
Name	House	Reference No	
Address	1292 Toorak Road, Glen Iris	Survey Date	20 September 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1931	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

In 1931, Dr Alan Murray commissioned A.J. Edmond to construct a two-storeyed dwelling for him on Lot 3 in Toorak Road.¹ The brick house of eleven rooms was estimated to cost £2,500.² Dr Murray owned and occupied the property until after 1974.³

(G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study 1991)

Description & Integrity

1292 Toorak Road is a large-storey brick house with stucco rendering. Characterised by broad and simple massing, it has a hipped roof clad in Marseilles-pattern terracotta tile. The entry faces Beryl Street to the west, approached by a cement path running to the corner. The elevations facing Toorak Road and Beryl Street have had little, if any, external alteration.⁴ The windows are horizontally proportioned and there is a shingled oriel. The porch has triple arches, its slightly processional looking west elevation suggesting the Mediterranean or California.

The brick and stucco fence is original and complements the house, and is keyed to an encircling hedge and garden typical of the period.

Historical Context

This area of Toorak Road underwent a degree of residential development in the late Victorian and Edwardian periods, as is shown on MMBW Detail Plan No. 74. The street was still mixed in its character however, with the Burwood Poultry Farm located a short distance to the east. A subsequent layer of development occurred in the interwar period, as with 1292 Toorak Road. This building occupies a major corner site in this mixed area.

Comparative Analysis

Graeme Butler ascribes both Arts and Crafts and Georgian Revival affinities to the house,⁵ and vestiges of both run through most of the more ambitious houses in that area, along with a Mediterranean interest that was congenial with these modes in influential circles of the day.⁶ The solid, simple massing recalls free style houses by B J Waterhouse and others in Sydney during the 1900s, and the solidity of British Arts and Crafts designs before that⁷ - albeit at some conceptual and atmospheric distance. 1292 Toorak Road is typical of stock in the nearby Hassett and Golf Links Estates, though this is a particularly intact example, and as Butler notes, few houses there have the prominent site that this house does. The shingled bay echoes the more complex 'Manhattan Bungalows' and apartment modes seen in inner suburbs, built during the 1910s and 1920s, particularly those by Harold Lawson in his earlier days, in the Dandenong-Toorak and St Kilda Road areas.⁸

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

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.

1292 Toorak Road is a representative, intact and prominently sited example of eclectic domestic architecture in the eastern sections of Camberwell. The house obliquely incorporates a range of details and forms common in Melbourne architecture of the day.

Statement of Significance

1292 Toorak Road, Glen Iris is of local historical and architectural significance as a representative, intact and prominently sited example of a substantial two-storey residence of the interwar period, which retains its original setting, including the brick and stucco fence. Typical for the period, the house is an assured composition which consciously blends elements taken from diverse stylistic and cultural sources.

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 Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, # 2395, dated 20 October 1931.

² Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, # 2395, dated 20 October 1931.

³ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria* 1952; 1962; 1974.

⁴ The only council permits are for the house and garage, both completed in 1931.

⁵ G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, v. 4, p. 277.

⁶ In Australia Hardy Wilson and his circle favoured combinations of Colonial Georgian and Mediterranean references in their designs, as did Leslie Wilkinson, the first professor of architecture at the University of Sydney. They gained major influence through Ure Smith publications such as *Art in Australia* or *The Home*, both current when this house was built. Locally, related modes were pursued by Desbrowe-Annear, Irwin and Stevenson, Barlow and Hawkins and Blackett, Forster and Craig, all of whose offices designed houses in the Boroondara region. The shingled bay on the north side echoes Bungalow and attic houses built around Melbourne in the 1910s and 1920s.

⁷ Especially Waterhouse's *The Crossways*, Centennial Park Corner, NSW, 1909, illustrated in *Art and Architecture*; or Charles Rennie Mackintosh's 1904 *Hill House* at Helensburgh or, as Butler suggests, CFA Voysey's Studio house in London or *Perrycroft* in the West Country. Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, v. 4, p. 277. These comparisons do, it would seem, flatter the Toorak Road house, though; the presence and action of these sources is arguably fairly dilute in this version.

⁸ These had gained some prominence in magazines such as the *Australian Home Builder*, later the *Australian Home Beautiful*.