

## CUMING GARDEN (WOODBINE)



H01955 1 cuming garden pond



H01955 cuming garden back



H01955 cuming garden colonnade



H01955 cuming garden drive



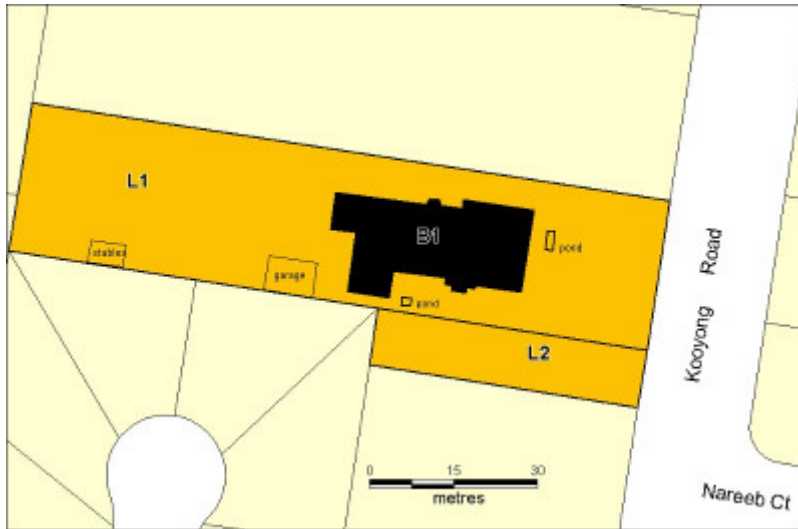
H01955 cuming garden oak tree



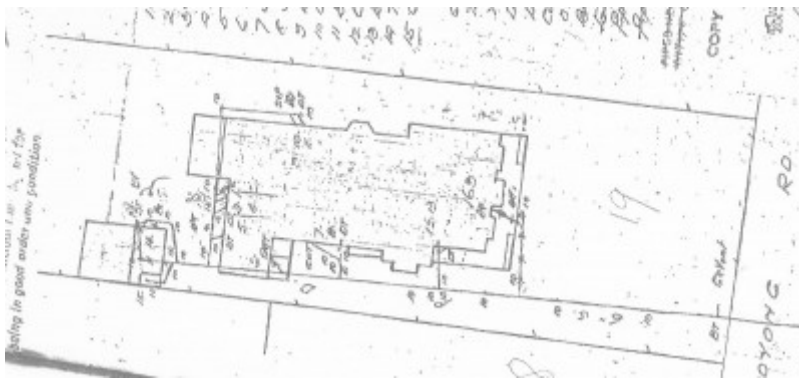
H01955 cuming garden square cypress



H01955 cuming garden side



H01955 plan



Cuming Garden Rough Plan

## Location

161-163 KOOYONG ROAD TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1955

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO363

## VHR Registration

September 12, 2002

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 25, 2002

What is significant?

In June 1938 businessman Mariainnus (Matt) Cuming bought 'Woodbine', a brick Victorian villa built in 1897 for Thomas Lockwood and extended in 1907 for Dr Norman Macarthur to designs by Kligender and Alsop. Cuming engaged architect Marcus Martin to modernise the house, and garden designer Edna Walling to redesign the garden. Martin removed the verandahs, provided for a garage and relocated the main entrance to a side portico. Walling designed the garden around some existing trees and the requirement for a tennis court. The new design included such Walling trademarks as ponds, sun dial, flagstone paving, stone walls, drying area, Lilly Pilly hedge and ornamental trees and shrubs. The garden design is a typical example of her suburban formal design, where separate spaces, or 'rooms' are created through the use of mass planting, hedges, walls, steps and fences. In order to accommodate the tennis court and a larger garden, part of an undeveloped block to the south was incorporated into the design. In the front garden were two ponds (one since filled in and the bronze figure removed) and a sundial (missing). The back garden had a drying area. A feature of the garden is the dense perimeter planting, the use of a Lilly Pilly hedge on the south boundary, and the mixture of ground covers, bulbs, small and medium shrubs and trees to form a layered landscape. The western area, not covered by the Walling plan, is planted with fruit trees and roses and is now mostly dominated by a large English Oak. Remarkably, the two cube shaped cypress shown on the Walling plan still remain framing the entrance to the orchard and garden shed. In 1960 the property passed from Cuming ownership to the Guest family who maintained the garden and made few changes apart from filling in one of the ponds, removing the curved stone steps and sundial. In 2002 the property was sold in two lots and two significant trees were removed.

How is it significant?

The Cuming Garden is of historical, aesthetic and scientific (horticultural) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Cuming Garden is historically significant as an important early example of Edna Walling's landscape style for suburban gardens, which she termed 'Picturesque', using both formal geometric and informal design features to create a series of well defined garden spaces. The garden is one of only a few that remains largely intact and respectful to its original (1938) plan and vision. Walling is considered to one of Australia's most important and influential landscape designers of the twentieth century. As well as being the most prolific designer in Victoria, she was also a popular writer, talented photographer and important landscape critic and conservationist. Walling used a few photographs of the Cuming garden in her books.

The Cuming Garden is of aesthetic significance as an exceptional design response to a long narrow suburban allotment. The garden design uses every corner of the garden, and the geometric layout and planting is dictated by a straight drive, tennis court, and rectangular lawns to the east and south of the house, while west of the house the lawn is a larger informal space and the planting is irregularly arranged. The dense perimeter planting and separation of spaces ('rooms') for functional and design purposes is subtly executed by the use of low walls, flagstones, steps, tea-tree and timber fences and gates, a large Lilly Pilly hedge and smaller hedges, and planting to define entrances to the next garden room, each with an individual character. The layered landscape of trees, shrubs and small plants of many species provide seasonal colour and contributes significantly to the garden's visual qualities and experience. This is especially a feature of the driveway planting, often a difficult area to landscape. The Lily pond is planted with a variety of colourful water lilies and Iris.

The Cuming Garden is of scientific (horticultural) importance for the extensive use of a large number of taxa popularised by Edna Walling. The extensive palette of Walling plants used in this garden survives to an extent

rarely seen in other gardens designed by Edna Walling as there have been only minor alterations and a few later plantings. Many of the plants became Walling's signature plants, and include; Acer, Acmena, Betula, Baeckia, Camellia, Chaenomeles, Chimonanthus, Crataegus, Cotoneaster, Erigeron, Helleborus, Malus, Nandina, Pittosporum, Leptospermum, Philadelphus, Deutzia, Spiraea, Viburnum, bulbs and perennials. Also of horticultural interest are the rare *Alectryon excelsus*, *Forsythia suspensa*, *Quercus phellos*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Rothmania globosa*, *Diospyros whyteana*, *Parrotia persica*, and a fine *Deutzia scabra* 'Candidissima'.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

**General Conditions:** 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. **General Conditions:** 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. **General Conditions:** 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. **General Conditions:** 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions:** 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable. \* no permits are required for works which are in accordance with a development plan for the house and garden (except for the construction of a new garage and front fence which will require a permit application) provided that the plan is approved by the Executive Director \* all internal works to the house (B1) including proposed extensions and garage \* all works to buildings and structures not specified in the extent of registration \* all exterior general repairs and maintenance to the house (B1), including painting and the removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good \* installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method \* removal, refurbishment or replacement of the (proposed) swimming pool, safety fencing pool patio paving \* removal, refurbishment or replacement of the (proposed) gymnasium \* erection of small, plain (not "period") outbuildings including sheds, aviaries, kennels and the like in the rear garden provided that no new outbuilding is larger than 10 square metres in floor area or 2.4 metres in height \* the process of gardening, hedge clipping, mowing,

mulching, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works and landscaping in accordance with the original Edna Walling concept \* replanting of plant species to conserve the landscape character \* management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373 \* installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems \* repairs conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements: brick and slate paving, paths walls and steps, pergola/arbor and other garden structures which replace like with like

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1897, 1907,       |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Other Names             | WOODBINE,         |
| Hermes Number           | 12399             |
| Property Number         |                   |

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## History

Source: Bryce Raworth report to City of Stonnington; May 2002

The subject house was constructed for Thomas Lockwood in 1896-97, (Rate Books) as an eight room house. No architect has been identified with the site to date. The house was a fairly conventional for the turn of the century, with tuckpointed face brickwork, a verandah on to the east and south sides of the east facing front and a recessed entry to the north side. A number of stables were accommodated to the rear of the house.

In 1907 the house was sold to Dr Norman McArthur, who commissioned Klingender & Alsop to undertake alterations and additions. At this stage the number of rooms is listed at thirteen in the rate books. MMBW house covers from this time and from 1938 suggest that the side garden to the south, 161 Kooyong Road, was already associated with the garden of 163 at this stage, but was separated by fence. Dr Arthur Norman McArthur is noted in the Cyclopedia of Victoria (1903) as having been born on 14 July 1869. By 1903, after studying medicine at Melbourne University and then undertaking work, travels and further study abroad, he had established a medical practice in Collins Street.

In 1938 the house passed into the possession of the Cumming family, who commissioned Marcus Martin to upgrade the house. At the same time Edna Walling was commissioned to redesign the garden. The garden design has been discussed in detail in a separate report to council by John Patrick, and has been identified as being of state significance.

The modifications to the house were typical of Martin's work, with removal of the verandah, creation of a terrace and front pergola, painting of the external brickwork, and construction of an entry portal on the north side. Some of the windows to the house also appear to have been altered at this stage, and a lightweight sunroom was added to the rear (the latter has been further altered in subsequent decades). Martin also made modifications to the interior, and constructed a new garage on the south boundary behind the house.

The house and outbuildings remain much as they were subsequent to the Martin works.

## Extent of Registration

1. All of the building formerly known as "Woodbine" and shown marked B1 on Diagram 1955 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the landscape features and structures including the timber paling fence and gates, the gravel driveway, the stone walls, ponds, flagstone paving, tea tree fence, brick paving, dung pit and timber picket fence.
3. All of the lawns, and shrubberies, plants and hedges, comprising of the following taxa: *Abelia x grandiflora*, *Acer palmatum*, *Acmena smithii* (hedge), *Agapanthus praecox* subsp. *orientalis*, *Agapanthus praecox* subsp.

orientalis 'Albidus', Alectryon excelsus, Anemone x hybrida, Azara microphylla, Baeckea virgata, Berberis sp., Betula pendula, Betula pendula 'Fastigiata', Buddleja alternifolia, Buxus sempervirens (hedge), Chaenomeles speciosa 'Apple Blossom', Chaenomeles speciosa cv., Camellia sasanqua cvs, Camellia japonica cvs., Chaenomeles speciosa cv., Chimonanthus praecox, Cistus sp., Citrus japonica, Citrus x limon, Cotinus coggygria, Cotoneaster glaucophylla f. serotina, Cotoneaster microphylla, Cotoneaster simonsii, Crataegus sp., Crataegus laevigata cvs., Crataegus x lavalleyi, Cupressus glabra, Cupressus macrocarpa (x2 clipped cubes), Diospyros whyteana, Duetzia scabra 'Candidissima', Escallonia sp., Forsythia suspensa, Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea', Genista monosperma, Helleborus orientalis, Hedera helix cv., Hedychium gardnerianum, Hydrangea macrophylla, Hydrangea quercifolia, Iris cv., Ilex aquifolium, Jasminum mesnyi, Juniperus sabina, Kolkwitzia amabilis, Laurus nobilis, Lavandula dentata, Leptospermum laevigatum, Leptospermum petersonii, Liquidambar styraciflua, Lonicera fragrantissima, Lonicera japonica, Malus floribunda, Malus ioensis 'Plena', Malus sp., Malus cv. (espaliered), Malus x purpurea, Magnolia grandiflora, Magnolia x soulangeana, Muehlenbeckia complexa, Nandina domestica, Osmanthus heterophyllus, Parrotia persica, Parthenocissus tricuspidata, Philadelphus coronarius, Philadelphus mexicanus (hedge), Phyllostachys nigra, Pittosporum undulatum, Plumbago auriculata, Prunus dulcis, Prunus cv. (Sato-zakura group), Pyracantha angustifolia, Pyracantha coccinea, Pyracantha sp., Pyrus cv. (x2 espaliered), Pyrus cv., Quercus robur, Quercus phellos, Rhododendron cvs. (Azalea), Rhododendron cv. (Mollis Azalea), Rhododendron cvs., Rosa cv. (climbing), Rosa cv. (bush), Rosmarinus officinalis, Rothmannia globosa, Spiraea blumei, Spiraea thunbergii, Spiraea vanhouttei, Symphoricarpos orbiculatus, Syringa vulgaris cvs., Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata', Viburnum opulus 'Sterile', Viburnum tinus, Viburnum x burkwoodii, Vitex agnus-castus, Weigela florida, Wisteria sinensis, Zantedeschia aethiopica 'Green Goddess'.

4. All of the land marked L1 and L2 on Diagram 1955 held by the Executive Director being the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 3298 Folio 494 (163 Kooyong Road) and Volume 8241 Folio 730 (161 Kooyong Road).

*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/>