

## Camberwell Conservation Study 1991

### BUILDING CITATION

#### House, 15 Walbundry Avenue, Balwyn North



Study Grading: A  
Precinct: 1.00 Streetscape: 2  
Construction Date: 1936  
First Owner: Beeby, H.S. manufacturer

#### History

In 1936 architects, R.M. & M.H. King designed this large house for Harry Samuel Beeby, a manufacturer, who resided at Brook Street, Hawthorn at the time<sup>3</sup>. The builder was G C Dickson P/L<sup>4</sup>. The house was to be of brick and have eight rooms<sup>5</sup>. Harry and Elizabeth Beeby owned and occupied the property until at least 1974<sup>6</sup>.

R.M. & M.H. King practised from the late 1920s until the 1960s when the name had changed to R.M. & M.H. King & Hodson<sup>7</sup>. They designed many other houses in the area, one being 35 Balwyn Road designed in 1932<sup>8</sup>.

This house was pictured in *The Argus* as an example of the 'modern European style of architecture'. Noting that many Melbourne architects had difficulties with the inherent flat roof form of the style because of local weather conditions and the practicalities involved with keeping the water out, the writer noted that the Kings had solved the problem by substantially hiding the 'incongruous' lines of the ordinary hipped roof by use of a curving parapet along half one side and all of another<sup>9</sup>. The upper terrace balcony also curved in a similar way, forming a sheltering hood over the entry. The brick walls were to be finished in a grey sand-finish render

and the window frames (steel) were to be brightly coloured.

The ground floor plan unfolded from the hallway as a lounge and connecting dining room which in turn led into the kitchen. off the hall, opposite the lounge, was the study which connected to the breakfast room, creating a living cycle of breakfast-work- lounge-dinner and then to be, on the floor above. There two bedrooms faced south, the master room with a large walk-in dressing room and both accessible to a bathroom and storage units off the hall. Facing north and the full solar spectrum was an ample sun deck, counterpoint to the large balcony which overlooked the street on the south.

Appropriate detailing included the curved fireplaces with inset chrome strips and a flush blackwood mantle; a two-way fuel box for the fireplace; and sand finish plaster to the walls<sup>1</sup>.

#### Description

A superb Streamlined Moderne stuccoed two-storey house with corner steel-framed windows, port holes, window slits, a curved flat-roofed porch and a vertical feature on its east elevation. the roofline is both parapeted and hipped with tiles to the pitched section. The fence is part of the design, and notable, and the landscape is empathetic to the period. Other Moderne style houses include 46 The Boulevard (q.v.) and the much later and face-brick 6 Bulleen Road.

#### Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 9, BOSTON ROAD, 1930
- 396, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1930
- 460, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1930
- 16, MUSWELL HILL, 1930
- 3, BRENBEAL STREET, 1930c
- 177, DONCASTER ROAD, 1930c
- 816-822, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1930c
- 454, WARRICAL ROAD, 1930c
- 359, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
- 397-399, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
- 497, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
- 35, BALWYN ROAD, 1931-2
- 1292, TOORAK ROAD, 1931-2
- 11, CHATFIELD AVENUE, 1932-3
- 27, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1932
- 3, FINSBURY ROAD, 1932
- 7, MURIEL STREET, 1932c
- 4, FINSBURY WAY, 1933

3 MMBW DP 3987  
4 *The Argus* 16.7.36/4  
5 BAC  
6 D1940; D1960; D1974  
7 D1962; MUA1 p.57  
8 CCS 1986, p.7  
9 *The Argus* 16.7.36/4

1 ibid.

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**BUILDING CITATION (Continued)**

125, HIGHFIELD ROAD, 1933  
1, MAPLE CRESCENT, 1933  
14, STODDART STREET, 1933  
7, MANGAN STREET, 1933  
11, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1934-5  
87-87A, BOWEN STREET, 1934  
458, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1934  
201, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1934  
45, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935  
46, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935  
56, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935  
1, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1935  
9, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1935  
13, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1935  
3, SALISBURY STREET, 1935  
177, GLEN IRIS ROAD, 1935  
361, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1935  
361, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1935  
796-798, BURKE ROAD, 1936  
23, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1936  
9, JUDD STREET, 1936  
49, THE RIDGE, 1936  
20, WALSH STREET, 1936  
716, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1937  
517, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1937  
31-39, COOKSON STREET, 1938-39  
311-317, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1938  
2, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1938  
24, FINSBURY WAY, 1938  
32, HORTENSE STREET, 1938  
4, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1938  
26, REID STREET, 1938  
660, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1938  
66, THE BOULEVARD, 1938  
136, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1938  
14, CASCADE STREET, 1939  
24, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1939  
1, MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD, 1939  
43, YULLE STREET, 1939  
43, CASCADE STREET, 1939?

recovered rapidly after the depression and by 1936, when this house was built, the municipality was the most important area in the state for domestic building activity: of regional interest.

**External Integrity**

Generally original.

**Streetscape Contribution**

A major element in an important Second War housing precinct (1).

**Significance**

Architecturally, a superior Streamlined Moderne style house in design and setting which is close to its original condition and part of an important streetscape which is in turn part of an important precinct: of State importance.

Historically, significant as a representative example of the robust building activity of Camberwell in the late 1930s. The Camberwell building industry

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