

Wombalana, 704 Toorak Road
Architect: W A M Blackett

1916: Owner, Doris Mary Luxton, Dimora, McKinley Avenue, Malvern. Agent, W A M Blackett, 237 Collins Street, Melbourne (MMBW Drainage Plan 15260) - plan appears to indicate some alterations to fittings and may not coincide with the construction of the building.

A striking early form of a bungalow style, built in 1916. Single storey and weatherboard, it has rough cast finish to the chimneys and chimney breast. The walls are round-edged weatherboards (presumably once dark stained hardwood). The front elevation is dominated by the massive wide gable, the upper section of which is clad in shingles. The gable is extended and eaves supported by angle brackets. The top apex of the gable has a slim horizontal band of double louvres which are of a pronounced Craftsman character. Beneath the shingled gable apex is a row of projecting ceiling joists. It has a well detailed verandah with half-housed timber lattice of a rectangular pattern, forming a frieze as well as an infill between double posts. There are exposed rafters beneath the wide eaves overhang, supported by further angle bracketed struts. The building is relatively intact but is partially obscured from the street by a high brick wall. It has an overgrown mature garden that is dominated on the street by a massive eucalypt. The garage on the side is of a later date.

Wombalana is of regional significance for its unusually simple design of the verandah, Craftsman detailing and building forms, which create a distinctive architectural character to this building. It also illustrates the social desirability of trend setting weatherboard houses at this period.

