
Name	<i>Mallow</i>	Reference No	
Address	33 Deepdene Road, Balwyn	Survey Date	25 November 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1923	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	
Heritage Status	<input type="checkbox"/> HV	<input type="checkbox"/> AHC	<input type="checkbox"/> NT	<input type="checkbox"/> Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

Charles Foster Browne, alternatively described as a banker or a manufacturer was the first owner-occupier of *Mallow*, described in rate books as a twelve room brick house.¹ Graeme Butler has related Browne's career from 1905, which included the acquisition and management of pastoral property, as well as involvement in various areas of the manufacturing sector.²

Other than for a new fence, constructed in 1996, the house does not appear to have been substantially altered.³

(G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, additional research by Lovell Chen, 2005)

Description & Integrity

Mallow, at 33 Deepdene Road is a, transversely massed house of 1923,⁴ asymmetrically composed with a projecting wing to the south, and a hipped roof in terracotta tile in a Marseilles pattern, with two chimneys and two hipped wings over the south rooms and the porch. It has boxed eaves in timber planking, and unpainted stucco walls. The main east-facing windows are in three sets with two as curved bays, all have white timber framing and small flat metal hoods. The porch is dominated by a large arch over two inward projecting impost-balustrades, and over which the name *Mallow* is painted in gold. The street presentation of the house is intact, and the garden, behind a 1996 fence, is of long standing and in a sympathetic style. The lawn previously extended right across the east front, bisected by a curving path toward the driveway. This lawn now terminates at the porch and has been replaced with a concrete car court on the northeast side. Other than that, there are no other recorded additions or alterations.⁵

Historical Context

33 Deepdene Road is located in area which was developed for the most part in the interwar period, in a street of contemporary bungalows, opposite the Catholic Church and School of Our Lady of Good

Counsel, built some time later; near the contemporary Deepdene Shopping Centre, the (then) Outer Circle Railway spur remnant⁶ and the Whitehorse Road trams.

Comparative Analysis

Mallow is an inventive house in simple bungalow plan with minimized chimneys common to the time. It compares with other broadly symmetrical houses of the period, examples of which are located in Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, and Tooronga Road Hawthorn, albeit both in red brick rather than stucco, as here. The broad and dominating arches on these houses, the horizontal proportions of their hipped roofs, and the simplicity and clarity of their elevations, suggest a resemblance to the Prairie School and its American successor movements, not so much that of Wright as of Purcell and Elmslie, Louis Christian Mullgardt or John Hudson Thomas, in both the Midwest and California. The boxed eaves and hipped roofing is also common to both the Prairie School in the US, and the Colonial Revival bungalows popular in gracious architecture circles in the early and mid 1920s, and well-published by then in Hardy Wilson's writings for *Art in Australia*.⁷ The broad entrance arches on these houses relate both to the Prairie School and to contemporary Australian Bungalow usage, and are in this an inflection of the more general round porch arches becoming popular in the wake of C F A Voysey and other leaders of the British Edwardian Free Styles in the period 1890-1914. The result is a building that shares several characteristics of the 1920s in a distinctive general form. Graeme Butler has observed that it is also distinct from the typical 'California' bungalow of its period, lacking the prominent verandahs and juxtaposed gables that generally marked the bungalow's Melbourne career.⁸ Arguably the fusion seen here has more to do with the emerging suburban vernacular seen further north and east in Camberwell in the 1940s and 1950s.⁹

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.

The historical association with businessman, Charles Browne, is of interest but is not considered to elevate the significance of the place over others associated with local business people.

CRITERION D: The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.

Mallow is a fine, representative and externally intact example of a bungalow of the early 1920s, with a partially intact and sympathetic setting.

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.

Mallow fuses several major 1920s modes, particularly the bungalow in a general single-storied, rather than 'Californian' sense, and elements of the boxed-eave colonial revival. It has the heavy scale and proportions characteristic of the 1920s, but with marked degree of stylistic synthesis in its exterior.

Statement of Significance

Mallow is of local historical and architectural significance as a fine, representative and externally intact bungalow of the early 1920s, which retains its unpainted stucco finish and generous garden setting. Stylistically, *Mallow* fuses several major 1920s modes, particularly the bungalow in a general single-storied, rather than 'Californian' sense, and elements of the boxed-eave colonial revival. It has the heavy scale and proportions characteristic of the 1920s, but with an impressive degree of stylistic synthesis in its exterior.

Grading Review

Unchanged.

Recommendations

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

Identified By

G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study, 1991.

References

General: G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study, 1991.

Specific:

¹ City of Camberwell Rate Book, 1923-4, 2401; 1925-6, 2145; 1926-7, 2440.

² Graeme Butler notes the following: 'Browne began his career in 1905 by acquiring the Mount Hope grazing property at Barfold, with his brother A.V. Browne. This company purchased Delmo Brothers (formerly Macaroni manufacturers at Ringwood) in 1906-7 and created T.W. Cotton Pty Ltd (ventilating engineers), in association with its namesake, during 1918. Charles Browne became managing director of Delmo Bros. Then broadened to Cereal Food Manufacturers (Macaroni) and the Australian Heel Company Pty Ltd, after partnering A.C. Farrow in the formation of the company in 1920. His grazing interests continued into the 1930s at Mayfield Station near Albury (1929 *Who's Who*, p.896). Browne typifies a certain Melbourne business type of the later nineteenth century. His career commenced with a large rural holding which he linked to processing industries in food and metal work. His move to this suburban address apparently came after his urban business interests flourished, yet he maintained an interest in pastoralism. The building has historical interest as representing the domestic style of an entrepreneur of the early twentieth century, with a foot in both urban and rural holdings; his home makes a clear contrast with the rural homesteads of an earlier generation of pastoralists and investors. His house illustrates Camberwell's role in providing a home to members of this later group of urban and rural entrepreneurs.'

³ City of Boroondara Building File 40/408/03656, # 7382, 6 May 1996.

⁴ See G Butler, City of Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, v. 4, p. 110.

⁵ Details sourced from City of Boroondara Building File 40/408/03656, # 7382, 6 May 1996.

⁶ The East Camberwell-East Kew section was closed in the early 1930s and replaced for some decades with a bus service.

⁷ Notably *Art in Australia*: On Richmond Bridge, 1918, *Domestic Architecture in Australia*, whole issue, 1919; *The Macquarie Book*: whole issue, 1921. Wilson's *Purulia*, hipped roofed, with boxed eaves and solidly scaled in a similar manner to *Mallow*, was published in the *Domestic Architecture* issue in 1919, and by 1923 was being emulated by 12 to 14 architects in Sydney and Melbourne alone. See Conrad Hamann, 'Paths of Beauty: the afterlife of Australian Colonial Architecture', *Transition*, 27, Summer 1988; Philip Cox and Clive Lucas, *Australian Colonial Architecture*, Melbourne, Lansdowne, 1974, pt. 3.

⁸ This raises the question as to how much Australian bungalow design of the 1920s was inherently 'Californian'. The term had obvious commercial appeal given the new prominence of California in film viewers' imagination, and a range of motifs from Pasadena and Alameda originals appeared in Australian houses after c. 1910. But taken as a general mode, Australian bungalows also read as a pragmatic simplification of Federation architecture, incorporating elements of Colonial Revivalism, British Free Style architecture and other approaches. It is also worth noting that the original Californian 'Bungalows' were almost always two-storied. Cf. David Gebhard, Robert Winter et al., *Guide to the Architecture of Los Angeles and Southern California*, Peregrine Smith, Salt Lake City, 1977.

⁹ c.f. 35 Balwyn Road, 1932, 1292 Toorak Road, of 1931, and 1297 Toorak Road, 1940 (all B-graded), all early prototypes in varying degrees for the suburban vernacular of the postwar period and all discussed elsewhere in this survey and review.