Statement of Significance HO146, 3-5 Wonga Road, Ringwood North

18 November 2019

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: 3-5 Wonga Road, Ringwood North
Planning Scheme Reference: HO146

House Plan and living room. May 1942 Australian Home Beautiful.
**What is significant?**

The former “Thalloo”, an early modern house at 3-5 Wonga Road, Ringwood North, designed by the architectural partnership of Percy H. Meldrum and Arthur Noad for Mr. and Mrs. John Turner, and completed in 1942. It is significant to the extent of its original 1942 fabric.

The original garden setting to Thalloo is greatly diminished following subdivision and development of residential lots to the north and south, however three specimen trees - the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*, Tree 17), Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*, Tree 16), and Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*, Tree 14) - are of significance and are likely survivors of the garden as illustrated in an *Australian Home Beautiful* article of 1942.

Rear additions, dating from c. 1960s and later, including a rear weatherboard wing, swimming pool along with gazebo and garage outbuildings are not significant.

**How is it significant?**

The former “Thalloo” house and mature specimen trees (Coast Redwood, Cork Oak and Deodar) at 3-5 Wonga Road are of architectural, historical and aesthetic significance to the Maroondah municipality.

**Why is it significant?**

Architecturally, the 1942 weatherboard house is an intact and rare example in Maroondah of an early modern design by notable architects Meldrum and Noad with an asymmetrical form, tiled intersecting roof gables. The principal, Wonga Road façade incorporates banks of floor-to-ceiling windows, with the living room connected to the outdoors via glazed double doors and a front porch arranged to take advantage of mountain views. (Criteria D and E).

Historically, the site is of interest for its associations with the once greatly more extensive 1.5 acre pleasure garden developed on this site in the 1920s and 30s by garden enthusiast and local councillor (and Mayor) F V Parker, albeit only fragmentary evidence of that garden survives on this site (Criterion A). The place retains three mature significant trees of aesthetic and historical significance, the Coast Redwood (Tree 17), Cork Oak (Tree 16) and Deodar (Tree 14) (Criteria A and E).
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Map 2 Legend

<table>
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<th>Common name</th>
<th>Genus species</th>
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<th>Tree protection zone radius (m)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cork Oak</td>
<td>Quercus suber</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Coast Redwood</td>
<td>Sequoia sempervirens</td>
<td>150</td>
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</table>

Brief History and description

The house Thalloo (Thalloo I) was constructed in 1941-42 to a design by architects Meldrum and Noad for Mr John and Mrs Ethel Turner. The site had been developed from the 1920s as a pleasure garden by local garden enthusiast and local Councillor (and Mayor) FV Parker and the Turners’ new house was positioned within the existing garden and on the elevated part of the site, accessed from the intersection of Wonga and Warrandyte Roads by a curved drive with a secondary, gated entry in the north east of the site. On its completion, the house and garden were the subject of an illustrated article in *Australian Home Beautiful* (Thalloo, A Garden with a House in it, by Nora Cooper).

Within five years, the Turners had subdivided the site and sold the northern part with the house, Thalloo I, to Phyllis Maughan (title information, specifically Transfer 1993647, 21 March 1946). The northern section of that land was further subdivided in the c. 1970s to create nos 7 Wonga Road and 144 Warrandyte Road.

The Turners retained the southern part of the site and constructed a second house – somewhat confusingly also named Thalloo but described below as Thalloo II. It was constructed on that land post 1948 to a Meldrum and Noad design, following the subdivision (Sands & McDougall Directories). This is the present-day no. 1 Wonga Road. The Turners resided in Thalloo II (title information and Sands and McDougall Melbourne directories) until John Turner’s death in 1962 when that property was transferred to his widow, Ethel Turner (title information, specifically Transfer B525098).

Thalloo I (3-5 Wonga Road) is a single-storey dwelling to an early modern expression. It was constructed in 1941-2 to designs by notable architects Meldrum and Noad and draws on the work of Californian architect, William Wurster. The building adopts an asymmetrical sprawling form, with tiled intersecting gable-ended roofs above plain weatherboard walls. Large windows overlook the garden and the living room is connected to the exterior by glazed double doors. Windows to the front facade take advantage of mountain views. The front façade incorporates an open front porch addressing Wonga Road.

The western sections of Thalloo I, as visible from Warrandyte Road comprise modern back-of-house elements including c. 1960s and later additions and outbuildings with vehicle access and accommodation from the Warrandyte Road.

To the south and east of the house there are areas of open lawn and garden, with a number of mature trees. Three trees of note have been identified, these are the Coast Redwood (Tree 17), Cork Oak (Tree 16) and Deodar (Tree 14). A swimming pool has been constructed immediately to the south of the house. There have also been changes to the original hard landscaping including replacement of crazy paving at the entrance.
Entrance porch, Australian Home Beautiful, May 1942

Entrance porch 2019, note the replacement of the original crazy paving
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Living Room windows, Australian Home Beautiful 1942 (view above shows the same windows today)

Rear of original wing viewed from the north-west with original courtyard paving
Rear wing of the original house with c. 1960s additions to the right

Northern elevation of c. 1960s rear addition
1945 aerial photograph with 2019 property boundaries overlaid

**Primary sources**

*Thallow, A garden with a house in it, Australian Home Beautiful, May 1942*

Certificate of Title (cancelled) Volume 6440 Folio 1287954, Landata

Sands & Mc Dougall Directories, 1950-1974

Aerial photographs, 1945, 1954, 1962, and 1968 Landata (Land Victoria);

Aerial photograph, 2018, Nearmap
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