

Statement of Significance: House, 14-26 Browns Lane, Plenty, April 2022

Heritage Place:	14-26 Browns Lane, Plenty	PS ref no:	HO270
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What is significant?

14–26 Browns Lane, Plenty, built in 1924

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- original single-storey built form and scale, including hip and gable roof that extends down over the return verandah;
- original pattern of openings; and
- materiality that includes weatherboard cladding, double-hung sash windows (some with vertical glazing bars), decorative timber front door surround with side lites and over lites, turned timber verandah posts, timber gable-end roof vents, window hood, gablet with two small air vents, and red brick chimneys.

The 1969–70 rear extension is not significant.

How is it significant?

The house at 14–26 Browns Lane, Plenty, is of local historical and representative significance to the Shire of Nillumbik.

Why is it significant?

The house at 14–26 Browns Lane, Plenty, is historically significant for its association with the development of Plenty in the interwar years. As an intact timber bungalow built for Marion and Fred Osmond in 1924, originally on a 20 acre lot, it provides tangible evidence of the interwar subdivision pattern in which large rural landholdings in the Plenty area were divided for sale in allotments of 10 of 30 acres. These allotments were advertised as being equally suited to farming and fruit-growing as they were to residential purposes. In response to an increasing population in the area, this development coincided with and supported a growing Plenty town centre. Established in the 1920s, the town centre included a Primary School (HO213), Methodist Church (HO250), Store and Hall (HO248).

Arthurs Creek, Doreen, Hurstbridge, Strathewen, Plenty, Diamond Creek, Yarrambat and Research became important centres for a fruit-growing industry that was based at Diamond Creek. Smaller orchardists, however, often struggled to make a living from their trees and often turned to other activities such as raising chickens, selling firewood or even working for other landowners or in goldmines, as well as tending their fruit trees. In 1927 a poultry farm was operating on the subject site. 14–26 Browns Lane thus provides evidence of these early agricultural activities in the area. The significance of the place is enhanced by its rural setting, which maintains its street frontage to Browns Lane (Criterion A).

The house at 14–26 Browns Lane, Plenty, is a largely intact representative example of a timber interwar bungalow. It has had very few changes made to the original or early built fabric across its principal elevations. Key characteristics include its asymmetric built form with projecting front room below a dominant hip and gable roof, extensive wrap-around verandah under the sweep of the main roof line, and a box bay window that sits under its own skillion roof with a window hood (Criterion D).

Primary source

Nillumbik Shire Stage B Heritage Review/ Citation for 14-26 Browns Lane, Plenty.