

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991 BUILDING CITATION

House, 6 Bulleen Road, Balwyn North



Study Grading: A
Construction Date: 1951
First Owner: Cameron, C S
Architect: Cameron, C S
Builder: Cameron, C S

History

The prolific Camberwell builder/investor, C.S. Cameron designed and built this nine roomed, brick house for his own use in 1951¹. He lived here with Edith Cameron until selling to Robert Crichton Allison a funeral director².

Robert Allison was a member of the well known Allison family. His forbearer, Henry Allison, began a mortuary business in the late 1850s at 221 Victoria Street, West Melbourne. He died in 1884, to be succeeded by his son Alfred in whose time several branches were added³.

Description

Resembling 2 Beatrice Street and 1 Montana Street (q.v.), Cameron's house is overtly Moderne in style, as expressed in the sweeping curves carried out in the cream and manganese brickwork, the ship-like wrought-iron balustrading, steel-framed windows and streamlining implied by the exposed slab edge which wraps around the diverse forms making up the building. Port holes used in the doors and walls extend the maritime imagery. Contrasting with the fluid form of the street elevations of the design, the rear face is flat, unlike the Modernist

approach which demanded a free-standing design with all elevations equally important. The garden appears near to original, as is the fence.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

106, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1940-1
 1, MONTANA STREET, 1940
 1297, TOORAK ROAD, 1940
 91, MAUD STREET, 1940c
 133, MAUD STREET, 1940c
 56, RIVERSIDE AVENUE, 1940c
 15, WALBUNDY AVENUE, 1940c
 417-, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1940c
 113, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1940c
 123, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1941-2
 2, BEATRICE STREET, 1941
 6, BULLEEN ROAD, 1941
 171, DONCASTER ROAD, 1941
 4, MAYSIA STREET, 1941
 46, THE BOULEVARD, 1941
 1, KELBA STREET, 1941c
 666, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1946-7
 119, DONCASTER ROAD, 1948
 1, KALONGA ROAD, 1948c
 166, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1951-2
 2, TAURUS STREET, 1951c
 32, URSIA STREET, 1951c
 6, CARRIGAL STREET, 1952
 43, KIREEP ROAD, 1952
 1, MADDEN STREET, 1952
 2, CARRIGAL STREET, 1954
 16, CARRIGAL STREET, 1954
 129, WINMALEE ROAD, 1954
 14, ORION STREET, 1954c
 32, BALWYN ROAD, 1955c
 45A, NARRAK ROAD, 1955c

External Integrity

Generally original.

Streetscape Contribution

Bordering, and similar to examples in, a notable 1930s-40s precinct (1).

Significance

Historically, associations with the Allison family and a classic representative of the Moderne housing of 1950s Camberwell, adapting maritime features to modern forms. These styles are familiar in North Balwyn and Balwyn and suggest something of the confident and "progressive" outlook of new wealthy residents. Their values, expressed in buildings such as this, set these

¹ ER 1954; D1952; MMBW DPA 255940; BA 11445
² ER 1954; ER 1959
³ Smith, *Cyclopedia of Victoria* Vol.3 p. 170

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suburbs apart from the remainder of Melbourne's post-war expansion. C. S. Cameron's mark is evident in the city from the notable Moderne style examples of his work: of regional interest.

Architecturally, a superior residential example in the Moderne manner which utilizes all of its stylistic trappings, including curves, layered massing, flat roofs, nautical imagery, patterned brickwork and steel-framed window joinery. It is also related to the nearby Riverside and Camberwell City Heights estates: of State importance.
