



HOUSE
54 LUCERNE CRESCENT

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

Painter, William McInnes purchased one of the lots facing the Yarra River and constructed 54 Lucerne Crescent in 1919.

William Beckwith McInnes was born in St. Kilda in 1869.² 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 who was herself a renowned artist and a co-founding member of the Australian Academy of Fine Art. His contemporary, artist William Frater, lived next door in a modest dwelling at 56 Lucerne Crescent.²

54 Lucerne Crescent is built in the Swiss Chalet style of architecture; with its projecting eaves, long unequal gable roof, attic-windows and verandah-less construction. A simple timber hood shelters the entrance door. Windows and doors are distributed across its gabled face, placed asymmetrically to form a balanced composition. Plain ballnose architraves, with shall hoods and rudimentary sills, surround the openings. The roof is tiled with terracotta, hinting at the changed colour-range of the present paint scheme. A tall, tapered insitu concrete chimney provides counterpoint to the high roof line. The much favoured *Eucalyptus citriodora* is a valuable accessory to the design.

54 Lucerne Crescent was the home of a prominent Australian artist and is a successful example of an unusual style in Victoria.

It was designed by the renowned architect Harold Desbrowe Ansell.