

Graceburn Statement of Significance

Heritage Place: 38 Quinn Street, Heidelberg

PS ref no: HO206



What is Significant?

Graceburn at 38 Quinn Street, Heidelberg, is significant. The house was constructed between 1905 and 1906, likely by Charles Rouch for its long-term original occupants, Edward and Alice Rouch.

The significant elements are the house's broadly symmetry, gambrel roof, red-brick chimney, raised return verandah with small central gable and squared timber posts, projecting gable wing (north), walls of painted weatherboard, entrance door, timber-framed and double-hung sashes, faceted bay windows, and all external timber decoration.

Later additions to the house are not significant.

The general garden setting is complementary to *Graceburn*; however, specific landscape elements, including plantings, garage and tennis court, are not significant.

How is it Significant?

Graceburn is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Banyule.

Why is it Significant?

Graceburn is of historical significance as a commodious timber residence constructed during the early Federation period for, and likely by, the Rouch family – locally well-known owners of a Heidelberg timber mill. It illustrates an important pattern in the growth and consolidation of Heidelberg; the establishment of large-scale, often distinctive, dwellings within sizable holdings by the affluent that were subdivided decades later, particularly as the area underwent more intensive growth in the wake of the Second World War. The survival of *Graceburn* following the 1956 sale of its originally expansive grounds and their subsequent development appears uncommon for Banyule. In most cases, the original house was demolished as part of the breakup. More generally, few timber buildings from the early 1900s remain in the municipality, particularly those that illustrate the Federation Bungalow style, of which the residence is a relatively early example. *Graceburn's* continued prominence to the public realm, engineered as part of its subdivision, assists in marking it out as a building of some note.

When viewed within the broader context of surrounding postwar and contemporary dwellings, the house's Federation character can evoke contemplation of an earlier phase in the evolution of the locale, allowing for an interpretation of the residence as the erstwhile centrepiece of a large property. (Criterion A)

Graceburn is of aesthetic significance as a largely intact and considerable instance of the more infrequently seen Federation Bungalow style, which referenced established and emergent domestic design trends – prefacing the wholesale embracement of the bungalow over a decade later. Its overall restrained character is indicative of the more relaxed bungalow mode, while the still widespread penchant for the picturesque is met subtly in the pleasing composition of the façade and north elevation. In combination, the dominant gambrel roof, raised verandah and (the less typical) near symmetry of the façade endow *Graceburn* with a stately character. An effect heightened by the employment of solid decorative timber elements to the verandah creating a screen-like effect, which encourages the strong interplay of light and shadow to the façade. The pronounced utilisation of timber throughout the house also reflects the pervading influence of the Arts & Crafts movement in the period and its interest in 'honest' and 'natural' materials. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Banyule Heritage Study 2020 (RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants)