

**ALLAWAH
HOUSE
73 NEALE STREET**

**SURVEY DATE: 1991-2
STUDY GRADING: A
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1926C**

**FIRST OWNER : COWLING, WILLIAM
ARCHITECT: AUSTEN, GEORGE**



CITATION:

History

This large house was built for William Cowling, to the design of local architect, George Austen in 1927. It appears to have replaced or been a renovation of a substantial house, both the new and the old houses being rated in Mrs. Hilda Cowling's name¹.

¹ RB1925-6,4686; RB1926-7,4696; RB1927-8,4686; RB1928- 9,4707; BWB DRP2395 architects plans held dated 22.10.26

**BENDIGO & EAGLEHAWK HERITAGE STUDY-SIGNIFICANT SITES
GRAEME BUTLER & ASSOCIATES**

Cowling died in 1932, leaving the property to Hilda who died in 1946. William Cowling Jnr. was the owner subsequently, until at least the 1970s, being also the listed occupier in directories¹.

William & Hilda Cowling

Cowling senior was a commissioned agent of Myers Street, being associated with the wholesale grain trade for most of his life². He started in the trade with W.Charlesworth, joined Charles Brennan's business and finally formed one of his own which later expanded to include his sons³. He was also '...one of the keenest bowlers in the district', a trustee of the Loyal James Roe Lodge and a devotee to charity⁴. Hilda Cowling (nee Proud) shared the same devotion, being particularly active with the Red Cross⁵. William Cowling Jnr. was listed as an accountant in 1912, presumably in his father's firm⁶.

George Austen

The designer, Austen, was the son of J.G.Austen (Austen & Keogh) whose firm had designed the vast Morley Johnson Mitchell Street department store in 1910 (q.v.). Austen senior had moved to Bendigo in c1903, when George was one⁷. George Austen designs include the Limerick Castle Hotel, Backhaus Building and St.Monica's church, Kangaroo Flat. He died in 1930 at an early age⁸.

Description

Possessing the broad gabled tiled roof form of the Bungalow style, the notable arched entry to this large red brick house lends the Arts & Crafts qualification to the generic Bungalow type. A generous, flaring entry stair adds a dynamic quality to the main elevation, countering the curved line against the rectilinear mass of the rest.

Extensive grounds allow the house to be a fully three dimensional creation with minor gabled bays facing in all directions. An impressive brick fence surrounds the landscaping and related outbuildings survive at the rear.

It is possible that some of the earlier house was incorporated in the design.

The design resembles Austen's contemporary Fiorenza, at Steane Street, Bendigo⁹ (1927-8), using a similar classical revival entry porch element to an otherwise unparapeted terra-cotta clad roofline⁹.

External Integrity

Generally original except for paving changes.

Context

The house is a dominant element in the area which is otherwise of a much smaller scale. Its form and detailing relate well to the Edwardian 75 Neale Street.

Landscape

Large sweeping lawn; garden beds with planting largely of recent origin. Earlier planting includes 'Pinus radiata' Liquidamber, 'Crataegus lavalley' and purple leaf prunus.

Significance

Architecturally, the house is a well preserved, prominently sited and notable example of the Bungalow style which contrasts with the more typically Californian approach seen in Moore Street with its distinctive arched entry lending the Arts & Crafts character brought by the British influence to the style.

Landscape: the grounds and fence are highly contributory aspects to the construction period: of local significance.

1 D1935-62
2 ER1912
3 AOB V5,p.156A
4 ibid.
5 AOB V6,p.105A
6 ER1912
7 Butcher & Gregson, p.85
8 ibid.
9 Butcher & Gregson, p.85