



HOUSE,
31 YARRAFORD AVENUE

Yarraford house stood on the hill overlooking the Yarra River much longer than most of the pre-suburban houses of the area. It occupied a strip of land taken from J.W. Gosling's Crown Portion 116 until this was subdivided in 1922.¹ Opposite Yarraford was the overseer's house and surveyor, H.P. Muntz, surveyed a roadway between the two houses; neatly bisecting the block. Yarraford house has since been demolished for flats; the other house may still exist but in a much altered state.²

These suburban lots sold for 10 pounds deposit with payments at 1 pound per month.³ Harry Miskin owned Yarraford house and some sixteen lots in 1925; one of which was lot 32. George Keith, a civil servant, purchased this lot and by 1928 had built 31 Yarraford Avenue. He has lived there ever since.⁴

The house, like 140 St. Georges Road nr, (1924), is a fully developed example of the Californian Bungalow style and its fusion into existing Australian domestic styles. Three shingled gables overlap to crest two-levels which are repeated on the north face with two more shingled gables. The roof is clad with marseille-pattern terracotta tiles and the ridging and scrolled finials perpetuate the earlier 'Queen Anne' style. Large bowed, diamond pane windows are used at ground level and the largest and heaviest gable covers the verandah, resting on massive brick piers. Remnants of the Cypress fixation of the 1920's are evident; with one distinctive Roman Cypress being prominent.

This house, benefiting from its one ownership, has remained basically unaltered, with the exception of its colour scheme and well maintained. It survives as an outstanding example of the style at that scale; being sited on a hillside and thus achieving considerable advantage over others of the style.