

Historically, significant as an example of the work of O.V. Plaisted, a central figure in the local building industry: of regional interest.

Myambert, 1-3 Myambert Avenue, Balwyn



Study Grading: B
Precinct: 18.00 **Streetscape:** 2
Construction Date: 1902
First Owner: Reid, Arthur M.
Architect: Bates Peebles & Smart ?
Builder: Longstaff, N.

History

A warehouseman, Arthur M. Reid, bought seven acres of land from William E. Bales in 1902 and immediately commissioned builder, N. Longstaff, to erect a dwelling on it.¹ The brick dwelling had an area of 2883 square feet and was of 10 rooms.² Reid owned and occupied Myambert, as he named the property, until after 1908.³

John Cook, a merchant, had purchased Myambert by 1910.⁴ Cook had a brick garage and workshop with an area of 956 square feet built on the property by W.J. Steele in 1934.⁵ It was estimated to cost £200.⁶ He and Ivy Cook, probably his wife, owned and occupied the property until after 1952.

The Reid family are intimately linked with the surrounding estate (known as the Reid estate) and associated Belmont Park. Robert Reid, of Robert Reid & Co., the large Flinders Street manufacturing and warehousing firm, was in the area during the 1880s, creating a subdivision then.⁷ He was also very active in the local community, laying the foundation stone for the Balwyn Road Baptist Church in 1891.⁸ The architects Reed Smart &

Tappin carried out many commissions for this firm and this house is probably one of them.⁹

In 1913, Reid's widow gave seven acres to Camberwell Council to be used as a park where only the trees native to the area could be grown and where only passive recreation could be had: there was to be no sporting activities. A similar donation (Napier Park) was made by an Essendon family in the Edwardian period, an era when native planting was again in fashion. A memorial fountain was also erected and the park's name chosen by Mrs Reid.¹⁰

The fact that Myambert's site was purchased by Reid from land near his father's (?) estate is intriguing. The eventual subdivision (by Reid?) of Myambert's own grounds for Myambert Court may explain the retention of an old gum in a median at its end.

Description

This is a red brick Federation Bungalow style house with extensive additions at the rear, carried out in an empathetic fashion. There are also converted gabled stables and loft further to the rear (1930s). Typically for the style, the house roof is hipped and carried down as a spreading verandah form. A gable, set into the main hip, in a tea-house form, is half-timbered and the verandah posts are turned timber with a segment-arched frieze between each. Chimney stacks are ribbed with stuccoed caps. The garden is exotic and empathetic to the period, but not of the period. Myambert stands out as an early house in the area.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 69, BROADWAY, 1900-1
- 20, BRYSON STREET, 1900
- 608, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1900
- 1, SALISBURY STREET, 1900
- 5, VICTORIA ROAD, 1900
- 11, LUENA ROAD, 1900c
- 42, BRYSON STREET, 1901
- 58, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1901
- 6, KINTORE STREET, 1901
- 23, ROYAL CRESCENT, 1901
- 35, BROADWAY, 1902
- 39, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1902
- 169, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1903-4
- 6, LOGAN STREET, 1903
- 142, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1904
- 7, MANCARRA ROAD, 1905-6
- 24, CHAUCER CRESCENT, 1905
- 633, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1906-8
- 27, BALWYN ROAD, 1906

- 1 RB1901-2, 444; BR249
- 2 *ibid.*; RB1902-3
- 3 RB1907-8, 533
- 4 D1910; RB1911-12, 551
- 5 BR4574
- 6 *ibid.*
- 7 see precinct 18 citation
- 8 Allan, p.182
- 9 M T Shaw, Bates Smart & McCutcheon Historical Survey 1852-1972, p.10
- 10 Allan, p.231

58, BROADWAY, 1906
 65, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1906
 73-75, BROADWAY, 1907
 31, CHAUCER CRESCENT, 1907
 17, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1907
 18, PEPPIN STREET, 1907c
 138, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1908-9
 41, INCLESBY ROAD, 1908-9
 10, SEFTON PLACE, 1908
 41, INCLESBY ROAD, 1909-10
 71, BROADWAY, 1909
 73, BROADWAY, 1909
 31, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1909
 206, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1909
 22, VICTORIA ROAD, 1909
 1293, TOORAK ROAD, 1910-
 8, ST. GEORGES CRESCENT, 1910
 2, CLAYTON STREET, 1910c
 199, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1910c
 24, ALBION STREET, 1911
 17-19, BROADWAY, 1911
 96-98, UNION ROAD, 1911
 24, KENT ROAD, 1912-13
 54, BROADWAY, 1912
 35, MATLOCK STREET, 1912
 648, BURKE ROAD, 1913-18
 6, KITCHENER STREET, 1913
 8, FITZGERALD STREET, 1915-20c
 127, WINMALEE ROAD, 1915-20c
 27A, ALMA ROAD, 1915
 76, ATHELSTAN ROAD, 1915
 347-349, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1915c
 353, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1915c
 150, WINMALEE ROAD, 1915c

External Integrity

There is an addition at rear which is empathetic to the house period. The front fence has been replaced with a creeper-covered low paling and some of the glazing replaced.

Streetscape

Myambert stands out in an otherwise 1940-50s residential court, as the oldest surviving house in the (Reid) estate and although not contributory to the physical form of the estate, it provides a notable historical perspective to its development.

Significance

Architecturally, an early example of the Federation Bungalow style, probably by the noted architectural firm of Reed Smart & Tappin: of regional interest and local importance.

Historically, a landmark in the area given that the subdivision drew its name from the Reid family and the adjacent park was donated in a similar period to the house's construction, by the Reid family also of interest as a connection with the landscape philosophies embodied in the native aspect of the park and the retention of an old gum at the head of the court: of high local importance and regional interest.

House, 6 Myambert Avenue, Balwyn



Study Grading: B

Precinct: 18.00 **Streetscape:** 2

Construction Date: 1935

First Owner: Henwood, Leslie F.

Architect: Hamilton, Robert ?

Builder: Harding, D.

History

Builder, D. Harding, was commissioned by Leslie F. Henwood to construct a brick dwelling on Lot 6, Myambert Avenue, in 1935.¹ The two-storeyed house was of nine rooms with an area of 3372 square feet and it was estimated to cost £2,990.² Leslie Henwood resided here until after 1952³ and H.T. Doherty was the occupant during the 1960s and early 1970s.⁴

Description

This house is in the Old English style with half-timbered gables and textured stucco. These finishes combined with the clinker brickwork, black-stained timbers and hand-hewn oak beams of the verandah provide an authentic Tudoresque appearance, complete with a basket-arch porte-cochere on the right-hand side of the elevation, with a room poised above it. Chimneys are tall with dark terra-cotta pots and rugged brickwork to further enhance the rustic nature of the design. Window bays, notched gable valances and the crazy-paving applied to the front fence and garden seat, plus other authentic garden elements, complete the period imagery of the house.

The architect may have been Robert Hamilton, the noted Tudor revivalist.

1 BA5079
 2 ibid.
 3 D1952
 4 D1962; D1974