

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: Former Doctor's Residence and Surgery
Address: 154 Baillie Street HORSHAM
Place Type: House
Citation Date: 2022



154 Baillie Street Horsham

Recommended Heritage Protection **VHR -**
HI -
PS
Yes

Integrity

| Reasonably high integrity, when viewed from Baillie St. Early finishes to dwelling all still extant.

History and Historical Context

The former brick residence and surgery at 154 Baillie Street, Horsham was constructed in 1936 for Dr Gordon Forsyth to the design of architect HL Coburn.

Dr Gordon Forsyth arrived in Horsham in October 1930 after purchasing the former practice of Dr JP (Percy) Black in Firebrace Street. Dr Forsyth had been born and educated in Sydney and worked in Wingham, New South Wales, prior to moving to Horsham with his wife and children.[1]

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

At first, Dr Forsyth consulted privately and attended patients at the Horsham Base Hospital and local private hospitals. In 1936 he commissioned Ballarat architect Herbert L Coburn to design a two-storey 'Streamlined Moderne' residence and surgery on the north side of Baillie Street, near the intersection of Firebrace Street. Ballarat contractor A McClellan was awarded the tender to construct the building.[2]

A photograph held by the Horsham Historical Society shows the residence shortly after its completion in November 1936 set behind a low brick fence and anchored by neat landscaped garden. It remains largely unaltered from this time and is an excellent example of Coburn's work and the design aesthetic of interwar domestic architecture. These stylistic features include: cream brick work, clinker brick decorative banding, a recessed front porch, protruding brick planter box, steel Art Deco windows, first-storey cantilevered balcony and an attached motor garage.

The building was designed with two separate entrances addressing Baillie Street, with a patient's entrance on the west side of the residence. There were a number of doctors' residences constructed in Horsham during the nineteenth century, which served this dual function, combining private dwellings (often located on the first floor), consulting rooms and a surgery. In the case of Dr Forsyth, it appears that this arrangement was short lived, as he joined Lister House Medical Clinic in April 1937 and remained there until his retirement.

Lister House, 146 Baillie Street, was situated three doors east of Dr Forsyth's residence and was founded by Dr Roy Felstead, who like Forsyth, had previously practiced from his residence in Baillie Street. The clinic was only the second group practice established in Victoria at that time. The two-storey cream brick building was designed by Coburn and completed in 1937. It comprised a theatre, x-ray facilities, surgery and accommodation for two receptionists.[3] The architectural language of the Clinic is bold and uncompromisingly modern for the period, perhaps reflecting its function as a modern clinic/hospital.

There were a number of substantial dwellings and commercial buildings erected on Baillie Street during the interwar period. A notable example is Wembley Private Hospital, 142 Baillie Street, which was operated by Sister Marion Booth. The former hospital is a cream brick two-storey building, erected to the east of Lister House in late 1937.[4] The architect of this building is unknown, however, it displays Coburn's stylistic features present in both the Forsyth residence and Lister Clinic. It is most likely that Coburn also designed this building.

[1] Horsham Historical Society, Dr Gordon Forsyth file.

[2] *Horsham Times*, Friday 10 April 1936, p 4.

[3] Brooke and Finch, *A Story of Horsham: a municipal century*, 1982, pg 175; *Horsham Times*, Friday 28 August 1936, page 2.

[4] *Horsham Times*, Friday 15 January 1937, page 4

Description

Physical Description

Two storey c1950 'Art Deco/ Moderne' style dwelling of crème brick, with hard burnt red brick horizontal banding to floor and window lines. Roof is hipped in form and is clad with slate shingles, trimmed with matching colour

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

terracotta tile capping. Chimneys are crème brick in construction. Balcony to side of dwelling is finished in diagonally laid decorative crème brick. Windows are steel framed, with horizontal mullions, further emphasising the streamlined design of the facades. Window sills are flush with walls. The adjacent brick garage dates from the same period. Front fence of similar design/ construction - hard burnt red brick base with crème brick coping, laid in a staggered pattern. Lych gate appears to be of contemporary construction.

Physical Condition

Average to good in condition. Little structural damage apparent (from the street). Requires maintenance. Front doors x 2 replaced recently.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Relevant HERCON Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of our cultural or natural history. (Illustrating residential growth and subsequent medical needs of Horsham during agriculturally prosperous interwar period in 20th C.)

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments. (One of the last substantial, aspirational dwellings and gardens established on the main highway roads surrounding Horsham - evidence of new wealth and aspirations in the town during the period - eg: 1927 Drolysden, and dwellings along Dooen Rd & Natimuk Rd)

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. ('Art Deco/ Moderne' style, two storey dwelling of aesthetic merit. Good local domestic example of the work of Ballarat architect, HL Coburn. Highly intact eg of Coburn's work - Lister House to east now face rendered)

Comparative Analysis

Lister House, 146 Baillie St, Horsham: Same architect, different style/ function building erected 1937. Later additions to front and render finish compromises integrity.

Wembley House - 142 Baillie St, Horsham: Possibly same architect - brickwork detailing same - erected 1937. Style more conventional, but part of the medical buildings of the late 1930s along this stretch of Baillie St. compromised today - face render applied.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The elements of heritage value of the 1936 dwelling and former surgery at 154 Baillie St, Horsham include:

. External form of the 1936, two storey dwelling, including slate shingle roof, chimneys, steel framed windows, external brick balcony to Baillie St and attached brick garage walls and front brick fence.

Exclusions - later brick shed to rear, later front doors.

How is it significant?

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The 1936 dwelling and former surgery at 154 Baillie Street, Horsham, is of historic and aesthetic significance to Horsham Rural City.

Why is it significant?

The 1936 dwelling and former surgery at 154 Baillie Street, Horsham is:

. of local historic significance, illustrating the substantial growth and prosperity evident in Horsham during the inter-war period. The dwelling is one of several substantial Horsham dwellings erected during this period along key roads/ boulevards, illustrating the agricultural and commercial prosperity and aspirations of residents of the time. Further, the dwelling (and former surgery) illustrates the concentration of medical premises at this end of Baillie St in the mid 20th century. (*Criteria A, D*)

. of local aesthetic significance, as an intact and substantial and rare local example of a two storey 1936 'Art Deco/ Moderne 'style dwelling of design merit in Horsham. No other dwellings of this scale and integrity exist in Horsham today. (*Criterion E*)

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes Front fence
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

References

Literature title: A story of Horsham : a municipal century

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Brooke, Brian. & Finch, Alan

Literature publisher: City of Horsham

Literature year: 1982

Literature title: Horsham Historical Society, Dr Gordon Forsyth file

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Horsham Times Newspaper

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Clare Gervasoni, Herbert Lesley Coburn, August 2008, accessed April 2014

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.