

Building:	House	Significance:	B
Address:	54 Lucerne Crescent, Alphington	Melway Map Ref:	31 D12
Building Type:	Residence	Construction Date:	1919
Architect:	Harold Desbrowe Annear	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[] F[x] P[]		G[x] F[] P[]	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	[]	Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

History

A D Hodgson's Lucerne Estate was created from Thomas Will's original Lucerne Farm property, purchased in 1840. Land sales commenced in 1885 but many lots remained vacant until the 1920s.¹

Painter William McInnes purchased one of the lots facing the Yarra River and constructed 54 Lucerne Crescent in 1919. The house was designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear.

William Beckwith McInnes was born in St Kilda in 1889.² He attended the National Gallery Art School and achieved fame as a landscape and portrait painter, winning the Archibald Prize many times and being commissioned with H S Power to paint the opening of the Federal Parliament by HRH, Duke of York, in 1927. His works are exhibited in the Sydney, Melbourne and National Galleries, as well as being represented in the Melbourne University Collection. He married Violet Musgrave also a renowned artist and a co-founding member of the Australian Academy of Fine Art. His contemporary, artist William Frater, lived next door at 56 Lucerne Crescent.

Graeme Butler. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. 1982.

Description

The house at 54 Lucerne Crescent is a two storey timber house with a spreading, shallow-pitched asymmetrical longitudinal gabled terracotta tiled roof. The elevations are characterised by their lack of complexity or ornamentation. The weatherboard-clad walls are punctuated by a number of relatively small window openings. Windows are paired square sashes with narrow, bracketed timber hoods and simple bullnose architraves. A simple timber hood shelters the entrance door, which is in a single-storey lean-to section at the side of the house. The roof is penetrated by two unpainted rendered chimneys: one slender and tapered, the other shorter and stockier

The building exhibits aspects of Annear's characteristic design elements—including asymmetrical planning, tapered chimneys and broad, gabled terracotta tiled roofs and timber window hoods, but the exuberance and complexity of his other designs is absent in this most restrained and unusually plain example.

Significance

The house at 54 Lucerne Crescent, Alphington, is of local historical and architectural significance. It has historical associations with the prominent artist William McInnes, for whom the house was built. It is one of a number of houses designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear in the Alphington / Heidelberg area, and is notable for its unusually restrained—and remarkably plain—composition of elements common to his other designs.

Original Source

Graeme Butler. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. 1982.

1 Lodged Plans of Subdivisions, 1068, 1460, Titles Office, Melbourne; Lemon, Andrew. History of Northcote Municipality, Draft Typescript, Northcote City Council, Chapter 6, p 14.

2 Who's Who in Australia, 1935, p 308.