
Name	House	Reference No	
Address	10 Howard Street, Kew	Survey Date	16 August 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1912-13	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

The site of 10 Howard Street was originally part of prominent stockbroker and Kew citizen Frederick W Howard's large land holding surrounding his home *Leaghur*, which fronted Studley Park Road. The land was subdivided in 1909.¹ William (a lawyer) and Harriett Hordern purchased the property - a double allotment - and built a house in 1912-13.² The Horderns occupied the house until 1920, before it was purchased by Ernest R Haynes.³ Haynes lived there until 1924 and Mrs T W Stokes took up occupancy until 1927.⁴ Robert Gordon Menzies purchased the house in 1925-26, but appears not to have moved into the house until 1928.⁵ The Menzies family remained at 10 Howard Street until 1950.⁶

Robert Gordon Menzies studied law at the University of Melbourne and was admitted to the Bar in 1918. Building up a general practice, he specialized in constitutional law and won a landmark case in the High Court of Australia in 1920, which brought him 'sudden fame'.⁷ He married Pattie Maie Leckie in September 1920. During the 1920s, Menzies became active in politics, entering the Victorian Legislative Council in 1928. He subsequently relocated to the Legislative Assembly with his election to the seat of Nunawading in the 1929 general election.⁸ In 1932, he became Attorney-General and Minister for Railways.⁹ In 1934, whilst a member of United Australia Party, Menzies was urged to stand for the Federal seat of Kooyong, which he won with ease.¹⁰ He subsequently became a key figure in the government of Joseph Lyons, becoming Prime Minister of Australia in 1939 following Lyons' death. Menzies served as Prime Minister for just over one year, resigning on 29 August 1941, but in 1949 became Prime Minister again as leader of the newly formed Liberal Party. He served as Prime Minister for 17 years until he retired from politics in 1966.¹¹

In 1951 the house was acquired by Clifton L Shaw (a member of the Menzies family), and he lived there until 1965.¹² Elaine Canty, lawyer and later an ABC radio presenter purchased the house in 1976. Canty occupied the house until 1997.¹³

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

Description & Integrity

10 Howard Street, Kew, is a double-storey villa of brick construction. The hipped roof is clad with terracotta tiles and penetrated by tall red face brick chimneys with roughcast rendered caps and terracotta pots. The break-fronted, essentially symmetrical façade displays over-painted tuck-pointed face brick to the ground floor level and over-painted roughcast render with face brick quoins, window heads and frieze to the first floor level. The façade is divided into three by a central projecting bay which marks the entrance and contains a recessed porch accessed via bluestone steps, above which is a large tripartite window opening. This window, and a smaller casement sash window in the porch contain leadlight glazing. Elsewhere, windows generally comprise timber-framed double-hung sashes with multi-paned top sashes, bluestone sills and arched brick heads. A timber-framed verandah with typical period detail screens the south-east corner of the house.

The property is screened by a non-original brick pier and timber picket fence and timber gate. At the front of the house is a relatively recent garage (post-1988). The south-west corner of the garden contains a small non-original timber shed.

Historical Context

The subdivision of Frederick Howard's *Leaghur* estate in 1909 allowed the construction of several Edwardian houses, sited on generous allotments. These complemented the houses on the opposite side of Howard Street, which were erected on the later *Oakwood* estate subdivision in the mid 1930s. Howard Street was formed to facilitate estate subdivision in Kew, and is a good example of what succeeded two adjoining Studley Park Road mansions and their extensive estates.

Comparative Analysis

10 Howard Street is an unusual design for which there are no known direct comparisons in Boroondara. Stylistically and formally, it is suggestive of early moves in the direction of a Georgian and Mediterranean fusion and may have been a response to a small number of designs published in Australian magazines of this period. These include George Taylor's design for a house using Sgraffito fresco coloration, published in his *Building* magazine in 1906, Burcham Clamp's *Castle in Spain* (an Italian hipped roofed, pantiled villa) published in *Art and Architecture* the same year, and John Sulman's Bjelke-Petersen house in Turrumurra, published in *The Salon* in 1912.¹⁴ British parallels are mostly in the Neo-Georgian house as it developed from the 1890s, and a parallel movement in American architecture after c. 1887.¹⁵ From 1917, Old Colonial Revivalism and Mediterranean fusions were seen more widely in the writings of the architect William Hardy Wilson.

The stucco and brick quoining of 10 Howard Street is not unusual in itself and can be related to earlier Federation precedents, as seen with Hyndman and Bates' *Belmont* stables in Balwyn, of 1891-2.¹⁶

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

CRITERION A: The historical importance, association with or relationship to Boroondara's history of the place or object.

10 Howard Street is of historical significance for its association with Robert Gordon Menzies, Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister (1939 to 1941 and 1949-1966). Menzies purchased the house in 1925-26 and it remained in his family until 1966.

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.

10 Howard Street is an externally relatively intact example of a two-storey brick villa of 1912-13. The building is an unusual design which stylistically and formally is suggestive of early moves in the direction of a Georgian and Mediterranean fusion.

Statement of Significance

10 Howard Street is of historical and architectural significance at a local level. The house is of historical significance for its association with Robert Gordon Menzies, Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister (1939 to 1941 and 1949-1966). Menzies purchased the house in 1925-26 and it remained in his family until 1966. Architecturally it is significant as an externally relatively intact example of a two-storey brick villa from 1912-13. It is distinctive and unusual design which is atypical of the period and stylistically and formally is suggestive of early moves in the direction of a Georgian and Mediterranean fusion.

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:

¹ AP 37618 Registrar General's Office; Borough of Kew Rate books, 1911-12, #2726, nav £66, cited in G Butler & Associates, *Kew B-graded places study* (draft), 2001.

² Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1912-13, #2764, nav £80.

³ *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1920.

⁴ *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1924-27.

⁵ City of Kew Rate Books, 1925-26 and *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1927-28.

⁶ *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria* various years between 1928-51.

⁷ A W Martin, 'Robert Gordon Menzies', in J Ritchie (ed.) *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 15, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2000, p.354.

⁸ A W Martin, 'Robert Gordon Menzies', p. 354.

⁹ A W Martin, 'Robert Gordon Menzies', p. 354.

¹⁰ A W Martin, 'Robert Gordon Menzies', p.355.

¹¹ G Butler & Associates, *Kew B-graded places study* (Draft), 2001.

¹² City of Kew Rate Books 1950, #7470, nav £226; and 1957-8, #7148, nav £525.

¹³ Elaine Canty's ownership of the property is discussed in the Property section of the *Sunday Age*, 16 February 1997.

¹⁴ For these academic tendencies in housing, see Conrad Hamann, 'Paths of Beauty: the Afterlife of Australian Colonial Architecture', *Transition*, Spring 1988.

¹⁵ See Alastair Service, *Edwardian Architecture*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1977, Ch. 12, and Vincent Scully, *The Shingle Style*, Yale, New Haven, 1955, 1975.

¹⁶ Miles Lewis, Part 2 of P Goad et al., *Bates Smart*, Thames & Hudson, 2004, pp. 80-1.