

Heritage Citation

'DANBY'

Address: 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra

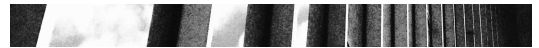
Prepared by: GJM Heritage/Purcell

Date: June 2017 (updated 31 July 2018)

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| Place type: Residential | Architect: H. W. & F. B. Tompkins |
| Grading: Locally significant | Builder: J. Bennell and Son (attributed) |
| Integrity: High | Construction Date: 1910-11 |
| Recommendation: Include in the Heritage Overlay | Extent of Overlay: To property title boundary |



Figure 1. 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Federation house known as 'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra, a two-storey dwelling built in 1910-11 for clothing manufacturer and retailer, Henry Buck.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The house's original external form, materials and detailing
- The house's high level of integrity to its original design
- The original front fence
- The front cypress hedge.

The 1960s additions at the rear are not significant.

How is it significant?

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra is of local architectural, aesthetic and historical significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra is a fine and representative example of a Federation house. It displays typical features of the Federation Arts and Crafts architectural style popular in the first decade of the twentieth century in South Yarra and across Melbourne more broadly, including a simple symmetrical form with subtle asymmetrical elements, unadorned and tapered chimneys, exposed timber rafter ends and timber brackets, and the use of contrasting materials such as red brick and roughcast render. The use of quality materials and elaborate detailing imparts a sense of grandeur and demonstrates the status of the owner in wealthy established areas such as South Yarra in the early twentieth century (Criterion D).

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra is a well-considered and carefully detailed example of what can broadly be defined as a Federation Arts and Crafts house. The overall appearance of symmetry, with large central entrance archway, projecting hipped dormer and chimneys, subtle asymmetry of the flanking projecting gabled bays, bay windows, decorative timberwork and coloured and leadlight glass, demonstrate a rich use of architectural elements and materials which together present a picturesque composition of this architectural style. The original timber front fence, with Art Nouveau-inspired detailing and recessed entrance, along with the mature cypress row, contributes to the picturesque character of the place (Criterion E).

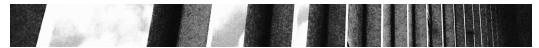
'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra has strong associations with Henry Buck, the original owner of the house. Buck became well known in the clothing manufacture and retail industry in Melbourne and the business, Henry Buck's Menswear, continues to operate in 2017. Buck belonged to many associations, supported many charitable institutions and received an O.B.E. in 1920 for services to the community and business (Criterion H).

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra has strong associations with H W & F B Tompkins, prominent Melbourne architects in the early twentieth century. Best known for their commercial work such as the Myer Emporium and Dimmey's store, 'Danby' is a clear and competent illustration of the firm's high quality design. It is one of a small number of residential buildings that can be attributed to these well-known Australian architects (Criterion H).

Historical Themes

The place illustrates the following themes as outlined in the *Stonnington Environmental History* (2009):

8 Building Suburbs



- 8.1 Creating Australia's most prestigious suburbs
- 8.4 Creating Australia's most 'designed' suburbs

Locality history

The close proximity of the former Prahran municipality to the centre of Melbourne resulted in its early development and growth. The municipality comprised the localities of South Yarra (east of Punt Road), Prahran, Windsor, Toorak (west of Kooyong Road), Hawksburn, and Armadale (west of Kooyong Road).

The Prahran municipality was first surveyed for farm lots in 1840. Most original Crown grantees subdivided their allotments for resale and a hierarchy of development quickly emerged. The desirable elevated locations immediately south of the Yarra River, in Toorak and South Yarra, attracted residential development in the form of substantial houses on large allotments. By 1849, land sales had reached Dandenong Road at the southern extent of the Prahran municipality, in the lower-lying areas that were prone to flooding. Development here comprised dwellings and worker's cottages on smaller allotments (Context 2006:37-40; 2009:11). This type of worker's housing development was also evident in some of the smaller streets of South Yarra (Context 2006:37-40; 2009:4).

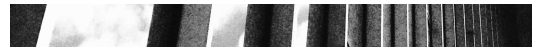
Development of the commercial area at the junction of Chapel Street and Toorak Road had begun by the mid 1850s. The Prahran Road District was proclaimed in 1854, soon becoming a municipality in 1855, and a Borough in 1863. In 1870 the Borough of Prahran was proclaimed a Town, and then a City in 1879 due to population growth (City of Stonnington [CoS]). In the 1860s and 70s the population of the municipality more than doubled, from approximately 10,000 in 1861 to 21,000 in 1881 (Victorian Places).

In 1860 the private Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company, opened a railway line through Richmond to South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor. South Yarra Station located on Toorak Road (originally known as Gardiners Creek Road Station) was constructed in 1862 by Melbourne and Suburban Railway. This was altered in 1883, 1915–16 and again in 1918 to accommodate the growth of the train system and resulted in the construction of new lines to serve increasing patronage. In 1878 the Victorian Government purchased the existing railways in the municipality as part of the project to build a line through Oakleigh to Gippsland. The new Oakleigh line, which was opened in 1879, ran through Malvern, Armadale, Toorak and Hawksburn to join the existing line at South Yarra. The arrival of the Oakleigh railway line coincided with the start of the land boom that resulted in substantial urban growth (Context 2006:65-7).

Cable trams were first established in Toorak Road and Chapel Street in 1888 and 1891 respectively, and major commercial centres grew along these tram routes, particularly Chapel Street. By 1891 the population of the municipality had again doubled from 21,000 in 1881 to almost 40,000 in 1891. By the 1890s, much of Prahran municipality had been developed, with its population growing at a steady rate from 1891 (Context 2006:69; Victorian Places). The 1893 *Australian Handbook* (as cited in Victorian Places) stated that South Yarra was 'an important suburb of Melbourne', serviced by tramcars and railway, and comprising 'villas and elegant residences, with spacious grounds and gardens' that are 'plentifully scattered about the district'. It was identified as a 'very favourite dwelling-spot for the merchants, professional men, and higher class of tradesmen of Melbourne' (Victorian Places).

From an early date, large estates in South Yarra and Toorak began to be subdivided, leaving the original mansion surrounded by one or two acres of garden. This subdivision increased in the early 1900s, following the 1890s depression, and particularly in the 1920s when rising labour costs made the cost of servants and maintenance staff prohibitive. During the 1920s, and the economic hardships of the 1930s Depression, many flats were constructed in South Yarra and Toorak and many existing dwellings were converted into shared accommodation. Flats also became fashionable for the wealthy in Toorak and South Yarra as a way of living in a prestigious suburb without the need to sustain a large house, garden and servants (Context 2006:122-5, 145).

By 1927 the Prahran municipality had five electric tram routes: Dandenong Road (1911), High Street (1910),



Malvern Road (1915), Toorak Road (1927) and Chapel Street (1926). By 1933, the municipality had a population of 51,000 (Victorian Places; Context 2006:70 & 2009:6). The 1946 *Australian Handbook* (as cited in Victorian Places) stated that the Prahran municipality was largely residential, with a number of factories, 80 acres of parks and gardens, and recreational facilities. In 1947, the municipality reached its peak population, at almost 60,000 people (Victorian Places). Housing Commission flat development continued in the post-war period in response to a population decline in the area. In the 1960s and 1970s considerable apartment and high rise development occurred, generating community concern (Context 2006:146; Vic Places). By 1991 the population of the municipality had declined to 42,000 (Victorian Places). The City of Malvern amalgamated with the City of Prahran in 1994, to form the City of Stonnington. South Yarra's residential building stock in 2011 comprised 15% freestanding houses, 15% row houses and 70% flats and apartments. South Yarra retains a number of fine architect designed houses, dating from all periods of development.

Place history

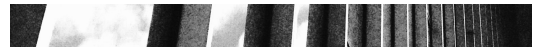
The 1896 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) Detail Plans indicate that Rockley Road had not yet been laid out, with the land occupied by the house 'Rockley' and its substantial property that extended from the Yarra River to Toorak Road. 'Rockley' house was constructed by the Howey family and remained in their ownership until 1907 (demolished in 1913). Howey Estate (comprising almost 22 acres, reaching the Yarra River at its northern extent) was subdivided in 1908 and Rockley Road laid out. Lots fronting Rockley Road were sold from 1908 (SHC; LV:V3255/F823). Prahran Council purchased four large blocks along Toorak Road to serve as Rockley Gardens. In 1913, a further subdivision of the Rockley property led to the demolition of Rockley house, and the extension of Rockley Road by a narrow 'road' (now a walkway) connecting it with Alexandra Avenue (SHC).

The first lot to sell in Howey Estate was 35 Rockley Road (Lot 4, matching the current extent), which sold to Hester Gertrude Dickson, 'wife of Raynes Waite Stanley Dickson of No 413 Collins Street Melbourne Solicitor', in May 1908. Dickson sold to Henry Buck, merchant, in June 1910 (LV:V3255/F823; V3272/F232). The 1910-11 rate books recorded that Henry Buck was the owner of vacant land at Lot 4, Rockley Road. The following year, the 1911-12 rate books indicate that Buck was the owner and occupant of an 8 room brick house, with a Net Annual Value of 130 pounds (RB). This indicates that the house was built in 1910-11 for owner Henry Buck. It was designed by the architectural firm H. W. & F. B. Tompkins (PSP; RB).

Drawings of the house entitled 'Residence in Rockley Road, South Yarra for Henry Buck Esq', dated October 1910, showed two sections of the house, the west elevation and plan and elevations of an outbuilding (which does not remain in 2017) (cited in Willingham 1998:20). The drawings indicate that the central attic-storey balcony to the façade is original (since enclosed with glazing), as is the attic-storey balcony at the south-east corner of the house (since enclosed with glazing; Figure 2). The drawings were signed by J. Bennell and C.J. Bennell, who were probably the builders.

The 1910 MMBW Property Sewerage Plan (PSP) for the place (Figure 3) recorded Henry Buck as the owner and H.W. & F.B Tompkins of 115 Elizabeth St, Melbourne, as the agents for the sewerage connection to the new house. The plan showed the original footprint of the house, with its central recessed porch flanked by two bay windows, and a large verandah off the south elevation (all remain in 2017). The 1910 footprint of the house remains the same as the 2017 footprint (see Figure 8), except for later additions to the south-west corner and rear (west) elevation. A small outbuilding was located just to the rear of the house (since removed).

In 1912 and 1919, Henry Buck was mentioned in classifieds and social columns, addressed at 'Danby' on Rockley Road, South Yarra (*Argus*, 25 Dec 1912:1; *Table Talk*, 28 Aug 1919:5). Henry Buck (1860-1933) was a clothing manufacturer and retailer who was a 'celebrated figure in the Australian clothing industry' (Willingham, 2005). Buck migrated to New South Wales in 1887 before moving to Melbourne where he worked as a bookbinder's assistant. Henry and his wife Laura Jane Buck took over a debt-ridden shirt store



after the former owner absconded with Henry's investment. Henry taught himself pattern cutting and Laura Jane took over the book-keeping. On 25th August 1890, the store 'Henry Bucks' was opened on Queens Walk, off Swanston Street. By 1900 Buck had won repute as an exclusive maker of made-to-measure shirts, using the finest English cloth. In the early 1900s Buck diversified into warehousing and wholesaling, and founded Wallace Buck & Goodes Pty Ltd, the London Tie Co. Pty Ltd and Beaucaire Knitting Mills. About 1921, Buck formed Eyelets Pty Ltd, with his son-in-law as the principal partner (Willingham, 2005). Buck is reported to have been a respected figure in Melbourne. He belonged to the Commercial Travellers' Association, the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Master Drapers' Association of Victoria—as well as in London, where he was a member of the Portland Club. 'Buck discreetly supported many charitable institutions including the Australian division of the British Red Cross Society. In 1915 he set up and directed the latter's Volunteer Motor Corps, providing transport for returned servicemen and nurses after disembarkation and health trips for invalids. He was appointed O.B.E. on 19 October 1920' (Willingham, 2005). Buck supported charitable institutions, providing further bequests and scholarships, as provided in his will. The business continued under his son-in-law Fred Dennett who took over the business in 1933, and moved to the Colonial Mutual Building, Collins Street in 1963 (Willingham, 2005). Henry Bucks menswear continues to operate in 2017.

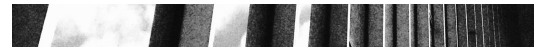
Henry and Laura Jane Buck occupied 35 Rockley Road until 1926, when it was sold to Phoebe J. Beauchamp 'of 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra', who occupied the house with James Beauchamp (LV:V3272/F232; SHC). In July 1927 the property was sold to Frank M. Frencham, builder, and his wife Myra, 'both of 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra' (LV:V8673/F829). In 1927 a billiard room was added to the rear (south-west) corner of the house (replacing an earlier rear wing), in a style sympathetic to the house; the interior comprised an arched fireplace book, fretwork, marble overmantle and in-built seats (SCC PF; Willingham 1998:7). This addition may have been constructed by owner builder Frank Frencham. Drawings for these works by architects Peck & Kempter (cited in Willingham 1998:21) showed the south and west elevations of the house, and a floorplan with the proposed corner addition (remains in 2017). The floorplan showed that a small single-storey wing extended off the centre of the rear elevation (replaced in the 1960s with a larger rear addition); this original section served as a wood shed, laundry, WC and tool shed.

The Frencham's undertook alterations and additions to the house again in 1946, designed by architects Robert B. Hamilton and Marcus R. Martin. These works comprised the addition of the pyramidal-roof section to the attic storey (sympathetic in style to the original house) on the north side of the house, with an external jarrah staircase (cited in Willingham 1998:22-23). The house remained in the Frencham family until 1967, when it was sold to the Whittons, also 'of 35 Rockley Road' who remained the owners until 1992 (LV:V8673/F829). In the 1960s a family room was added to the rear of the house (remains in 2017). The Council Property Files recorded that a 'sunroom' was added to the rear of the house in the 1960s or 70s; probably referring to the same addition (SCC PF; Raworth 1998:4; Willingham 1998:7).

In 1992, the property was sold to Susan MacCallum 'of 35 Rockley Road' (LV:V8673/F829). Council Property Files indicate that in the early 1990s, a permit was approved for the construction of a large 'pavilion room' off the rear of the house (to replace the 1960s addition; does not appear to have been constructed), and proposed an outbuilding (not known if this was constructed). Documentation for these works noted that a garage on the north-west boundary remained at this date (removed later in the 1990s for the construction of a new tennis court) (SCC PF).

Local newspaper articles, probably dating to the 1990s (SCC PF), described the house which was for sale. The advertisement noted design elements such as the lack of windows on the northern elevation, the wide arched entrance porch with moulded brickwork and tessellated tiles to the floor, and the leadlight entrance door mirroring the shape of the arch (SCC PF).

The original timber fence and original pedestrian gate remain on the front boundary, in front of a row of 32 substantial mature cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*). The vehicular gates are later replacements (Willingham



1998:7).

The original outbuilding shown on the 1910 PSP and the probably early, but not original (as it's not evident on the 1910 PSP) timber garage has since been demolished (Willingham 1998:7).

J Bennell and Son, builders

'Josh' Bennell was a builder and founder of the building company 'J. Bennell and Son' (Age, 28 Aug 1928:14). Local articles indicated that J Bennell and Son were active during the Federation period (*Northcote Leader*, 23 Jan 1915:2). 'J.A. Bennell' is known to have built Scots Uniting Church, Burgundy Street, Heidelberg (1900), designed by Edmund T. Blacket. In 1895, J Bennell and Son built the West Hawthorn Presbyterian Church (now Uniting), Power Street, Hawthorn, which was also designed by architects H. W. & F. B. Tompkins (Church Histories). J. Bennell and C.J. Bennell are attributed with having constructed the substantial house at 35 Rockley Road (1910-11), again for architects H. W. & F. B. Tompkins.

H. W. & F. B. Tompkins, architects

Henry (Harry) William (1865-1959) and Frank Beauchamp (c1867-1952) Tompkins were born in England and educated in South Africa before the family migrated to Australia in 1886. Harry became an assistant architect to Richard Speight Jnr and Frank worked with numerous architects including Evander McIver and Nahum Barnet. From 1890 to 1896, Harry was part of the partnership Speight & Tompkins. In 1896, during the 1890s Depression, he left to take a position in the Western Australian Public Works Department but was retrenched in 1898 and returned to Melbourne, where he formed the partnership of H. W. & F. B. Tompkins with his brother (Beeston, 2012:707-8).

Harry and Frank formed the partnership in 1898 when they won a design competition for the Commercial Travellers Association Clubhouse at 190 Flinders Street, Melbourne (Beeston, 2012:707-8). The Tompkins' are credited with the introduction of the American Romanesque to Melbourne, a style which they employed in the design and redevelopment of a number of premises in Flinders Lane, such as Harvey Metcalf Warehouse (1901-02), the Bell & Welch Warehouse (1906) and Borsdorf & Co's Oriental Building (now Thomasetti House; 1907). Also during this period they completed the first stage of the Dimelow & Gaylard (Dimmey's) building in Swan Street, Richmond (1907), the clocktower of which was completed in 1910. By 1911, the firm was established as a leading commercial firm specialising in store and warehouse design (Raworth, n.d.:5).

The firm's pre-World War II works are reported to have mainly reflected three influences popular at the time – the Romanesque Revival, Baroque Revival and later the Moderne or interwar functionalist style of the 1930s. When Harry Tompkins returned from a trip to Europe and the United States in 1910, he 'rejected the American Romanesque and Federation Queen Anne modes as well and truly passé and opted instead for the rising Continental Beaux-Arts and American Classical styles', and began to work in the Edwardian Baroque mode (Willingham 1998:5; Raworth, n.d.:5).

Both Harry and Frank travelled to the United States and Europe to study the latest trends in design and construction technology. They were the first architects in Melbourne to implement modern methods of steel frame construction and reinforced concrete, in Centre Way, Collins Street (1911) and the new Commercial Traveller's Association Clubhouse and Commerce House, 318-324 Flinders Street (1912). The firm's association with Sidney Myer began in 1913, designing a warehouse building in Bourke Street – the first of many Myer commissions (designed after Harry Tompkins and Sydney Myer travelled to the US together in 1912-13). A key design for Myer was the Myer Emporium on Bourke Street (1914) (Beeston, 2012:707-8).

As Raworth states (n.d.:6), the firm were clearly competent in domestic design, however 'the emphasis within the firm was consistently upon commercial work.' They occasionally designed houses, but usually either for themselves or commercial clients, as may be possible with the house at 35 Rockley Road, South

Yarra. Within Stonnington, Harry Tompkins designed the Queen Anne villa at 44 Kyarra Road, Glen Iris (1892), occupied by Frank Tompkins in the 1890s (Lewis & Aitken, 1992:Appendix 1, 89). The firm are also known to have designed the houses at 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra (1910-11) and 15 Linlithgow Road, Toorak (1919), and were commissioned for alterations and additions at Sidney Myer's house at 62-62A Clendon Road, Toorak (1929-30) (Lewis & Aitken, 1992: Appendix 1, 89).

Harry Tompkins was a prominent member of the RVIA, president of the AIA (1918-19) and Mayor of Kew, the suburb in which he lived for the same period. The firm is one of the longest surviving in Victoria. In the 1950s it became Tompkins and Shaw, with P.M. Shaw, then Tompkins, Shaw & Evans when Stan Evans joined. In 2003 the firm was acquired, subsequently forming the new firm Tompkins MDA Group (Beeston, 2012:707-8).

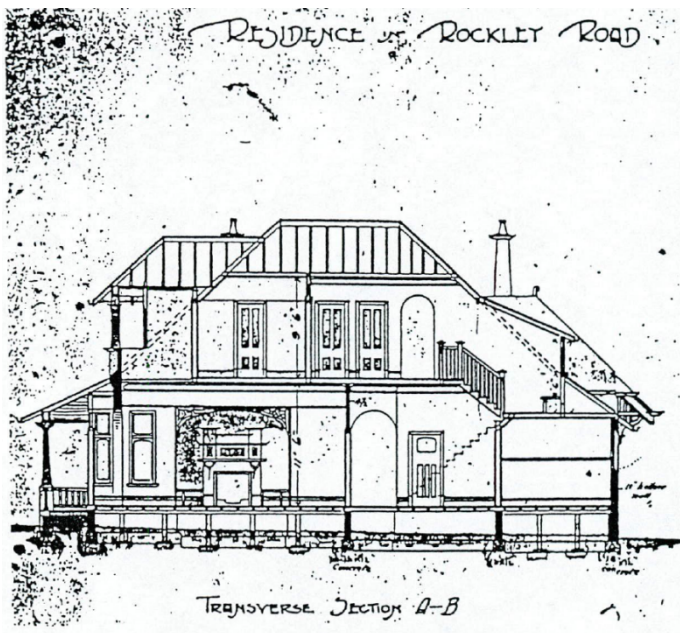


Figure 2. A 1910 drawing of the house (a south-north section) by architects H. W. & F. B. Tompkins. To the left are the original southern attic-storey balcony and verandah to the ground floor below (cited in Willingham 1998:20).

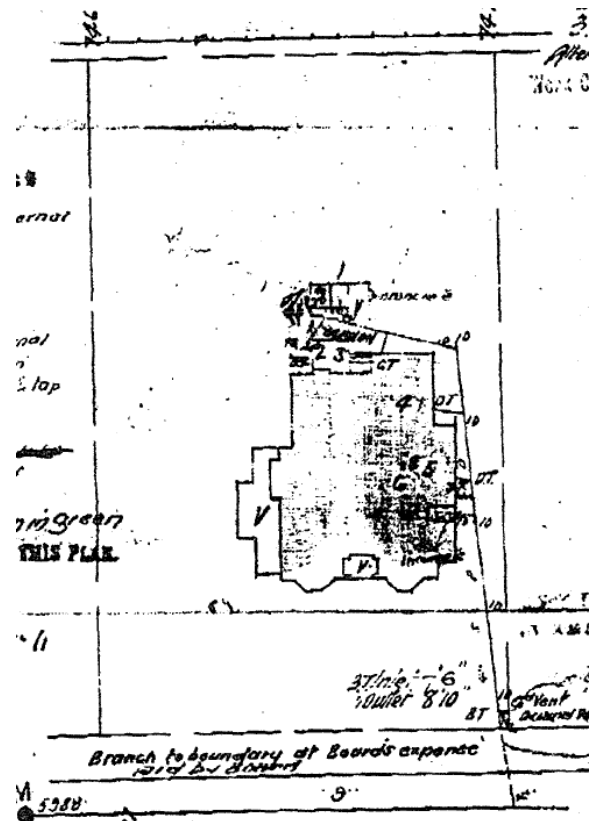


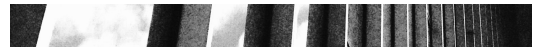
Figure 3. The 1910 footprint of the new house; since altered at the rear (top) (PSP).

Description

**Note: There is limited visibility of the property from the public realm. The following description is based on what is visible from the public realm, from historical and other documentation, and in aerial photographs.*

The dwelling at 35 Rockley Road is a substantial two-storey dwelling set back from the street within a large, mature garden. The dwelling is an architecturally well designed example of the Federation Arts & Crafts style by H.W & F.B Tompkins. The dwelling, constructed in 1910-11 appears to be in fair condition.

The dwelling has a square plan form with a Marseille tiled, hipped roof with several large gables and windows at first floor level (Figure 4). The roof has some remnant ornate terracotta ridge tiles and ball finials. Visible chimneys are tall and slender, with rendered stacks, simple rendered capping (both overpainted) and single terracotta chimney pots (Figure 4). The walls are constructed in tuck-pointed, red brick to the rendered (overpainted) stringcourse, and rendered in roughcast (overpainted) above with



moulded head stops to the bow window. A pair of flying gables dominate the east elevation, supported on ornate timber brackets and with roughcast render (overpainted) and vertical timber strapping gable ends (Figure 4). The roughcast continues down to form the projecting bow windows, both with square pane leaded casements and stained glass highlights (Figure 5). The southern gable end also features a flat window awning and lattice vents to the gable end (Figure 5). At first floor level, a former sleepout with hipped roof and exposed rafter tails nests between the two flanking gable ends (Figure 4). The sleepout is supported by squat, square columns at the corners and has been enclosed by four timber casement windows. The sill forms an undulating Art Nouveau shape finished in roughcast render. The southern elevation features a verandah with square timber columns on brick plinths, timber balustrade, encaustic tiled floor with bluestone edging and Marseille tile roof. The front entrance (eastern elevation) is recessed within a dominant horseshoe archway, decorated with bullnose terracotta insets and a rendered (overpainted) stringcourse (Figure 6). The porch floor is encaustic tile with bluestone edging. The front door is a timber three panel door with stained glass top panel, stained glass half sidelights and fanlight over set within an ornate arched frame with dentilated lintel (Figure 6).

The Rockley Road boundary features an original picket fence with Art Nouveau detailing and central gate (Figures 7 and 8). A row of mature cypress trees, which appear to be in fair condition, are located behind the fence, reducing visibility of the dwelling (Figure 7). The property has vehicular access on the northern boundary and there is a large tennis court to the rear. The front gardens contain a variety of mature trees and planting. To the rear of the property is a small conservatory extension, constructed in 1963. Additions have also been made to the property, including at least two attic storey additions on the north and south.



Figure 4. Roof, gable, chimney and sleep out detail (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



Figure 5. Bow window detail with vented gable above (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



Figure 6. Entrance detail (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



Figure 7. Fence and cypress row (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



Figure 8. Gate detail (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)

Integrity

The house retains a high degree of integrity to the Federation Arts and Craft style, in fabric, form and detail. While the house has undergone some alterations and additions, these do not diminish the ability to understand and appreciate the place as a fine example of a Federation house.

Comparative Analysis

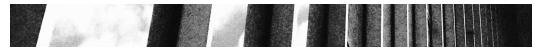
'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra is of note as a Federation house that principally displays characteristics of the Federation Arts and Crafts style. The Federation Arts and Crafts style flourished in Victoria from the 1890s to the commencement of World War I. With precedents from the United Kingdom and the United States, the resulting Federation Arts and Crafts style was diverse but was based on the ideas of functionalism, the honest use of materials and the integration of the work of artisans and craftspeople into a total design. High quality materials and craft work was typically included in domestic architecture and elements and decorative motifs with no historical precedent were introduced. This included the sinuous ornament and detail of the Art Nouveau which was applied to a range of both traditional and new materials including glass leadlighting, terracotta, wrought iron, glazed tiling, render, timber and pressed metal. Highly innovative practitioners of the Arts and Crafts style in Victoria revolutionised house design by introducing new ideas in planning, including the open plan and other forms such as the butterfly plan and its variants.

The resulting Arts and Crafts house was unpretentious and informal and often picturesque in appearance. Typical characteristics include dominant roofs with gables and hips; wide eaves, with exposed rafters and eaves brackets; tall chimneys; contrasting colour, texture and materials such as roughcast render, timber or cement shingles, pressed metal sheeting and terracotta ornament; and informal window arrangements, including bays, oriels and circular openings, often multi-paned with projecting frames.

Leading Melbourne architects designed houses in the Arts and Crafts style particularly in the early twentieth century and it was commonly adopted in developing suburbs such as Malvern and Glen Iris and in wealthy, established areas such as Armadale and Toorak. Architects associated with this style included Walter Butler, Rodney Alsop, Robert Haddon, Guyon Purchas, Harold Desbrowe-Annear and all these architects designed houses in what is now known as the City of Stonnington.

Within the City of Stonnington a small number of Federation Arts and Crafts style houses are included in the Heritage Overlay on an individual basis. These include:

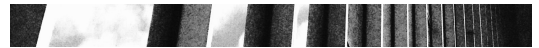
- Pensford, 528 Orrong Road, Armadale (HO27) 1903
- Thurla, 1 Avalon Avenue, Armadale (HO4) 1903
- Glyn, 224 Kooyong Road, Toorak (HO68, VHR H0735) 1908
- Thanes, 13a Monaro Road, Malvern (HO83, VHR H0953) 1908



- 13 Tintern Avenue, Toorak (HO170) c1909
- Tongaboo, 6 Stonnington Place, Toorak (HO285) c1912
- Avalon, 14 Power Street, Toorak (HO332) 1914
- 11 Tintern Avenue, Toorak (HO169) 1915
- 1088 Malvern Road, Armadale (HO323) 1916
- 23 Douglas Street, Toorak (HO307) by 1900
- 274 High Street, Windsor (HO479) 1918.

Two of these houses have identified significance at the state level. These are Glyn (224 Kooyong Road, Toorak) and Thanos (13a Monaro Road, Malvern). The other dwellings range in construction date (from 1903 to 1918) and in size and detail. They are recognised as distinctive, innovative and evocative examples of the Arts and Crafts style in the City of Stonnington and all display individual characteristics of the Federation Arts and Crafts style. They are noted as follows:

- Pensford, 528 Orrong Road, Armadale (Walter Butler, 1903) is an early and uncommon instance of Art Nouveau influence on domestic architecture in Melbourne and an early example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style. The two-storey, red brick house has roughcast render bands and gables, applied half-timbering, a Marseilles tiled roof, eaves with exposed rafter ends, banks of paned windows and Art Nouveau applied decoration on the parapet and chimneys.
- Thurla, 1 Avalon Avenue, Armadale (Walter Butler, 1903) is also an early and uncommon instance of Art Nouveau influence on domestic architecture in Melbourne and an early example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style. The single storey red brick house with extensive roughcast rendering and Marseilles tiled roof, has a large asymmetrically placed front gabled bay with half-timbering, hooded triangular window bays and Art Nouveau-inspired cast cement detailing.
- 13 Tintern Avenue, Toorak (A S Eggleston c1909) is an innovative and evocative example of Arts and Crafts architecture. It is a two-storey rendered brick, slate-roofed dwelling with a front gable containing a large, distinctive triangular oriel window which is juxtaposed against an otherwise restrained fenestration pattern and projecting bays supported on large brackets.
- Tongaboo, 6 Stonnington Place, Toorak (R Alsop c1912) is described as a well-preserved and successful design. It is an attic-storey house with multiple slate-clad gabled roofs, stuccoed walls, tall brick (over-painted) chimneys, deep eaves with exposed and shaped rafters and joists, timber-framed multi-paned sash windows, and half-timbered and vertical boarded gable ends. The overall character of the design is in the manner of noted British Arts & Crafts designer CFA Voysey.
- Avalon, 14 Power Street, Toorak (Butler & Bradshaw, 1914) is described as a distinguished example of the English Arts and Crafts style, especially as seen in the work of the architect CFA Voysey. The two-storey rendered brick house has a simple wide slate-clad hip roof which extends over wide eaves and is supported on exaggerated eaves bracket. Large areas of the north facade are clad with timber shingles, including a projecting, polygonal balcony.
- 11 Tintern Avenue, Toorak (Klingender & Alsop, 1915) is described as an innovative and evocative design with a dominant steeply gabled roof form which fronts the street. The front facade contains a symmetrical arrangement of multi-paned fenestration, large central entrance, protruding shingle-clad balcony and a large, highly distinctive protruding shingle-clad balcony hood.
- 1088 Malvern Road, Armadale (Klingender & Alsop, 1916) is described as an imposing house of restrained design and simple massing. It is a two-storey red brick house with projecting shingled balcony, and front loggia with paired columns and steeply angled brackets.
- 23 Douglas Street, Toorak (by 1900) is a fine and intact example of the Arts and Crafts style with steeply pitched slate-clad roof, large chimneys, projecting side gables and central verandah with



large turned posts. Gable ends are of roughcast render with applied half-timbering and panels of terracotta rosettes.

- 274 High Street, Windsor (1918) is described as a distinguished, distinctive and substantially intact eclectic example of Arts and Crafts design. The two-storey, red brick building is asymmetrical in form with slate roof and prominent eaves with exposed rafters and bellcast, shingled bays. The front facade is dominated by an extensive single-clad bay which extends from the eaves to the lower bay windows. Art Nouveau detailing is evident in the window glazing and the original front fence.

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra was built in 1910-11 at the time when the popularity of the Federation Arts and Crafts style was reaching its peak in South Yarra and across Melbourne. Like these examples, it displays a large range of characteristics that have strong associations with this style and the house remains highly intact to demonstrate these strong associations.

'Danby' demonstrates the following Federation Arts and Crafts characteristics:

- Symmetrical composition and subtle asymmetry of front facade
- Red brick lower walls and roughcast walls above
- Tall plain rendered tapered chimneys with capping
- Exposed timber rafter ends and horizontal support brackets
- Bow and polygonal window bays

Work of architects H W & F B Tompkins

H W & F B Tompkins were a highly influential firm of architects who worked together in Melbourne from the late nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century. The firm are best known for their commercial work, including a number of warehouses, Dimmey's Building, Richmond (1907-10), Centre Way Arcade, Bourke Street (1911), Commercial House, Flinders Street (1912) and various buildings for Sidney Myer from 1913. A number of their buildings showed the influence of the American Romanesque style in the use of red brick and arched openings.

H W & F B Tompkins also applied their highly competent design skills to residential work and 'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra remains as an important example of the latter. It is one of the few remaining houses identified as the work of these architects in the City of Stonnington. An earlier house at 44 Kyarra Road, Glen Iris (1892) remains and a later house at 15 Linlithgow Road (1919) has been demolished.

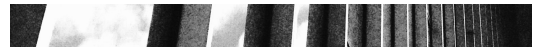
The large red brick semicircular entrance archway at 'Danby' demonstrates the influence of the American Romanesque style on the work of these architects.

Assessment Against Criteria

Following is an assessment of the place against the recognised heritage criteria set out in *Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (July 2015).

Criterion D: *Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).*

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra is a fine and representative example of a Federation house. It displays typical features of the Federation Arts and Crafts architectural style popular in the first decade of the twentieth century in South Yarra and across Melbourne more broadly, including a simple symmetrical form with subtle asymmetrical elements, unadorned and tapered chimneys, exposed timber rafter ends and timber brackets, and the use of contrasting materials such as red brick and roughcast render. The use of quality materials and elaborate detailing imparts a sense of grandeur and demonstrates the status of the owner in wealthy established areas such as South Yarra in the early twentieth century.

**Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance)**

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra is a well-considered and carefully detailed example of what can broadly be defined as a Federation Arts and Crafts house. The overall appearance of symmetry, with large central entrance archway, projecting hipped dormer and chimneys, subtle asymmetry of the flanking projecting gabled bays, bay windows, decorative timberwork and coloured and leadlight glass, demonstrate a rich use of architectural elements and materials which together present a picturesque composition of this architectural style. The original timber front fence, with simple Art Nouveau-inspired detailing and recessed entrance, along with the mature cypress row, contributes to the picturesque character of the place.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.

'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra has strong associations with Henry Buck, the original owner of the house. Buck became well known in the clothing manufacture and retail industry in Melbourne and the business, Henry Buck's Menswear, continues to operate in 2017. Buck belonged to many associations, supported many charitable institutions and received an O.B.E. in 1920 for services to the community and business.

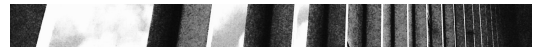
'Danby', 35 Rockley Road, South Yarra has strong associations with H W & F B Tompkins, prominent Melbourne architects in the early twentieth century. Best known for their commercial work such as the Myer Emporium and Dimmey's store, 'Danby' is a clear and competent illustration of the firm's high quality design. It is one of a small number of residential buildings that can be attributed to these well-known Australian architects.

Grading and Recommendations

It is recommended that the place be included in the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme as a locally significant heritage place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Stonnington Planning Scheme:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| External Paint Controls? | No |
| Internal Alteration Controls? | No |
| Tree Controls? | Yes – cypress row only |
| Outbuildings or Fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-3? | Yes – front fence only |
| Prohibited Uses Permitted? | No |
| Incorporated Plan? | No |
| Aboriginal Heritage Place? | No |



Extent of the recommended Heritage Overlay

To the property title boundary, as indicated by the purple polygon on the aerial below.



Figure 9. 2017 aerial of subject site (Source: Stonnington City Council).

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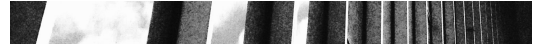
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Willingham, Allan. F. (2005), 'Henry Buck (1860-1933)', in Australian Dictionary of Biography, < <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>>, accessed 2 February 2017.