



IDENTIFIER	HOUSE	Citation No	HG02
Other name/s	<i>Hurlock</i>	Melway ref	58 J9
Address	380 Dandenong Road CAULFIELD NORTH	Date/s	1913-14
Designer/s	Matthew Craig	Builder/s	E H M Ratcliff



Photographs by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019



Location map and extent of HO

Heritage Group	Residential building (private)	Condition	Excellent
Heritage Category	House	Intactness	Excellent
Thematic context	6.7 Making homes for Victorians 9.3 Achieving design and artistic distinction		
Recommendation	Include on heritage overlay schedule as an individual heritage place		
Controls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Paint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interior Alteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Hurlock, the former Craig House at 380 Dandenong Road, Caulfield North, is a large attic-storeyed Arts & Crafts red brick bungalow with broad gabled terracotta-tiled roof incorporating a shingled dormer gable with multi-paned windows and carved pelmet. Erected in 1913-14, the house was designed by architect Matthew Craig for his own use, and would remain occupied by the family for over seventy years (eventually, solely by his unmarried daughter, artist Sybil Craig).

The significant fabric is defined as the interior and exterior of the entire building. External paint controls are recommended to protect stained timber finishes, and interior alteration controls to protect spaces containing original elements that include brick fireplaces and timber joinery such as wall and ceiling paneling, picture rails, architraves, mantelpieces and panelled doors.

How is it significant?

The 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.
- Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.



Why is it significant?

The house is significant as an outstanding, notably early and remarkably intact example of the Arts & Crafts bungalow style. Dating from 1913, it represents a surprisingly assured manifestation of the idiom at a time when other local examples were more hybrid, combined with the prevailing Federation style. With its prominent longitudinal gabled roof, intersecting dormer and shingled infill, it anticipates the flood of attic-storeyed bungalows in the later 1910s and early 1920s, while certain distinctive features, such as the carved pelmet, decorative brickwork and lozenge glazing, remained rare even in later examples. Demonstrating a high degree of creative achievement, the sophistication and confidence of the design testifies to the fact that it was an architect's own home (and, moreover, who had spent time in Great Britain). Occupied by Matthew Craig's family for seventy years, the house remains in a notably unaltered state, with retention of original stained finish to the external shingles, and interiors with original fireplaces and extensive timber joinery, each representing a particularly rare survival. (Criterion E; Criterion F)

History

The house at 380 Dandenong Road, Caulfield North, was built in 1914 for architect Matthew Craig, who designed it himself. Born in Melbourne, Matthew Francis Craig (1872-1958) was the son of Matthew senior, a noted pastoralist (a partner in the firm of Simmie, Fraser & Craig) who, in a mysterious and much-reported incident, was found dead on Elwood Beach in 1878, the victim of a fatal shotgun wound. Three years later, his widow Letitia remarried (to Dr J W Foster Rogers, headmaster of a private school in St Kilda) and the family took up residence in Mathoura Road, Toorak. Matthew junior was still living there at the time of his marriage, to Frances Winifred Major (1879-1970), in February 1901. The couple travelled overseas to visit relatives in Great Britain, where their first and only child, daughter Sybil (1901-1989), was born in November.

While Matthew Craig was working as an architect at the time of his marriage, little is known of his training or qualifications. In an interview recorded near the end of her life, Sybil Craig discussed her father only briefly, but noted that he "was attached to the firm of Reed, Smart & Tappin". This was one of many incarnations of the venerable Melbourne architectural practice founded in 1854 by Joseph Reed, which ultimately became Bates, Smart & McCutcheon and continues today as Bates Smart. Prior to, and just after, Reed's death in 1890, the firm changed its name thrice in rapid succession, becoming Reed, Smart & Tappin in April 1890 and retaining that name until 1907. While Philip Goad's weighty monograph on Bates, Smart & McCutcheon does not list Matthew Craig amongst known staff members during the Reed, Smart & Tappin era, it does name others, including Alfred Carleton (1866-1936), J V T Ward (1872-1927), Denis Healey (1873-1931) and Harold Dumsday (1876-1942), who were all around Craig's age. Alfred Carleton and J V T Ward, who left the firm in 1897 to enter into partnership as Ward & Carleton, may even have taken Craig with them, as the latter is recorded as the owner of a pair of dwellings in Murray Street, Preston, which was designed by Ward & Carleton in 1900 as a speculative venture.

Returning from overseas, the Craigs took up residence in Oak Grove, Brighton, where they lived for a decade. The family then briefly resided in New South Wales, due to the ill health of Frances' sister (also named Sybil), but were back in Melbourne by 1913, residing in Barkly Street, St Kilda. In April of that year, Craig acquired the title to the present site on Dandenong Road, which formed Lot 25 of a newly-created estate. Plans were prepared for an attic-storeyed brick bungalow with expansive living areas (sitting room, dining room, breakfast room), maid's room, two downstairs bedrooms and two more upstairs, flanking a central open area that presumably served as Craig's home office. A copy of the drawing found in Sybil Craig's papers bears a stamp of approval from the Building Surveyor, signed and dated 17 September 1913. It also bears the stamp of E Ratcliff, "builder and house decorator" of High Street, Armadale. This was Ernest Henry Montague Ratcliff (1867-1938), a much-respected British-born builder and longtime Caulfield resident whose diligence took him to the USA in 1904 to study the latest advances in residential construction and decoration (*Prahran Chronicle* 09/01/1904:3).



When the building contract was signed, the Craig family was residing at *St Leonard's Mansions*, on Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. On 16 September 1913, a member of Ernest Ratcliff's staff wrote to Craig at that address, stating that "I herewith beg to confirm my verbal agreement to the effect that your building is to be completed by the 1 January 1914". A proviso was added that extra time would be allowed if the brickwork ("to be done by the same men that carried out Mr Newton's job") took longer than expected. This, or another delay, evidently came to pass. Sybil Craig later recalled that her family moved into the new house, which they named *Hurlock*, just before the start of WW1 (ie, late July 1914). This is confirmed by a surviving receipt, dated 15 July 1914, for professional services rendered by landscape gardener (and Norwood Road resident) Frank Bugg, in laying out the Craigs' garden with driveway, fully-stocked vegetable beds and an array of flowering plants including geraniums, carnations, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, climbing roses, etc.

At the time of that *Hurlock* was built, Craig does not seem to have been formally practising as an architect. The vast family archive, preserved by Sybil Craig and now held by the State Library, contains scant evidence of private architectural practice but much to suggest that Craig was largely engaged in property investment. By the late teens, he had gone into partnership with fellow St Kilda resident Samuel McGuinness to form a property company, McGuinness & Craig. A typical project from 1920 was the conversion of an old mansion in Alma Road into flats; drawings in the Craig Papers bear the title block of designer/builder Howard Lawson, a former employee of Ernest Ratcliff, rather than Craig himself. A surviving estate agent's receipt from 1922 shows that, by then, Craig was receiving rent from no fewer than twelve investment properties, including the two houses in Murray Street, Preston, designed by Ward & Carleton back in 1900.

Following in her father's creative footsteps, Sybil Craig became an artist of some repute. In 1920, she began private art tuition and later studied at the National Gallery School, holding her first solo exhibition in 1932. For two decades, she exhibited regularly with the Victorian Artists' Society, Melbourne Society of Women Painters & Sculptors, and Twenty Melbourne Painters, maintaining a studio in Collins Street. During WW2, she was one of the few women to serve as an official War Artist. Closing her city studio in 1951, her professional artistic pursuits tailed off in the post-WW2 era, although she was subject to a retrospective exhibition in 1978, and received an OAM in 1981. Predeceased by her father and mother (in 1958 and 1970 respectively), the unmarried Sybil resided alone at *Hurlock* on Dandenong Road until her own death on 9 September 1989.

Description

Hurlock, at 380 Dandenong Road, Caulfield North, is a large attic-storeyed red brick bungalow in the Arts & Crafts style. It has a broad longitudinal gabled roof clad in terracotta Marseille pattern tiles and penetrated by tall red brick chimneys with corbelled capping and terracotta pots. On the street side, the roof plane incorporates a prominent central dormer bay, clad with stained timber shingles and containing a four-bay window with multi-paned sashes and a carved timber pelmet. At ground level, there is a smaller gabled bay with shingled infill, off-centre recessed entry porch with double timber doors, and bays of rectangular windows with corbelled brick sills and timber-framed double-hung sashes with leaded glazing in a lozenge pattern.

While an internal inspection has not been undertaken for this assessment, photographs taken at the time of the last sale in August 2019 (still available online via www.realestate.com.au) indicate that the interior of the house is notably intact, retaining a considerable amount of original timber joinery (panelled walls and ceilings, skirtings, architraves, picture rails, mantelpieces and panelled doors) as well as face brick fireplaces to the living room and kitchen.

Comparisons

Broadly speaking, *Hurlock* is a manifestation of the bungalow style that emerged in Australian architecture in the early twentieth century before reaching its peak of popularity during the inter-war era. As Graham Butler noted, local examples can be loosely codified according to a broad and



often overlapping range of overseas influences that informed them: the Anglo-Indian bungalows of India and Ceylon, Swiss and Italian Chalets, the Arts & Crafts movement from Great Britain, and the California bungalows and New England hunting lodges of the USA. With its prominent steep roofline, tall chimneys, carved pediment, multi-paned windows and lozenge glazing, *Hurlock* is most demonstrative of the Arts & Crafts style.

As was the case elsewhere in inner suburban Melbourne, the bungalow style developed slowly and gradually in what is now the City of Glen Eira. A few houses from the early 1910s, notably 88 Shooobra Road, Elsternwick (1910) and 88 Orrong Road, Caulfield (1912), have been acknowledged as demonstrative of the emerging bungalow style, combining key elements (eg shingled cladding) with those of the prevailing Federation idiom. Examples in a more overt Arts & Crafts mode, with steeper gabled roofs, attic storeys, dormers, tall chimneys and bay or bow windows with leaded glazing, would become increasingly common from the mid-1910s, typified by 17 Wyuna Road, Caulfield North (1915), 526 Neerim Road, Murrumbeena (1915), and 11 Labassa Grove, Caulfield (1917). None of these, however is truly comparable to *Hurlock*, with the characteristic expression of a prominent longitudinal gabled roofline, intersecting dormer bay and shingled infill that would not become more ubiquitous until the later 1910s and early 1920s, as seen in such local examples as 12 Stanley Street, Elsternwick (1918), 69 Howitt Road, Caulfield North (1919) and 23 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena (1921). One fine and intact example at 18 Stanley Street, Elsternwick (1918), is included on the City of Glen Eira heritage overlay schedule as HO140.

As an example of an architect's own home in an early bungalow style, *Hurlock* can be compared to *Anselm*, Robert Haddon's residence at 4 Glenferrie Street, Caulfield North (1906). This important and early manifestation of the Arts & Crafts tendency (included on the *Victorian Heritage Register* as H1795, and on the City of Glen Eira heritage overlay schedule as HO27) is broadly similar to *Hurlock* in its steep roofline with intersecting dormer gable, red brickwork (with projecting details), tall chimneys, and boxed windows with leaded glazing, although *Anselm*'s polygonal corner tower, with saucer dome and overt Art Nouveau flourishes are peculiarly Haddon-esque touches. Alex K Finlay, a lesser known architect who was a partner in the firm of Gibbs & Finlay, designed himself a bungalow-style house at 5 Kooyong Road, Caulfield (c1913). Precisely contemporaneous with *Craig's Hurlock*, it was published in the *Real Property Annual* in 1914 but has long since been demolished. Slightly later in date but still standing is architect William Meldrum's own house at 35 Labassa Grove, Caulfield North (1917), a highly idiosyncratic example of the bungalow style, wholly atypical for its stone construction and incorporation of classical references.

References

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Graeme Butler, *The Californian Bungalow in Australia*, South Melbourne: Lothian Books, 1992.

Philip Goad (ed), *Bates Smart: 150 Years of Australian Architecture*. Fishermen's Bend: Thames & Hudson, 2004.

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Identified by

Andrew Ward (C grade list)