

Streetscape

It presents bold elevations to both streets (Geelong Road, Droop Street) and relates to Edwardian and Bungalow housing further north in Droop Street. It adopts a frontage to the now established premier street for the district's elite (Geelong Road).

Significance

Architecturally, among Victoria's best and most distinctive suburban Bungalow designs and is in original condition while possessing important internal detailing. Historically, it has a long connection with the Whitehill family whose role in Footscray changed with the urbanization of the city itself, from dairying to real estate.

House

60 Droop Street

History

Representing a trade with strong Footscray associations, Joseph Considine (wholesale butcher) first owned and occupied this large Bungalow-style house in 1916.¹ His firm became J. Considine & Sons, Pty. Ltd.²

Members of the Considine family occupied the house until relatively recently, Joseph having died there in 1934.³ His widow, Margaret, and children, William, Michael, James, Eileen and Joseph, survived him.⁴

Description

Asymmetrically planned, of red brick and tiled in Mar-seilles pattern terra- cotta, the house shows some of the previous era's Queen Anne characteristics (form) but also the coming Bungalow manner, particularly the Indian Bungalow. The same high hipped roof serves as a basis for gabled room bays at either end of the verandah but the design approach is much simpler with the timber verandah brackets and posts showing an Eastern inspiration. Leadlight top casements to window groups are among the few ornamental gestures. A dressed stone verandah coping encloses plain terra-cotta floor tiles and even the projecting gables, with their stained shingling, show restraint. Distinctive



4 - 36 60 Droop Street

- 1 RB1916-17,p.67; D1920
- 2 D1955
- 3 FCR
- 4 *The Age* 8/6/34

chimney caps suggest the Eastern influence and correspond with those designed by the architect, Purnell.

The chain-wire perimeter fence and iron gate probably replaced round-head timber picket, as soon in the surviving posts and frame. However, the cypress hedge and general shrub choice are all sympathetic to the house era. Beyond the house, a large contemporary stable complex (obscured) presumably relates to the family's business.

External Integrity

Picket fence replaced.

Streetscape

On an exposed corner site, it adjoins an Edwardian house and opposes a Victorian villa. Other Victorian era houses lie to the south.

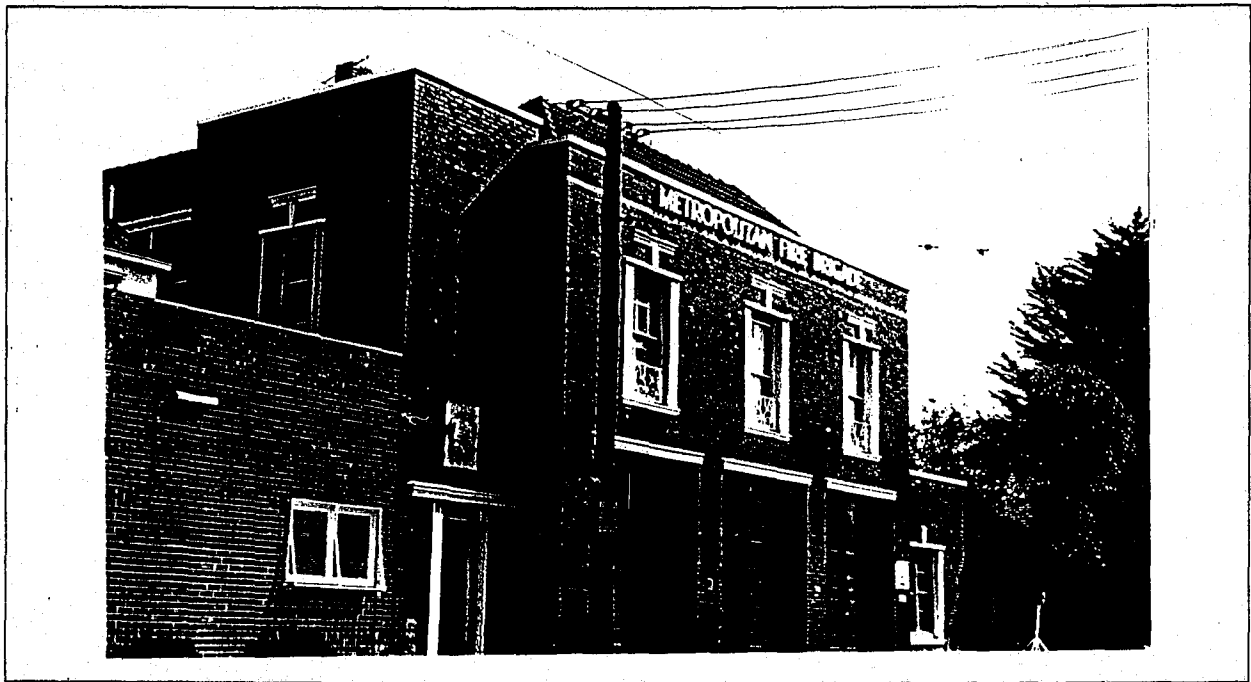
Significance

Architecturally, a substantial suburban house and stable in an early but transitional form of the Bungalow style which is substantially intact. Historically, it is linked with one of Footscray's more prominent family businesses, in this case linked with the locally important meat trade.

Footscray Fire Station 69-71 Droop Street

History

This fire station and altered residential flats were built in 1941-2 by Prentice Pty. Ltd. to the design of Stuart Calder. The memorial stone was laid by South Melbourne's former mayor and Port Melbourne M.L.A., Cr. James L. Murphy, and the proprietors were the Melbourne and Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board.¹ Calder designed other fire stations at Box Hill



4 - 37 69-71 Droop Street

1 F.ST.9/10/41; Browne, *Biographical Register of the Victorian Parliament 1900-84*, p.160