

PLACE	HOUSE			Other name/s	Llewelyn Residence (former)		
Address	1 Dunn Street WONTHAGGI						
Study No	WN019	HO No	-	HPD No	-	Allotment No	4 (Section 20)
LGA	Bass Coast	Ward	Hovell	Parish	Wonthaggi	County	Mornington



Image Date	17 July 2009	Extent of listing	Whole allotment				
Designer/architect	Unknown	Architectural style	Inter-war Period (1901-1918) American Bungalow				
Builder/maker	Unknown	Commenced	1916	Completed	1916		
Her Act Category	Heritage place	Historic Theme/s	13.2 Building Towns (Larger Centres)				
Her Item Group	Residential buildings (private)	Assessed by	S Reeves	Date	14/08/09		
Her Item Category	House	Reviewed by	-	Date	-		
Usage (2009)	Residence	Condition	Good	Intactness	Excellent		
Significance	Local	Recommendation	Include in VHR <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in RNE <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in HO <input type="checkbox"/>	X	

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The house at 1 Dunn Street is a single-storey inter-war bungalow with a broad low-pitched roof, weatherboard and cement sheet cladding and an asymmetrical facade with bay window and strapped gable ends. It was erected during 1916 by local retailer Llewelyn Lewelyn (of prominent McBride Avenue drapers Llewelyn & Wilson) on land that he had purchased four years earlier.

How is it Significant?

The house is of historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Bass Coast.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the house is significant as one of several fine residences that were built in this part of Wonthaggi by prominent citizens (mostly local retailers and businessmen) which demonstrate the lofty aspirations (or in this case, ongoing success) of the wealthier residents of the new township (*AHC Criterion C.2*). The house is of interest for its association with its original owner, draper Llewelyn Lewelyn, who together with his business partner A B Wilson, opened one of the first retail ventures in the new township, the prominent and long-running draper firm originally known as Llewelyn & Wilson (*AHC Criterion H.1*). This historic association is enhanced by the fact that Llewelyn's partner also erected and occupied a house on the adjacent site at 3 Dunn Street (qv).

Aesthetically, the house is significant as an early local manifestation of the emerging inter-war Bungalow style (*AHC Criterion E.1*). With its broad gabled roof, contrasting cement sheet and weatherboard cladding and strapped gable ends, the house represents a significant contrast to the generally conservative Edwardian (or even Victorian Survival) houses that had been built in the town up to that point (*AHC Criterion F.1*).

Physical Description

The house at 1 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is a single-storey double-fronted timber-framed bungalow. It is dominated by a broad gabled roof of corrugated galvanised steel, penetrated by a red brick chimney with corbelled capping and terracotta pots. The house presents an asymmetrical frontage to Dunn Street, with the wide gable of the main roof and a small projecting gabled porch (which returns along the Queen Street frontage) to the north side. Both gable ends are half-timbered, with strapped cement sheeting, while the larger of the two is further enlivened by a decorative rectilinear panel. External walls otherwise have conventional weatherboard cladding to dado height, and strapped cement sheeting above. The Dunn Street facade, partially obscured by a tall hedge, also has a rectangular bay window to the right side, with weatherboard spandrel, multi-paned fixed and double-hung sashes, and a skillion rooflet. There is a small rectangular window alongside, with double-hung sash and narrow projecting hood, and, below the porch, a larger window that straddles the corner, with a fixed sash and operable highlights.

Historical Notes

This house stands on part of Section 21 of the Township of Wonthaggi, a wedge-shaped block of nine residential allotments bounded Broome Crescent and Queen, Dunn and Billson streets. Despite the fact that this section was rather prominently located between Section 24 (site of the Mine Manager's House) and Section 17 (part of the development of Government Cottages), there is no reference to it in the first rate book of the Borough of Wonthaggi, dated June 1911. However, the next rate book, compiled only four months later, listed Lot 4 as a vacant site with a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £7, owned by Llewelyn Llewelyn. Identified simply as a tailor, he was actually far more well-known locally as one-half of the prominent Wonthaggi drapery business of Llewelyn & Wilson.

Llewelyn Llewelyn (1871-1941) and Archibald Bain Wilson (1875-1933) were amongst the first retailers to set up shop in the new township. When land for commercial use was first auctioned in March 1910, Llewelyn & Wilson paid £51 for the leasehold to Lot 5 of Section 2, on the west side of McBride Avenue. Within two months, they had opened a small single-fronted timber shop, with the names of both men emblazoned on the verandah signboard. At that time, the local press reported that the firm had also obtained another site nearby, on which they planned to erect larger and grander permanent premises (which was duly built, and still stands, at the corner of McBride Avenue and Watt Street). After more than a decade in business, Llewelyn & Wilson both relocated to Dandenong, leaving the Wonthaggi store under the management of Robert E Pease. It was still operating under his name in the early 1930s, advertised as "the oldest and leading drapery business in Wonthaggi.. always famous for quality and assortment".

It is interesting that when Llewelyn acquired Lot 4 of Section 21 to build his own house, his partner Wilson purchased the adjacent Lot 3 to do the same. Wilson, however, built his house almost immediately, while Llewelyn's property remained rated as vacant land for several years thence. His house on Lot 4 first appears in the 1916-17 rate book (dated 20 November 1916), with the increased NAV of £25 and his wife, Alice, identified as occupant. In 1920, the couple subdivided their land to erect a second dwelling, facing Queen Street. The 1920-21 rate book noted that "part of [Lot] 4 has building materials stored on it and is not fenced". A year later, the Llewelyns' own house was rated as a dwelling with a NAV of £40 on "part 4", with a second entry for a smaller house on "part 4", with a NAV of £26, owned by Llewelyn but occupied by W Craig. The Llewelyns vacated the house at 1 Dunn Street around 1923, although they retained ownership of the adjacent dwelling for some years thence, renting it to electrician William Newland. Their original residence on the corner was subsequently occupied by draper Robert E Pease who, not coincidentally, had also taken over the former Llewelyn & Wilson drapery store in McBride Avenue. He remained living in Dunn Street for more than a decade.

Comparisons

This house is a striking contrast to the dwellings previously been erected in the Township of Wonthaggi, typically either in a Victorian Survival mode (eg double-fronted symmetrical or symmetrical cottages) or in a Federation/Queen Anne style (eg asymmetrical villas with return verandahs). Built in 1916, the house at 1 Dunn Street represents a notably early local manifestation of the Bungalow style more commonly associated with the 1920s. Intact bungalow-style houses are not well represented in this part of Wonthaggi, save for such examples as 21 Merrin Crescent, 16 Graham Street and the small but altered cluster at the east end of Hunter Street. The present house stands out not only as the earliest but also as the most aesthetically interesting of these.

Recommended Management

Nil.

References

Author	Title	Year
Borough of Wonthaggi	Rate Books (held by Public Record Office)	Various
John M Coghlan (ed)	<i>The State Coal Mine and Wonthaggi, 1909-1968</i> , p 38	1979