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# THE COLLER HOUSE, 185 MOUNT PLEASANT RD, ELTHAM



Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham Colour 1  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham Colour 2  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham Colour 3  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



224 - Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham 02  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



224 - Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham 02  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



224 - Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham 03  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



224 - Coller House 185 Mount Pleasant Rd Eltham 04  
- Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



THE COLLER HOUSE, - Shire of Nillumbik Study, 2000

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## Location

185 MOUNT PLEASANT RD, ELTHAM VIC 3095

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO136

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2000

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

### What is significant?

The c1975 mud brick house in its garden setting.

### How is it significant?

The c1970s house is architecturally and historically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

### Why is it Significant?

The house is historically significant as an important work by the noted architect, Alistair Knox (Criteria H). The house is architecturally significant as a good example of a 1970s 'Eltham-style' house and as a definitive example of Knox's theory of integration between built structures and natural, or recreated, bushland settings (Criteria D & E).

### BICK STUDY, 1992

In design and construction the Collier House exemplifies the Eltham mud brick residence of the 1970s and is an important work by the Architect Alistair Knox. Built in stages, the large main interior spaces with their subdued natural light, adzed timber beams and posts, timber board lined ceilings and internal walls, brick paved floors, timber floor to ceiling windows and doors, clerestory windows and the large fireplace, all combined with the exterior mud brick walls, wide eaves and exposed timber framing are all the basic components of the\_ Knox design idiom. This low-cost building was built largely with amateur labour and is a definitive example of the houses Knox regarded as most suitable for the Eltham environment. It also demonstrates his' theories for integration into a natural or man-planted bushland setting, as well as that environmental fathers produced environmental sons, { 2} his son Hamish being one of the builders.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENT, 2000

The house when compared to other Knox designed houses is among the best of this idiom which includes Knox's own house at 2 King St and the Sapir house. Knox is now regarded as the foremost mud brick house designer in the State's history of 20th century design along with his teachings and writings which furthered environmental design. Analysis is needed of other mud brick houses to finalise this.

### BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

### ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEMES

ARCHITECTURE

HORTICULTURE

DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENTIRE HOUSE, GARDEN AND SITE TO A RADIUS OF 30 METRES

Revised extent

The whole property including the house and studio exterior and interior, trees and garden.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992; Nillumbik - Nillumbik Heritage Investigation, Graeme Butler, 2000;
Construction dates	1975,
Architect/Designer	Knox, Alistair,
Other Names	185 MOUNT PLEASANT RD, ELTHAM,
Hermes Number	104382
Property Number	

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## Historical Australian Themes

DISTINCTIVE ELTHAM BUILDING STYLES

EMERGENCE OF AN ELTHAM LIFESTYLE

PROMINENT RESIDENTS (ALISTAIR KNOX)

4.1.2 Making suburbs

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

## Physical Description 1

Style Eltham style.

Design unique.

Plan rectangular.

Single storeyed.

Walls solid mud brick, timber framing and eaves.

Roof flat - metal deck?

Features are the size of the building the construction in three stages and as previously mentioned.

## Usage/Former Usage

Original and Later Use: House

## Physical Description 2

## INSPECTION 2000

The inspection was carried out with John Collier who recounted the initiation of the project with Alistair Knox offering a design on land that he owned which was part of the old Anderson holding. The site is two titles totalling 15 acres and still has some old pear trees presumably from the pioneering period..

The land was purchased in 1972 and the house was built by 19~3. The garden was constructed by Gordon Ford and Peter Glass. The nearby 'studio' was built c1977-8 and Richard Collier lived there for a time.

The interior has adzed refractory tables by Macgregor Knox and ironwork by Matcham Skipper, along with the typical Knox elements such as mud brick walls, large spaces spanned by deep stained Oregon beams, bricked floor, large open fire places and Arts & Crafts inspired fittings. .

John expressed the desire that the whole property including vegetation should be in the heritage overlay as evocative of the essence of the Knox view on design and the environment.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*