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# MURRAY GRIFFIN HOUSE



52 Darebin Street

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## Location

52 Darebin Street HEIDELBERG, Banyule City

## Municipality

BANYULE CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1324

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO24

## Heritage Listing

Banyule City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

52 Darebin Street is of considerable historical and architectural significance. The house was designed by prominent architect Walter Burley Griffin, constructed of Griffin's innovative concrete knitlock system. The house was briefly the home of painter, graphic artist and teacher, Vaughan Griffin who was an official government artist during World War Two and won the Grouch and F. E. Richardson prizes in 1935 and 1939..

Heritage Study/Consultant	Banyule - Banyule Heritage Study, Allum Lovell & Associates, 1999; Banyule - Heidelberg Conservation Study, Graeme Butler and Associates, 1985;
Architect/Designer	Griffin, Walter Burley,
Other Names	52 Darebin Street, Heidelberg, VAUGHAN GRIFFIN HOUSE,
Hermes Number	31250
Property Number	

## Physical Description 2

**Property Description** - Part CA 17/19, Warringal Village. J O'Brien, 4/5/1853

## Usage/Former Usage

Original Use: Residence

Current Use: Residence

## Physical Description 1

52 Darebin Street has a cruciform plan with walls of Griffin's concrete 'knitlock' tesseral blocks and a low pyramid roof clad with Marseilles-pattern tiles. The casement windows, set between columns of vertebral blocks, have Griffin's typical chevron glazing bars. The characteristic lath and cement roof-eaves, with surface mounted downpipes, are generally intact.

## Physical Conditions

Fair

## Intactness

Good

## Historical Australian Themes

The Vaughan Griffin house is an example of Griffin's extensive work in Heidelberg and Ivanhoe and is one of two knitlock houses in the area, the other being Pholiota, Griffin's own house. It was the childhood home of Vaughan Murray Griffin, one of the many artists to reside in the City of Banyule. 'Knitlock' was described by Griffin as a segmental system in which mechanisation could be used to create a variety rather than a stereotype, as with precast or insitu concrete when money was in short supply. He wrote that

Technically there are only two kinds of segments - vertebral, which lock together to make the framework or skeleton, and tesseral, which lock together for two-ply curtain walls, attaching to and stretching between the vertebral columns.

The block patent was approved in 1918 and the tile in 1919; the Knitlock Co. was formed in 1922.

*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/>*