

BILL SNELL HOUSE

Place No. 76

ADDRESS 1 Fran Court
Lower Templestowe

Last Update 21/04/2005

DESCRIPTION A rectangular plan pavilion built of brick with a wall of bluestone facing the street, and a steel deck roof. It has a projecting deck and large sliding timber-framed windows extending along the north elevation. The house is carefully integrated within its casual garden context of natives and exotics amongst boulders in the Ellis Stones manner. The house employs 'Solareit' panels and a concrete floor system devised by architect Meg Henderson. It incorporates 'Dicon' pipes for heating, with a resin layer as a waterproof membrane against rising moisture. There is a pebble screed above with a silicon gel plastic surface finish.

It can be compared to Meg Henderson's own house, next door, at 232 Greenslopes Drive, which is stylistically very different and demonstrates the changing architectural fashions from the lightness of 1950s/early 60s to 'heavy' proto-brutalist influence of the mid to late 1960s.

It also compares with later houses by the firm of John & Keith Reid at 40 Melbourne Hill Road (1966) McLachlan Street (1966), and the earlier Templestowe Uniting Church (1962). Refer to separate citations in this Study.

Condition	Excellent	Integrity	Intact
Threats	Sale	Key elements	Building Garden
Designer	Meg Henderson		

HISTORY Meg Henderson designed and built the house in c1964, and she also designed the garden. It is intended to relate to the design of her own house and garden of four years earlier. She had sold the land to Bill Snell after negotiation with the CRB. She feels she did a better job here than with her own house. Meg Henderson did the Melbourne University Atelier course and never qualified. She completed a course in concrete technology at RMIT in 1963 before designing this house. It was designed from models. [1]

SOURCES

[1] Bill Snell, pers. comm.; Meg Henderson, pers.comm.

Creation Date	c1964	Change Dates	
Associations		Local Themes	8.02 - Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE What is Significant?
The Bill Snell House and garden, designed by Meg Henderson and constructed c.1964, at 1 Fran Court, Lower Templestowe.

How is it Significant?
The Bill Snell House is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?
Historically, it is significant as an example of the work of local architect, Meg Henderson, and demonstrates the innovative architecture that flourished in the Templestowe area in the post-war period. (RNE criteria A.4 & H.1)

Aeshetically, it is a rare and beautiful house complemented by a garden, which is significant as an early neo-brutalist design, contemporary with other similar work in Templestowe by Keith Reid and his sons, and which relates particularly well to its site and the context of its earlier neighbour, by the same designer and similarly intact. (RNE criteria E.1)

LEVEL Local/State significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO73		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H		Recommended

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

It is recommended that Manningham City Council nominate this place for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
 - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
 - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
 - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
 - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY