

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: 'Fermanagh', 1080 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge

PS ref no: HO269



What is significant?

'Fermanagh' at 1080 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge, a single-storey timber Federation villa built in 1915 to a design by architect John Jenkin for Patrick and Margaret Burke, is significant.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include the:

- original Federation villa form and scale, including the low-pitched hip roof sweeping down to incorporate the returning verandah;
- Marseille terracotta roof tiles, including to the window awning, ridge capping and finials;
- weatherboard walls and roughcast render detailing;
- brick and roughcast chimneys and terracotta chimney pots;
- fenestration arrangement;
- gable end detailing, decorative timber fretwork and posts to the verandah, window and door joinery and leadlight glazing; and
- early garden at northwest of house with mature plantings including Golden Cypress trees (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* 'Horizontalis Aurea') arranged in an ovoid pattern and pair of Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*).

How is it significant?

Fermanagh at 1080 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge, is of local historic, aesthetic and associative significance to the Shire of Nillumbik.

Why is it significant?

Fermanagh at 1080 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge, is of historical significance for its ability to demonstrate the manner in which land in the Nillumbik area was subdivided and used for small agricultural pursuits. It illustrates the early period of development of the Hurstbridge township, which accelerated due to the opening of the railway line in 1912. 'Fermanagh' provides tangible evidence of its association with orcharding in Hurstbridge, which was the main agricultural industry in the Diamond Valley region from the 1880s to the 1930s, and with locally notable orchardists the Burke family. The Burke family lived at 'Fermanagh' for over 100 years, and ran an orchard on the property for at least 25 years. Patrick Burke had settled in the area in the 1860s and with his sons established a nursery, market garden and cool store. The Burke family employed many locals in their orchard at 'Fermanagh' and are known as prominent figures in Hurstbridge's agricultural history. (Criteria A and H)

Fermanagh and garden at 1080 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge, is aesthetically significant as a particularly well-executed and architect-designed Federation villa that retains an early garden. It is distinguished from other houses of the same era in Hurstbridge with its intact Queen Anne details including Marseille terracotta and roughcast render detailing, decorative timber fretwork and posts to the verandah, combined with the massing and verandah form of an Australian homestead. The property's aesthetic significance is further enhanced by the remaining garden elements including Golden Cypress trees (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* 'Horizontalis Aurea') arranged in an ovoid pattern and two Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) arranged symmetrically in relation to the house. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Shire of Nillumbik Advisory Consultant Services: Nillumbik Shire Stage A Places 2021 (Context)