

TYERS' RESIDENCE

Address	1118 Dandenong Road, Carnegie
Significance	Local
Construction Dates	1939
Period	Late Interwar
Date Inspected	Early 2019



Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The Tyers' Residence at 1118 Dandenong Road, Carnegie is significant, especially its form, chimneys, roof tiles, brick work, white render and steel-framed windows. The original low brick front fence is also of significance.

The garage is an original feature, which has been integrated with the house, and is a contributory element.

As the rendered walls of the building are painted, it is appropriate to have paint controls so that a complementary colour scheme is applied to the building, especially in light of the dark brickwork.

Later additions are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The Tyers' Residence is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Glen Eira.

Why is it Significant?

Tyers' Residence is of historical significance as an example of one of the few substantial houses that occurred along major thoroughfares in Carnegie during the mid-20th century. Built circa 1939 for, and likely by, Stanley William Tyers, a City of Caulfield councillor and mayor, and his wife, who was also active in municipal life, it is an exemplar of this type of dwelling. Typically, such main road 'statement houses' were distinct in their size, quality and detailing and reflect the desirability of the suburb for a more affluent class towards the end of the main development phases in the area. (Criterion A)

The Tyers' Residence is of aesthetic significance as a largely intact and good example of the Moderne style. Typical of the style it has a horizontal emphasis with a white rendered finish and contrasting umber tapestry brick accents, a prominent curved porch, recessed 'speed lines' and steel-framed windows in a distinct band with a narrow concrete canopy to produce a strong 'streamlined' effect that is counterpoised by the verticality of its broad chimneys. The design is augmented by the use of dark glazed roof tiles and complementary palette of the front fence. During the late 1930s, while well established, the Moderne style continued to be associated with machine forms and 'progressive' architecture. (Criterion E)

Description

The freestanding and single storey house addresses both Dandenong Road and Chestnut Street on a medium sized allotment (approximately 623m²). The garden, including several substantial trees and bushes, partly obscures the house, which is well setback from Dandenong Road but has limited setback to Chestnut Street. The low front fence forms a key component of the overall design, its materiality corresponding with the plinth of the house, with umber bricks set in a course of rowlock to the coping and stretchers to the wall and a narrow course of ochre tapestry bricks.

The Moderne style house has a medium pitched hip roof that extends over a projecting room and rear garage, all clad in dark glazed terracotta tiles. Typical of the style, the walls are largely white painted render – to emphasis its dynamism – with a contrasting plinth of umber bricks and distinct arrangements of tapestry brick around street facing openings.

Asymmetrically massed, a focal point of its façade, is its curved porch and parapet. The porch has a small opening with a geometric steel grille and a large fixed multi-paned, steel-framed window. The broad chimneys feature recessed 'speed lines'. To the northern elevation, these also extend along the wall and, in combination with a corner window to the north-east corner of the façade. According to the original drawings, there may also be an attached garden wall with a gate to the east side (but which is obscured by planting). A slender concrete awning extends across the façade, broken only by the chimney, which further heightens the sleekness of the design.



Details of porch, northern elevation

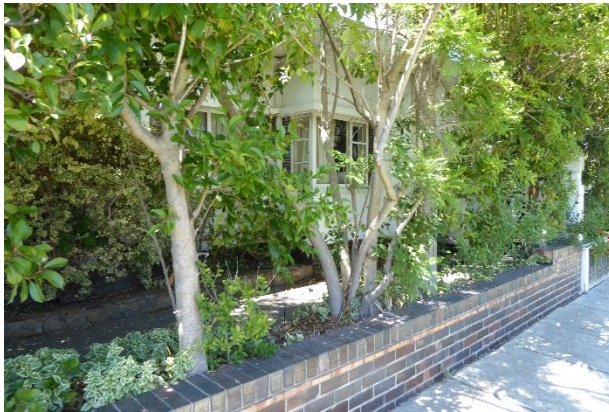


Detail of chimney, northern elevation from Dandenong Road

Windows to the street-facing elevations are all steel-framed in a tripartite arrangement, with large picture/fixed pane windows flanked by narrower windows with horizontal glazing bars (probably casements). These frames were readily interpreted in the Interwar period as a 'modern' feature, finer than their timber equivalents, and generally consisted of a combination of fixed panes and horizontal glazing bars (an element which also contributed to the horizontalness of Moderne-styled houses).

The dwelling's curvilinear components, smooth finishes, and modern materials to produce a 'streamlined' effect were typical and readily associated with the Moderne idiom, which referenced the aesthetic and form of modern machines, in particular, aeroplanes, cars and ocean liners. Despite this styles growing popularity across Melbourne by the late Interwar period – although

far less prevalent in the context of Carnegie – it continued to be perceived as a progressive architectural style, especially an example that incorporated steel-framed windows.



Western elevation/Chestnut Street

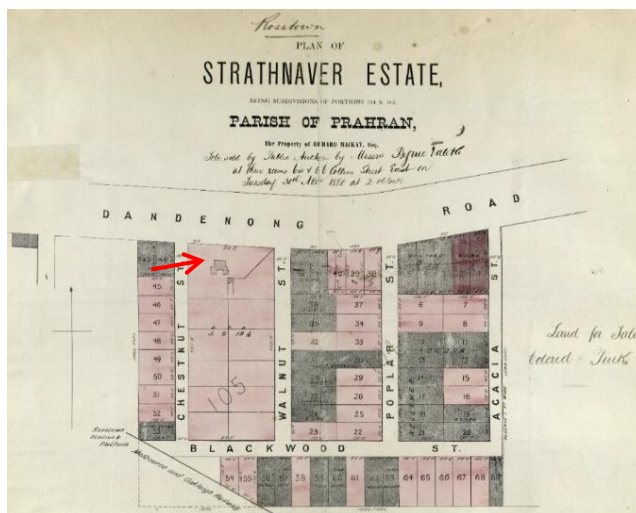


Rear garage, from Chestnut Street

The garage was initially independent of the house but has since been incorporated. The side door marks the junction of this infill and roof extension. The double metal garage door is also not original. Skillion roofed additions are also evident to the internal courtyard.

History

The subject site formed part of Crown Allotment 105 of the Parish of Prahran that was acquired by J Westwood.¹ By at least the late 1870s, a two storey 13-roomed mansion with cellar and stables had been constructed between Chestnut and Walnut streets with a frontage to Dandenong Road.²³ Owned by Richard Mackay, this 'first-rate' mansion was encompassed within roughly 5 acre (2 ha) of grounds to the south side of Dandenong Road, which included the subject allotment, and was apparently known as the 'Strathnaver Estate'. Its owner had previously subdivided some of the holding and established streets however, in 1879 the remainder of the property was advertised for sale.



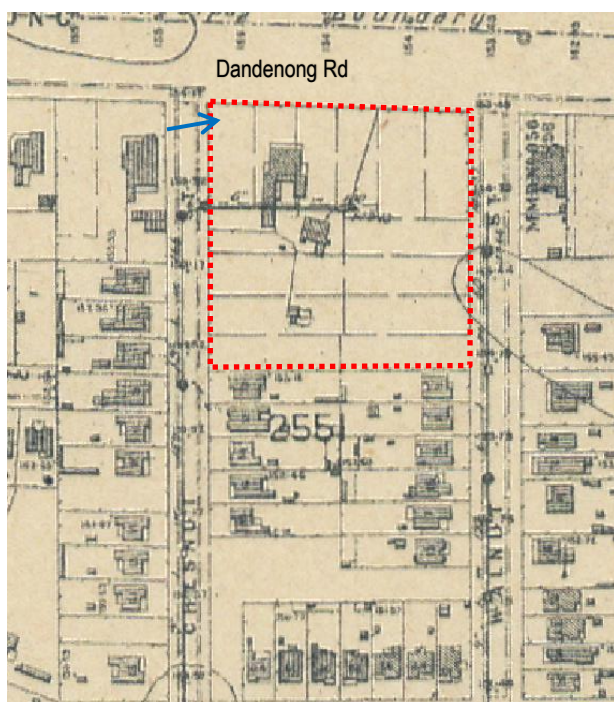
Advertisement for the Strathnaver Estate, with subject allotment indicated.
(Source: Plan of Subdivision, 1879, SLV)

¹ Initial dates of purchase are not provided on the Prahran Parish Plan (VPRS 16171, P1, Plans Ne-R); however, it is known that Crown land was purchased in the Caulfield area, close to Kooyong and Balaclava Roads, from the early 1850s and then progressively sold in large blocks to the east and south until the mid-1860s, by which point much of the Carnegie area had been alienated (Peter R Murray and John C Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath – A History of Caulfield*, Melbourne, 1980, p2)

² Certificate of Title, vol. 2776, folio 154

³ 'Advertising', Age, 16 January 1879, p4

It appears that the house and its immediate grounds – bounded by Chestnut, Walnut, Black streets and Dandenong Road – were not immediately sold but possibly, tenanted. In 1900, Alexander McCracken, a prominent Melbourne brewer, purchased the northern half of this block selling it to Thomas Wilde Moule, an accountant and well-known secretary of the Victoria Amateur Turf Club (now Melbourne Racing Club), four years later.⁴ While the other sections of the 'Strathnaver Estate' appear to have undergone residential development, Moule retained the mansion and its truncated grounds intact, selling them to the apparently wealthy, Murrumbidgee-based Mortons in 1918.⁵ Members of the Morton family would occupy the house into the 1930s, at which stage they began to progressively subdivide its remnant grounds.⁶ The mansion appears to have been demolished by 1938.⁷



The remnant of the Strathnaver Estate, outlined in red, in the early 1930s, with the subject allotment, adjacent to the then still extant mansion, indicated by the blue arrow.

(Source: MMBW, Camberwell Malvern & Caulfield, Plan no.156, dated 1933, SLV, 821.09 GHM)

Stanley William Tyers brought the subject allotment in 1937.⁸ He is first listed as its occupant in the 1940 edition of the *Sands & McDougall's Directory* (at '596 Dandenong Road'), which is suggestive of construction date for the subject house during the year previous.⁹ A long term Carnegie resident, previously of Belsize Street, Stanley advertised as a builder ('Tyers & Son Pty Ltd') and, over the 1930s and 1940s, served as a Caulfield councillor, including being the mayor in 1939.¹⁰ His wife, Mrs Stanley Tyers was also involved in social and charity activities within the municipality. Their family retained ownership of the site until 1967.¹¹

⁴ McCracken – Certificate of Title, vol. 2776, folio 154; and G H Gellie, 'McCracken, Alexander (1856-1915)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 1986, <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mccracken-alexander-7326>> accessed online 15 March 2019. Moule – Certificate of Title, vol.3817, folio 398; and 'Burial of Mr T. W. Moule', *Argus*, 6 May 1931, p.9

⁵ Amelia Morton was listed in residence at the estate in the 1919 *Sands and McDougall's Directory*; and *Certificate of Title*, vol.4165, folio 828

⁶ Certificate of Title, vol. 519, folio 609

⁷ *Sands & McDougall's Directory*, 1935-38

⁸ Certificate of Title, vol.6147, folio 210

⁹ Tyers was not listed in the 1938 *Sands & McDougall's Directory*

¹⁰ See – 'Faster Train Service', *Dandenong Journal*, 29 March 1939, p4; 'Houses, Land For Sale', *Argus*, 25 May 1956, p18 and 'New Statute For Caulfield Park', *Herald*, 21 August 1939, p2

¹¹ Certificate of Title, vol.6147, folio 210

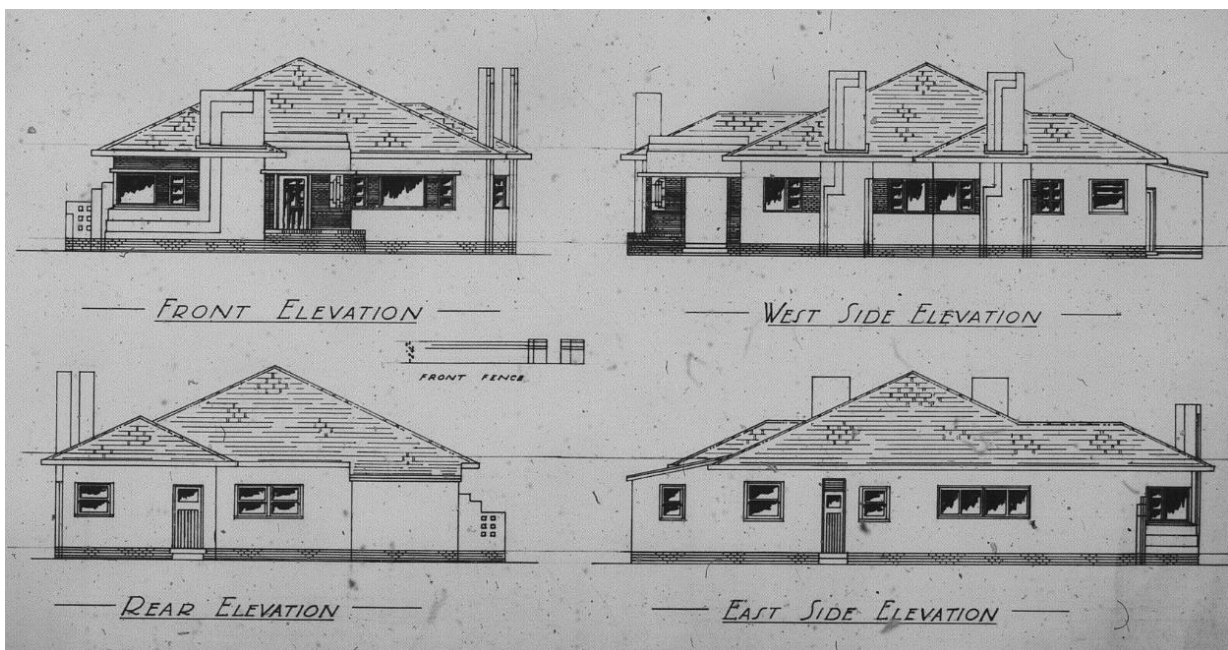


1931 aerial photograph of the subject site, unbuilt on and indicated by the red arrow.
(Source: Landata, Maldon Prison, Project No. 1931, Run 26, Frame 2474)

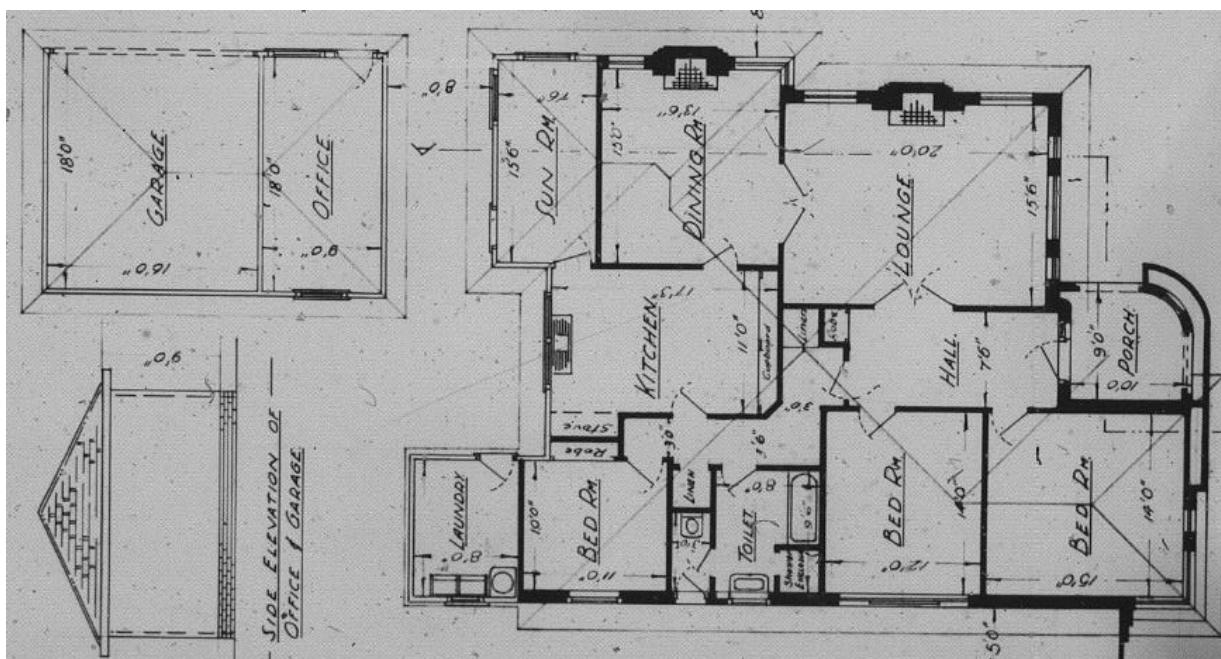


1945 aerial photograph of the subject building, indicated by the red arrow. Note the detached garage.
(Source: Landata, Melbourne and Metropolitan Area, Project No. 5, Run 15, Frame 57773)

Reproduced below, are the drawings submitted to Council for the residence and garage. They do not identify an architect but list Stanley as 'Master Builder'. It is likely that, in an effort to promote his profile – definitely as a builder and perhaps, as a local politician – Stanley oversaw and completed the construction of his home, selecting a scale and style befitting a main road house. Such an inference is reinforced by the design of the dwelling, which although well executed, utilises the by then established 'language' of the Moderne style, as might be employed by a proficient builder.



Submitted perspectives of the house, circa 1939.
(Source: City of Glen Eira, building records, permit no. 2433)



Submitted floor plan for the house and garage, circa 1939.
(Source: City of Glen Eira, building records, permit no. 2433)

Thematic Context/Comparative Analysis

City of Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan – vol. 1 (Historical Background):

- Suburban Expansion and Consolidation (1920s-1930s)

Known comparable places in the City of Glen Eira:

To date, only a small group of Interwar period residences have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the municipality and/or identified in the HMP as significant. Within this group, there are two existing Moderne style houses:

- *Linlithgow*, 4 Linlithgow Avenue, Caulfield North (HO41) – large, two storey Moderne style house with rendered walls and brick plinth. Prominent curved corner section with parapet to front, partly concealing the hipped roof. Timber-framed windows, some sashes with horizontal glazing bars. Date of construction not defined.
- *Idamere*, 705 North Road, Carnegie (HO134) – striking large, two storey Moderne style house with brick and rendered walls. Built 1940-44 on a prominent corner location, it has steel-framed windows and extensive use of 'waterfall' element (such as to the parapets and the partly detached chimney).

Other identified Moderne places include:

- *Alfred Halley Residence* (recommended for an HO), 178 Centre Road, Bentleigh – intact, two storey Moderne style house built during 1941-42 for, and probably by, local builder Alfred Halley, in cream brick with contrasting amber tapestry bricks in addition to the original garage and fence.
- There are several modest houses displaying the influence of the Moderne style in some of the Interwar period housing precincts such as the Bentleigh Environs (HO69). These houses typically include some aspects of the Moderne style such as horizontal emphasis, smooth rendered finishes, curved porches and 'speed lines', however are generally more indicative of a speculative build utilising popular contemporary design elements to 'dress' the façade of a typical suburban house rather than being a fully realised example of the style.

Other Interwar period, substantial houses in the area include:

- *The Pines* (recommend for an HO), 181 Koornang Road, Carnegie – erected circa 1938 in the Georgian Revival Style, this two storey, clinker brick house includes a single storey surgery to one side.

Condition

Good

Integrity

Intact.

Previous Assessment

N grade (not significant) – Andrew Ward, *City of Caulfield Urban Conservation Study*, field survey sheet 38, 1990

Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and/or Fences	No

Extent of Heritage Overlay

The proposed extent of the heritage overlay would be the parcel of land associated with 1118 Dandenong Road, Carnegie.



Recommended extent of registration
(Source: Nearmap, depicting January 2019)