

Identification and location

Name of place: Williamson house

Other Name

Address

182

Mitchell St

Maidstone

Place Identifier

22059

Heritage Significance:

City

Creation date(s):

1929

Map (Melway)

27 H11

Boundary description

House and land to the extent of the title with emphasis on the fabric from the 1920s-30s.

Local Government Area:

City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type:

Private

Description

Site Type

House, urban

Physical Description

This is a medium sized weatherboard Californian Bungalow style house which is distinguished by its two front window bays and verandah treatment. The house has a corrugated iron clad Dutch hipped main roof with a strapped gable set in the apex of the pitch. The window bays are semi-circular with shingled lower walls and diamond-pattern glazing.

The front fence has been changed.

Condition

good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity

intact/minimal intrusions

Context

Set in a mainly inter-war housing area, with detached single storey examples, many being weatherboard.

Threats:

Higher density development or changes to significant elements

History

Despite the frantic subdivision of land in the late nineteenth century, most of the residential development of the City of Maribyrnong has occurred in the twentieth century. In the first two decades of the century housing spread out through Seddon, between Geelong Road and Somerville Road and at West Footscray. In this period and the 1920s, much of the residential development was carried out by developers { Barnard, 2000}.

The Cordite and Ordnance Factories at Maribyrnong attracted a small but growing population to settle there, but by the end of the 1920s, there were still only 160 households . Indeed a map of Melbourne's West produced in 1936 shows that while Footscray, West Footscray and Yarraville were closely subdivided, houses were still very sparse and scattered at Maidstone and Braybrook , West Yarraville and Kingsville. Braybrook and Braybrook South were barely touched by housing. Much of the infill of these areas was to come after the Second World War when both public agencies, such as the Housing Commission of Victoria and private builders and owner builders filled in the gaps { Barnard, 2000}.

Thomas Alexander Williamson was the first owner and occupier of this house after it was built in c1929 on lots 5 & 6 of the River Park Estate { RB1929-30, 3504}. Previously the site had been owned by the Misses J & H Williamson whose address was listed in rate books as care of a Mr Thomas of Braybrook and Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds. He was presumably an agent.

Williamson later leased the house to Clifford John Naismith whose occupation was described as a golfer, an interesting fact given the location of the house near the Medway Golf Course. Naismith died at Maidstone in 1944 aged 54 { Macbeth 1998}. Meanwhile Thomas Williamson had shifted to 130 Woodland St, Moonee Ponds { RB1938-39, 3213}.

In the late 1940s and 1950s the house was owned and occupied by local garage proprietor, Leslie J Guy. Thomas Williamson was the son of Thomas and Jane (nee Drysdale) and died at Brighton in 1968 aged 81 { Macbeth 1998: 12934}. Leslie Guy was born to Bertram and Edith (nee Evans) and died at Maidstone aged 54 (1967) {Macbeth 1998}.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme: Making towns to serve rural Australia

PAHT Subtheme: Settling

Local Theme(s): Twentieth Century Residential Development

Cultural Significance

The Williamson house is significant to the City because;

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

- it is a superior example of the weatherboard Californian Bungalow style, as compared to others in this part of the City, with its distinctive window bays and verandah treatment. (criterion F1); and
- it represents well the post war residential expansion in the City (criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

There are many examples of Californian Bungalows throughout the city, particularly in areas of greater distance from old transport hubs like the railways stations. Some architect-designed examples such as The Pebbles are of State significance. This example compares well among the mass builder-designs of the era and in particular in the former City of Braybrook area because of its distinctive window bays and verandah treatment.

Recommendations

- Heritage Victoria Register:
- Register of the National Estate:
- National Trust Register:
- Other Heritage Listings:
- Planning Scheme Protection:
- External Paint Controls Apply?:
- Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:
- Tree Controls Apply?:
- Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:
- Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:
- Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?:

Recommendations:

Conserve and enhance the house fabric from the 1920s-30s, with enhancement including reinstatement of missing original elements, colours and finishes.
Conserve the public view of the conserved fabric.
Promote the continuing original use of the place and its amenity.
Continue or encourage historical research into the place and provide public access to the findings.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

it represents the post war residential expansion in the City

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

F1 Importance for their technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

it is a superior example of the weatherboard Californian Bungalow style as compared to others in this part of the City

historical significance architectural significance social significance scientific significance

Documentation

References

Lack, John. 1991 'A History of Footscray', - no mention of Guy;
'Footscray's First Fifty Years' (FFY): - no mention of Guy;
Municipal Rate Books (RB)
Sands & McDougall 'Victorian Directory'
Barnard, 2000 Project 1 Vol 2 Environmental History
Macbeth 1998 'Death Index 1921-1985'

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date:

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

