
NAPIER WALLER'S HOUSE



Napier Waller's House

Location

9 Crown Road IVANHOE, Banyule City

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0617

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO22

Heritage Listing

Banyule City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 18, 2005

9 Crown Road, Ivanhoe is of state significance. The house was the residence of nationally renowned artists Christian and Napier Waller for fifty years. The couple are believed to have designed the house, which retains the majority of its interior decoration including murals by the artists and furnishings.

In addition to the intact house and surrounds, the property retains Waller's studio, artworks and tools. The house is also distinctive for its innovative spatial planning.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Banyule - Banyule Heritage Study, Allum Lovell & Associates, 1999; Banyule - Heidelberg Conservation Study, Graeme Butler and Associates, 1985;
Construction dates	1922,
Other Names	9, Crown Road, IVANHOE,
Hermes Number	31248
Property Number	

Physical Description 2

Property Description - Lot 34, Crown Hills Estate

Usage/Former Usage

Original Use: Residence

Current Use: Residence

Physical Description 1

Building

The Waller house is a split-level building constructed from reinforced concrete, finished externally in roughcast stucco. The house is in the half-timbered style frequently seen in Heidelberg, featuring steeply pitched gabled cement-tiled roofs, small-paned casement windows, and strongly expressed beams, posts, brackets, fascias, all stained as original. There have been several additions to the original design over the years.

The house is understood to be substantially intact internally with original features including timber panelling, a musicians' gallery, a broad brick fireplace flanked by firedogs and bellows made by the sculptress Ola Cohn, Waller cartoons, original furniture designed for the house and murals.

LANDSCAPE:

The mature garden at 9 Crown Road is entered via a pair of iron gates set on brick pillars. A short driveway finishes in a turning circle before the garage and front porch. A secondary path leads to the west of the garden near the entry gates and winds to the back of the property. Both the drive and paths are finished in gravel and edged with a brick gutter. A steep slope down to an adjoining park to the west is differentiated from the rest of the garden by a low rock wall. The garden is dominated by conifers, namely Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) along the southern boundary, which appears to be an overgrown hedge, and a number of Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) to the west of the driveway. Other significant vegetation includes a large Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and Native Daphne (*Pittosporum undulatum*) also located to the west of the driveway. An expanse of lawn in front of the house is broken by a small garden bed close to the front door. Smaller trees and shrubs on the site appear to be weedy species or more contemporary additions.

Although the garden is slightly run down, it retains much of its original character. OBJECTS: .Examples of Napier Waller's work, including cartoons and murals.

.Studio containing a lithographic press and a printing press (1849).

.Firedogs and bellows by the sculptress Ola Cohn.

.Original furniture designed for the house.

Physical Conditions

Excellent

Intactness

Good

Historical Australian Themes

Napier Waller's House is one of a number of houses designed for artists in the late 19th and 20th century in the City of Banyule. Waller resided in the house until his death and the house retains many artefacts of both his work and other well-known artists. It was built in the 1920s, which like Northcote and Preston, were the most intensive development for Heidelberg and Ivanhoe. Between 1921 and 1933, 3,151 houses were constructed in the Shire.

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/>