

## 21-23 Blair Road, Portsea Statement of Significance - February 2022

<b>Heritage Place:</b> O'Dwyer House (former)	<b>PS ref no:</b> HO473
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Photo by Tony Dhar 2019

### What is significant?

Occupying a densely tea-treed double-width block, 21-23 Blair Road, Portsea, is a mostly single-storey timber holiday house on an asymmetrical courtyard plan based on irregular polygonal geometry, with a similarly irregular roofline. It was built in 1986-88 for Michael and Susan O'Dwyer, to a design by Gregory Burgess.

### How is it significant?

21-23 Blair Road, Portsea is of local architectural significance to the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

### Why is it significant?

21-23 Blair Road, Portsea is of architectural significance as excellent example of the idiosyncratic style of award-winning architect Gregory Burgess, whose work is characterised by irregular articulation of floorplans, rooflines and fenestration, typically with bold and expressive timberwork (*Criterion E*).

While Burgess designed several holiday houses on the Mornington Peninsula from the early 1970s to the present day, this one (his only project in Portsea/Sorrento) is the quintessential example of his 1980s residential work, when his reputation rose to lofty heights with an influx of awards and his first international publicity (*Criterion H*). This house, itself a finalist for the RAIA (Victorian Chapter) awards in 1989, represents a striking individualistic approach to the design of a peninsula weekender, with its jagged plan justified by a desire to retain the scrubby tea-tree setting.

### Primary source

*Mornington Peninsula Heritage Review, Area 3; Volume 2 – Citations; Heritage Alliance, July 2019, revised February 2022*

This document is an incorporated document in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*