

PARK ORCHARDS COUNTRY CLUB CHALET

Place No. 221

ADDRESS	Park Road Park Orchards	Last Update
DESCRIPTION	The former Park Orchards Country Club Chalet is a large Spanish Mission building, with single and double-storey sections. It has a number of features typical of this style including a terracotta tile roof and roughcast render walls.	
	Condition -	Integrity Not known
	Threats	Key elements Building Tree(s)
	Designer	

HISTORY The Park Orchards Country Club house (the Chalet) and other facilities were built c1928 as part of a scheme to develop a 'Country Club' estate. A golf course was built in 1931.

The Park Orchards Country Club Estate had its origins in 1925 when Australis Sharp and John Taylor, timber merchants of South Melbourne, purchased 559 acres at Park Orchards; they already had many land holdings including the Ranelagh Country Club Estate at Mt Eliza (designed by Walter Burley Griffin). At Park Orchards they launched a similar 'Country Club' subdivision concept. The subdivision was a bold scheme using an innovative 'circus' design by the noted surveyor Saxil Tuxen. Tuxen (1885- 1975) was responsible for some of the largest planned subdivisions in Melbourne. He was a member of the Victorian Town Planning Association from its inception and was appointed to the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission in 1923 [1].

The land was to be subdivided into half acre blocks, and purchasers would become members of the 'country club'. Gates were put at the entrance way and covenants placed on the land to ensure the development remained residential.

The use of curved roads was favoured as part of the 'garden suburb' concept, although Tuxen was known to prefer 'a series of properly arranged short straight lines' [2]. His choice of a central 'circus' form suggests the influence of Walter Burley Griffin, with whom Tuxen had worked previously.

The estate failed to attract buyers during the Depression of the 1930s. To help recover financial losses much of the land was cleared and planted with pines to provide future timber for the timber yards of Sharp and Taylor. By 1950 the area had only 25 families, and it was not until the late 1950s that the land started to be developed. By then it had already been sold to Edments (a Melbourne company).

The Estate was one of the earliest (if not the first) example of a planned residential estate within the study area. Although residential subdivisions had been developed before, this one was one of the few to offer incentives such as the restrictive covenants, the Chalet and other facilities to entice potential buyers.

SOURCES

[1] R. Freestone, 'Model communities', Nelson, Melbourne, p.23.

[2] Freestone, op. cit. p.89

Creation Date c1928

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

7.01 - Subdivisions

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE What is Significant?
The former Park Orchards Country Club Club House (the Chalet), constructed c.1928, at Park Road, Park Orchards.

How is it Significant?

The former Park Orchards Country Club Club House (the Chalet) is of local historic and aesthetic

significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Chalet is significant as evidence of the failed Park Orchards Country Club, which is an early (perhaps the first) example of a planned residential estate within the study area. It is the only building associated with the development to survive. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2 and D.2)

Aesthetically, the Chalet is significant as an unusual example of a Spanish Mission style building. (RNE criteria E.1)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
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None Specified

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

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY Context Pty Ltd, (1991), City of Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study, City of Doncaster & Templestowe, Doncaster, 123