

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: EATON PARK

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Glenelg Highway GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 440

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 59C **SECTION:** none **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434 C27; Vicroads ; located on the south side of the Glenelg Highway approx. 1.5kms west of Glenthompson.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Eaton Park, Glenelg Highway, Glenthompson, façade

Image Date: 05/03/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All of the exterior of the house and all of the garden, including all of the land within a 40m radius of any edge of the house.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Eaton Park is a single storey, asymmetrical cream brick bungalow in the Moderne style. As well as the distinctive use of cream bricks, it employs other motifs to create its sense of style such as large picture windows, small porthole windows, parapet walls to hide the almost flat roof, and a strong horizontal emphasis. The timber sash windows are subdivided by horizontal glazing bars. Dark bricks are used to finish details such as window sills and the capping of the parapet walls. A flat-roofed porch with low brick planter boxes and a quarry tile floor shelters the front door. The house may have been extended soon after its construction. There is a side entrance which links across the side drive to the small cream brick garage. The house is set within a mature garden from the same period, which includes an older timber gazebo, and behind a massive Cypress hedge. The straight drive terminates with a turning circle.

The house can be compared directly with those designed by Seabrooke and Fildes and built by Reg Williams at 13 Carmichael Street and 355 Gray Street, Hamilton. It can be contrasted with its neighbour Wintoc, Glenelg Highway, Glenthompson.

HISTORY:

The land on which Eaton Park was built, Allotment 59C (no Section) of the Parish of Yuppeckiar was purchased from the Crown in 1873 by Josiah Turner. It comprised just over 56 acres. He appears to have bought no other land in the Parish. Josiah Turner, "farmer", is rated as the occupant of 70 acres of Crown Land at Yuppeckiar in 1870 (SMRRB, 1870, No. 395). In 1872, he is rated for "56 acres Yuppeckiar and 15 selected" but no dwelling or other improvement is noted (SMRRB, 1872, No. 125). It is not known if Turner developed the land in any way.

The present house, Eaton Park was built between 1949 and 1950 for 'Binj' and Ina Forbes, the son and daughter-in-law of Donald Forbes, one of the owners of the Glenthompson Brickworks. Reg Williams, the other owner of the Brickworks, built the house.

The Thompson Brothers had established the Glenthompson Brickworks on its present site in 1902. In the 1930s and 1940s, the demand for handmade bricks decreased, and in 1947, they sold the company to Donald Forbes and Reg Williams. Donald Forbes grew up at Cherry Mount near Glenthompson. He purchased his property Wintoc near Eaton Park from Arthur Thacker in 1919, running Hereford cattle and sheep. He built a new home, the existing house, on the property in the Interwar years. Reg Williams was an important local master builder, based in Hamilton, who was responsible for constructing the finest commercial buildings in Hamilton in the mid twentieth century, many of which were designed by the leading Modernist architects, Seabrook and Fildes of Melbourne. He also built many of the finer homes in and around Hamilton.

Although the house, Eaton Park is very similar to the domestic architecture of Seabrooke and Fildes, research has confirmed that they did not design it. Rather, it seems that Reg Williams, following their lead closely, designed the Eaton Park in the Moderne style himself. He was born in Coleraine to a Welsh father and came from a family, which included several generations of builders. Reg Ansett was one of his early clients and in 1941, Williams built the house at 355 Gray Street, Hamilton designed by the partner Fildes for Jimmy Andrew, a key employee of Ansett who paid for the drawings as his wedding present. That house and another at 13 Carmichael Street, Hamilton, can be compared directly with Eaton Park. Presumably the Glenthompson Brickworks supplied the cream bricks, so necessary for the successful implementation of the style. It should also be noted that the substantial house was built during the period of post-World War Two building material shortages.

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The Forbes family suffered several setbacks in the 1950s and eventually the property passed to Roger and Mary Burger of Mirridong, and it remains in that family's ownership.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The building and the garden are in fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

Very high degree of integrity for both house and garden.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Eaton Park is a single storey symmetrical cream brick bungalow in the Moderne style located on the Glenelg Highway a short distance from Glenthompson. The land was farmed in the nineteenth century by Josiah Turner, although it is not believed that any dwelling was built at that time. The present house dates from 1949-50 and was built for the son and daughter in law of Donald Forbes, one of the owners of the nearby Brickworks. The other owner of the brickworks, Reg Williams built the house. The house is in fair condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

~~Eaton Park is of architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.~~

Why is it significant?

Eaton Park is of architectural significance as a relatively rare example of the Moderne style applied in a rural setting. It is of further significance for its associations with the Glenthompson Brickworks and the owners, Donald Forbes and Reg Williams

COMPARISON:

312 Wintoc, Glenelg Highway, Glenthompson

13 Carmichael Street, Hamilton

355 Gray Street, Hamilton

ASSESSED BY: TFH & MGT

ASSESSMENT DATE:

5/08/2002

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

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Author	Title	Year	Page
Shire of Mount Rouse	Mount Rouse Rate Books 1870	1870	var. -2
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Centenary	1964	
Timothy Hubbard	City of Hamilton Conservation Study	1991	var.