

PLACE ADDRESS

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow, 13 Park West Road, Eltham

Prepared by: Context

Survey Date: December 2020

Place Type: Residential

Architect: N/A

Significance level: Significant

Builder: 'Sid'

Extent of overlay: As shown on map

Construction Date: c.1955



Figure 1. Curtilage for HO147 shown outlined in pink. The curtilage is to a distance of five (5) metres from the north, east and south of the bungalow and to the western property boundary. And, a strip of land the width of the bungalow to Park West Road to retain the setting and context of the significant place. (Source: Nearmap).



Figure 2. 'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow, 13 Park West Road, Eltham, East Elevation. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 3. 'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow, 13 Park West Road, Eltham, North Elevation. (Source: Context 2020)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Eltham is located on the country of the Wurundjeri-willam clan of the Woi wurrung people.

The first European to explore the Eltham region is believed to have been Joseph Tice Gellibrand, who named the Plenty River in 1836. Pastoral leases were subsequently taken up and timber-cutters started harvesting the stringy-bark forests of the area (Bartolomei 2008).

A reserve for a village, later to become Eltham, was surveyed in the Parish of Nillumbik in 1840 near the junction of Diamond Creek and the Yarra River. The reserve was to be located approximately on the track used by the Ryries to provide access from their 'Yering' run near Yarra Glen to the Heidelberg village (*Victorian Places* 2015).

In 1841, William Bell and Thomas Armstrong occupied land for a squatting run east of Diamond Creek in what was to become the Eltham district (Eltham District Historical Society 2000:np).

A plan for fifty allotments in the Township of Eltham was announced in 1848, with the name officially gazetted in 1851. The village was located in an area bounded by Baxter Street, Diamond Creek, and Dalton and Bolton streets. The township plan shows a track to a bridge across Diamond Creek and the Main Road was noted as the 'Track from Melbourne' (Carlotta Kellaway cited in Butler 1996:32). This area is known today as Eltham South.

Today's Eltham, however, was not established on the government township reserve, where land proved difficult to sell, but on allotments on the Main Road to the north in Section IV (Carlotta Kellaway cited in Butler 1996:32). In 1851, Melbourne property developer Josiah Holloway purchased one square mile of this land, which lay to the north of the government township reserve. He subdivided immediately, calling the subdivision Little Eltham. Today's central Eltham is contained within this subdivision. Holloway named some streets after family members, others after British politicians or notable people of the era (Yeoman, Pinn and Connor 2020). A number of larger farming allotments around the township were purchased from the early 1850s (*Nillumbik Parish Plan* 1951).

Eltham township grew during the 1850s around a cluster of buildings at the corner of Pitt Street and Main Road within Holloway's Little Eltham subdivision. Located on the road to the Caledonia diggings, this small township became a service centre for the surrounding mining areas, and by 1854 supported a population of 282. In this period Eltham had two hotels, a brewery and tannery on Diamond Creek, a scattering of shops along Main Road (known in the 1850s as Maria Street) and a steam flour mill operated by Henry Dendy. The Little Eltham School, opened by the Church of England, was built in 1853 near Swan Street (closed 1872) and a second school, a National vested school, later Eltham Common School No 209, opened in Dalton Street in 1856. A Wesleyan chapel opened in 1858. Public buildings constructed at this time included a courthouse and a police station in Main Road in 1860. The 'flat land', which is now the Eltham Lower Park near the Yarra, was used as a racecourse (Carlotta Kellaway cited in Butler 1996:32-33; Eltham District Historical Society 2000:np). A cemetery opened in 1858.

During the period of goldmining on the Caledonia diggings (centred on St Andrews and Panton Hill), Eltham's population grew in the period 1860s-1880s as the town became a food, produce and supply centre for the mining communities. It also became a stopping place on route to the Woods Point diggings. In 1871, Eltham's population was 165; by 1881 this had increased to 388 (*Victorian Places* 2015).

A Primitive Methodist chapel was built in 1860. The following year St Margaret's Anglican Church, designed by the notable Melbourne architect, Nathaniel Billing, was built. In 1881, a Wesleyan church

was constructed by George Stebbing to the design of Melbourne architects, Crouch and Wilson (Carlotta Kellaway cited in Butler 1996:33). A new State School, constructed of local sandstone, opened in 1876.

The purchasers of many large Eltham allotments surrounding the township were absentee owners, who subdivided their properties into smaller farms either for lease or sale. The smaller properties, especially in the Little Eltham township, were run by farmers who often made a modest living as wage labourers. Like many later Eltham residents, they were attracted by cheap land and affordable homes (Carlotta Kellaway cited in Butler 1996:33).

The *Australian News* of 20 December 1884 described Eltham as:

a pretty little township on the Yarra Flats road...It has a population of nearly 400 inhabitants, but in addition it is the centre of a large district extending over 208 square miles, having a population of 2,344. The land in the district is mostly used for grazing purposes, although as a rule the small farms grow a good deal of wheat, oats, and other agricultural produce. A large quantity of fruit, especially raspberries and strawberries, is also produced (cited by Carlotta Kellaway in Butler 1996:33).

The *Australian News* noted that gold had been found in the vicinity of the township, 'but not in remunerative quantities' (cited by Carlotta Kellaway in Butler 1996:33).

In the 1880s agitation began for the extension of the railway line from Heidelberg to serve Eltham and districts further afield such as Kangaroo Ground. The extension to Eltham opened in 1902 but was never built to Kangaroo Ground. The railway brought excursionists, many to pick wattle during the flowering season, and focused development of the Eltham township around the railway station. Eltham was a picturesque village with the advantage of proximity to metropolitan Melbourne as well as to attractive countryside with farms and uncleared stringybark forest (*Victorian Places* 2015).

In 1903, the *Australian Handbook* described Eltham as part of an orcharding and grazing district. In 1901, 4289 acres were under cultivation, of which 2506 acres were planted to orchards and gardens. The township, with a population of 377, comprised a State school, Commercial Bank, Catholic, Episcopal, Wesleyan, and Primitive churches, and two lodges (cited in *Victorian Places* 2015). Subdivision of rural properties near Eltham township to form residential estates occurred from 1909 (Mills and Westbrooke 2017:69).

The electrification of the railway to Eltham in 1923 eliminated the changeover to steam trains at Heidelberg, allowing faster through-trains and commuting times. The establishment of new residential estates in Eltham followed (Mills and Westbrooke 2017:71).

Eltham was described in 1940 as 'residential, horticultural, dairying and grazing...a beauty sport for artists and picnickers'. By this time, the town had three recreation reserves, a State higher elementary school (1926), swimming baths, tennis courts and a fire brigade (*Victorian Places* 2015).

Eltham experienced significant post war development with a number of residential estates subdivided and put up for sale. The population of the town increased from 927 in 1933, to 1278 in 1947, to 7177 in 1971. As a result, a high school opened in 1950 and the Catholic Ladies College in 1971 (*Victorian Places* 2015). The Eltham War memorial Trust Baby Health Centre opened in 1951. New Shire offices opened in 1965, and Eltham College commenced classes in 1974 (Eltham District Historical Society 2000:np).

Bushfires have occurred frequently through Eltham's history, including in the years 1908, 1932, 1939, 1962 and 1969.

The Eltham Library, designed by architect Greg Burgess, was constructed in mud brick, and recycled timbers and received the RAlA Institutional Architecture Award in 1995 (Bartolomei 2008).

Achieving distinction in the arts

Eltham has attracted a number of writers and artists over the years. The landscape painter, Walter Withers (1854-1914) moved to Eltham in 1902 when the railway opened. From 1910, painter William 'Jock' Frater and cartoonist Percy Leason often camped and painted in the area. Clara Southern and May Vale, landscape painters and students of Frederick McCubbin, settled in the region, Vale residing at Diamond Creek and Southern at Warrandyte, where an artistic community developed (Bartolomei 2008). Artist Justus Jorgensen established the notable Montsalvat artist's colony buildings, several in adobe and rammed earth, on land he purchased in 1934. Seeking a closer engagement with the natural environment, the establishment of Montsalvat influenced future mud brick house construction in the area, with several local architects, including Alistair Knox, specialising in the form in the post war period (*Victorian Places* 2015). Others who have been inspired by Eltham and have made the region their home include artists Clifton Pugh and Danila Vassilieff; jewellers and sculptors Michael Wilson, Simon Icarus Baigent and Matcham Skipper; authors Alan Marshall and Carolyn Van Langenberg; composers and musicians Graeme and Roger Bell; actress Kerry Armstrong; and landscape architect Edna Walling (Bartolomei 2008).

PLACE HISTORY

The present site of 13 Park West Road, Eltham, situated on the north side of Park West Road, occupies part of a larger part of land being part of Crown Allotment one and F Section Eleven at Eltham Parish of Nillumbik, County of Evelyn, which was first purchased from the Crown by Henry Stooke in 1852 (Nillumbik Parish Plan 1951). Ninety-two acres and twenty-seven perches of Henry Stooke's land was purchased by William Alfred Williams and Mary Ann Williams on 1 September 1914 (CT: V3805 F760900) who subsequently subdivided the land into residential allotments (Plan of Subdivision No. 7834) in 1920 forming Park Road (now known as Park West Road). Hugh Allen Kent purchased Lot 72 of this subdivision (the subject site) in April 1922 (Figure 5) (CT: V4569 F913692).

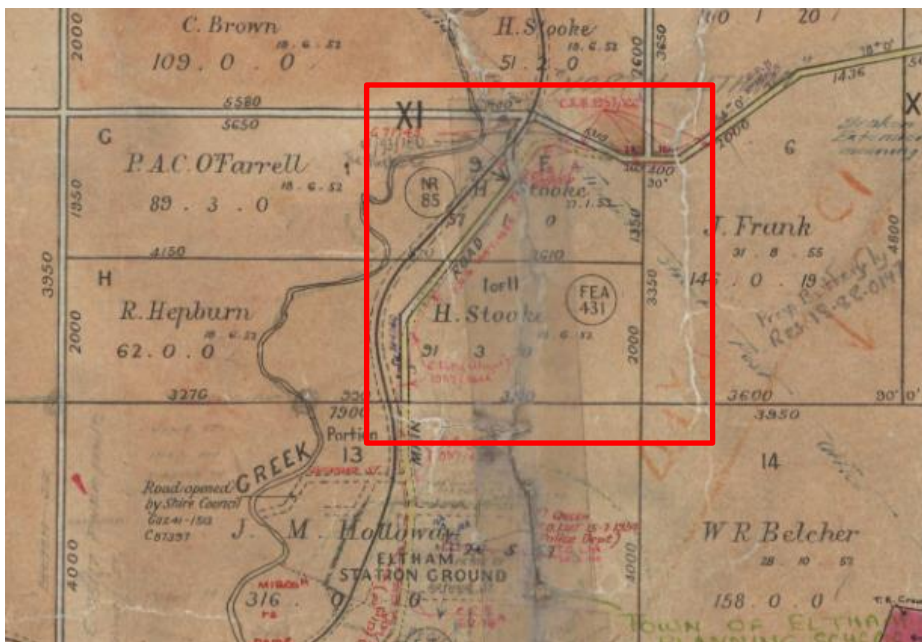


Figure 4. Extract from Nillumbik Shire Plan showing Henry Stooke's original land purchased from the Crown in 1852 outlined in red. (Source: Nillumbik Parish Plan 1951)

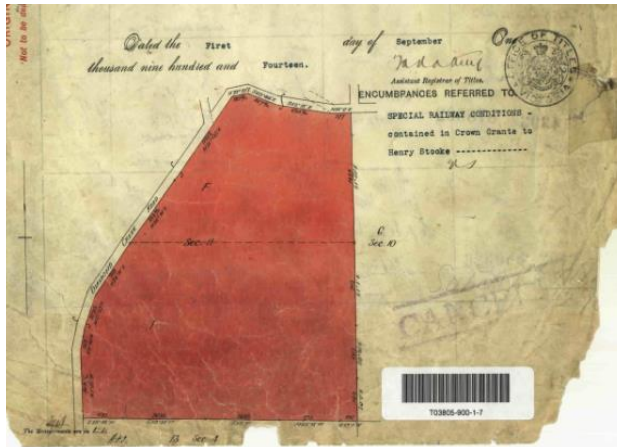


Figure 5. Extract from Certificate of Title showing portion of Henry Stooke's original Crown allotment purchased by William Alfred Williams and Mary Ann Williams in 1914. (Source: CT: V3805 F760900)

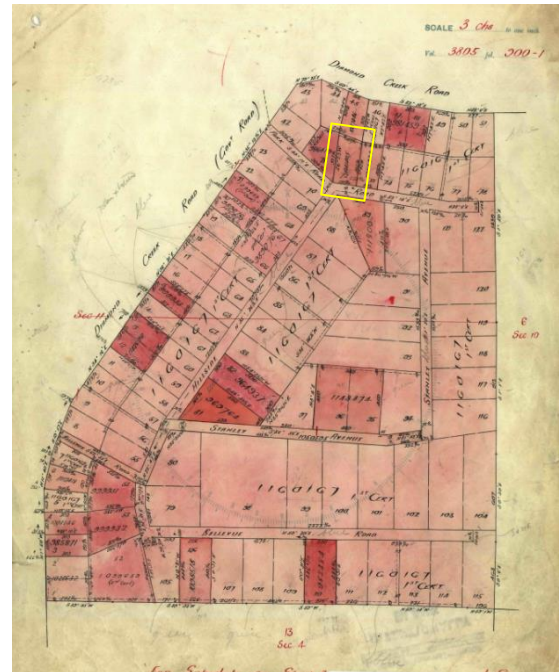


Figure 6. Plan of subdivision, 1920 of the land purchased by the Williams in 1914. Lot 72 now known as 13 Park West Road (the subject site) is outlined in yellow. (Source: CT: V3805 F760900)

The subject property changed hands three times between 1922 to 1955 at which time Alan Marshall's sisters, Elise Louise McConnel (married women) and Margaret McIntyre Marshall (spinster) both of 260 Bambra Road, Caulfield, became proprietors as tenants in common of the property at 13 Park West Road (CT: V4569 F913692). It is unclear at which time the main house and original bungalow were constructed, however in 1955 Marshall's sisters became the owners of 13 Park West Road (CT: v4569 F913692) and moved into a house on the property, with Alan moving into a small studio at the rear of the house (Lardner and Westbrook 2004:2). Within six weeks of moving into the property Marshall's studio burnt to the ground. Although severely disabled from a childhood attack of polio, Marshall managed to break a window with his crutches and, with the help of a friend, retrieve books and manuscripts, as well as his desk and filing cabinet (Lardner & Westbrook 2004:2).



Figure 7. Alan Marshall photographed in 1955 after the original bungalow at 13 Park West Road, Eltham was destroyed by fire. (Source: State Library Victoria: *Herald & Weekly Times* Limited portrait collection. Accession no.H38849/2835).

In response to the disaster, a group of Melbourne friends organised a benefit evening to raise money for rebuilding Marshall's bungalow. In his own words,

'This amazing feat was achieved by an Eltham carpenter I knew as 'Sid', a tall, lean man with a twinkle in his eye, and swift, efficient hands. In 10 days he finished. Jim Hill, a neighbouring writer, cleared the debris of the fire away, and Ron Bradbrook, another neighbour, planted a garden in front of the new building...' (cited in Lardner & Westbrooke 2004:2)

Marshall named his new bungalow 'Gurawalla' a name given to him by Aboriginal children when he visited Arnhem Land in 1945-46. It means 'song-maker' (Lardner & Westbrooke 2004:3).

Marshall lived and worked in the bungalow between 1955-1972 with several of Marshall's important publications being written within its walls. These include his trilogy of fictionalised autobiographies, *I Can Jump Puddles* (1955), *This is the Grass* (1962) and *In Mine Own Heart* (1963), and several collections of highly popular short stories and humorous sketches, as well as *The Gay Provider* (1962), a commissioned history of the Myer Emporium. He also penned his history of Eltham titled *Pioneers & Painters: One hundred years of Eltham and its Shire* from the bungalow in 1971, a tribute to the local area for which he was a keen defender of its natural and cultural heritage. Marshall also continued to write his hugely popular weekly advice column 'Alan Marshall's Casebook' from the bungalow for the *Argus* until the paper's closure in 1957.

During this time, the bungalow became a hub of literary and cultural life in Eltham. Attracting visitors from all over the world they came to the Park West Road bungalow to sit and chat and to listen to Marshall read his stories. Among the visitors were famous Australian authors Judah Waten, John Morrison, Bill Wannon, Clem Christenson, and Xavier Herbert (Lardner & Westbrooke 2004:5). Pat Wiltshire, Marshall's secretary from 1962-1972, typed everything Marshall wrote in those years. In an interview in 2004 she described:

...how cosy the Eltham bungalow was when Marshall lived there with its seagrass mat on the floor, Marshall's desk, a fold-out table for the typewriter, the filing cabinet and bookcases crammed with books. The walls were covered with Aboriginal artifacts collected during his travels and paintings by some of his famous friends, such as Noel Counihan and Louis Kahan. (cited in Lardner & Westbrooke 2004:5)

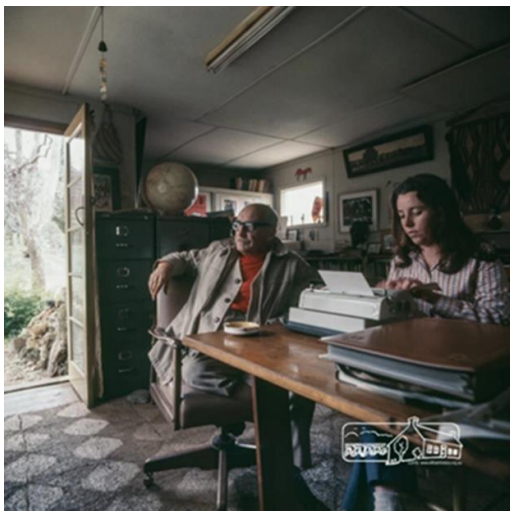


Figure 8. Alan Marshall with his secretary, Pat Wiltshire working from the Park West Road bungalow, 1970. (Source: from the collection of Eltham District Historical Society @elthamhistory)



Figure 9. Alan Marshall with his secretary, Pat Wiltshire working from the Park West Road bungalow, 1970. (Source: from the collection of Eltham District Historical Society @elthamhistory)

After the death of Alan's sister Margaret McIntyre Marshall in 1972 the property at 13 Park West Road was sold and Alan and his other sister, Elise, moved to Black Rock. The subject property has changed hands three times between 1972 to 2020. The bungalow remains at the rear of the house and is largely unaltered although in poor condition, as observed during a site inspection in December 2020.

Alan Marshall

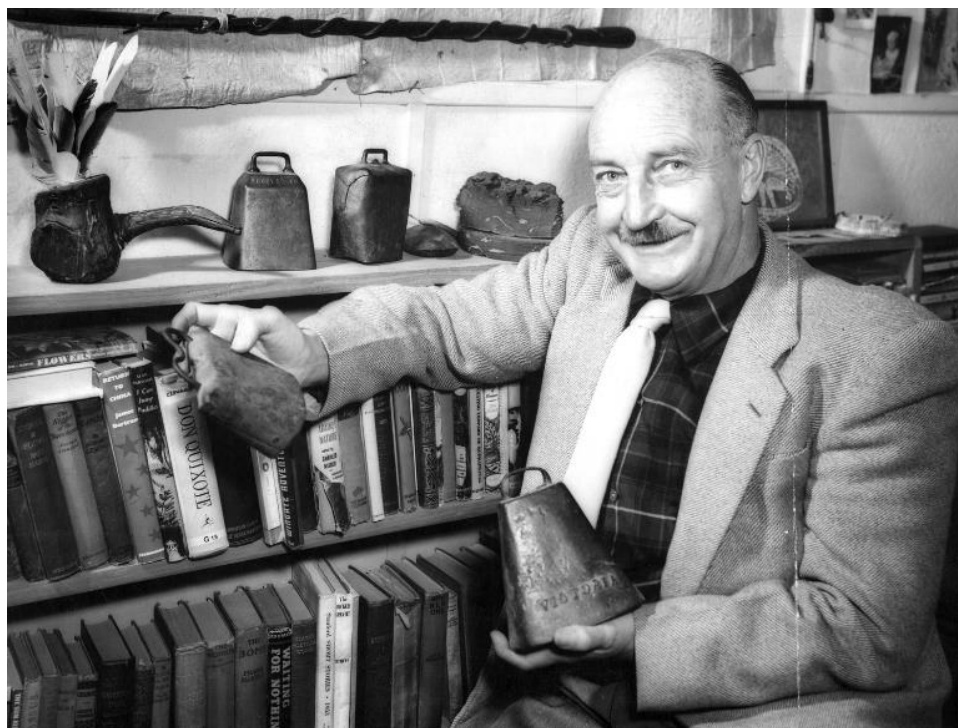


Figure 10. Alan Marshall shown pictured in the Park West Road bungalow in 1959 (source: Herald & Weekly Times Limited portrait collection. Accession no.H38849/2834).

Alan Marshall (named William Alan) was born on 2 May 1902 at Noorat, in the Western District of Victoria to parents William Bertred Marshall, storekeeper, and his wife Adameina Henrietta, nee Leister. One of six children, he attended the Noorat State School where at the age of six he contracted poliomyelitis (polio) leaving him with a physical disability that grew worse as he aged. He attended Terang Higher Elementary School but after only two years left school to work with his father. In 1920 the family moved to Diamond Creek so that he could pursue his studies at Stott's Business College to which he received a full scholarship, however he left again without completing his qualification. Moving through several temporary jobs during the 1920s he wrote twenty-eight short stories, none of which were published. In 1930 he became an accountant at Trueform, a Collingwood shoe factory. Following the factory's closure in 1935, he decided to pursue writing full time (McLaren 2012).

From the mid-1930s, through his opposition to fascism and war, Marshall was engaged in various communist activities. While he dismissed reports of persecution of Soviet writers, he believed they were pressed to distort their work in the interests of the state. From 1949 he was under frequent surveillance by the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (McLaren 2012).

Marshall's first commercial publication came in 1934, when John Hetherington accepted 'The Little Black Bottle' for the *Sun News-Pictorial* and *Smith's Weekly* published 'It Happened One Night' (McLaren 2012).

From 1937 his 'Proletarian Picture Book' appeared, sometimes under the name 'Steve Kennedy', in *Workers' Voice* (a weekly published by the Victorian branch of the Communist Party of Australia), the *Communist Review* and, as 'Australian Picture-book', in the *British Left Review*. He won the Australian Literature Society Short Story Award three times, the first in 1933. In 1940 the Victorian Writers' League published, 'These Are My People', six stories including his most popular: 'Tell Us About the Turkey, Jo'. He contributed articles supporting the campaign against the deportation of Egon Kisch, and edited *Point*, an anti-fascist magazine (McLaren 2012).

Through the Writers' League he met Olive Dulcie Dixon; they married on 30 May 1941 at the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne. They had two daughters together but divorced in 1957 only shortly before Olive's death. Marshall never remarried (McLaren 2012).

Having become well known, Marshall was selected in 1942 by the editors of *A.I.F. News*, a weekly paper published by the army for the troops in the Middle East, to tour Victoria gathering messages from their wives, mothers, and friends (McLaren 2012).

While on the road, Marshall provided a correspondence course on freelance journalism for Melbourne Technical College, and in 1944 he was engaged by the Army Education Service to deliver a series of lectures. In 1945 and 1946 he drove by car through Queensland and the Northern Territory, where his first extended encounters with Aboriginal people included visits to sacred sites. The result of these experiences was *Ourselves Writ Strange* (1948), reissued as *These Were My Tribesmen* (1965), and two later books on Aboriginal myths (McLaren 2012).

In 1954 Marshall received a Commonwealth Literary Fund grant to work on the first volume of his fictionalised autobiography, *I Can Jump Puddles* (1955), his best-known book. Selling not only in Australia but abroad—particularly, in translation, in Russia and eastern Europe—it was an inspiring account of courage in dealing with a devastating handicap, and also succeeded in showing through a child's eyes the life and variety of a country town. In the darker second and third books of the trilogy—*This is the Grass* (1962) and *In Mine Own Heart* (1963)—Marshall wrote of life in Melbourne during the 1930s (McLaren 2012).

Living in Eltham from 1955, Marshall became a keen defender of the Shire's natural and cultural heritage, in publications including *Pioneers and Painters* (1971). He continued to write prolifically, producing several more collections of short stories and humorous sketches, as well as *The Gay Provider* (1962), a commissioned history of the Myer Emporium (McLaren 2012).

Marshall was the subject of radio and screen documentaries, and several of his works were later filmed—notably *I Can Jump Puddles*, in a Czech version (1970), and as a television series for the Australian Broadcasting Commission in 1981 (McLaren 2012).

In 1972 Marshall was awarded an honorary Legum Doctor (LL.D.) by the University of Melbourne. In 1977 he received the Soviet Union's Order of Friendship of Peoples. He was appointed an Order of the British Empire in 1972 and an Order of Australia in 1981. Enduring increasing weakness, he moved to Black Rock from Eltham in 1972 where he was cared for by his sister Elsie, until entering a nursing home in 1982 (McLaren 2012).

Marshall died at East Brighton on 21 January 1984, survived by his two daughters. He was buried in Nillumbik Cemetery, Diamond Creek (McLaren 2012).

Alan Marshall's name is perpetuated by the Alan Marshall Award, an annual prize inaugurated by the Victorian Fellowship of Australian Writers in 1976 (Obituaries Australia).

In 1985, the then Shire of Eltham established the annual Alan Marshall Short Story Award for emergent writers. In 2018 Nillumbik Shire reviewed their literacy prizes: the new Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing, now biennial, includes the Alan Marshall Short Story Award (Nillumbik Shire Council webpage 2021).

Well known Monstrelvat sculptor Marcus Skipper created a realistic statue of Marshall cast in bronze which is located in the front of Eltham Library in a reserve named after him; The Alan Marshall Reserve at 1275 Main Road, Eltham. There is also a bronze bust of Marshall by sculptor George Luke outside the Sandringham Library, in Waltham Street Sandringham.

DESCRIPTION

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow is a small single-storey timber-framed building built at the rear of the single-storey weatherboard house at 13 Park West Road, Eltham. The bungalow is positioned approximately 27 meters from the southern boundary formed by Park West Road and approximately 1.2 meters from the western property boundary (refer Figure 11).



Figure 11: Aerial view of 13 Park West Road Eltham. Allan Marshall's bungalow is located along the western boundary and is outlined in red (Source: Nearmap 8 November 2020).

The building is a simple single room space with a rectangular footprint and a low-pitched corrugated iron gable roof with exposed eaves. A small skillion-roofed section at the northern end of the bungalow projects beyond the main building footprint. Largely clad in strapped asbestos sheeting, the bungalow features a mud brick wall at its southern end.

The principal elevation facing east overlooks the rear yard of the property. A horizontally proportioned louvred window is divided into four equal panes and is positioned centrally between two single door openings that provide access to the building. The door at the southern end of this elevation is missing whilst that to the north is a simple core door. The fascia board and gutter are missing along this elevation leaving the rafter ends exposed. As seen in early photographs (refer Figure 8), it would appear that the original front door was accessed off a brick paved recessed porch at the southern end of the bungalow. The porch has been filled in with stud work however the brick paving remains along with evidence of the original internal stud walls.



Figure 12. Section of eastern wall clad in grey that appears to have been added enclosing a small, recessed porch. The brick paved floor of the porch remains and there is evidence of the stud wall internally that housed the original front door as shown in Figure 8. (Source: Context 2020).

The northern elevation of the bungalow presents as a simple gable end clad in strapped asbestos sheets with a small skillion roofed projection at its eastern end that originally housed a bathroom. Two vertically proportioned louvred windows originally provided light and ventilation into the bathroom and kitchen areas.



Figure 13. Alan Marshal bungalow showing the northern and eastern (principal) elevations (source: Context 2020).

The western wall has a small single window at its southern end whilst the southern wall has no openings. The western wall of the bungalow is clad in strapped asbestos sheet. The southern wall is constructed of mudbrick at its eastern half with asbestos sheet cladding the stud frame at its west.



Figure 14. Southern wall of the bungalow that is constructed out of mudbrick for its eastern half and stud framed for the remainder. This elevation is visible from Park West Road. (source: Context 2020)

Internally the bungalow is now accessed through the door at its eastern end where a section of brick flooring remains. The southern wall of this small entrance area is of painted mudbrick. The remainder of the bungalow is timber floored with all wall and ceiling linings removed. At the northern end of the bungalow a stud wall divides the space to create a kitchen and bathroom area with some remnant fixtures and plumbing including a shower, basin, and toilet.



Figure 15. Southern end of the bungalow showing the brick paved entry that was possibly originally an open entrance porch and remnant internal stud walls. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 16. Detail showing the brick floor and evidence of an earlier stud wall forming an entrance porch. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 17. Northern end of the bungalow showing original kitchen space with remnant plumbing. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 18. North east corner of the bungalow which housed the original bathroom evidenced by remnant plumbing fittings and fixtures. (Source: Context 2020)

INTEGRITY

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow at 13 Park West Road, Eltham, is largely intact with very few changes visible to original or early fabric. The building retains its original built form, roof form and window and door openings. Original details include the mudbrick wall at its eastern end; timber framed, asbestos sheet clad external walls; low pitched corrugated iron gable roof and skillion roof section; all windows including the louvred windows to the main living space, kitchen and bathroom; external core door; internal stud walls; timber floor; brick paved entrance flooring; and remnant kitchen and bathroom fittings and fixtures. Changes to the building are largely due to the loss or damage to original fabric. This includes missing guttering along the eastern elevation, a missing entrance door, missing louvred glass panes and damaged/missing asbestos sheet panels. All of these elements are easily replaced or repaired. It should be noted that the condition of the bungalow is not a consideration in the assessment of significance. The presence of asbestos-fibro cement also does not impact on heritage significance and can be dealt with

by replacement with non-asbestos fibre cement sheet of the same dimension and appearance if required.

Overall the building has high integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

While 'The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines' (June 2014) were written for the assessment of places at the State level, they are also useful to guide assessments of local significance. For Criterion H 'Special Association with the life or works of a person ... of importance', four tests are set out. The first three tests are to determine if the place generally satisfies Criterion H, and the final test determines whether it satisfies Criterion H at a State level.

For the purposes of this assessment, these four tests will be applied to Alan Marshall Bungalow, 13 Park West Road, Eltham but the fourth test will be discussed in relation to the Shire of Nillumbik (i.e., the threshold of local significance) instead of the State of Victoria. The first three tests are:

- The place has a DIRECT ASSOCIATION with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential CONTRIBUTION to the course of Victoria's history; AND
- The ASSOCIATION of the place to the person(s) IS EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history, AND
- The ASSOCIATION directly relates to ACHIEVEMENTS of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object.

The fourth test (which should be applied to the Shire of Nillumbik rather than to the State of Victoria) is:

- The place allows the clear association with the person or group of persons to be READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN [BOROONDARA]

All four tests are met at the local level. The bungalow at the rear of 13 Park west Road, Eltham is directly associated with Alan Marshall a prominent Australian writer, story teller, humanist and social documenter who was an important public figure in Australia during the 1940s-1970s (Test 1).

The association of Alan Marshall to the fabric of the place is provided in photographic evidence that shows Marshall and his secretary Pat Whiltshire working from the bungalow at a time when Marshall produced a number of his most important works, and an oral history provided by Pat Whiltshire which describes in detail the layout of the bungalow and its furnishings (Test 2).

While living and working at the bungalow between 1955-1972 several of Marshall's important publications were 'wholly written' within its walls. These include his trilogy of fictionalised autobiographies, *I Can Jump Puddles* (1955), *This is the Grass* (1962) and *In Mine Own Heart* (1963) and several collections of highly popular short stories and humorous sketches as well as *The Gay Provider* (1962), a commissioned history of the Myer Emporium. He also penned his history of Eltham titled *Pioneers & Painters: One hundred years of Eltham and its Shire* from the bungalow in 1971, a tribute to the local area for which he was a keen defender of its natural and cultural heritage. Marshall also continued to write his hugely popular weekly advice column 'Alan Marshall's Casebook' from the bungalow for the *Argus* until the paper's closure in 1957 (Test 3). Also, for its association with Alan Marshall for 18 years, the bungalow allows its direct association to be better appreciated than most other places or objects with a connection to Alan Marshall? in the Shire of Nillumbik (Test 4).

Within the Shire of Nillumbik, several surviving places are on the Heritage Overlay for their historical (associative) significance in demonstrating their connection to prominent artists, writers, and intellectuals. The following places are comparable to the Alan Marshall Bungalow, 13 Park West Road, Eltham, for their direct association with a person who contributed to the course of the Shire's history of being associated with artists, writers, and intellectuals and for the tangible evidence the physical fabric of the place provides of this association and the achievements of the person.

- VHR 2235, HO13 Walter Withers's house – Southernwood 250 Bolton Street, Eltham:

The house is historically significant because it was the home of the prominent Australian artist Walter Withers. Withers was a member of the 'Heidelberg School' and the first commercially successful painter to come and live in Eltham, and played a part in attracting other artists to the area and, thereby, in establishing Eltham's reputation as an artistic community (Criteria H & A).

- HO17, Peter Garner mud brick studio and adjacent shed 62 Brougham street, Eltham:

The studio and shed are historically significant because it is associated with Arthur Munday, Peter Garner, Lenore Garner and the Montsalvat artists' community more broadly (Criterion H).

- HO149, Stanhope Residence and Garden, 10 Peter street, Eltham:

During the 1940s the residence was also connected with the important literary figures, Clem, and Nina Christesen (Clem was the founding editor of the influential *Meanjin Quarterly*). When owned by the Christesens the residence was visited by a number of distinguished writers, artists, and academics, including the Nobel Prize winner, Patrick White, and the world-famous cellist Mstislav Rostropovich (Criterion H).

- HO113, Residence and rear concrete studio – 'Landscape', 60 Lavender Park Road, Eltham:

The residence and studio are historically significant because they are connected with the artist, cartoonist and anthropologist, Percy Lesson; during Lesson's period of occupation (1926-1938) the property became a centre for visiting artists, including Max Meldrum, Justus Jorgensen, Clarice Beckett, "Jock" Frater and Richard McCann (Criterion H).

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow, 13 Park West Road, Eltham compares favourably against the above individually significant places for its demonstrated special association with the life or works of a person of importance to the Shire of Nillumbik. It is particularly comparable to these examples as it not only served as Alan Marshall's home and workplace from which he penned his most important works but also because the bungalow became a hub of literary and cultural life in Eltham, attracting visitors from all over the world, including famous Australian authors Judah Waten, John Morrison, Bill Wannon, Clem Christenson, and Xavier Herbert. In this way the bungalow is a significant place for the contribution it makes to the ongoing understanding of the history of the Shire of Nillumbik and particularly Eltham as a centre for artists, writers, and intellectuals.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

NA	CRITERION A Importance to the course or pattern of Nillumbik's cultural or natural history (historical significance).
NA	CRITERION B Possession of uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of Nillumbik's cultural or natural history (rarity).
NA	CRITERION C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Nillumbik's cultural or natural history (research potential).
NA	CRITERION D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).
NA	CRITERION E Importance of exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).
NA	CRITERION F Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).
NA	CRITERION G Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).
	CRITERION H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Nillumbik's history (associative significance).
✓	<p>The Bungalow at 13 Park Road West, Eltham, is significant to the Shire of Nillumbik as the home and workplace of Alan Marshall (1902-1984), who lived and worked there from 1955 until 1972. Marshall was a prominent Australian writer, story teller, humanist and social documenter who was an important public figure in Australia during the 1940s to 1970s. While living and working at the bungalow several of Marshall's important publications were written within its walls. These include his trilogy of fictionalised autobiographies, <i>I Can Jump Puddles</i> (1955), <i>This is the grass</i> (1962) and <i>In Mine Own Heart</i> (1963) and several collections of highly popular short stories and humorous sketches as well as <i>The Gay Provider</i> (1962), a commissioned history of the Myer Emporium. He also penned his history of Eltham titled <i>Pioneers & Painters: One hundred years of Eltham and its Shire</i> from the bungalow in 1971, a tribute to the local area for which he was a keen defender of its natural and cultural heritage. Marshall also continued to write his hugely popular weekly advice column 'Alan Marshall's Casebook' from the bungalow for the <i>Argus</i> until the paper's closure in 1957.</p> <p>During Marshall's occupancy, the bungalow became a hub of literary and cultural life in Eltham. Attracting visitors from all over the world they came to the Park West Road bungalow to sit and chat and to listen to Marshall read his stories. Among the visitors were famous Australian authors Judah Waten, John Morrison, Bill Wannon, Clem Christenson, and Xavier Herbert to name a few. The bungalow is also significant for the contribution it makes to the ongoing understanding of the history of the Shire of Nillumbik and particularly Eltham as a centre for artists, writers, and intellectuals.</p>

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow at 13 Park West Road, Eltham, built in 1955, and the home and workplace of prominent Australian writer and storyteller Alan Marshall from 1955 to 1972, is significant.

Significant fabric includes the:

- The area surrounding the bungalow to a distance of five (5) metres from the north, east and south of the bungalow and to the western property boundary. And, a strip of land the width of the bungalow to Park West Road to retain the setting and context of the significant place. (Refer Figure1);
- The bungalows original built form, roof form (including gable and skillion roof sections) and original windows (louvered and fixed) and doors;
- Unlined eaves and exposed rafters;
- Mud brick wall and timber stud frame;
- Strapped sheet wall cladding, corrugated iron roof sheets;
- Internal brick and timber floors;
- Internal stud walls;
- Extant plumbing including fittings and fixtures.

HOW IT IS SIGNIFICANT

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow at 13 Park West Road, Eltham is of local historical (associative) significance to the Shire of Nillumbik.

WHY IT IS SIGNIFICANT

'Gurawalla' Alan Marshall Bungalow at 13 Park Road West, Eltham, is significant to the Shire of Nillumbik as the home and workplace of Alan Marshall (1902-1984), who lived and worked there from 1955 until 1972.

Marshall was a prominent Australian writer, story teller, humanist and social documenter who was an important public figure in Australia during the 1940s to 1970s.

While living and working at the bungalow several of Marshall's important publications were written within its walls. These include his trilogy of fictionalised autobiographies, *I Can Jump Puddles* (1955), *This is the grass* (1962) and *In Mine Own Heart* (1963) and several collections of highly popular short stories and humorous sketches as well as *The Gay Provider* (1962), a commissioned history of the Myer Emporium. He also penned his history of Eltham titled *Pioneers & Painters: One hundred years of Eltham and its Shire* from the bungalow in 1971, a tribute to the local area for which he was a keen defender of its natural and cultural heritage. Marshall also continued to write his hugely popular weekly advice column 'Alan Marshall's Casebook' from the bungalow for the *Argus* until the paper's closure in 1957.

During Marshall's occupancy, the bungalow became a hub of literary and cultural life in Eltham. Attracting visitors from all over the world they came to the Park West Road bungalow to sit and chat and to listen to Marshall read his stories. Among the visitors were famous Australian authors Judith Waten, John

Morrison, Bill Wannon, Clem Christenson, and Xavier Herbert to name a few. The bungalow is also significant for the contribution it makes to the ongoing understanding of the history of the Shire of Nillumbik and particularly Eltham as a centre for artists, writers, and intellectuals. (Criterion H)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as an individually significant place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme:

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

EXTERNAL PAINT CONTROLS	No
INTERNAL ALTERATION CONTROLS	Yes
TREE CONTROLS	No
OUTBUILDINGS OR FENCES (Which are not exempt under Clause 43.01-3)	No
TO BE INCLUDED ON THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER	No
PROHIBITED USES MAY BE PERMITTED	No
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE PLACE	No

OTHER

N/A

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