
EUMANA

Location

2 OSBORNE STREET, FLORA HILL, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO916

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 17, 2024

What is significant?

The residence known as Eumana, as constructed to the design of William Beebe for J. H. Curnow in 1904 to the extent of the whole building along with an area of land defined by a curtilage drawn 10M from the external walls of the house, and the two oak (*Quercus Robur*) trees located on the eastern and southern sides of the house. The significant curtilage is defined on the above plan of the site.

How is it significant?

Eumana is historically, architecturally, technically and socially significant to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

Eumana is historically significant. Its construction in 1904 created something of a landmark in the southern outskirts of the city. Its use of the house as the Principal's residence for the Bendigo Teacher's College from 1954 and subsequently as accommodation for La Trobe University makes it of importance to the development of education facilities in Bendigo. (Criterion A)

Designed by the prominent local architect William Beebe, Eumana is architecturally significant, not only as the work of this prominent Bendigo architect, but it breaks from the more traditional forms of Federation architecture of the time and adopts what could be called a Federation Bungalow style. This architectural style became more common in the later Federation or Inter-War periods and as a consequence this must be seen as a unique and

innovative design for its time. Whilst it possesses some details from the more common Federation styles, its expansive terra-cotta roof, broad verandahs and heavy balustrading along with unusual coloured glass designs are a forerunner for the later popular Californian Bungalow style. (Criterion E)

The introduction of a septic tank sewerage system for this house was an innovative technical achievement for Bendigo and is indicative of J H Curnow, the owner's, interest in sewerage disposal. He was to become a champion of the sewerage of Bendigo and for many years a member of the local sewerage authority. (Criterion F)

This house is significant for its association with its designer, William Beebe and its owner Cr J. H. Curnow. Beebe was a leading architect in the city at the time and became well known for his innovative designs, of which this is one. His association with prominent families as clients (in particular, the Lansells) was carried through to his association with the Curnows in this commission. Beebe was not only an innovative architect, but a prominent member of the Bendigo community. He was a Bendigo City Councillor and sometime Mayor.

J. H Curnow, a local auctioneer and general agent was a councillor of the City of Bendigo for approximately 30 years, served as mayor on five occasions and was an active participant in many local organisations. He was also well known throughout Victoria and was known to represent Bendigo in many state-wide forums. It is probably no coincidence that Curnow and Beebe served on the Council together and were known to share political beliefs and interests. (Criterion H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Heritage Advisor report, City of Greater Bendigo, 2016;
Construction dates	1904,
Architect/Designer	Beebe, William,
Other Names	House,
Hermes Number	33140
Property Number	

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/>