Victorian Heritage Database Report

HO211 - Neil Douglas & Helen (Abbie) Heathcote house, 512 Henley Road, Bend of Islands







Location:
512 Henley Road, BEND OF ISLANDS VIC 3097

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:
Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Number: HO211
Listing Authority: Nillumbik Shire

Statement of Significance:
HERITAGE VALUE: Local

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

What is significant?

Fabric & trees associated with:

- the 1970s

- Neil Douglas; Helen (Abbie) Heathcote tenure

How is it significant?

The Neil Douglas & Helen (Abbie) Heathcote house is locally significant historically and socially.

How is it significant?

The Neil Douglas & Helen (Abbie) Heathcote house is significant:

- for its close association with Neil Douglas (artists and activist), Helen (Abbie) Heathcote (artist, author) and their extended family, and their role in creating a unique town planning land use zone, the Environmental Living Zone in the local area (Criterion H1)

- as the evocation of a lifestyle, building and landscape type, later formalised in the creation of the Environmental Living Zone from 1982 and illustrated in publications such as 'The Age', 'Australian Women's Weekly', 'Bend of Islands Environmental Living', 'The Garden of Earthly Delights' and 'A Far Cry', and many newspaper articles of the time (Criterion D, G1)

- as the focus of the local community as a commemoration of the life of Neil Douglas and his role in their lives and recent history (Criterion G1).

Description

DESCRIPTION
The former Neil Douglas complex includes adobe or mud brick and boarded, gabled and skillion roof buildings, including the main house, the 'studio' and the 'goat house' (GDA9'4: 347924, 5826227.at NW corner, see Figure 31).

The pond and some landscape form are part of the complex. The main house has an exposed pole frame, gabled and skillion roof forms (corrugated iron clad), and deep eaves with a steeper gabled section forming the higher gallery wing at the south end. Windows and doors are typically second hand, multi-pane glazed, and set within timber framing trimming the openings in the adobe walls. The view from the south-east in 'A Far Cry'' shows that this section of the house has changed little externally from its Douglas-Heathcote period. The first wing (north end) once had 'a sleeping loft over.

The unequal shallow-pitch gable wing at the south-west corner with its large multi-paned French doors, appears as an addition to the c1979 state of the house. Similarly the steep gabled wing at the end of the first stage (now sleeping room) appears added. Inside, the tiled bathroom (painted tile shower recess, um leaf attern and kitchen are general as the were by 1979.

The 'goat house' has gabled and skillion roofs, exposed pole framing, plastered adobe external walls, corrugated iron roofing, second hand window groups of inter-war and other periods (i.e.. diamond pattern glazing, double hung sash windows), 4 panel Victorian-era door; some timber joinery and glazing adjoining the door as gable infill in a manner used in the 1960s-70s (i.e. Chancellor & Patrick). This presumably was as developed by O'Briens. The studio has vertical board cladding, gabled corrugated iron clad roofs, French doors

and timber-framed window groups.

The O'Brien works include:

a wire-mesh clad and timber-framed sexagonal gazebo (near the front door and septic tank), a corrugated iron clad gabled wood shed about 50' southwest of the house, a mud brick, pole-framed, black shade cloth and Laserlite clad 24'x18' fernery added to the south west corner of the house (and later filled in?), and 2 two-car carports with corrugated iron roofs, one (20'x20' flat roof) near the road and the other a gabled roof pole-framed shelter about 40m from the north end of the house (347948, 5826206 north-west corner).

These do not form part of the Douglas- Heathcote fabric.

Integrity

The integrity of the house is as described above with added wings distinguishable from the first stages because eof the organic evolution of the house, wing by w.ing. '

Heritage Study / Consultant	Nillumbik - C13 Heritage Stage 2 Final Report Revised Citation , Graeme Butler and Assoc., 2001
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	NILLUMBIK SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	118812
Property number	

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online