Weekly Courier*, 6 September 1901, p2

<sup>24</sup> City of Heidelberg rate book, 1901, p121 (Allom Lovell & Associates, *Banyule Heritage Places Study: Building Citations*, vol 2, part 1, Banyule City Council, July 1999, p290)

<sup>25</sup> *Sands & McDougall's Directory of Victoria*, 1904, p355. During the preparation of this study, RBA has repeatedly noticed instances of a longer lag time than typical for *Sands* in the Study Area, sometimes between two and four years between known building activity or occupancy changes being listed.





MMBW, Municipality of Heidelberg, no 2578, undated buy likely 1940s  
The original footprint of *Royd* is circled. Rear outbuildings have been removed.  
(Source: PROV, VPRS 8601, P0002, Unit no 7)

After previous lodgings in Williamstown, Hawthorn and the township Heidelberg,<sup>26</sup> the decision of Henry and Christian Champion to establish their new residence in leafy Eaglemont – then gradually metamorphosing into a well-heeled commuter suburb – on an elevated and large lot is telling of the potency of the suburban ideal in the early 1900s. Such a setting was where the successful middle-class professional was supposed to establish the family household. Since the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century, the concept of the villa ‘suburb’ as a refuge from the social and sanitary maladies of the city had remained for many a decidedly ‘modern’ mindset, one underset by several prevalent contemporary beliefs: ‘evangelicalism, which sanctified domestic privacy; sanitary science, which preached the importance of fresh air; Romanticism which inculcated a reverence for nature; and class-consciousness, which fed the demand for exclusive bourgeois neighbourhoods.’<sup>27</sup> The home was framed as a place where the male breadwinner could find refuge from the public realm and domestic architecture a vessel for delivering an ‘authentic’ life.<sup>28</sup>

*Royd's* development is a microcosm of such broader forces in Eaglemont during the early 1900s when the pace of construction was slowly renewing in the wake of the 1890s Depression and attempts were made via restrictive covenants and planning to create more 'exclusive' locales.

In 1904, the Champions (again under Christiana's name) expanded *Royd's* grounds, purchasing the vacant lot (no 4) adjacent to the south.<sup>29</sup> At the back, on the high ground, they built a tennis court (still extant) – a sport then the preserve of the privileged – and incorporated the remainder of the land into their garden. A 1931 aerial photograph, reproduced below, depicts the property, still occupied by the Champions, as well-treed with an expansive lawn.

26      *Sands & McDougall's Directory of Victoria*

<sup>27</sup> Graeme Davison, 'Suburbs', in Davison, John Hirst, Stuart Macintyre, eds. *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, Oxford University Press, rev 2001, p623

<sup>28</sup> Harry Margalit, *Australia: modern architectures in history*, Reaktion Books, 2019, pp24

29 Certificate of Title, vol 3017, folio 202



1931 aerial photograph

Subject site, then encompassing lots 3 and 4, is outlined in dashed red

(Source: Landata, Project no 1931, Run 17, Frame 3328)

Following Henry's death (1918), Christiana remained at *Royd* until her passing in 1935. It then passed to their only child, Elizabeth Mary Champion. She promptly advertised the house and grounds for auction:

ROYD, No. 63 Mount-Street, Heidelberg.

One of the Most Beautiful Sites on THE FAMOUS EAGLEMONT ESTATE, With Glorious Uninterrupted Easterly Aspect Across to the Dandenong and Dividing Ranges.

Under Instructions from Miss Elizabeth Champion.

The House is a COMMODIOUS AND SUBSTANTIAL TIMBER VILLA, With Slate Roof. Having Extensive Verandahs, and Containing 8 Splendid Rooms &c. The Outbuildings Include Stables and Sheds. There is An Asphalt Tennis Court.

The LAND Has Frontage to MOUNT-STREET of 218 ft. 5 In. by Depths of 280 Ft. and 340 Ft.

The Situation is Ideal. It is Only a Few Minutes' Walk from Heidelberg and Eaglemont Railway Stations. A Great Feature of This Property is the Magnificent Panoramic View Which is Obtainable from Any Part.<sup>30</sup>

*Royd* – on its existing allotment – was ultimately sold in 1938 to Dr Edgar Alexander North (1896-1970), a medical scientist, who had recently arrived in Melbourne to take up an appointment to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories at Parkville, where he ultimately rose to be the chief of the research division (1950).<sup>31</sup> North was an erudite medical authority, involved during the Second World War with the manufacture of the smallpox vaccine and of the tetanus toxoid. He was also later part of the vaccine improvements for pertussis (whooping cough), the production and distribution in Australia of the *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin* vaccine (to prevent tuberculosis), and in the early 1950s, pioneered the introduction of triple antigen vaccines. Both Edgar and his wife were avid gardeners. It is likely that some of the place's plantings stem from their activity, particularly those along the northern perimeter and in the southeast corner of the property.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> 'Advertising', *Age*, 23 November 1935, p2

<sup>31</sup> 'Principle at Stake, says Counsel', *Evening News* (Rockhampton), 8 March 1934, p1; and 'Personal Notes', *Argus*, 16 February 1939, p12

<sup>32</sup> Anthony Proust, 'North, Edgar Alexander (1896-1970)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 2000, available online. The *Herald* noted soon after the Norths had moved into *Royd* that Mrs North had 'thousands of sprays of lily of the valley at present in full bloom' at the property. (Sale of Flowers for Comforts Funds', *Herald*, 23 October 1939, p13).



The Norths remained at *Royd* into the mid-1960s, afterwards retiring to Tasmania (Edgar's birthplace).<sup>33</sup>

Lot 4 – along with the tennis court – was ultimately sold by Elizabeth to different owners in 1940. A new residence followed within a few years (now 59 Mount Street).<sup>34</sup>



1945 aerial photograph of *Royd*, outlined in dashed red, then owned/occupied by the Norths  
(Source: Landata, *Melbourne and Metropolitan Area Project*, Run 30, Frame 59706)

### **Henry Vines Champion (1859-1918) and Alfred Champion (1872-1913)**

A leading practitioner of engineering science in Melbourne during the Federation period, Henry V Champion was remembered at his sudden death as 'one of the most brilliant civil engineers the Melbourne University had turned out'.<sup>35</sup> His younger brother, Alfred Champion, also had a public profile and formed an active design/engineering partnership with Henry during the Federation years.

<sup>33</sup> Certificate of Title, vol 6187, folio 331

<sup>34</sup> Certificate of Title, vol 3017, folio 202

<sup>35</sup> 'Engineer's Death Regretted', *Herald*, 8 January 1918, p1

Henry Champion was born in Victoria, the oldest boy of thirteen children. His parents had immigrated to Victoria in the mid-1850s, his father from Cornwall and his mother, the Channel Islands.<sup>36</sup> Educated at Wesley College, Henry attained 'the then coveted degree of Master of Civil Engineering' from the University of Melbourne in 1886.<sup>37</sup> Municipal positions as surveyor/engineer followed, notably at Williamstown and Port Melbourne, with Henry cultivating a reputation as an 'energetic admirer of order' and 'innovator of things that practical'.<sup>38</sup> He was considered a particular authority on sewerage schemes, on which he was widely consulted.<sup>39</sup> Closely involved with the Victorian Institute of Engineers, Henry was also admitted as an associate of the prestigious London-based Institute of Civil Engineers – possibly the first Australian-born engineer to be so – and made a life member of the Society of Engineers.<sup>40</sup> Henry married Christin Hall Inglis (1852-1935), a Scottish immigrant, in 1889. At the time of his death, he was a reserve officer with the Australian Field Artillery and held the rank of major.<sup>41</sup>

Alongside providing engineering services to public and private clients, particularly rural shires and Victorian/Tasmanian mines, Henry also entered into a partnership with his younger brother, Alfred Champion, a trained and registered architect.<sup>42</sup> Alfred had completed an articulated education under Peter Matthews, 'who in his day had a very large architectural practice in Melbourne', and soon after was elected an associate of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (RVIA) in the early 1890s. At that time, the slackness of the Victorian economy saw Alfred emigrate to Perth and later Fremantle (Western Australia), where he was involved with multiple architectural offices, after which he returned to Melbourne.<sup>43</sup>

The brothers' partnership – 'H.V. and A. Champion, Architects, Civil Engineers & Licensed Surveyors' – operated between 1897 and 1903 from offices in Queen Street, Melbourne.<sup>44</sup> It undertook various architectural projects as well as the measurement and layout of subdivisions (such as the local 'Hillsley Estate' in Ivanhoe, 1908). The obituary for Alfred in the RVIA's journal described the Champions' office as having 'designed and supervised the erection of many buildings in Melbourne and suburbs, including new buildings in Russell-street for the "Herald", Malt Store and Brewery, Carlton, Civil Service Stores in Flinders-street, Roycroft's Building, and Massina's Warehouse and Shops in Swanston-street, and other important works.'<sup>45</sup> Alfred had married Florence Clark in 1905 and died in his early 40s.

At Henry's death, aged 58, from 'Brights' disease' (Glomerulonephritis), his obituary was widely published in metropolitan and rural newspapers, and flags lowered to half-mast at a few town halls – 'His sudden demise created quite a gloom in municipal circles'.<sup>46</sup> Champion Road in Williamstown is named after him.<sup>47</sup>

## Thematic Context

Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, October 2018:

- Theme 5: Suburban development

See also Allom Lovell & Associates, *Banyule Heritage Place Study: An Urban History*, vol 1, July 1999:

- 6.3 Residential development 1900-1940s

<sup>36</sup> As the long-time licensee-holders for the Queens Arms Hotel at the corner of Swanston Street and Flinders Lane (demolished), both parents, Benjamin and Elizabeth Champion, were familiar figures ('Crossed the Bar. Mrs. Elizabeth Champion', *Herald*, 27 April 1911, p8; and Ancestry.com.au)

<sup>37</sup> 'Men of To-day', *Williamstown Chronicle*, 14 November 1896, p3

<sup>38</sup> 'Men of To-day', *Williamstown Chronicle*, 14 November 1896, p3

<sup>39</sup> Henry V Champion, 'The Benefits of Sewerage: To the members of the Victorian Engineers' Association', *Williamstown Chronicle*, 10 March 1888, p2

<sup>40</sup> 'Complimentary Dinner', *Williamstown Chronicle*, 31 August 1912, p3

<sup>41</sup> Henry obtained a commission in the Garrison Artillery at Williamstown as a lieutenant in 1862. He was promoted to captain in 1895 and major in 1904, attached to the Australian Field Artillery. During the First World War, he was placed in the reserve of officers. ('Obituary, Major H. V. Champion', *Ararat Chronicle*, 8 January 1918, p2)

<sup>42</sup> Henry V Champion's application to 'The Institution of Civil Engineers', dated 1890-91 (UK Civil Engineer Records via Ancestry.com.au)

<sup>43</sup> 'The Late Alfred Champion (A)', *The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects: Journal of Proceedings*, September 1913, p204

<sup>44</sup> UK Civil Engineer Records via Ancestry.com.au

<sup>45</sup> 'The Late Alfred Champion (A)', p204

<sup>46</sup> 'Death of Mr. Champion', *Williamstown Advertiser*, 12 January 1918, p3; 'Late Mr. H. V. Champion', *Port Melbourne Standard*, 12 January 1918, p3; and 'Obituary', *Ararat Chronicle*, 8 January 1918, p2

<sup>47</sup> 'Obituary', *Footscray Chronicle*, 12 January 1918, p2



## Comparative Analysis

There are various substantial Queen Anne-style residences included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay for Banyule, either as individual HOs or in precincts, with clusters in Ivanhoe and Eaglemont. These examples, however, are nearly all of red-brick construction and – in an Arts & Crafts-influenced manner – rather decorative. Comparatively, there are few timber residences dating from the Federation period in the municipality affected by HOs, particularly those of a grander, more understated type like *Royd*. In Eaglemont, the three picturesque timber/roughcast residences from the early 1900s known as the ‘Chadwick Houses’ by the inventive architect Harold Desbrowe-Anneer are singular in design, reflecting the marked fusion of design sources and reformulation occurring in the Federation period.<sup>48</sup>

There is only one other timber example of the Queen Anne in Banyule affected by a HO:

- 3 St Helena Road, Greensborough (HO143) – an elongated gabled roof ‘homestead’ constructed in the 1890s with an elevated hillside siting. It has a return verandah embellished with Queen Anne fretwork and a projecting rotunda-shaped feature on the corner. The residence has been altered, though the extent of which is unclear.

There are also several Federation Bungalow-style or transitional timber dwellings, for instance:

- 137 Waterdale Road, Ivanhoe (HO156) – a modest timber villa, built about 1905. Its hip roof, bracketed eaves, bullnose verandah roof and mixture of timber and cast-iron decoration make it a good example of a transitional Victorian/Federation design.
- 2 Rockbeare Grove, Ivanhoe (HO114) – a later example of an eclectic Federation Bungalow-style residence, built 1915. It displays the simplified bungalow roof form but is embellished with common Federation detailing and incorporates at the corner a square, hipped-roof ‘tower’ (timber/roughcast).
- *Mollison Lodge*, 32 Old Lower Plenty Road, Viewbank (HO47) – a symmetrical example of the Federation Bungalow-style with a dominant hipped roof (slate) and wrap-around verandah, erected on a rural property in circa 1915.

## Intactness

Mostly intact

## Previous Assessment

- Graeme Butler, *Heidelberg Conservation Study*, part 1, Heidelberg City Council, 1985 (provided with a ‘C’ rating)<sup>49</sup>
- Allom Lovell & Associates, *Banyule Heritage Places Study: Building Citations*, vol 2, part 1, Banyule City Council, July 1999 (provided with a ‘C’ grade)<sup>50</sup>
- Context, *Banyule Heritage Review*, March 2012 – recommended for a future HO
- RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants, *Banyule Heritage Study 2020: Stage 1 report*, Banyule City Council, August 2020 – High priority, recommended for Stage 2

## Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls

External Paint Controls	Yes (walls of weatherboard)
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes (front garden – Lebanon cedar, Algerian oak, Pencil Pines)
Outbuildings and/or fences	No

<sup>48</sup> 38 The Eyrie, Eaglemont (HO67 + VHR H1009); 55 Outlook Drive, Eaglemont (HO48 + VHR H2082); and 32-34 The Eyrie, Eaglemont (HO66 + VHR H1156). See also 234 Rosanna Road, Rosanna (HO55) and *East View*, 16 Martin Street, Heidelberg (VHR H1033 + HO43) and all the *Former Heidelberg Shire Offices and Library* (HO171), all designs by Anneer.

<sup>49</sup> C grade: ‘Regional importance architecturally and/or historically significant’

<sup>50</sup> C grade: ‘places that contribute to the architectural or historical character and cohesiveness of the City of Banyule and as such are either of local importance or interest ... While they do not warrant individual protection under the planning scheme, they should nevertheless be retained.’

## Extent of Heritage Overlay

The proposed extent of the heritage overlay is outlined approximately below.



Recommended extent of heritage overlay  
(Source: Nearmap, April 2020)