

## 17 St Georges Road, Toorak



### History & Description

Mrs Margaret Hunter was the first owner of the large fifteen-roomed two-storey brick residence constructed at 17 St. Georges Road (formerly listed as 9) in 1936.<sup>350</sup> It was designed by the Melbourne architects, Hughes and Orme,<sup>351</sup> who are noted for their domestic work around this time.<sup>352</sup>

The St Georges Road residence replaced an earlier sixteen-roomed house on the site, known as Blair, and built in 1902 for Mrs Hunter from the designs of the architects Hyndman and Bates.<sup>353</sup> When the earlier house was demolished not even the sanitary fittings were retained. Old stables and a cow bail at the rear of the property were also demolished. The MMBW House Cover No 30275 contains a floor plan of an earlier demolished house and later 1936 residence.

The new residence set well back on the block had a large tennis court near the site of the old stables.<sup>354</sup> An illustration of the new house, a perspective sketch, appeared in a contemporary journal.<sup>355</sup>

The house, with straight tree-lined drive leading directly to the entrance, has a large two storey facade with Georgian revival details and an attic storey. Built in exposed orange brick rather than the rendered finish often associated with this style, the

350. City of Prahran Rate Book 1935-36, Toorak Ward No.1929.

351. MMBW House Cover No.30275.

352. Miles Lewis, *Australian Architectural Index*.

353. MMBW House Cover No.30275.

354. MMBW House Cover No.30275.

355. *RVIJAJ*, Nov. 1936 p.168.

facade is similar to that of the residence designed by Robert Bell Hamilton in the early 1930s for Major and Mrs Landale of Toorak.<sup>356</sup> Semicircular steps are another Georgian motif that appear in the MMBW plan.

In 1939 the property passed into the hands of Hilda Mabel Stevenson<sup>357</sup> who owned it still in the early 1950s.<sup>358</sup>

## Significance

This 1936 brick residence with its tree-lined drive has state significance as an example of the substantial, (often architect-designed) homes constructed on large allotments for affluent Toorak residents during the inter-war period. Built in the Georgian revival style, it is a fine example of the domestic work of the architects Hughes and Orme.

## Sources

City of Prahran Rate Books, Toorak Ward.

Cuffley, P., *Australian Houses of the '20s and '30s*, Five Mile Press, Melbourne, 1989.

Lewis, Miles, *Australian Architectural Index*, Univ. of Melbourne, 1990.

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## Analysis & Recommendations

It is recommended that this property be retained at A1 level.

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356. Cuffley, p.87.

357. City of Prahran Rate Book 1939-40, Toorak Ward No.2246.

358. City of Prahran Rate Book 1950-51, Toorak Ward No.2516.