

Bleak House (ruin), 155 & 135 Gunns Gully Road, Mickleham STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Biosis, April 2026)

[April, 2026]

HERITAGE PLACE: Bleak House Ruin

PS ref no: HO262

What is significant?

The Bleak House Ruin at 155 Gunns Gully Road, Mickleham is a collapsed bluestone ruin believed to date from the 1850s.

How is it significant?

The Bleak House Ruin is of historical and archaeological significance to the City of Hume.

Why is it significant?

The Bleak House Ruin is of historical significance as representative of early European occupation in the Donnybrook-Mickleham district from the mid nineteenth century as a predominantly pastoral area. Its origin was most likely associated with Thomas Herbert Power from about 1846 and later with WJT Clarke from about 1864. While the function of the building is unclear, oral history referring to adjacent stables and blacksmithy suggests it may have been a dwelling for the farm manager or boundary rider for Power's and later Clarke's estate. The site is of archaeological significance for the potential to uncover artefacts, features and other deposits relating to the former configuration and use of the site, as there has been little investigation of 1850s pastoral activity.

Primary source

Merrifield North Historical Heritage Assessment on behalf of Department of Transport and Planning (Biosis, April 2026)