

BUILDING TITLE: Myrniong **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Hensley Park Road
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A |X| B || C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** detached house
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: outside **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 ||
STYLE: Federation

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1906-07
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1 Garden, D, Hamilton, p 172.

MATERIALS:

Roof: unglazed terra cotta
Walls: stuccoed brick
Dressings: red brick
Plinth: red brick
Windows: leadlighted casements
Paving: gravel
Other: timber shingles in bays
pressed cement columns

SURVEY DATE: 5/4/91

NEG FILE: 5/20-22

REPORTER: tfh

INTEGRITY: E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Picturesque massing, especially of roof; use of materials and substantially intact garden

CONDITION: E |X| G || F || P ||

SIGNIFICANCE: Built for mayor, Leslie Jenner, the massing, materials and period garden of Myrniong distinguish it as the best Federation style house in Hamilton and an important example in Victoria.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate: Rec **Inappropriate:** Rec
none apparent although both the garden and house have been compromised by new buildings

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:

land to
Leslie Jenner from 1906-1919

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:

E B Noske
Alexandra College

TITLE:

Sec CA

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS086

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Myrniiong
Hensley Park Road

Myrniiong is of state significance for its architecture and its garden. It is of regional significance for its historical associations both with its first owner, Leslie Jenner and its present use as the Alexandra College. Jenner, a gentleman of private means, was married to the daughter of Sir Frederick Sargood and was his partner. ⁽ⁱ⁾ He was mayor in 1910-11. His time at Myrniiong was brief and in 1919 he sold to E B Noske of Moutajup, a conservative pastoralist of German extraction. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Briefly, after the Second World War, Myrniiong was used to accommodate American airmen. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ The Alexandra College bought the mansion in 1956 with 33 acres to house senior boarders and where, after amalgamating with the Hamilton and Western District College, it became the primary school. ^(iv)

Myrniiong may have been designed by the architect Henry Kemp who, with Beverley Ussher, was responsible for the 1904 design of Eildon, 34 Thompson Street. ^(v) At least on stylistic grounds the design can be attributed to Walter Butler who was active in the Western District. ^(vi) He had designed Blackwood, near Penshurst, in 1891. He designed extensions to Murndal, at Merino, in 1906. ^(vii) English born and trained, Butler was a critical link between the Queen Anne style and the full flowering of the Australian Federation style. Butler worked in association with several key architects including Kemp and for many elite clients during his long and distinguished career. He also considered himself to be a landscape architect. ^(viii) Myrniiong's garden, although now compromised by modern school buildings and facilities, is particularly significant for its individual trees and avenues. Some are both rare and especially fine specimens.

Myrniiong, both house and garden, survives significantly and is in excellent condition.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Pastoralism:Retirement
Education: Primary & Secondary
Religion: Presbyterianism

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Murndal, Merino
Blackwood, Penshurst
Eildon, 34 Thompson Street
The Gables, 69 French Street

REFERENCES

Garden, D, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
ADB, *Melbourne University Press*, Carlton, 1979-.
Knight, R, *Windows to Yesterday*, Hamilton College, 1988. (sketch)

FOOTNOTES

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- i Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 172.
ii Ibid, p 172, 189, and 225.
iii Warburton, L, *Memories of Myrniiong*, unpaginated.
iv Ibid, p 238.
v Australian Architectural Index, 'Kemp'.
vi The timber peg details in the gables are identical to those at Murndal.
vii AHC, *Illustrated Register of the National Estate*, 3/93.
viii Nairn & Serle, *ADB*, Vol 7, p 510.