

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

Linda Crescent

TYPE

- Single Residence
- Multiple Unit Res.
- Shop
- Outbuildings
- Office
- Industrial Building
- Landscape feature
- Public building
- View
- Other grandstand

TITLE

Hawthorn Football Club "Michael Tuck Stand"

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR [ ] GBR [ ] AHC [ ] NT [ ] VAS [ ]

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [ ] 2 [X] 3 [ ]  
SIGNIFICANT [ ] SIGNIFICANT [X]  
STREET TREES KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING

A [X] B [ ] C [ ] D [ ] E [ ]  
KEYNOTE BUILDING [ ]

RECOMMENDED FOR

HBR/GBR [X] AHC [X] URBAN CONSERVATION AREA [X]  
VAS [ ] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [X]  
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [ ] OTHER [X] Significant Tree

SURVEY DATE Oct. 91.  
NEG FILE 15.28-30.  
Title  
Vol.  
Fol.

THEME

- Early Settlement
- Mansions
- Victorian Garden Suburb
- Municipal dev.
- 1870s growth
- Garden villas
- Working enclaves
- Commercial Centres
- Edwardian Prosperity
- Interwar Housing
- Flats and Offices

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Date 1938  
Architect see below\*  
Builder Monison Brothers Pty Ltd.  
Elements



- Contributing garden
- Original or early hard landscape layout
- Landmark tree
- Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY	Good	[X]	CONDITION	Good	[X]
	Fair	[ ]		Fair	[ ]
	Poor	[ ]		Poor	[ ]

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden [ ]

The site information given above has been determined from external street level inspection.

\* Stuart P. Calder in association with Marsh and Michaelson.

LINDA CRESCENT

HAWTHORN FOOTBALL CLUB

"MICHAEL TUCK GRANDSTAND"

History

This distinctive two-storeyed grandstand was erected in 1938 by the Hawthorn Council at a cost of 17,000 dollars from the designs of the architect Stuart P. Calder in association with Marsh and Michaelson and was constructed by Morrison Brothers Pty. Ltd.<sup>11</sup> Calder was responsible for 1930s alterations and additions to Hawthorn Town Hall<sup>12</sup> and the design of the former McPherson building in Collins Street.<sup>13</sup>

The Hawthorn Football Club has a long history and was formed in 1873 with a membership of approximately twenty. By 1914, when the Club had joined the Victorian Football Association, its membership was approximately 200 with crowds of over 4,000 when the Club played its first game against the Essendon Association. In 1925 Hawthorn was admitted to the Victorian Football League, but its oval proved a problem in housing spectators. A timber grandstand was brought to the site from the old East Melbourne Cricket Club and this remained in use until 1960 when it was demolished.<sup>14</sup>

Although at first the local football club was less popular in middle-class Hawthorn than in working-class areas like Collingwood and Footscray, there was increased support for the Hawthorn Football Club during the 1930s Depression years. During this period, the unemployed were admitted to the ground free if they were able to show their sustenance cards. This growing popularity increased the need for more spectator accommodation. The new reinforced concrete structure with red brickwork erected in 1938 was evidence of Hawthorn Council's commitment to the Club. Hawthorn Council's faith in the Club's future paid off in 1961 and 1991 when Hawthorn won the prestigious Grand Final. In March 1991, the grandstand was named the Michael Tuck Grandstand after the celebrated Hawthorn player.<sup>15</sup>

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11. Department of Planning and Housing File HB 6004088; Graeme Butler, "Glenferrie Oval Grandstand", Report to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Feb. 1991; Bryce Raworth, "Glenferrie Sports Ground Grandstand. Comparative Analysis", March 1991.
  12. See research into Hawthorn Town Hall.
  13. Butler.
  14. File HB 6004088.
  15. Ibid.



Hawthorn Football Club  
Michael Tuck Grandstand continued

Description

When the new grandstand was opened in 1938 it was described as follows:

"a red brick building with a nautical appearance and what looked like a Captains bridge perched above a sweeping, streamlined roof".<sup>16</sup>

This comical description illustrates how novel, Moderne styling still was in Melbourne. The building illustrates that style in its: strongly three dimensional form; the emphasis on horizontality balanced with vertical volumes; and in the use of cantilevered elements, for the concrete roofs and the main grandstand roof. From the street the carefully arranged volumes suggest an overlying influence from Amsterdam brick group lead by Dudock in the early twentieth century. The latter is best illustrated in Australia by the Heidelberg Town Hall.

The building turns its back on the street and the park, like most grandstands. Its principle elevation faces the oval, with a small return where this abuts Linda Crescent. The front is characterised by its openness. Its curved form is probably more a reflection of the very tight ground than the Moderne style. Nonetheless once established the architects have carried this through to the rear with matching curved form. In Linda Crescent the most elegant section of the design is the sculptural manner in which the curved form is translated into the rectilinear requirements of the street frontage.

To carry through the modern theme and curved form the architects utilised several special materials including curved bricks, and steel windows.

Assessment

The following was prepared for the Ministry of Planning for the registration by the Historic Buildings Council in 1991.

"The Glenferrie Sports Ground Grandstand, designed by Stuart Calder in conjunction with Marsh & Michaelson and built 1938,<sup>17</sup> is the most striking of Victoria's grandstands from the first half of this century and one of the best examples, amongst all building types, of the Moderne idiom of the 1930s. Although outstanding in these respects, it may usefully be compared with the earlier South Melbourne Cricket Ground Grandstand and the slightly later Essendon Cricket Ground Grandstand. The South Melbourne Cricket Ground Grandstand was constructed in the mid 1920s and is similar in many respects to nineteenth century examples.<sup>18</sup> Built of red brick, it is symmetrical on the playing field elevation, with half timbered gables to the front and sides of the canopy and

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<sup>16.</sup> H. Gordon, *The Hard Way; The Story of the Hawthorn Football Club*, N.S.W., 1990, p.64.

<sup>17.</sup> Original drawings held by Hawthorn Football Club.

<sup>18.</sup> City of South Melbourne and Ministry for Planning & Environment, *South Melbourne's Heritage*, Melbourne 1988, p.71.

Hawthorn Football Club  
Michael Tuck Grandstand continued

ventilation fleches above. More notable is the fact that the canopy itself is partially cantilevered, an innovative departure from the typical nineteenth century, post supported form. The Essendon Cricket Ground Grandstand, designed by Harry Winbush in 1939,<sup>19</sup> utilises the contemporary Moderne idiom in detailing - slick, cream brick walls with porthole windows, cantilevered concrete stairs, and an overall emphasis on horizontal lines and form - but is otherwise similarly conventional in expression. It is a fairly static composition, which addresses the playing field directly and is more or less symmetrical on that elevation. It too has a partially cantilevered, but unspectacular, canopy.

By contrast, the Glenferrie Sports Ground Grandstand stands as a bold expression of the Moderne idiom which puts aside all references to traditional styles and adopts a sweeping, curved, asymmetrical form appropriate to its style, use and site. Built of red brick, it uses motifs of the Moderne such as porthole and slit windows, glass bricks, flat roofs, rendered cantilevered eaves and string courses, steel framed windows and flag poles, but incorporates these within a dynamic, sculpted form far more representative of the German Expressionist sources of the style than that adopted at Essendon. The press box, time keeper's room and flag poles at the northern end provide a strong vertical and asymmetrical counterpoint to the predominantly horizontal lines of the structure. The canopy is cantilevered far more boldly than those of either South Melbourne or Essendon, and its rounded, sweeping form is a superior expression of the essential link between grandstand and the boundary of the playing field. This relationship makes the grandstand type a perfect vehicle for the expression of curved, flowing, horizontal form, and the architects of the Glenferrie Sports Ground Grandstand have capitalised upon this potential to a degree rarely matched in Victoria".

Bryce Raworth  
March 1991

This design is equal to the pioneering McPhersons buildings in Collins Street. It is more fully developed in its sculptural, three dimensional quality, not possible at McPhersons, and shows a wider base of influence in its treatment of the brick volumes. It is far more revolutionary than the Town Hall update by the same architects which is essentially a decorative approach, rather than the intrinsic design illustrated here. Amongst the best works by the Architects.

Significance

State

1. Architecturally significant; as one of the best "Moderne" style buildings in the State; as an outstanding example of the work of the architects; and as an unusual example of the style used for a Grandstand.

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<sup>19</sup>. *Heritage*, Melbourne 1988, p.71.



Hawthorn Football Club  
Michael Tuck Grandstand continued

2. Historically significant because of its associations with the Victorian Football League, which has played such an important role in Melbourne's social life for more than a century. The grandstand exemplifies the importance of municipal government in Hawthorn, Hawthorn Council financing the structure in 1938.
3. Significant as a part of the early Village green here associated with the Grace Park subdivision.





Linda Crescent.  
Hawthorn Football Club  
"Michael Tuck Stand"