

Statement of Significance: Lloyd House (2019)

Address: 15 Rockbrook Road St Kilda East	Name: Lloyd House
Place Type: Interwar	Grading: Significant
PS ref no: HO199	Constructed: 1924



What is significant?

The former Lloyd House, at 15 Rockbrook Road, St Kilda East, is a single-storey red brick house with low gabled roof and asymmetrical facade incorporating forms and motifs associated with the Prairie School of Walter Burley Griffin and his circle, including vertical piers, chunky rendered ornament, and windows and doors with geometric mullions and leadlight glazing. Designed for the Lloyd family in 1924, the house was designed by Lippincott & Billson, a partnership between two former members of Griffin's office.

The significant fabric is defined as the entire exterior of the building.

How is it significant?

The former Lloyd House satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

Why is it significant?

The former Lloyd House is aesthetically significant as an excellent example of the Prairie School style associated with Frank Lloyd Wright, largely introduced into Australia by Walter Burley Griffin, and popularised, for over two decades, by not only by Griffin but also his staff, associates and others. The work of someone who had been the Griffins' first Australian employee, employed by them for six years, and was still sharing office space with them when this house was designed, it can be considered an especially confident articulation of this distinctive style, which is extremely rare in the City of Glen Eira. The house evokes the Midwestern American precedents of Wright and Griffin through its low horizontal expression, broad gabled roof, vertical piers and geometric rendered ornament including chevrons, angular capitals and cornices, chunky faceted embellishment, as well as doors and windows with matching geometric mullions and leadlight glazing. Its bold use of face brickwork, with expanses of red brick contrasting with clinker brick piers, is especially unusual in the context of Billson's residential work in this style, which was more typically characterised by a rendered finish. (*Criterion E*)

Primary source

Heritage Citation: Lloyd House, 15 Rockbrook Road, St Kilda East. Prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, 2019.