

Victorian Heritage Database Report

NOCKLOFTY



Location:

551-559 ROYAL PARADE PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE CITY

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H0456

Listing Authority: VHR

Heritage Overlay Number: HO319

Statement of Significance:

What is significant?

Nocklofty is a single storey Federation style brick villa at 551 Royal Parade, Parkville. It was designed and built by the owner Kenneth Munro between 1906 and 1908. Munro, a retired mining and construction engineer and

highly accomplished amateur wood carver, executed all the original exterior and interior decoration and pattern for casting the verandah columns and friezes in terracotta.

Work commenced on the house in January of 1906, soon after Munro's retirement as an Engineer, but at the beginning of his career as a skilled woodcarver. The single storey house is constructed in brick and has a verandah and front bay window and a Basel Mission terra cotta tile roof. A belvedere, with a conical roof, surmounts the roof-line. The style of the house was influenced by northern European house design and wood carving traditions and by the Arts and Crafts movement. The face red brickwork, with bands of Mount Gambier limestone and ornamental tiles, was originally unpainted. Windows contain diamond leadlights and stained glass lead lights with Art Nouveau designs.

Munro carved the ornamental wood work for Nocklofty in the workshops constructed adjacent to the stables. In particular his work can be seen in Californian Redwood bargeboards, depicting gum leaves and nuts, and on the verandah which is supported by terracotta columns and bases, cast at Cornwall Potteries in Brunswick to Munro's own designs. Internally Munro has carved impressive jarrah overdoors and overmantels, with fauna and flora, such that each carved piece symbolises the use of the room. An eagle spreads its wings on the overmantel of the dining room, whilst the overdoor is carved to depict grapes. Carved cockatoos perch on the master bedroom overdoor. The children's bedroom was crowned by magpies and an owl, the bathroom by water lilies and an egret. The hall stand and bench contain the Munro coat of arms.

How is it significant?

Nocklofty is of architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

is architecturally significant as one of the most original and distinctive Federation style villas in Melbourne. Its originality lies principally in the exemplary external wood carving and interior furniture and joinery designed and created by Munro, an accomplished and largely self-taught wood carver.

Nocklofty is a strikingly individualistic essay in the development of Australian themes in early twentieth century architecture. The incorporation of a relatively conventional plan to highly individual nationalist motifs lends an exotic, picture-book air, once highly magnified by the Gothic Folly which was located at the rear but has since been demolished.

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1906 - 1908
Architect / Designer	Munro, Kenneth
Municipality	MELBOURNE CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	904
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