

Royd Statement of Significance

Heritage Place: 61-63 Mount Street, Eaglemont	PS ref no: HO201
--	-------------------------



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 husband-and-wife Henry Vines Champion and Christiana Champion. 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 cresting 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 20th-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 setback 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)

Primary source

Banyule Heritage Study 2020 (RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants)