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# HIGHLAND PARK (Formerly LARGOWAN, LATER MON DESIR)



Martel from '500 Victorians' (1934), p.78



Largowan Later Mon Desir  
Now Highland Park

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## Location

2 McBride Road BEACONSFIELD UPPER, CARDINIA SHIRE

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO72

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Highland Park, former Mon Desir, apparently constructed in two stages, c1924 for Captain Rushall and c1928 as the home of Charles Martel, a French woolbuyer, is of significance to the Cardinia Shire as a good example of the gentlemen's retreats built in the Shire's resort areas during the immediate post-First World War period.

This large Bungalow style brick house has historical significance as a demonstration of the lifestyle of a number of prominent owners, including the Martels; Norman Steele, of the large Swanston Street furniture business; and Gladys Irene Zuyderhout, wife of the Commodore of the Dutch Inter Ocean Line.

### *Regional Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1924, 1928,
Other Names	off McBride Road, Upper Beaconsfield, Mon Desir, Largowan, Highland Park Nursing Home,
Hermes Number	30062
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

This large Bungalow style brick house consists of two broad-gabled pavilions joined by a colonnaded pergola-porch, each pavilion possibly representing the two stages of building outlined in the history. The porch also links two boxed window bays with a minor gable over the entry. The roofs are slated, with terra-cotta ridge cappings and finials and the chimneys are square in section, of red brick and have terra-cotta cappings with pots. Each gable has shingling (over-painted ) and three ornamental louvred vents. Glazing is diamond-pane leadlight. There is a pier and pipe balustraded terrace to one end of the house frontage, next to an added wing.

This is the most articulate and massive house of its era and style in the study area.

## Physical Conditions

The house is near externally original except for the addition of a wing at each end, the deck roof to the pergola porch and the overpainting of the originally stained shingles.

## Historical Australian Themes

Historical Themes

7.1 Gentlemen's rural retreats

10.9 Holiday houses, gardens

## Physical Description 2

Associations - Rushall, Captain A; Martel, Charles; Steele, Norman

*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/>*