

# MEG HENDERSON HOUSE

Place No. 78

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**ADDRESS** 232 Greenslopes Drive  
Templestowe

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**Last Update** 21/04/2005

**DESCRIPTION** A low profile pavilion house comprising a main wing and carport wing set at an angle and carefully integrated into the native landscape setting. The house has a shallow pitched gable roof with wide eaves. There are large areas of glazing and walls of a light coloured brick with sections of timber panelling. The house is anchored on its west side by a broad chimney of random rubble Warrandyte stone. On the east side of the house, a cantilevered balcony with a timber board balustrade projects out over the sloping ground.

The adjoining house and garden at 1 Fran Court were designed by the same architect c.1964 in a manner that is intended to complement this house.

There are no direct comparisons in Templestowe. Richard Neutra's Californian houses are probably relevant (eg. the Sydney R. Troxell house, Los Angeles, c1960), and the houses of Chancellor & Patrick in Melbourne, and those of Phyllis Murphy. There is probably some Japanese influence via Robin Boyd.

<b>Condition</b>	Excellent	<b>Integrity</b>	Intact
<b>Threats</b>	None apparent	<b>Key elements</b>	Building Garden
<b>Designer</b>	Meg Henderson, designer and		

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**HISTORY** This house was designed and built by Meg Henderson in 1960 whilst she was a student in the University of Melbourne Architecture Atelier. It took 18 months to build. She also designed and laid out the garden. Later she sold 1 Fran Court to Bill Snell and designed and built a house and garden for him (Refer to separate citation in this Study). She was a successful entrant in the Womens Weekly competition, which also awarded prizes to Peter McIntyre and Barry Patten and which boosted her confidence. The house was designed from models she built. [1]

## SOURCES

[1] Meg Henderson, pers. comm.; she has original drawings in her possession.

<b>Creation Date</b>	1960	<b>Change Dates</b>	
<b>Associations</b>		<b>Local Themes</b>	
Meg Henderson		8.02 - Architects	

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** What is Significant?  
The house and garden, both designed by Meg Henderson for her own use in 1960, at 232 Greenslopes Drive, Lower Templestowe.

How is it Significant?  
The Meg Henderson House is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Manningham City. It is also of potential State significance.

Why is it Significant?  
Historically, it is significant as a rare and early example of the house and garden designed by a female 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)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a very fine domestic design and a quintessential expression of its time. It is integrated into and floating above its site with great skill: the garden design contributes crucially to this characteristic. With its neighbour, 1 Fran Court (house and garden by the same architect) it forms a complete composition.

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**LEVEL** Local/State significance

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Heritage Register Listings

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

### Extent

### Heritage Schedule

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

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** Context Pty Ltd, (1991), City of Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study, City of Doncaster & Templestowe, Doncaster, 156