

Yately, 3 Yar Orrong Road

1919: Owner, Arthur E Onians, 157 Kooyong Road, Toorak. Agent, George Ballantyne, Glenferrie Road, Malvern (MMBW Drainage Plan 113388)

1928: J T Thompson, Yar Orrong Road, Toorak. Addition of bay to dining room and alterations to residence. A & K Henderson: Architects, 352 Collins Street, Melbourne (Malvern Building Plan 9893)

1947 & 1950: Thompson, James Tuson, Man. Dir. T & G Life Society (Who's Who)

This large residence was designed in a restrained Georgian Revival form that was quite advanced for its period of construction. The strong horizontal character was created by the alignment of windows with strong projecting drip moulds and window sills. A projecting porch, enclosed sleep-out and ground floor loggia further strengthen the horizontal character as does the wide capping on the chimney. The house has a slate hipped roof (an apparent replacement of an earlier tiled roof) and rough cast walls which is repeated in the low front fence. The windows have projecting sash boxes with leaded glass of a simple rectangular grid. The sleep-out and porches have been enclosed with fly screens, probably of a later date. This house is generally intact other than the alteration detailed above.

The original design by Ballantyne may have in fact been undertaken by his son, J F W Ballantyne who worked with Walter Burley Griffin and was the architect of the refined Craig Dixon house, 23 Moorhouse Street. He would have only been nineteen at this time, his first known works date from 1922, when he designed the Onian's holiday house, 'Stokesay' at 288 Nepean Highway Seaford. In 1923, he took over his father's building business and commenced his own practice.

Yately is of regional significance for its restrained design which anticipated the more stylised later forms of the Georgian Revival style. It is also of interest for the apparent influence of the Prairie style by J F W Ballantyne.

