

Name	House	Reference No	
Address	1205 Burke Road, Kew	Survey Date	6 December 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1938	Previous Grading	B



#### Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Heritage Status ☐ HV ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☒ Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

#### History

The two-storey brick residence at 1205 Burke Road was designed by architects A C Leith & Bartlett for Cecil Whale, a director of C J Coles & Co., in 1938.<sup>1</sup> The allotment was formed many years earlier from the subdivision of land surrounding the Kew reservoir in c. 1909.<sup>2</sup> Described as a brick house of ten rooms, it was owned by Whale until 1951.<sup>3</sup> The property also included a tennis court with associated pavilion and detached garage. A plan for the garden was drawn up by the prominent landscape designer Edna Walling in February 1938,<sup>4</sup> however this plan was apparently only partly implemented.<sup>5</sup>

In 1951 the house was sold to John Adamson.<sup>6</sup> Later owners included Kevin and Lenore Timms from 1962 until 1981 and David and Beverley McIntosh between 1981 and 1983.<sup>7</sup> The house remained virtually unaltered until current owners commissioned architects Barrack Douglas and Co. to make minor internal alterations in 1987. Alterations were made to the garden areas, including the construction of pergolas in 1992.<sup>8</sup> The original entry gate piers were replaced in 2008-9.

(G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded buildings study (draft), 2001, additional research by Lovell Chen, 2005 and 2009)

#### Description & Integrity

1205 Burke Road is an imposing Streamlined Moderne brick residence, predominantly two-storey but with smaller single-storey sections on the south and at the rear. The primary façade is asymmetrical and comprises umber glazed brickwork combined with extensive areas of painted cement render, creating a strongly horizontal banded quality. The pitched roof is in umber glazed terracotta tiling, in the Marseilles pattern, with boxed eaves, interrupted at several points by curved parapets, notably around the east-facing dining room wing, which also works to dramatize a broad, rectangular chimney shaft in umber glazed brick. The rear section of roof comprises three low hipped forms (not visible from the street).<sup>9</sup>

The brickwork to the principal façade is distinguished by a mix of narrow tapestry bricks to the main wall sections and standard size bricks for the base courses and expressed chimney. (The same combination of brick types is replicated on the front fence). The broad balcony that runs across the front is, like the parapets, completed in a cream cement rendering applied with a subtle swirl motif.

The windows are in timber frames (mostly double-hung), painted white currently, and those in the projecting curved parapetted bay wrap themselves round corners in tight curves, giving a sense of mechanical streamlining. This is augmented by the flat windows, all of which have an emphatic horizontal framing, and by the balcony itself, which retreats into the front wall 2/3 the way across by sweeping into a rendered cement surface flush with the wall. This curve is accentuated with three indented stripes, and is taken up again by a curved patio extending off the living room, running north. Some windows and door panels feature translucent and etched glass; the current owners retain documentation of designs by the firm of Silverwood and Beck.

The house is set in a mature garden. The driveway is on its original alignment but of recent construction with random Castlemaine slate paving replacing the original concrete. A detached garage is located at the rear of the drive. There is a matching fence in umber glazed brick and a wrought-iron gate with linked crescents and a set of arrowheads lined with inverse chevrons. The fence is original but the entry gate piers, curved wall and gates have been altered.

1205 Burke Road house is broadly intact as viewed from the street. As noted by RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants:

*the changes to the front are limited to features such as new sandstone paving to the front porch and a new, semi-circular enclosed area at the north end and the adjacent opening. The wall of the enclosed area matches the original detailing using bricks recycled from an original section of fence to the southern perimeter that had been removed. The owner indicated that some minor changes (removal of some framing timber components) to the bank of windows to the ground floor southern elevation had also been undertaken.<sup>10</sup>*

An application was made for additions and alterations to the building in 1987, to designs by Barrack Douglas & Co.<sup>11</sup> These works were all internal.<sup>12</sup>

To the rear of the property and not visible from the public domain is a single-storey section with a balcony above to the centre of the rear elevation. As well, there is a tennis court with light fittings, and a small tennis pavilion with a gable roof clad in corrugated sheet metal and rustic detailing to the walls, which are clad with saplings, orientated both horizontally and vertically.<sup>13</sup>

## Historical Context

Originally part of Captain Edward Dumaesq's large land holding, the west side of Burke Road between Cotham and Sackville streets, surrounding the Kew reservoir, was subdivided in 1909.<sup>14</sup> The generous-sized allotments were predominantly developed during the mid-1910s with substantial villas with some additional development during the interwar years.

## Comparative Analysis

1205 Burke Road compares with several other designs making their appearance in the Camberwell region at this time. Among these are 177 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris, of 1935 (q.v., B-graded); 136 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, of 1938 (q.v., B-graded); 56 Riverside Avenue, Balwyn North, 1940 (q.v., B-graded, recommended for C-grading in this review); and 1297 Toorak Road Surrey Hills, 1940 (q.v., B-graded). These are all generally marked by hipped tile roofs, broad, double-storied fronts, in some cases the use of a parapet, a simplicity and directness in addressing the street and the use of windows with shallow reveals. 1205 Burke Road differs from these in having a plan that accentuates wings, rather than one emphasizing juxtaposed squares or simple L-form volumes, which mark other broadly modern designs in Boroondara during this period.<sup>15</sup>

## Assessment Against Criteria

*Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria*

**CRITERION E:** *The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.*

1205 Burke Road is a fine and externally highly intact example of a substantial residence in the Streamlined Moderne style. It is one of a number of examples of a new typology of houses being built in the Boroondara area and elsewhere in the late 1930s and early 1940s. It is an adept fusion of modern movement architectural imagery with more standard building techniques, and speaks simultaneously of an intense and particular care and direction in its construction, the machine aesthetic, and the new, unornamented or relatively unornamented modern architecture. Along with other examples, this suggests a move toward the generation of house design that would appear *en masse* after World War II.

#### Statement of Significance

1205 Burke Road, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance. A fine and externally highly intact example of a substantial residence in the Streamlined Moderne style, it is one of a number of houses constructed in the Boroondara area and elsewhere in the late 1930s and early 1940s which fused modern movement architectural imagery with more standard building techniques. This is an interesting example which simultaneously demonstrates an intense and particular care and direction in its construction, the machine aesthetic, and the new, unornamented or relatively unornamented modern architecture.

#### Grading Review

Unchanged.

#### Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

#### Identified By

Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988

#### References

*General:* Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded places study (draft), 2001.

*Specific:*

<sup>1</sup> Occupancy records derived from the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1938-1940 and augmented by information provided by the present owners, May 2007.

2 LP 5064, 1909, cited in G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded places study (draft), 2001.

3 City of Kew Rate Books, 1947-48, #5743, Cecil Whale, brick, ten rooms, nav £258; augmented by information provided by the present owners, drawn from the Certificate of Title, May 2007.

4 The original garden plan, dated 14 February 1938, is held by the State Library of Victoria.

5 Tricia Dixon and Jennie Churchill, *The Vision of Edna Walling*, 1998, p. 110.

6 City of Kew Rate Books, 1950-51, #5846, John Adamson, brick, ten rooms, nav £370.

7 Pattern of occupation derived from listings in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1950 and 1974, augmented by information provided by the present owners, drawn from the Certificate of Title, May 2007.

8 Details and drawings sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #3311, dated 13 November 1987; details of the 1992 scheme of works provided by the present owners, May 2007.

9 Information provided by the present owners, May 2007 and confirmed in the review by RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants, May 2008 and October 2008.

10 RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants, October 2008.

11 Barrack and Douglas, working drawings, dated July 1987, drawings sourced from the City of Kew Buildings Index, #3311, dated 13 November 1987.

<sup>12</sup> Information provided by the current owners.

13 Additional descriptive detail of the rear elevation, tennis court and tennis pavilion is based on text from the peer review by RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants, October 2008.

14 LP 5064, 1909, cited in G Butler & Associates, *Kew B-graded places study* (draft), 2001.

15 Robin Boyd later argued this was characteristic of an emerging planning type distinctive to Victoria. but wing-form plans of this type, pivoting around a centrally placed kitchen and bathroom area, were common in eclectic or 'traditional' house design ('Stockbroker's Tudor', 'Cotswold' and 'French Provincial' among them) in the US after c. 1915, and images of these were widely available in

Australia through US architectural journals. Robin Boyd, *Victorian Modern: 111 years of Modern Architecture in the State of Victoria, Australia*, Architectural Students' Society, RVIA, Melbourne, 1947. cf. a critique of Boyd's explanation by Philip Goad, 'This is not a type', in *Architecture Australia*, June 1988. The American journals included *Pencil Points*, *Architectural Record* and *American Architect*. An overview of American 'eclectic' house design- and its many modern qualities- can also be found in Walter Kidney, *The Architecture of Choice: Eclecticism in America*, Braziller, New York, 1974, or later monographic studies such as Robert Stern's *George Howe*, Yale, New Haven, 1972.