

early among its contemporaries in adopting a simple Modernist exterior with a minimum building envelope and architectural treatment. One unusual aspect is the aluminium framing of the south-facing window wall which, more typically, was painted hardwood. Another is the planning of bedrooms along the north face, albeit with full-height glazing. Inside, the plan was simple, with the bedrooms opening from the large living-dining area and the kitchen/laundry/bathroom stretching along the west side. Typically the kitchen-living divider was a fireplace with built-in cupboards to one side. The house has no front fence and the garden has mature native specimen, both typical of the era.

The design compares with Dixon's house designs in Carrigal Street, Balwyn: all of the same era but each subtly different.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 3, MADDEN STREET, 1956
- 24, ORION STREET, 1958
- 21, VEGA STREET, 1960c
- 14, MILLICENT AVENUE, 1962c
- 136, WINMALEE ROAD, 1926

External Integrity

Generally original.

Streetscape

Adjoins the similar 1 Madden Street, the two contrasting with surrounding contemporary but much more conservative designs.

Significance

Architecturally, well-preserved and typical of the simple Modernist post-war designs in Melbourne, showing some unusual features such as the aluminium window-wall glazing also an interesting comparison for the rest of Dixon's designs and one of two Modernist designs on this corner which provide a contrast to the neighbourhood: of Regional importance.

House, 18 Maleela Avenue, Balwyn



Study Grading: B

Precinct: 18.00 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1932

First Owner: Munckton, Mrs. Lesley C (& JW?)

Architect: Ballantyne, James F.

Builder: Gyngell Brothers

History

Architect, James Frederick Ballantyne (Melbourne), designed this house in 1932 for Mrs. Lesley C. Munckton, then of High Street, Glen Iris.¹ Her builders were the well-known firm of Gyngell Brothers. When the house was connected to the sewer in c1932, its plan is shown in the application as a distinctive V-form, with central porch and stairs, and an open porch at one end.²

Ballantyne worked with and was influenced by Walter Burley Griffin, designing the Knitlock Stokesay for Arthur Onians, Frankston.³ He had traveled extensively in America and Europe, returning in 1929 to concentrate on mainly house designs.⁴ Ballantyne designed houses in Malvern, Toorak and Molesworth.⁵

John Webber Munckton was listed at 18 Maleela Avenue into the 1950s⁶ and in *Who's Who in Australia*, 1929, (illustrated version). He was the proprietor of James Forbes & Co., tar distillers, oil refiners etc. of Port Melbourne. The firm made benzol, tar and carbolic oils, naphtha, varnish, coal tar pitch, and creosote. He was born in Bendigo, in 1879, educated in a Melbourne state school and started working with George Rolfe & Co. at the age of 15. He then worked in a bank until aged 23, the last years being spent in Capetown. He then became a stock and station agent in South Africa, returning to Melbourne in 1913 when he joined his

1 MMBW DRP 190922

2 *ibid.*

3 See Johnson, *The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin*, pp.56, 60.

4 Lists of Architects in the Griffin School prepared by HBC

5 *ibid.*

6 D1930-50

father and brother in the present firm. He became sole owner by 1923. His address in 1929 was Carn Brae, Malvern¹.

Description

Showing the Californian influence during Ballantyne's travels, this two-storey textured stucco house offers a complete and fully developed adaptation of the Spanish Mission revival to a large house. The V-plan is one used by British Arts & Crafts architects such as Voysey but is here adopted with a different persona, with no apparent link to the Spanish origins.

Lancet window with wrought-iron grille presumably marks the stair hall inside, adjacent to the single-storey gabled entrance porch. The main hipped, Cordova-pattern tiled roof above it is a dominant element in the elevation, with a circular room bay located to the rear of it offsetting any symmetry.

A sweeping drive passes the garage door and entrance hall in its route back to the street, going through masonry fence pillars which may be original. The landscaping is empathetic to the construction period.

The style is claimed to have been introduced in Camberwell by the Dr. Thomas house (q.v.), Rochester Road but was seldom used on large scale houses (see also Bruce Manor, Frankston) and in smaller houses, often adapted as details to Italian villa forms (see Golf Links Estate).

Comparative Examples

The following contemporary Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

9, BOSTON ROAD, 1930
 396, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1930
 460, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1930
 16, MUSWELL HILL, 1930
 3, BRENBEAL STREET, 1930c
 177, DONCASTER ROAD, 1930c
 816-822, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1930c
 454, WARRIGAL ROAD, 1930c
 359, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
 397-399, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
 497, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
 35, BALWYN ROAD, 1931-2
 1292, TOORAK ROAD, 1931-2
 11, CHATFIELD AVENUE, 1932-3
 27, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1932
 3, FINSBURY ROAD, 1932
 7, MURIEL STREET, 1932c
 4, FINSBURY WAY, 1933
 125, HICHFIELD ROAD, 1933
 1, MAPLE CRESCENT, 1933
 14, STODDART STREET, 1933
 7, MANGAN STREET, 1933c
 11, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1934-5
 87-87A, BOWEN STREET, 1934
 458, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1934
 201, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1934c
 45, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935
 46, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935
 56, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935
 1, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1935

9, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1935
 13, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1935
 3, SALISBURY STREET, 1935
 177, GLEN IRIS ROAD, 1935c
 361, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1935c
 796-798, BURKE ROAD, 1936
 23, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1936
 41, COOKSON STREET, 1936
 9, JUDD STREET, 1936
 49, THE RIDGE, 1936
 20, WALSH STREET, 1936
 716, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1937
 517, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1937c
 311-317, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1938
 2, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1938
 24, FINSBURY WAY, 1938
 32, HORTENSE STREET, 1938
 4, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1938
 26, REID STREET, 1938
 660, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1938
 66, THE BOULEVARD, 1938
 136, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1938
 14, CASCADE STREET, 1939
 24, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1939
 1, MOUNTAIN VIEWROAD, 1939
 43, YUILE STREET, 1939
 43, CASCADE STREET, 1939c?

External Integrity

Generally original.

Streetscape

A major element in an important residential precinct (18) which contains similar large houses from the period using a variety of the era's styles.

Significance

Historically, for a long period the home of Munckton, a well-known figure in manufacturing who appears to have been a self-made man.

Architecturally, a complete and fully articulated design in the relatively little-used Spanish Mission revival style, adapting the original characteristics of the style with newer concepts of large house design also a major contributor to a regionally important residential precinct: of regional and State importance.

¹ WWA 1929 p.1187