

In 1922 he married Eda Margaret Govers and had a son and two daughters¹. His son Barry worked in metal sculpture, jewelry and drawing².

Description

Modernistic, if not modern in design, the house is on two levels with ample first-level terraces on the flat roofs of the protruding one-level bays below. Clad in cream brick, it also followed the European prototypes (Dudok) in the cubist form adopted where masses of differing size and scale, rectanguloid and curved, interplay visually. Concrete slab edges link each ground-level window head while, at the upper level, they are confined to the openings. The site, on a corner and elevated, is ideal for the free-standing design expression implied by Modernistic concepts.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

106, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1940-1
 1, MONTANA STREET, 1940
 1297, TOORAK ROAD, 1940
 91, MAUD STREET, 1940c
 133, MAUD STREET, 1940c
 56, RIVERSIDE AVENUE, 1940c
 15, WALBLINDRY AVENUE, 1940c
 417-, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1940c
 113, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1940c
 123, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1941-2
 2, BEATRICE STREET, 1941
 6, BULLEEN ROAD, 1941
 171, DONCASTER ROAD, 1941
 4, MAYSIA STREET, 1941
 46, THE BOULEVARD, 1941
 1, KELBA STREET, 1941c
 666, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1946-7
 119, DONCASTER ROAD, 1948
 1, KALONCA ROAD, 1948c
 166, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1951-2
 2, TAURUS STREET, 1951c
 32, URSIA STREET, 1951c
 6, CARRIGAL STREET, 1952
 43, KIREEP ROAD, 1952
 1, MADDEN STREET, 1952
 2, CARRIGAL STREET, 1954
 16, CARRIGAL STREET, 1954
 129, WINMALEE ROAD, 1954
 14, ORION STREET, 1954c
 32, BALWYN ROAD, 1955c
 45A, NARRAK ROAD, 1955c

External Integrity

Generally original.

Significance

Historically, important association with Harold B Armstrong, commercial artist and newspaper identity: of Regional importance.

Architecturally, an adept and well-sited design in the Moderne/Modern manner, a style seldom used in the metropolitan area in its true three-dimensional form: of Regional importance.

Tara, now Broughton Hall, 2 Berwick Street



National Trust of Australia (Class/Rec.):
 Classified

NTA File Number: 572

Study Grading: A

Precinct: 26.01 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1858-9, 1883-

First Owner: O'Shanassy, Sir John

Architect: Barry, J M (1858-9); Salway, William (1883)

History

Tenders were called by architect J.M. Barry, in June 1858, to erect '...a MANSION and OUTOFFICES at Boroondara, for the Hon. John O'Shanassy, Chief Secretary³. Later in 1883, tenders were called by William Salway for 'additions, alterations and repairs to Tara, Camberwell for Mr. O'Shanassy', and, prior to that, by architects William Ellis for new stabling⁴. *The Argus* of 1884 described the completed interior decoration by Mr. Robert Reid and the reconstruction of the interior by Mr. William Salway⁵. So ended the evolution of Tara

1 WWA 1944, p.121

2 *The Age*, 25.2.1978, p.22

3 *Argus*, 9.6.1858, p.8

4 *Argus*, 9.6.1883, p.14; *Argus*, 9.12.1882, p.15

5 *Argus*, 13.9.1884, p.13

to its present outward form, given that the facade was completed by 1859¹.

By 1884, Matthew Patrick O'Shanassy was the resident gentlemen owner of the 18 room Tara and 46 acres surrounding². A brief change of occupancy occurred in 1888 when George Langridge, auctioneer, leased Tara: he also purchased 45 acres of the grounds and subdivided it in this boom year of 1888³. Matthew regained possession by 1893 until his death in 1900 after which John Coupar, warehouseman, owned and occupied the house⁴. Mrs. Annie Coupar continued there for many years, followed by a Mrs. M. Letts⁵.

Sir John O'Shanassy, Irish born, arrived at the threshold of the Colony, in 1839. His business (drapery) interests thrived as did his role with the Roman Catholic Church, so founding the St. Patrick's Society and working for charitable institutions generally. He served as a Melbourne councillor, member of the Denominational Schools Board and a Public Library trustee. He was also active among building and land societies and an important figure in the establishment and running of the Colonial Bank.

Elected to Victoria's first Legislative Council he served as a virtual opposition leader until 1857 when a new government was formed with O'Shanassy as its Premier and Chief Secretary for a bare month. He re-emerged in this role in 1858 and 1861. During these sessions the *Crown Land Act* of 1862 and *Local Government Act* of 1862-3 were major legislative achievements, the latter receiving... 'much of Mr. O'Shanassy's attention'. Failing health meant cessation of politics and a world tour when Pope Pius IX knighted him into the Order of St. Gregory for his efforts in Catholic education.

On his return he entered the Legislative Council in 1868 and 1872-4 and the Assembly in 1877: pursuing in both theatres a conservative view of the Catholic cause until his defeat at Belfast (Port Fairy) in 1883. A Knighthood awaited him at his retirement from the Council. He died in 1883 as did his widow, in 1887; both dates marking both the enrichment and dissipation of Tara.

Near to O'Shanassy's death he was criticized for his supposed influence over the path of the railway to Hawthorn at Camberwell. The route, which had been first announced in 1876, passed half a mile north of the junction, close to Sir John's property, and trains traversed, some thought, unnecessarily steep grades to get there when it opened in 1882.

Tara was acquired by the Anglican Church in 1951, and continues today as student accommodation after a brief period of ownership by the Worldwide Evangelical Crusade. Additions to Tara and construction of new buildings in its grounds have occurred since that period and given the reconstruction after O'Shanassy's death, it is difficult to assess the house's representation of his lifestyle and hence its historical importance.

Description

Presenting a grand, stuccoed facade to Berwick Street (once to Burke Road), Tara rises two sparingly decorated levels above a loggia podium. Balustrading to the ground floor parapet provides for an open terrace, behind which the main facade, with its pedimented tri-partite window groups, supports a cornice and balustraded parapet above. This grand facade returns on the north and south, giving way to a more typical hipped roof wing at the rear which may hold the earlier sections.

Comparable residential facades exist at 154 Hotham Street and 116 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne; at Oberwyl, Burnett Street, St. Kilda (particularly the open terrace); The Terricks, Paterson Street, Hawthorn (more ornate); and Wanganella, Aird Street, Camberwell (q.v.), which also has an open terrace. Of note is that the now demolished Rostella of Lonsdale Street, also designed by Barry, has an open terrace over a loggia (1869).

A mature Norfolk Island pine and Moreton Bay Fig relate to the 19th century context of the house whilst the Bhutan and Roman Cypress express this century.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 19, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1860
- 9, BARNSBURY ROAD, 1861
- 18, BALWYN ROAD, 1863
- 290, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1868-
- 8, AIRD STREET, 1870
- 35, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1873-4

External Integrity

Unsympathetic additions have been made to the sides of the house; the fence has been removed and the forecourt paved.

Streetscape

Dominant within a 20th century, low scale domestic streetscape, and relates to the nearby Frognall (q.v.) as identifiable early houses prior to close subdivision.

1 CLHC typescript The Tara Estate 1990 notes a photo by Cox & Luckin 1861 showing facade as is
 2 RB 1884-5, 481
 3 CLF H21; RB 1888-9, 892
 4 RB 1893-4, 1085; RB1901-2, 1061
 5 RB 1902-6, 1076; D1906-15; D1935

Significance

Architecturally, of an uncommon and refined, early Italian Renaissance revival form, given its open terrace to three sides and sophisticated ornamentation: of state, possibly national importance.

Historically, for a long period the home of one of Victoria's more distinguished politicians and foremost figures of the Catholic Church: of State importance.

Restoration

Prepare a conservation analysis and management plan which should address re-establishment of the fence line; removing the carpark from the forecourt and re-establishing a sympathetic garden; removing or reducing the impact of additions close to the north and south of the building.

House, 9 Boston Road



Study Grading: C

Construction Date: 1922

First Owner: Bellmaine, Francis Edward

History

Francis Edward Bellmaine purchased this allotment in 1916 from land owned by one Busse¹. By 1922 Bellmaine, described as a printer in rate books, had built this large 10-room brick house, the family remaining there until at least 1950². The Carew family were there by 1953, followed by K. Campbell in the 1960's³.

After World War One, with the Australia-wide surge for new family facilities, Camberwell also experienced an interest in child welfare which, among other things, inspired Council to provide £2000 to establish baby health centres at Balwyn

and Burwood. Mrs. Bellmaine offered the use of this house as the first step in that direction.

One of the key changes to inter-war suburban life came with movements for professional child-care. Infant Welfare Centres were only one of a number of institutions designed to safeguard the mental and physical growth of children. Local residents in Camberwell often demanded Infant Welfare facilities and this building was an important focal point in that movement and suggests some of the character of domestic life and changing attitudes to children in the 1920s. It is also an important representative building for any history of local associations.

Description

This is a large red brick house which uses the prevailing Bungalow style but in a decidedly two storied form, with its gable emphasis, symmetry, austere massing and finish. Two-level Bungalows more commonly used the attic form as at 174 Whitehorse Road or the notable 21 Rochester Road 52 Deepdene Road and 33 Broadway.

English bonded brickwork and soldier coursing are used to promote subtle interest but it is the interplay of bold gables against the high main hip roof which is the crux of the east elevation. Set between the gables and at the porch roof apex, is a deftly placed window pair- as if a wrinkle in the nose between the two arched eyebrows adjoining. On the north an open 'sleep out' balcony is covered by a gabled porch, set as a centre-piece to the long transverse-gable elevation. The mature exotic garage brick paving and fence are all supportive of the period.

Comparable examples include Innisfail, Outlook Drive, Heidelberg (1928) and in Camberwell City 5 Maleela St. and 62 Mont Albert Road. Steep roof gables were to become more prevalent in a two storey-form, as the Old English or neo-Tudor of the 1930's.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 19, THE RIDGE, 1916
- 12, HUNTER ROAD, 1918
- 9, SEFTON PLACE, 1919-20
- 6, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1919
- 718, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1919
- 33, BROADWAY, 1920
- 158, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1920
- 11, PRETORIA STREET, 1920
- 23, SUNNYSIDE AVENUE, 1920
- 286, UNION ROAD, 1920
- 44, CURRAJONG AVENUE, 1920c
- 6, IRAMOO STREET, 1920c
- 17, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1920c
- 63, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1920c

1 RB 1916-17
2 RB 1922-23; RB 1923-4, 2565
3 MMBW DPA126356; BA 1953, 12577; BA 1961, 28507