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# PHOLIOTA



Pholiota

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## Location

23 Glenard Drive HEIDELBERG, Banyule City

## Municipality

BANYULE CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0479

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1

HO27

## Heritage Listing

Banyule City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 25, 2005

Pholiota is of considerable architectural and historical significance. The diminutive building is the first house designed by Walter Burley Griffin to be constructed from his patent Knitlock system, and features a number of

characteristics typical of Griffin's architecture including corridor-free planning, wide overhanging eaves and casement windows with chevron-patterned glazing bars. Pholiota also served as the Griffins' Melbourne home from 1919-21, until the Griffins left for Castlecrag, Sydney. Architecturally, the significance of the building has been diminished by the later alterations.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 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               | Group Name - Walter Burley Griffin's Glenard Estate, rear of 23 Glenard Drive, Heidelberg,  |
| Hermes Number             | 31264   |
| Property Number           |   |

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## Physical Description 2

**Property Descriptions** - Thomas Walker, Lot 100, Glenard Estate

## Usage/Former Usage

Original Use: Residence

Current Use: Residence

## Physical Description 1

Pholiota is square in plan with a low-pitched pyramid roof clad. It features many of the stylistic elements which were distinctive of Griffin's Knitlock houses including walls of 'tesseral' blocks with 'vertebral' blocks defining vertical strips between which a group of four windows are located, abutting the roof line. Unlike the similar knitlock house in Frankston, Gumnuts (c.1922), however, Pholiota used the knitlock system for the walls only and the roof was clad in Marseilles tiles. The casement windows have Griffin's typical chevron glazing bars.

Pholiota's twenty-one foot square plan reflected Griffin's abhorrence of the passage. Sleeping cubicles opened off a central living area and service rooms were placed in corners, communicating with the outside. Griffin believed that

out of doors separation of the private quarters from the common or work rooms, obliterating the long dismal, wasteful passageway, is a characteristic advantage of this climate that was recognised in the heights, where alone architecture strictly rational, is not circumscribed by, the exotic impossibilities of the suburban builder.

Externally the house has been altered on the east elevation as a result of the construction of a new house to this side c.1930s or 40s. Other alterations have been made internally. Originally, the interior had a central round table, beds or furnishings set in the alcoves and a continuous pelmet, carrying full length curtains, which isolated the living room.

## Building

A tent like ceiling and a pendulous silk light shade hung from the centre of the room.

## Landscape

A remnant River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is significant as an old aboriginal sacred site.

## **Physical Conditions**

Fair

## **Intactness**

Poor

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Phliota, in the Glenard Estate, was the first of many Knitlock houses in Victoria. It served as the Griffin's Melbourne home for a short period and was used extensively in articles to publicise and market the Knitlock house. It is one of the group of buildings designed by Griffin in the City of Banyule.

*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/>*