

# HOUSE

Place No. 376

ADDRESS	23 Rosa Street		Last Update 22/06/2005	
	Lower Templestowe			
DESCRIPTION	23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe is an early Modernist house with a low-pitched skillion roof. Fenestration is in the form of timber 'window walls' below wallboard cladding (possibly fibro), alternating with white-painted brick walls. The plan is L-shaped, with a walled garden between the street boundary and the projecting front, returning at the angle which contains another, pergola-clad, walled courtyard. A lower skillion roof extends from the right side of the rear wing to form a carport.			
	The high brick wall around the property has insets of Victorian-style palisade cast-metal fencing (including the front gate), which are inappropriate.			
	COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES			
	This house compares with the house at 50 Mahoney Street, Templestowe, also designed by J & P Murphy in 1955.			
	Condition	Good	Integrity	Intact
	Threats	None apparent	Key elements	Building Site layout
	Designer	John & Phyllis Murphy		
HISTORY	In August 1950 the Melbourne husband and wife team of architects, John and Phyllis Murphy, designed the small timber house at 23 John (now Rosa) Street for Robin Elder, solicitor of the firm Madden Elder and Graham. (1) The plan for the house, which has been lodged with the State Library of Victoria with other John and Phyllis Murphy architectural drawings, contains a site plan indicating a house set well back on the block. There is also a ground plan, north, south, east and west elevations and sections. An early photograph held by Phyllis Murphy shows the house located in an empty paddock with an unmade road and no street numbers.(2) The present attractive walled garden incorporating a courtyard and pergolas was most probably designed and planted later by Robin Elder, who was a keen gardener.(3) In 1959 a timber garage was constructed at the side of the house for a new owner, T.B. Randles, at a cost of 277 pounds.(4)			
	According to Phyllis Murphy, the husband and wife team 'commenced architectural practice in 1950 immediately after their marriage'. During that decade they designed and supervised 'about sixty small houses in Victoria and this house would have been one of the first. They were very modest buildings due to the lack of building materials and the scarcity of finance'. They worked with Kevin Borland, Peter McIntyre and an engineer, W.I. Irwin, and 'were successful in winning the competition for the design of the swimming pool for the 1956 Olympic Games'. After 1960, the Murphys' practice was 'mainly in educational and commercial buildings'. They also became pioneer restoration architects. The Murphys joined the newly formed National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in 1956 and 'soon took on a number of projects as honorary architects'. The 'restoration of old buildings and understanding of the building techniques used became a great interest'. The collection of historic wallpapers has continued to be a post-retirement interest for Phyllis Murphy. (5)			
	SOURCES			
	(1) Timber House on Lots 52, 53 and 54 , John Street for Robin Elder Esq., 146 Domain Street, South Yarra, John and Phyllis Murphy, August 1950. Copy of plans supplied to consultants.			
	(2) Copy of photograph supplied by Phyllis Murphy.			
	(3) Phyllis Murphy, pers. comm., 23 May 2005.			
	(4) City of Manningham Building Permit No. 2556, 21 July, 1959.			
	(5) Phyllis Murphy, pers. comm., 23 May 2005.			
	Creation Date	1950	Change Dates	
	Associations		Local Themes	
	John and Phyllis Murphy		8.02 - Architects	

<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<p>What is Significant?</p> <p>The house, designed by John and Phyllis Murphy and constructed in 1950 (excluding the later additions including the front fence), at 23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe.</p> <p>How is it Significant?</p> <p>The house at 23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.</p> <p>Why is it Significant?</p> <p>The house at 23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe has historic significance as one of the first houses designed by the important architectural practice of John and Phyllis Murphy. It is one of the earliest examples of the post-war Modernist style in a residential building in the study area. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2 and H.1)</p> <p>The house at 23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe has aesthetic (architectural) significance as a relatively intact example of an early Modernist house. (RNE criteria E.1)</p>
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**LEVEL** Local significance

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO		Recommended

**Extent** The whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries.

### 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

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**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** Context Pty Ltd, (2005), *Manningham Heritage Study Review*, Manningham City Council, Doncaster