

PLACE	HOUSE			Other name/s	Wilson Residence (former)		
Address	3 Dunn Street WONTHAGGI						
Study No	WN020	HO No	-	HPD No	-	Allotment No	3 (Section 20)
LGA	Bass Coast	Ward	Hovell	Parish	Wonthaggi	County	Mornington

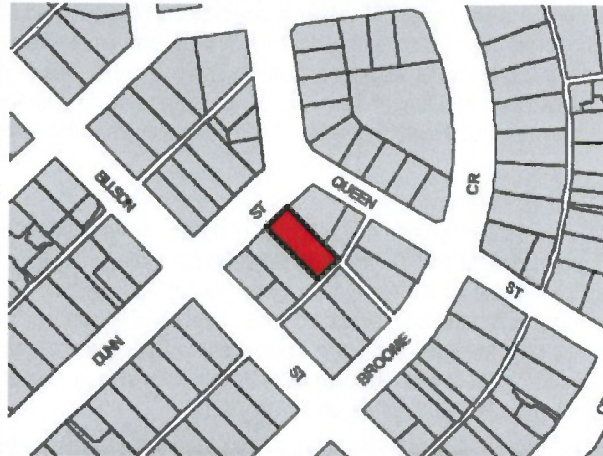


Image Date	17 July 2009	Extent of listing	Whole allotment				
Designer/architect	Unknown	Architectural style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1901-1918) Queen Anne				
Builder/maker	Unknown	Commenced	1911	Completed	1911		
Her Act Category	Heritage place	Historic Theme/s	13.2 Building Towns (Larger Centres)				
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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The house at 3 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is a double-fronted Edwardian timber villa in the Queen Anne style, with gambrel roof, intersecting gabled bays, rectangular bay windows and a return verandah with gable. It was erected during 1911 for retailer Archibald Bain Wilson, city councillor and one half of the prominent McBride Avenue drapery firm of Llewelyn & Wilson.

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 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 and city councillor A B Wilson, who together with his business partner Llewelyn Llewelyn, 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 Wilson's partner also erected and occupied a house on the adjacent site at 1 Dunn Street (qv).

Aesthetically, the house is significant as a particularly fine example of a large Edwardian villa in Wonthaggi (*AHC Criterion E.1*). Considerably larger and more prepossessing than many of the early private houses in the township, the house is distinguished by its unusual form (with return verandah, rectangular bay window) as well as its particularly assured decorative detailing including verandah posts, friezes, rough-cast render and ornamental verandah gable (*AHC Criterion F.1*).

Physical Description

The house at 3 Dunn Street, Wonthaggi, is a single-storey double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard villa in the Queen Anne style. It has a gambrel roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel, penetrated by a pair of tall red brick chimneys with corbelled capping and terracotta chimney pots. At the eaves line, the roof extends further forward to create a return verandah along the front (north) and side (east) elevations of the house. The verandah roof, supported on unusually ornate turned timber posts with shaped brackets and a timber slat frieze, incorporates a projecting half-timbered gablet to the street frontage. At each end of the return verandah, fronting the north and east sides of the house, are projecting gable-roofed bays, with elaborate half-timbered rough-cast gable ends. The bay to the street also has a rectangular bay window, with timber-framed casement sashes and highlights. The main entrance, set into the front wall at the far western end of the front verandah, has a panelled timber door with flanking sidelight. The front property line is marked by a low timber fence with large square posts (surmounted by orbs) and rounded timber pickets (truncated to form a curving profile) and matching gates. Although not original, it is sympathetic to the style and era of the house.

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, recorded that Lot 4, fronting Dunn Street, had become the site of a new house with a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £40. Its owner/occupant was revealed as Archibald Bain Wilson, draper. His house was one of several new dwellings that were referred to thus in the *Powlett Express* on 5 May 1911:

Building is very brisk in Broome Crescent and vicinity. Villa residences are in course of erection for Messrs Wilson, Mummy and Bird, and Dr Taylor has obtained plans for his residence. As the whole of the residences are in the hill overlooking the town, they will, when finished, add materially to the appearance of the place.

The 1912-13 rate book also reveals that the adjacent Lot 4, at the corner of Dunn and Queen streets, was owned by Wilson's business partner, Llewelyn Llewelyn, who went on to build his own house there (now 1 Dunn Street, qv) in 1916.

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 1930s, advertised as "the oldest and leading drapery business in Wonthaggi.. always famous for quality and assortment". The firm's co-founder, Archibald Wilson, remained living in his house at 3 Dunn Street for about a decade. A scribbled amendment to the 1921-22 rate book (dated October 1921) notes that the property was "sold by A B Wilson, 25.1.1922", with the new owner listed only as "Oakley". Later editions confirm that this was William McKinnon Oakley, head teacher, who was still there in the 1930s.

Comparisons

Broadly, the present house is comparable to the other fine and prepossessing Edwardian villas that were built in the vicinity by prominent local businessmen and retailers. With its prominent return verandah, rectangular bay windows, ornamental gablets, rough-cast rendering and ornately carved timberwork, this house is particularly comparable to the respective residences of the local Bailiff of Crown Lands, C S Mummy (21 Broome Crescent, qv) and McBride Avenue confectioner W C Easton (13 Broome Crescent, qv). Save for the bay windows, it also has many elements in common with the large Edwardian villas at 13 Campbell Street (qv) and 38 Graham Street (qv).

Recommended Management

Encourage the retention of the return verandah as a semi-open space, with no solid or glazed infill to be constructed.

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