
YARROWEE (RESIDENCE AND GARDEN)



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Location

6/7 Rosehill Road LOWER PLENTY, BANYULE CITY

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO120

Heritage Listing

Banyule City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Yarrowee is an example of an American Colonial style house, unusual in the municipality, and one of a few large residences constructed in the former Shire of Eltham prior to 1940. The house, designed by noted architects H W and F B Tompkins, gains particular distinction from its garden, laid out by renowned landscape designer Edna Walling, featuring an early use of Australian native trees as a major component of the garden designer. It is of local aesthetic importance.

Heritage Study/Consultant Banyule - Banyule Heritage Study, Allum Lovell & Associates, 1999;

Hermes Number 31421

Property Number

Historical Australian Themes

From the turn of the century stronger development occurred in Ivanhoe and Heidelberg, as these areas were connected to transport and other services and facilities. Other areas remained distinctively rural until well into the inter-War and in some cases, post-war periods. The Lower Plenty and Montmorency area remained almost entirely rural in nature until well into the 20th century, though much of the land was subdivided into smaller farmlets from the turn of the century. By 1920, however, the movement toward the residential development which by the post-World War Two period would eventually characterise these suburbs had begun.

Usage/Former Usage

Residence (Original and current)

Physical Conditions

Excellent

Physical Description 1

BUILDINGS: Yarrowee is an American Colonial style two-storey residence constructed of white painted brick with slated gabled roofs. A double-height portico dominates the entrance elevation, with elongated swaure piers with simple moulded cappings. Windows are double-hung sashes and have brick sills and yellow painted timber shutters. **LANDSCAPE:** The garden at Yarrowee is approached via a long driveway that winds through the property's rural landscape. The formal garden is differentiated from the paddocks and remnant bushland to the south by a white timber post and rail fence. The driveway ends in a turning circle with a central lawn and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) clad stone wall.

The garden was designed by Edna Walling, and it features many of her trademarks. These include a number of stone terraces and retaining walls throughout the garden, particularly the series of terraces radiating from the rear (south) of the house. Many of the paths also feature random stone paving, another Walling trademark. However it is the Lemon scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) copse in the central driveway lawn that is the most striking feature, and reminiscent of the driveway at Cruden Farm (1929). It is also significant as an early widespread use of native vegetation in an ornamental garden.

The shrubberies at the rear of the house feature dense plantings of Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla* CV), Azaleas (*Rhododendron* CV) and Camellias (*Camellia* CV). A major planting of Azaleas follows a path along the bottom of the terrace. The terrace itself features a swimming pool finished in stone. It is understood that this pool was rejuvenated approximately 15 years ago from an earlier pool. It is not known if this was an original feature of the garden. The upper edge of the terrace features a clipped *Viburnum* (*Viburnum tinus*) hedge. To the west of the house are a number of mature conifers, such as Cypress (*Cupressus* sp.) and Himalayan Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) planted in a row.

The garden is particularly significant as a relatively early design by Edna Walling, displaying some of the formality from this period of her work. It is well maintained and retains much of its original character. It is also significant for the early, prominent use of native vegetation in a formal garden, particularly in the City of Banyule.

Intactness

Good

Physical Description 2

No property description

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/>