

Identification and location

Name of place: Sheppard house

Other Name Kelvin Grove private hospital

Address 003 Tongue Street
Yarraville

Place Identifier 87

Heritage Significance Regional

Creation date(s) 1912 **Map (Melway)** 42 A8

Boundary description Extent of title and house with emphasis on fabric from or near the construction date and the hospital occupation.

Local Government Area City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Private

Description

Site Type: House, urban

Physical Description

A testimony to the prevalent timber architecture of Footscray at its most ornamental stage, this house is in the Federation Bungalow style. This is shown by its high hipped Far Eastern 'teahouse' shaped roof, a formerly half-timbered and prominent gabled roof bay, Tudor casement window groups, and leadlight glazing. Distinctive whip-lash and slatted ornamental timber verandah detailing derives from the Arts & Crafts movement and shows the style's Far Eastern influences. The rough-cast stucco completes the vernacular on walls and on the chimney shaft. A post from the original fence survives at the north-west corner of the block.

Condition

Externally good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity

Externally substantially intact/some intrusions- the fence (assumed timber picket) has been removed, the gable sheeted over, and an attic dormer closed in.

Context

Set in a street of contemporary, but sometimes altered, timber houses.

Threats:

Increasing development pressure, unrelated external changes.

History

Historical background

Early private hospitals in the City of Maribyrnong tended to be run primarily as lying-in hospitals for women. There were a number of these hospitals dotted around Footscray in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, usually located in what had been private homes. In an industrial area, where workplace accidents were common, a general hospital was much needed. The move for a local public hospital, to serve not only Footscray but also the wider Braybrook and even as far as St Albans, began in 1919. A committee was formed to work towards a hospital and a site in Eleanor Street had been selected by 1920. Although the Footscray Council provided the £10 deposit needed to secure the land, the Committee had raised the full £2,000 to pay off the land by April 1921. It was to be another thirty years before the Committee, which was a coalition of large local firms and working people, were able to achieve their hospital. The Charities Board was a major obstacle to the achievement of a hospital, as it opposed the establishment of hospitals outside inner Melbourne, where several large hospitals were located. In 1939 the Governor of Victoria opened the Footscray Out-patients' and Welfare Centre on the site of the future hospital. The centre offered four 4-hourly clinics per week and was the first public health facility offered in Footscray 220 . It was to be another fourteen years before the Footscray and District Hospital, complete with a nurses' home, opened in June 1953. The hospital, with some additions, later became the Western General Hospital and then, in the 1980s, became a campus of the Western Hospital, with another large campus built at Sunshine { Barnard, 2000}.

Specific History

Eliza and George Sheppard (a plasterer) were the first owners and occupiers of this house in 1912; their previous home being at 36 (old numbers) Tongue Street. The next owner-occupier was a Dr. Frank Lind, presumably commencing the site's association with medical matters. Percy Scrivener lived there in the 1930s but it was as 'Kelvin Grove' (a private hospital) that the house continued for most of its subsequent history { Butler, 1989}.

In that period the owner was a Mrs. Harriett Campbell, of Bacchus Marsh. She commissioned the society architect, Marcus Martin, to design the necessary rear extensions for its conversion to a private hospital, in 1934. The original owners, Eliza and George Sheppard, appear to have died in the mid- 1950s. The building was later used as a boarding house { Butler, 1989}.

A long association with the local medical profession established the house in the memories of many who attended it before the development of Footscray Out-patients' and Welfare Centre in 1939 and the Footscray & District Hospital in 1953 { Butler, 1989}.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme
PAHT Subtheme Local Theme(s)

Cultural Significance

The Sheppard house or Kelvin Grove is significant to the Western region because:
- Architecturally, it has unusual and ornate timber detailing, thus representing one of the more developed and distinctive examples of the Federation Bungalow timber villa type, with the style's Far Eastern influences, in Footscray and the region (Criterion F1);
- Historically, it has served over a long period as a private hospital in the area and hence has a high local historical and social significance representing well the period before public hospitals in the City (Criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

Other examples showing ornate timber verandah detailing are typically smaller and include 19 Bellairs Avenue, Seddon.

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 identified significant fabric, with emphasis on fabric from the early 20th century and the hospital occupation, with enhancement including reinstatement of missing original elements, colours and finishes.
Conserve the public view of the significant fabric.
Promote the continuing original use of the place and its amenity.
Continue historical research into the place and provide public access to the findings.
Assess the interior for significant elements.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Historic Places - Selected non-industrial significant places in former City of Footscray - not in the Planning Scheme

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 has served over a long period as a private hospital in the area and hence has a high local historical and social significance, representing well the period before public hospitals in the City

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

an unusual and ornate timber detailing, thus representing one of the more developed and distinctive examples of the Federation Bungalow timber villa type, with the style's Far Eastern influences, in Footscray and the region

☒ historical significance ☒ architectural significance ☐ social significance ☐ scientific significance

Documentation

References

Butler, Graeme 1989, City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study cites:
-Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) Cover files (CF): CF.89009 plans at 1912, 1921;
-Commonwealth Electoral Rolls (ER): ER1908
-Footscray Cemetery register (FCR);
-Footscray's First One Hundred Years (FFOY): 79-;
- Footscray Historical Society records;
- Sands and MacDougall Victorian Directories (D): D1915-55.
Barnard, J 2000. Maribyrnong Heritage Review Volume 2 Environmental History City of Maribyrnong;

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date: