
BOX HILL GARDENS FORMER RESIDENCES

Location

717-731 STATION STREET BOX HILL, WHITEHORSE CITY

Municipality

WHITEHORSE CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0517

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 16, 2022

What is significant?

The site is considered to have a low-moderate archaeological potential for deposits of moderate local historical significance associated with early-mid 20th century residential and commercial occupation of the site. The site demonstrates continued residential occupation from the early 20th Century to the mid-late twentieth century, alongside small business operating from the northernmost residence.

During the nineteenth century the site was predominately used for agriculture, with no identified development. By 1905 two of the three residences were built. The Box Hill Gardens were established around the residences in the 1920s, and by 1931 there were a total of three residences. Between 1945 and 1974 a newsagency operated from the northernmost residence. In 1975 the southernmost residence was demolished. By 2000 the remaining two residence were demolished. It appears that the rear yard of the residences may be disturbed by council excavations in 2011. The site comprises a series of former residences located at 717-731 Station Street, Box Hill, currently Box Hill Gardens. The location of the former residences is currently grassed with planted trees and a walking track.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	19th Century: The property parcel was predominately used for agriculture, with no identified development within the potential site. Early 20th Century: Two of the three residences were built by 1905. The Box Hill Gardens were established around the residences in the 1920s, and by 1931 there were a total of three residences. Mid-20th Century: Between 1945 and 1974 a newsagency operated from the northernmost residence. In 1975 the southernmost residence was demolished. By 2000 the remaining two residence were demolished. 21st Century: Whitehorse City Council excavations disturbed the rear yard areas of the properties. The site demonstrates continued residential occupation from the early 20th Century to the mid-late 20th Century, alongside small business operating from the northernmost residence. Whilst the extent of the disturbance from the 2011 excavations will have impacted the archaeological potential of the rear yard surfaces, the former residences are potentially representative of domestic and small-scale commercial activities of Box Hill residents throughout the 20th Century.
Heritage Act Categories	Registered archaeological place,
Hermes Number	208510
Property Number	

History

Crown land auctions took place from 1851 in the parish of Nunawading, which includes the Box Hill area, particularly to the north of Whitehorse Road. The primary use of the land was agricultural comprising market gardens and orchards (AJM JV, 2021). Through the 1850s and 1860s services began to be established in Box Hill including the White Horse hotel, the post office and small shops. During the 1880s land boom, the character of Box Hill began to change and when the railway line to Box Hill was constructed in 1882, commercial and residential development near the station and Whitehorse Road increased (AJM JV, 2021).

The Former Residences in Box Hill Gardens fall within Section 16 of the parish of Nunawading. Section 16 was originally purchased by Alexander and Patrick Murphy on the 18th September 1851 (Figure 1). The Murphy's were speculators rather than pastoralists or residents (Alves, 2010). In 1858 Alexander Murphy sub-divided Section 16 into sixteen 10-acre blocks (Lemon, 1978).

Two residences, located in the present-day Box Hill Gardens, were identified in the 1905 plan of Box Hill (Figure 2). The 1905 plan indicates that the residences were owned and/or occupied by A.W. Tremewan and A. Harding. No information could be found on A. Harding; however, A.W. Tremewan appears to have been an active member of the Independent Order of Rechabites (IOR) (Box Hill Reporter 30 November 1928, p. 7). The IOR were a group of organisations associated with advocating the total abstinence from alcohol and promoting the temperance movement, of which, Box Hill is closely associated.

In November 1920 the Council purchased 8-acres of land on Station Street from William Rodgeron's estate and established the Box Hill Gardens (Lemon, 1978). The gardens encompassed the land to the north, south and west of the residences. The 1927 Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) plan demonstrates two residences at the site at this time and indicates the original street numbers for the properties were numbers 321 and 323 Station Street (the 1927 MMBW was sited at the Box Hill Historical Society, however a digital version of this plan for inclusion here was not obtained). By 1931 the aerial imagery demonstrates three residences at this location with possible outhouse structures at the rear (Figure 3). Two timber residences and a third unspecified residence are evident in the 1933 MMBW plan. The three residences appear relatively consistently in the 1945 and 1954 aerial images (Figure 5 and Figure 6). The Sands and McDougall listings record that the northernmost residence, 723 Station Street, was a newsagency between 1945 and 1974 and that it was operated at various times by Mrs. F.J. Abbott, Mrs L.M. Vandenberg and A. & C. Bayley (Victoria Unearthed). By 1975 the southernmost residence was demolished (Figure 7) and by the turn of the 21st Century the remaining two

residences within Box Hill Gardens were also demolished.

In the 2010s the Box Hill Gardens were revitalised; these changes included the installation of a stormwater harvesting system (Whitehorse City Council 2013). The installation of the stormwater harvesting system involved excavations for a 600KL underground storage tank that partially intersected with the location of the former residences. Aerial imagery from 2011 captured these excavations therefore the extent of ground disturbances to the potential archaeological site have been recorded.

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/>