



Baw Baw Planning Scheme

The Gables Statement of Significance

Heritage place

The Gables, 101 Lardner Road, Drouin (part)

Planning Scheme reference number

HO355

What is significant?

'The Gables' located at 101 Lardner Road Drouin is significant. Elements which contribute to the significance of the place include the timber dwelling c.1910, two mature English Elms (*Ulmus procera*), a mature specimen of Magnolia (*Magnolia soulageana*) and a brick lined well (now filled in).

The following elements of the place do not contribute to its significance: The outbuildings, including the former dairy (now altered), fowl house, woodshed, modern barn and garage; farm and garden fencing, and alterations and additions to the residence which postdate c.1920.

How is it significant?

'The Gables' at 101 Lardner Road, Drouin is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Baw Baw Shire.

Why is it significant?

'The Gables' at 101 Lardner Road, Drouin is historical significance as it represents an historical period in the pastoral history of the municipality where dairy farming on small acreage was a viable financial proposition capable of supporting a family farm. Supported by the construction of creameries, collection facilities and the transportation via railway, Drouin supported a number of small dairy farms in the immediate vicinity.

The house constructed around c.1910 for lawyer, Edward James Hamilton was originally situated on a small holding of thirty acres immediately outside of the township of Drouin. Although Hamilton and his family resided only until 1917, The Gables was the central focus of a small, highly productive farming enterprise from at least this point through to the mid twentieth century.

The intensive farming practices of dairying and orcharding is evidenced by the farmhouse, brick lined well and former dairy (although altered). (Criterion A).



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The Gables is of aesthetic significance one of the most distinctive and substantial Federation period farmhouses surviving within the Baw Baw Shire. Although the external form of the dwelling has experienced minor alterations and additions (including the skillion addition to the west, a timber pergola and a new attic style dormer window in the northern plane of the roof, replacement of some doors and windows) the overall form and arrangement of the building is clearly visible and intact.

The dwelling exhibits key features common to the Federation period including exaggerated high-pitched hip roof forms, an asymmetrical arrangement and plan and projecting gables.

There are elements of the Queen Anne style evident in the picturesque asymmetrical massing of the building, the arrangement of the projecting north facing gable located on the corner of the building, decorative detailing, including the gablets with timber louvres, notched weatherboards and decorative timber detailing on gable ends, tripartite and casement windows with coloured textured glass paned high lights, the decorative timber brackets and valance. It is one of the more decorative and expressive examples of a Federation period dwelling within the municipality, and the most elaborate aesthetically of the farmhouses from this period.

Further adding to the aesthetic significance of The Gables is its rural setting on the brow of a hill, deliberately sited to overlook the township of Drouin. The substantial specimens of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) in the home paddock and the large Magnolia to the east of the residence are of aesthetic significance for their outstanding size and contribution to the setting of The Gables. (Criterion E)

Primary source: The Gables Citation, *Plan Heritage*, 2020

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