
McInnes house



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Location

54 Lucerne Crescent, ALPHINGTON VIC 3078 - Property No 272335

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO74

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the Allom and Lovell Building Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Building Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Building Citation held by the City of Yarra.

History:

A D Hodgson's Lucerne Estate was created from Thomas Will's original Lucerne Farm property, purchased in 1840. Land sales commenced in 1885 but many lots remained vacant until the 1920s.

Painter William McInnes purchased one of the lots facing the Yarra River and constructed 54 Lucerne Crescent in 1919. The house was designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear.

William Beckwith McInnes was born in St Kilda in 1889.² He attended the National Gallery Architecturally School and achieved fame as a landscape and portrait painter, winning the Archibald Prize many times and being commissioned with H S Power to paint the opening of the Federal Parliament by HRH, Duke of York, in 1927. His works are exhibited in the Sydney, Melbourne and National Galleries, as well as being represented in the Melbourne University Collection. He married Violet Musgrave also a renowned artist and a co-founding member of the Australian Academy of Fine Architecture. His contemporary, artist William Frater, lived next door at 56 Lucerne Crescent.

Description:

The house at 54 Lucerne Crescent is a two storey timber house with a spreading, shallow-pitched asymmetrical longitudinal gabled terracotta tiled roof. The elevations are characterised by their lack of complexity or ornamentation. The weatherboard-clad walls are punctuated by a number of relatively small window openings. Windows are paired square sashes with narrow, bracketed timber hoods and simple bullnose architraves. A simple timber hood shelters the entrance door, which is in a single-storey lean-to section at the side of the house. The roof is penetrated by two unpainted rendered chimneys: one slender and tapered, the other shorter and stockier.

The building exhibits aspects of Annear's characteristic design elements including asymmetrical planning, tapered chimneys and broad, gabled terracotta tiled roofs and timber window hoods, but the exuberance and complexity of his other designs is absent in this most restrained and unusually plain example.

Significance:

The house at 54 Lucerne Crescent, Alphington, is of local historical and architectural significance. It has historical associations with the prominent artist William McInnes, for whom the house was built. It is one of a number of houses designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear in the Alphington / Heidelberg area, and is notable for its unusually restrained and remarkably plain composition of elements common to his other designs.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Northcote Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1982; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1919,
Hermes Number	102516
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

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Integrity

not assessed

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/>