

INDIVIDUAL HERITAGE PLACE – CITATION

HO168

NAME OF PLACE: House

OTHER NAMES OF PLACE: Telgai, Clark house.

ADDRESS / LOCATION: 4 Struan Street, Toorak

PROPERTY INFORMATION: part Warrawee Estate

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (potential State)¹

ASSESSED BY: Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder.

ASSESSMENT DATE: March 2002

REVISED ASSESSMENT October 2003

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (as visible from the street)

House at 4 Struan Street, Toorak is of Local (potential State) significance architecturally and historically:

- as a superb and externally well-preserved example of the Old English style, from 1923, 1932, showing strong links to the style's origins, as in the work of CFA Voysey and Norman Shaw (Criterion E1)
- for its association with the State's foremost practitioner of the inter-war Old English or Tudor revival style, Robert Hamilton, as a well preserved example of one of the first designs undertaken after becoming a sole practitioner (Criterion H1).

¹ The Panel found that the place did not have State significance based on the evidence presented: Graeme Butler & Associates maintain that the house is of State significance.

PLAN

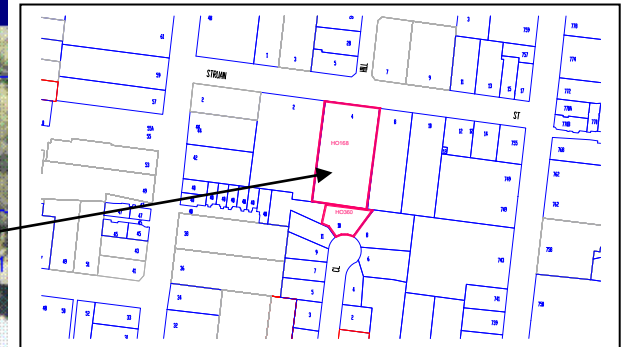
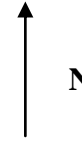
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ADDRESS / LOCATION: 4 Struan Street, Toorak

Not to Scale²

4 STRUAN ST, TOORAK



² Cadastral plan and aerial photograph supplied by the City of Stonnington

PHOTO:



(Source: Graeme Butler & Associates) June 2002

DESCRIPTION:

(as assessed from the street)

This large attic-form Old English style clinker brick house was built in stages, the first designed by noted architect Robert Bell Hamilton. A major but sympathetic extension to the west was made prior to 1932, doubling the width of the building.

The dominant element in the design is the terra-cotta shingled roof: a combination of steeply pitched hipped and gabled roofs, with skillion roof forms over ground level room bays. The two main gables are clad with stained vertical boarding, one on the east being from the first stage and the other, above the entry, being from the 1932 addition and houses a balcony. A third gable faces east, containing another balcony. Diamond paned timber casement windows in the front elevation enhance the English vernacular associations.

The picturesque combination of roof forms resembles the work of the noted English Arts & Crafts architect, CFA Voysey, while the emphasis on natural and rustic materials such as the rough and irregularly coloured clinker brickwork, the fine shingles and the stained timberwork, reflect the strong influence of the Arts & Crafts.

A low brick front fence encloses a garden of shrubs and mature trees. A semi-circular driveway winds past the large entry at the centre of the front facade.

Interior

Not inspected.

Condition & integrity

(as assessed from the street)

High external integrity to the 1932 stage; excellent condition.

Note:

Raworth notes shingling on the main gables in his 1998 citation but this was not extant in 1984, as shown in the Prahran Conservation Study image of the house, and is not extant in 2002.

Context

Struan Street is between Toorak Road and the Yarra River: it has mature plane street trees and a group of substantial interwar houses (particularly on the south side), some modernist house designs and some blocks of low-rise flats. Early basalt kerb and channel survives. Adjoining on the west (2 Struan St) is the Ramsay house (1931), another later but distinctive Old English style design.

This house and its environs were included in the Struan St Urban Conservation Area (Area 9.3- parts Orrong and Grange Roads, north end of Blackfriars Close and south side of

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Struan St) was proposed in the Context Pty Ltd, City of Prahran Conservation Review. The significance of the area was stated as an enclave of notable architect designed inter-war houses in an earlier mature landscape setting that in part derived from Warrawee. The study also noted later architect 1950s-60s house designs (including the Robin Boyd Blackfriars Close house), the mature plane street trees in Orrong and Grange Roads, and Struan St.

HISTORY

Historical background

(see History of the Development of Prahran

By George Tibbits, for Nigel Lewis and Associates, Architects and Conservation Planners, 1983)

Development in Toorak (20th century)

The Toorak area was also the scene of intensive development in the period of 1920 to 1930. An important group of residences were erected near the corner of Heyington Road and Toorak Road, designed by architect Harold Desbrowe Annear. Annear also designed the garden for Sydney Myer's Cranlana, 62 Clendon Road in 1930. Annear employed the Italianate style with the inclusion of fountains, ferns and statues. Nearby in Clendon Road, Walter Burley Griffin's office had designed Clendon Lodge in 1923 for Mary Williams. Three years later Griffin designed the Langi flats also for Mary Williams. Another contribution to the architecture of the 1920s in this area was 'Mullion' (6 Stonehaven Court) designed by Eric . Nicholls in 1927 28 for W H Smith. The building was erected when Sir Francis Ormond's property at the corner of Clendon and Orrong Roads was subdivided and many of 'the mature trees from his garden were retained on the site of Mullion. South of Mullion another subdivision, Stradbroke Avenue was developed at a slightly later period. Buildings were all constructed of rough cast and masonry and today the feeling of the road conforms very much to its original appearance although. recent exterior redecoration to many residences has sightly lessened the overall effect.

The large allotments in the elevated areas of Toorak have seen two major subdivisional stages after the first large mansion allotments were created. This (aerial) view in 1950 of Irving Road shows the first pattern of subdivision of the original allotments which took place mainly from the 1880s (and) 1920s. The 1960s and 70s have seen a further subdivision of many of these allotments. (Tibbits, 1983)

Specific History

(see Foster, 1998)

1840

The area bounded by Toorak Road, Grange Road, Orrong Road and the Yarra River, sold at the First Crown Land sales on 10 June 1840. A 73 acre lot was purchased by Charles Norris.

1855

Norris had subdivided the land into large lots but Kearney's 1855 map indicates no development had occurred

1867

Near the corner of Toorak Road and Orrong Road, a 20 room Italianate style residence was built for Melbourne merchant George Stevenson. The mansion was later enlarged to 50 rooms for retired pastoralist John Simson of Trawalla near Beaufort. Simson's Toorak mansion was named Trawalla.

Further north, a number of large houses were built facing Orrong Road including Struan at the north east end of Struan Street.

1877

Auction of land bounded by Grange Road, Struan Street and Hill Street, releasing 10 allotments for sale for villa sites.

1895

The MMBW plan shows only one of these 10 allotments with a house, facing Hill Street. The south side of Struan Street remained undeveloped.

1905

Struan Street was officially proclaimed

1907

A house, Warrawee, with an extensive landscaped garden, was built near the north east corner of Robertson Road and Orrong Road, to the design of Walter Butler.

1922

J Johnstone declared a plan of subdivision of part of CP15, Parish of Prahran, that contained a resubdivision of LP10555: it held four lots, this property being lot 4.

1922

In October architect Robert Hamilton purchased lot 4 of Warrawee Estate from Mrs George Moore, the owner of Warrawee.

1923

The MMBW plan of drainage 13125 for the house has Hamilton as the owner (and designer): it was drawn June 1923 and the work carried out by April 1925.

The MMBW Field Book 2192: 81: shows RB Hamilton as the owner of a new house, the drawing of the house plan and drainage was signed May 1923.

1923-4

Hamilton sold the house to Mrs Alice Clark in 1923-4.

1924-5

Hamilton is listed as the occupier of the new building. The house was later named Telgai and owned and occupied by Alice and Heaton Clark until at least 1960.

1932

MMBW Plan of Drainage 13125 shows doubling of house built frontage with an addition on the west, the architect is assumed to be Hamilton, the agent is again TF Crabb' of Elizabeth St, Melbourne; the owner was now Alice N Clark of Struan St.: the name of the house was `Talzie`.

Robert B Hamilton calls tenders for alterations and additions to a 2-storey brick residence in Struan St, Toorak: the successful builder was TF Crabb

TF Crabb, builder, receives building permit for brick additions worth £760 for Mrs Heaton Clarke, owner.

1930s-1950s

Victorian directories show Heaton C Clark in residence.

1968

Heaton C Clark dies, with his obituary stating that he was Chief Engineer for the Metropolitan Gas Company from the 1920s to his retirement in 1954. He died at Victoria House Hospital, Toorak, aged 79.

1984

The house was identified in the Prahran Conservation Study Building Identification Form (N Lewis & Assoc) as of State significance (A1) in a level 2 streetscape

1985

Building application for a new building at 4 Struan St.

1996

Building application for tennis court fence and deck to existing house valued at \$25,000.

1997

Building application for construction of planter boxes, to the value of \$8000.

1998

Planning application by architect Nicholas Day for alterations and additions to house, including sub-basement, basement, garage, ground and 1st floors, and attic: permit issued 1999.

R B Hamilton.

1892-

Robert Bell Hamilton was born, then educated at Scotch College

1914-18

Served in the 14th Battalion of the AIF during WW1.

1918-

Studied in London to become an associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, remaining in London where he designed a housing scheme for the Slough City Council

1920

Became assistant to the government architect in Bombay, India.

1922

Melbourne Arts & Crafts architect, FL Klingender (formerly of Alsop & Klingender) formed a partnership with Hamilton, with Hamilton becoming the firm's designer. Architects, RB Hamilton, H D Annear, P Meldrum, J Barlow, WAM Blackett, P Everett, AG Stephenson, L Irwin and JH Wardrop launched the periodical 'Every man His Home'

1925-

Hamilton started his own practice, active until WW2 and sometimes in partnership with other architects such as Marcus Norris

1945

Robert Hamilton was elected MLA for Toorak. He was also a councillor for Mornington Shire when he died on 15 May 1948.



ANALYSIS

Thematic context

The Principal Australian Historic Themes (PAHT) have been developed by the Australian Heritage Commission to allow assessment of historical significance within a national historical thematic framework.

PAHT	Subtheme	Category
Building settlements, towns and cities	Making suburbs	House, urban

Comparative analysis

Summary

RB Hamilton's name is synonymous with the Old English style: this example being an early and impressive one. The two stages were designed by him and are well preserved as seen from the street.

The association with Heaton C Clark, a prominent engineer, is also a long one.

Hamilton's work

Following on from his Arts and Crafts character of the Klingender practice, Hamilton developed great skill in the Tudor Revival or Old English style in the Victorian context. The style drew upon Arts and Crafts principles and English residential vernacular, with the building's components being as important as the creation of the house itself in terms of their detailed design, including leadlight, hand-made fittings and furniture. It differed from the medieval domestic revivals seen in the Old English or Queen Anne revival styles of the late Victorian-era and Edwardian-era, being less dependent on ornament and more concerned with form and simplicity of expression, as in the precedents of Shaw and Webb. The style developed into a suburban Old English form which was less concerned with the Arts & Crafts principles of hand crafted elements and more to do with mass production in the hands of speculative builders. It was sometimes termed Stockbroker Tudor.

He also practised in the contemporary styles of the inter-war period including Landale a large Georgian revival villa, Landale Road, Toorak, and houses at 8 and 12 Macquarie Road in 1929 and 1930 respectively.

He also designed Tudor revival flats, including Burnham in Grange Road, Toorak (1933), Moore Abbey in Marne Street, South Yarra (1934), Denby Dale in Glenferrie Road, Kooyong (1938), Park Manor in Williams Road (1930s) and a number of Tudor revival or Old English style shops in Prahran and Malvern.

He, like Walter & Richard Butler, continued working in the Arts & Crafts manner well after its mainstream period in the Edwardian-era, deep into the interwar era. His name is synonymous with the Old English style: this example being an early and impressive one.

Hamilton designed houses identified as significant in the City include:

Haddon Hall flats, at 405 Toorak Road, Toorak
House, at 13 Myamyn Street, Armadale built 1925
House, at 8 Macquarie Rd, Toorak built 1929
House, at 12 Macquarie Rd, Toorak built 1930
Burnham Flats, at 14 Grange Road, Toorak built c1933
House, at 20 Heyington Place, Toorak built c1930
House, at 716 Orrong Road, Toorak built 1930s
House, at 52-54 Hopetoun Road, Toorak built 1933
Sunleigh Lodge, at 5 Russell St, Toorak built 1933
Stonehaven Flats, at 692 Orrong Road, Toorak built 1933c
House, at 541 Toorak Road, Toorak built 1934
Park Manor Flats, at 284 Williams Road, Toorak built c1934
Houses in Landale Road, Toorak built c1935
Taunton house, at 520 Toorak Road, Toorak built c1935
Denby Dale flats, at 420-426 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong built 1937-8

Stylistic origins

A major source of the English Domestic Revival or Old English styles is the work of English architect, Phillip Webb (1830-1915), particularly his Red House at Bexley Heath of 1859. His designs were simple but always picturesque adaptations of Tudor architecture and became a model for much domestic architecture in Britain from the late 19th century to the second world war. The main architects of this revival included Webb, Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912), and CFA Voysey (1857-1941).


Arts & Crafts

Apperley et al (1989) define Arts & Crafts architecture under the heading 'Federation Arts & Crafts':

'As its name implies, the style was concerned with the integration of art into everyday life through the medium of craftsmanship. There is a strong flavour of morality, with stress on the truthful use of materials and the honest expression of function. Arts and Crafts buildings are unpretentious and informal, evoking an atmosphere of comfortable familiarity.'

'In nineteenth century England, the moral attitudes to architecture and design preached by A. W. N. Pugin and John Ruskin were put into practice by William Morris, father of the Arts and Crafts movement. Dismayed by the effects of the Industrial Revolution and inspired by Ruskin's writings on 'The Nature of Gothic', Morris tried to put art into a broadly based social context through the reestablishment of handicraft methods reminiscent of a rural, pre industrial age. C. F. A. Voysey and Philip Webb were important Arts and Crafts architects in England. In the United States, Gustav Stickley promoted the 'Craftsman' image in architecture, interior design and furniture.'

‘In Australia, Federation Arts and Crafts architecture exhibits qualities similar to those of the overseas models from which it drew inspiration. Buildings in this style are domestic in scale and make free use of traditional (usually English) vernacular motifs to achieve an unassuming, homely, well established character. Designers aimed for informality in planning, massing, fenestration and landscaping. The roof is a dominant element, featuring gables (with barges or parapets) and/or hips of medium to steep pitch and prominent eaves. Tall, tapering chimneys, battered wall buttresses and bay windows are characteristic elements of the style. Pebbledash stucco (roughcast) was commonly used as an exterior wall finish, together with other materials having earthy, ‘natural’ colours and textures. Interiors frequently display timber panelling and sturdy ceiling beams. Touches of Art Nouveau detail are common, both externally and internally.’



Assessment against the criteria adopted by the Australian Heritage Commission

Summary of Australian Heritage Commission criteria

Code	Summary	Assessment at local significance	Assessment at contributory significance
E.1	Aesthetic importance to the community or a cultural group	Superb and well-preserved example of the Old English style showing strong links to the style's origins, as in the work of CFA Voysey and Norman Shaw	Major contributory element in a fine group of large inter-war architect designed houses, part of the Struan St Urban Conservation Area, as identified by Context P/L.
H.1	Association with important person or group	Association with the State's foremost practitioner of the inter-war Old English or Tudor revival style, Robert Hamilton, as a well preserved example of one of the first designs undertaken after becoming a sole practitioner Associated with long-term occupant Heaton Clark, a successful engineer.	Associated with long-term owner and commissioner of the second main part of the building, Heaton C Clarke ³ .

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The building and existing mapped land should remain in the heritage overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme.

Proposed extent of heritage place for the heritage overlay

The house and land, specifically external fabric from the main construction dates in the 1920s and c1932.

Planning Scheme Protection in a heritage overlay: Recommended

Other heritage registers

Heritage Victoria Register: No⁴

Register of the National Estate: Recommended

³ Graeme Butler & Associates maintain that the association with Heaton C Clark was is of local significance

⁴ No State-wide comparison has been made in the analysis, although a case exists for inclusion.

REFERENCES

Raworth & Foster 1998 cite:

Walter Butler 1907: architectural drawing by for Rutter-Clarke, State Library of Victoria.

City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1920-30:

City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1923-4, no. 1219.

City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1924-5, no. 1241.

City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1929-30, no. 1403.

Context Pty Ltd, City of Prahran Conservation Review, 1993, Vol 4: 80-.

Peter Cuffley, 'Houses of the 20s and 30s', Balwyn, 1989.

Malone Betty, Section 9, unpublished manuscript, Prahran Archives.

MMBW plan 1895.

Public Highway Gazettal, Struan Road 26.9.1905.

Record of sale, lot 4, Struan Street, Gardiner & Lang.

'Sands & McDougall Directories'.

Subdivision plan 1877, Prahran Archives.

Wilson & Sands, 'Building a City', Melbourne, 1981.

Further references;

MMBW Field Book 2192: 81 (VPRO)

'Sands & McDougall's Directory of Victoria' 1935-55

'The Age' 12/8/1968: 6 obit.

'Building & Construction and Cazaly's Contract Reporter' 20/9/1932: 18, 22.

Johnson, DL 'Australian Architecture 1901-51': 83 note re Hamilton launch of periodical

Further work

None

Appendix 1 Previous citation

Council has considered a series of amendments to the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme. During the exhibition period of former Amendments L47 and L61 objections to the inclusion of some properties in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay were received. Therefore Council resolved to undertake further analysis of the heritage citations of affected properties prior to holding an independent panel hearing. The amendments are now known as C5 and C6(2) respectively. The following citation was exhibited with amendment L61.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd and historian Di Foster. It investigates the significance of the properties at 4 Struan Street, South Yarra, in order to determine the appropriateness of their inclusion within the schedule to the Heritage Overlay within the planning scheme.

The property graded A1 in Prahran Conservation Study. It is not presently listed on the Victorian Heritage Register or the Register of the National Estate, nor is it classified by the National Trust.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report finds that 4 Struan Street is of regional significance and should be added to the schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the local section of the Stonnington Planning Scheme and nominated to the Australian Heritage Commission for inclusion in the register of the National Estate.

HISTORY

The area bounded by Toorak Road, Grange Road, Orrong Road and the Yarra River sold at the first Crown Land sales on 10 June 1840. Lot 15, consisting of 73 acres, was purchased by Charles Norris.[1] Although Norris subdivided the land into large lots, Kearney's map indicates no development occurred in this area prior to 1855.

In 1867, on a mound near the corner of Toorak Road and Orrong Road, a 20 room Italianate style residence was built for Melbourne merchant George Stevenson. The mansion was later enlarged to 50 rooms for retired pastoralist John Simson of Trawalla near Beaufort. Simson's Toorak mansion was named Trawalla and its grounds covered most of the block bounded by Toorak Road, Grange Road, Robertson Street, and Orrong Road. The entrance was located at the corner of Toorak and Grange Roads and the

driveway led past the gate-house and sweeping lawns and gardens to the mansion, which boasted extensive bay views.

Further north, a number of large houses were built facing Orrong Road including Struan at the north east end of Struan Street. On 17 November 1877, a subdivision and auction of land bounded by Grange Road, Struan Street and Hill Street released 10 allotments for sale as villa allotments.[2] The sale, by Alfred Bliss for the owner Charles Washington Umphelby, appears to have been unsuccessful, as the 1895 MMBW plan shows only one of the allotments with a house facing Hill Street.

On the south side of Struan Street, land sloping to the gully and creek which cut across the centre of the allotment and ran down to the Yarra River, remained undeveloped. In 1907 the large home Warrawee [3] with its extensive garden, was built near the north east corner of Robertson Road and Orrong Road. Previously, vacant land extended from Struan Street and Orrong Road to Quissisana, the early home fronting Grange Road.[4]

It was not until 1905 [5] that Struan Street was officially proclaimed and it was sometime after this that the south side of Struan Street was subdivided into building allotments. In October 1922 architect Robert Hamilton purchased lot 4 of Warrawee Estate from Mrs George Moore, the owner of Warrawee.[6]

Hamilton then sold the allotment to Mrs Alice Clark in 1923-24 [7] and designed a two storey brick residence [8] for the site. Robin (sic) B. Hamilton is listed as the occupier of the new building in 1924-5.[9] The house, numbered 4 Struan Street, was later named Telgai.[10] Alice and Heaton Clark lived at 4 Struan Street, until at least 1960.[11]

DESCRIPTION

Struan Street is located in a quiet, residential section of Toorak between Toorak Road and the Yarra River. It is a short, tree-lined street containing a mixture of substantial interwar houses and occasional blocks of low-rise flats.

The house at 4 Struan Street is situated on the south side of the street behind a low timber fence and a small formal garden of low shrubs and mature trees. A semi-circular driveway winds past the large entry at the centre of the front facade. The substantial two storey residence was built in a number of stages, the first by noted local architect Robert Bell Hamilton with a major and sympathetic extension to the west by others from as early as 1932 which effectively doubled the width of the building.[12]

Hamilton's original construction drew inspiration from both the English Domestic Revival and American antecedents. Later additions demonstrate an unusual respect for Hamilton's original vision. So much so, that it is almost impossible to distinguish between the original and later sections of the facade. The residence consists of simple prismatic forms, finished in face clinker brick. The roof comprises a combination of steeply pitched hipped roofs,

gabled roofs and ground floor skillions, all clad in terracotta shingles and arranged in a manner that recalls the work of English architect, CFA Voysey. Diamond paned casement windows are used throughout and serve to enhance the English vernacular associations. Two large gables dominate the facade. The first, from Hamilton's original design is clad in oiled or painted timber shingles. The second, located above the main entry, houses an timber balcony in a similar finish. A third gable, under the main roof and facing east, and therefore not easily seen from the street, contains another balcony.

Integrity of this order is rare in interwar houses. Diamond paned casement windows appear to have all survived from the original construction. Balconies have not been enclosed and retain their oiled timber joinery as do windows and gutter boards. Face brick remains unpainted. The house is in excellent and very original condition.

ARCHITECT

The first architect of 4 Struan Street was R B Hamilton.

Robert Bell Hamilton was born in 1892.[13] He was educated at Scotch College and served in the 14th Battalion of the AIF during YM. After the armistice he studied in London to become an associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. After his graduation, Hamilton remained in London where he designed a housing scheme for the Slough City Council before securing a position as the assistant to the government architect in Bombay, India in 1920.[14]

In Melbourne in the same year, Rodney Alsop's continued ill health brought an end to his successful architectural partnership with F L Klingender. Two years later, Klingender formed a new partnership with the recently-returned Hamilton, who became the designing partner. Initially, Hamilton positioned himself within the Arts and Crafts vernacular vocabulary that had characterised Alsop's work throughout the previous decade, but in the subsequent years, Hamilton gradually eradicated the American influence from his work and by the late 1920s had become the foremost exponent of Tudor Revival styling in Melbourne. Hamilton's design approach drew upon Arts and Crafts principles, in particular the idea that architectural expression should be extended beyond the built fabric and into individual components such as leadlight, fittings and furniture.

The partnership with F L Klingender lasted until 1925 when Hamilton established his own practice. Hamilton was active in Melbourne until WWII and worked alone and in partnership with other architects such as Marcus Norris to produce a large number of residences in a variety of styles throughout the inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne. These include, Landale a substantial villa in a restrained Georgian mode in Landale Road, Toorak, completed in the early 1930s, and houses at 8 and 12 Macquarie Road in 1929 and 1930 respectively.

Although Hamilton designed a number of large and impeccably detailed houses in the Tudor Revival mode, he is best remembered for his Tudor Revival flats, including Burnham in Grange Road, Toorak (1933), Moore Abbey in Marne Street, South Yarra (1934), Denby Dale in Glenferrie Road, Kooyong (1938), Park Manor in Williams Road (1930s) and for a number of shops throughout Prahran and Malvern in the same mode.

Robert Hamilton was elected MLA for Toorak in November 1945. He was both a parliamentarian and a councillor for Mornington Shire when he died on 15 May 1948.[15]

While perhaps not a key architect in Melbourne in terms of leading the profession in any new directions, he was of considerable influence as a leading protagonist working in the revival styles important to the interwar era, producing a large number of impressive representative houses, amongst which must be included 4 Struan Street.

ANALYSIS

A number of substantial residences drawing inspiration from the English Domestic Revival of the late nineteenth century were built in the Toorak area during the interwar period. No 4 Struan Street is unusual inasmuch as it combines reasonably common English characteristics with elements derived from the American Shingle Style.

The source of the English Domestic Revival can be found in the work of English architect, Phillip Webb (1830-1915), most notably his Red House at Bexley Heath of 1859. This revolutionary building comprised a picturesque composition of plain brick walls, slender windows and a steeply pitched roofs of terracotta shingles which made frequent reference to Tudor and Gothic antecedents and established a model for much domestic architecture up to the second world war. The principal architects of the English Domestic Revival include Webb, Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912) and his large circle of associates and CFA Voysey (1857-1941). The design of 4 Struan Street, in particular Hamilton's selection of materials, owes a debt to the Red House. This approach to materials and massing had acquired renewed cachet through the early decades of this century via the work of contemporary British architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens

The house is unusual in that it avoids the local characteristic of half timbering in the gable ends, choosing instead to appropriate the use of dark stained shingles as an exterior cladding element from the Shingle Style architecture of the American east coast. The American interest in oiled exterior woodwork is also evident in window joinery, although it is likely that most original oiled finishes have now been painted over in brown paint.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 4 Struan Street is of regional significance as an early house by Robert Bell Hamilton, showing a strong influence from the English Tudor Revival, tempered by elements apparently drawing from the American East Coast shingle style. An excellent

example of Hamilton's work, the house was substantially extended within a decade of its original construction, scrupulously following the lines and detailing established by Hamilton, and the size and unity achieved in this extension add to the building's significance.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Betty Malone, Section 9, unpublished manuscript, Prahran Archives.
- 2 Plan showing ten villa sites to be sold at public auction, 17 November 1877. Auction notice, subdivision plan collection, Prahran Archives.
- 3 Architectural drawing by Walter Butler for Rutter-Clarke, 1907, State Library of Victoria Collection
- 4 MMBW plan 1895
- 5 Public Highway Gazettal, Struan Road 26.9.1905.
- 6 Record of sale, Gardiner & Lang. 18.10.1922. Malvern Archives.
- 7 City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1923-4, no. 1219.
- 8 City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1924-5, no. 1241.
- 9 `Sands & McDougall Directories', 1924.5.
- 10 City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1929.30, no. 1403.
- 11 Sands & McDougall directories.
- 12 MMBW house cover, dated 1932, agent/architect's name (... abb) unclear in copy provided to author.
- 13 Wilson & Sands, `Building a City'. Melbourne, 1981.
- 14 For a detailed analysis of the life and work of Robert Bell Hamilton refer, Peter Cuffley, Houses of the 20s and 30s, p114-118. Unless noted otherwise, biographical details are drawn from that source.
- 15 Ibid.

REFERENCES

- Architectural drawing by Walter Butler for Rutter-Clarke, 1907, State Library of Victoria.
City of Prahran rate book, Toorak Ward, 1920-30.
Context Pty Ltd, City of Prahran Conservation Review, Vol 4.
Peter Cuffley, `Houses of the 20s and 30s', Balwyn, 1989.
Malone Betty, Section 9, unpublished manuscript, Prahran Archives.
MMBW plan 1895.
Public Highway Gazettal, Struan Road 26.9.1905.
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Subdivision plan 1877, Prahran Archives.
Wilson & Sands, `Building a City', Melbourne, 1981.

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