

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	House; 2 Fallon Street, Brunswick	
Address	2 Fallon Street Brunswick	Significance Level 2004 ;
Place Type	House	



2 Fallon Street Brunswick

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR - HI - PS -

Integrity

Minor Modifications

History and Historical Context

The exact date of the house at 2 Fallon Street, Brunswick is unknown, however, rate and title information indicate that it was constructed c.1906.

Fallon Street was subdivided in 1882 as part of the Phoenix Park, Dawson Estate, located within the greater Central Brunswick Estate, and was named after Cr Fallon (1880s), the son-in-law of Michael Dawson. [1] Initially houses were erected on the west side of the street only. The first houses on the east side of Fallon Street (which includes this property) were not erected until 1906. The 1906 Brunswick Rate Book indicated that there were four blocks of land each of 40'

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frontage x 83' deep. The first was land, then a timber house of 5 rooms owned by 'Short' of 83 Hunter Street, another timber house of 5 rooms, and more land. [2] By 1908 there were four houses on the east side of Fallon Street, including at No. 2, which was then owned by Charles Matthews who had bought the land in August 1906 and taken out a mortgage soon after, presumably to finance construction of the house.

There were no lot/house numbers on the east side of Fallon Street until 1912 when Mary Hickey acquired ownership of No 2. [3] Rate books show that from 1913, John Curtin, (future Prime Minister, and then described as of 'independent means'), lived at number 2 Fallon Street in a 6 roomed timber house owned by Hickey. At that time Curtin was in his late 20s. [4] Curtin remained in the house until 1916, when Norah Knight, home duties leased the property from Hickey (William or Mrs?), c/- Family Hotel, Drouin. [5]

JOHN CURTIN

John Curtin (1885-1945) was born in Creswick in 1885. In the 1890s he was educated at St Ambrose Primary School, Brunswick and Curtin later lived at 2 Fallon Street from 1913 until 1916. In 1914, during his time in residence at Fallon Street, Curtin was gaoled for a few days for protesting against conscription. In 1928 Curtin won the political seat of Fremantle and moved to Canberra. In 1941 he became Prime Minister of a country at war. Curtin died in office in 1945 of a heart attack shortly before peace was declared. [6]

SOURCES

- [1] Street names of Brunswick, compiled by Les Barnes, 1987.
- [2] Brunswick Rate Book, 1906, Fiche 203, p.57.
- [3] Brunswick Rate Book, 1912, Fiche 260, p.64.
- [4] Brunswick Rate Book, 1913, Fiche 271; Street names of Brunswick, compiled by Les Barnes, 1987.
- [5] Brunswick Rate Book 1916, Fiche 307, p. 66.
- [6] www.abc.net.au/btn/australians/curtin.htm

Description

Physical Description

The house at 2 Fallon Street, Brunswick is early 1900s single storey double-fronted timber ashlar and weatherboard villa with a hipped painted corrugated iron roof return and a bullnose verandah. It has red brick chimneys with rendered caps and plinths and paired brackets under the eave line. The verandah has turned timber verandah posts and an elaborate lacework frieze. A central pediment with carved decorative bargeboards marks the front entrance. The front door is flanked by paired elongated double-hung sash windows, with a further elongated double-hung sash window at end of the verandah return.

The house is set back on a wide block of land behind a narrow front garden, which has an old, and possibly original, timber fence with a closely pruned privet hedge. The house is very intact and is in fair condition externally.

Physical Condition

Good

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house, constructed c.1906, at 2 Fallon Street, Brunswick.

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How is it significant?

The house at 2 Fallon Street, Brunswick is of local aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland and of interest for historical associations.

Why is it significant?

Of aesthetic significance as a good and intact representative example of an early 1900s timber ashlar villa, with fine detailing including the central pediment to the verandah, intact cast iron lacework and paired elongated double-hung sash windows. (AHC Criterion E.1)

Of historic note for its brief association with John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia (1941-45) who resided in the house in his late 20s, from 1913 to 1916, during his most vehement anti-conscription phase.

Recommendations 2004

External Paint Controls

-

Internal Alteration Controls

-

Tree Controls

-

Fences & Outbuildings

-

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

-

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

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This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.