

HOUSE

Place No. 367

ADDRESS 50 Mahoney Street
Templestowe

Last Update 22/06/2005

DESCRIPTION The house at 50 Mahoney Street, Templestowe is elevated and set well back on the block. It comprises a rectangular pavilion with a skillion roof overall. It has Indian Red stained timber cladding and white painted window frames of highlight awning sashes over picture windows. The single red brick rectangular chimney is internal. The skillion extends at right as a carport. At left, it abuts a low-pitch gabled breezeway with corrugated translucent roofing, extending at left as a separate pavilion.

The house is set in well-maintained gardens, which are notable for a number of mature Eucalypts. A rubble local stone wall retains the front terrace. There are mature eucalypts (possibly *E. citriodora*) beside open lawn at front, which overlooks the river valley (and Orwell, the property that is directly opposite). As stipulated in the original design brief (see History), there is no front fence.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES

This compares with the more simple house at 23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe, which was designed by John and Phyllis Murphy in 1950.

Condition	Excellent	Integrity	Intact
Threats	None apparent	Key elements	Building Garden Tree(s)
Designer	J & P Murphy		

HISTORY The important Melbourne architects, John and Phyllis Murphy, were responsible for the design in November 1952 of a small timber house in Newman (now Mahoney) Street for a cousin, Robert Stanley Slater, a school teacher. Phyllis Murphy has supplied the consultants with a copy of the original plans for this house.(1) It is one of two early 1950s houses in the City of Manningham designed by the Murphys and is among the earliest of the sixty small houses they designed throughout Victoria during that decade. They were very modest buildings due to the lack of building materials and scarcity of finance in the post-Second World War years.(2) The other Manningham house is at 23 Rosa Street, Lower Templestowe.(3).

The working drawings for the Mahoney Street house contain a site plan, which indicates the building on Lot 3 with vacant land on Lot 2 on its west side. Although side fences were shown around the property, it was stipulated that 'No front fence (should) be erected'. The drawings include a ground plan with a front verandah and a carport on the east side of the building. There were north, south, east and west elevations and sections shown on the plan.

Robert Slater, who became the registered owner in 1953, (4) still lives in his 1950s house.

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. 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 for Mr. R. Slater on Lots 2 and 3 Newman Street, Templestowe, John and Phyllis Murphy, Architects, Nov. 1952.

(2) Phyllis Murphy, correspondence, 19 May 2005.

- (3) See above.
- (4) Certificate of Title Vol. 7082 Fol 1024.
- (5) Phyllis Murphy, correspondence, 19 May 2005.

Creation Date 1952

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

John & Phyllis Murphy

8.02 - Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The house, designed by John & Phyllis Murphy and constructed in 1952, and the surrounding garden and mature Eucalypts at 50 Mahoney Street, Templestowe.

How is it Significant?

The house and garden at 50 Mahoney Street, Templestowe is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

The house at 50 Mahoney Street, 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)

The house at 50 Mahoney Street, Templestowe has aesthetic (architectural) significance as a fine and very intact example of an early Modernist house, which is complemented by carefully landscaped grounds that feature some fine specimens of Eucalypts. The skill evident in the design of this house demonstrates the development of the Murphy practice when compared to the earlier Murphy house at 23 Rosa Street. (RNE criteria E.1)

LEVEL

Local significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	-		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

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