
Bickleigh Vale Village

Location

Cardigan Road, Pembroke Road, Pine Road, MOOROOLBARK VIC 3138 - Property No G13124

Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2053

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 24, 2008

Bickleigh Vale, a landscaped estate created by Edna Walling in the 1920s and developed by her and a group of like-minded purchasers to the 1950s, then largely retained within the spirit of its creator, is of state and possible national significance:

- as the major work of its creator, the gifted and single-minded landscape designer Edna Walling (1896-1973); Bickleigh Vale was developed around Walling's own residence Sonning and her studio (The Cabin), part of the land was used for a nursery from which plants were supplied to purchasers, the design of all allotments in the first few decades was closely controlled by Walling, many of Victoria's well-known landscape designers including Eric Hammond, Ellis Stones and Glen Wilson gained experience in the village, and the continuing development assists with an understanding of Walling's evolving landscape philosophies;
- for its subdivision plan, influenced by Walling and retained with very few later alterations; the subdivision pattern is reflected in the spatial disposition and generally low density of residences, major boundary plantings and fence lines, and the boundaries of roads (especially Bickleigh Vale Road); the alignment of Pembroke and Cardigan Roads (created 1894) also recalls the land selection period in Mooroolbark's history;
- for the retention of several buildings and works which exemplify Walling's approach to cottage building, the subject of one of her influential books; these include Sonning, The Cabin, Glencairn, Lynton Lee, Mistover, Badger's Wood, Downderry, Winty, Wimbourne, Hurst and The Barn - although many of these have been

extended, all retain significant Walling influence;

- for the retention of landscaping planted or planned by Walling, or created to maintain the spirit of her intentions; this includes retention of several pre-existing trees, tree plantings, retention of a casual character for the roads and lanes (including their alignment, materials and plantings) and maintenance of cottage garden plantings inspired by Walling's writings and designs;

- for the considerable aesthetic qualities of the village, including views along Bickleigh Vale Road and the surrounding lanes, the character of the mature plantings, the continuous nature of the landscaping (which permits glimpses of carefully sited residences), the complementary relationship between exotic and Australian plants, the harmony of materials (especially timber and stone), and the casual character of the gravel roads (which now form such a contrast with surrounding conventional subdivisions); and

- for the respect shown to Walling's concept by many later owners and occupants of Bickleigh Vale; this is demonstrated in both buildings and landscaping, and in the determination shown by those interested in Walling's legacy to minimise intrusive developments in Bickleigh Vale village.

Possible national significance has not been assessed as part of this classification report.

Classified 12/12/1995

Hermes Number 70261

Property Number

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/>