
Baker House

Location

305-307 Long Forest Road LONG FOREST, MOORABOOL SHIRE

Municipality

MOORABOOL SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO55

Heritage Listing

Moorabool Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 1, 1995

Statement of significance A large Modern house complex, designed by the eminent architect Robin Boyd in 1964 and built of local slate over 1965-66. A nearby smaller house was designed in 1966 and completed in 1968. When built, the site in the Long Forest Mallee, was remote and wild.

The complex is of State architectural significance as an innovative and extraordinary late domestic design by Robin Boyd which has survived relatively intact and in the same ownership. It is of state historical significance as an extraordinary embodiment of a particular way of life and its adherent social values, which crystallises some perhaps romantic aspirations of the period of the mid to late 1960s.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moorabool - Bacchus Marsh Heritage Study 1995, Richard Peterson and Daniel Catrice, 1995;
Construction dates	1964,
Architect/Designer	Boyd, Robin,

Other Names	Two Houses,
Hermes Number	119404
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

Not recently inspected.

Intactness

Understood to be intact and still in the original ownership, but occupied intermittently.

SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:

MATERIALS. FORM. VERANDAH. PLAN.

DOORS. WINDOWS. PAINTWORK SCHEME.

UNPAINTED FINISH. INTERIORS.

VIEWS. CONTEXT.

REMNANT VEGETATION.

Physical Description 1

The site in the Longforest Mallee area is "... a wild, lonely hilltop near the middle of a 200 acre (8 1 ha) property...." There was no reticulated water nor initially, electricity. The entirely symmetrical formal plan forms a low pyramidal-roofed square, 90 feet (27.4m) square with walls of local brown slate. There are 12 cylindrical water storage tanks (a few have other functions), punctuating the perimeter and supporting the edge of the roof. Service rooms and the children's' sleeping cubicles, form an inner ring around the courtyard. Larger service areas intervene at corners, with glazing as timber window-walls between these. In the centre is a square courtyard, visible only from the living room and the cubicles. The living room fireplace, has a substantial pylon chimney. Corners to the masonry walls are all rounded.

The separate Dower House, located a short distance below, was built later, of similar stone, for a separate member of the extended family. It has a less formal plan, an assemblage of similar elements: cylindrical stone tanks, wing walls and shallow hip roof. 5

5 Illustrations: Boyd, op.cit., pp.122&123.

Historical Australian Themes

Townships

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/>