

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ACTON

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 522 Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

**STUDY NUMBER:** 460

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** (ARTS & CRAFTS BUNGALOW)

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 14      **SECTION:** D      **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON NORTH

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 E70; VicRoads 73 C5; located on the east side of the Strathkellar Road about 1.0km south of the railway crossing.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local

Acton, Strathkellar Road, Strathkellar

**Image Date:** 16/01/00

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the house, the two Phoenix canariensis (Canary Island Palms) in the garden and all of the land within a 30m radius of any edge of the house.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Acton is a single storey symmetrical house in the Arts and Crafts bungalow style. The house is constructed of unpainted masonry, with asbestos tiled roof. There are two mature Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) arranged symmetrically in an otherwise simple garden. These have been deliberately planted to frame the house.

The roof is hipped and in the low brooding style typical of the bungalow form and Arts and Crafts style. It is clad with asbestos tiles, briefly available in the very early twentieth century. The ridge lines of the roof are capped with terracotta tiles which terminate in terracotta finials. The roof of the U-shaped verandah is continuous with the main roof, and supported on simple square timber posts. On either side of the front door are typical casement windows with highlights. Above these bay windows are projecting gables, which are filled with diagonally arranged asbestos tiles. There is a deep frieze above each gable, terminating in double square timber posts set in masonry plinths. Identical gables project from either side at the rear of the house. These rooms have side doors opening onto the verandah.

The house has been extended at the rear. The interiors of the house have not been inspected.

## **HISTORY:**

"E Dohle Inc" of "allotment 9 of section E" purchased allotment 14 of section D of the Parish of Hamilton North, apparently in 1950. But another entry in the Schedule of Allotments suggests that the land was transferred in 1906, perhaps as a Closer Settlement, which is about the time the house was built. The southern half of the land was originally part of the north-eastern corner of the Upper Grange Pre-emptive Right. The northern half of the land was part of allotment 7 of section 4, since resubdivided.

Acton was in the ownership of the Rentsch family for many years until its recent sale, and it may have some connection with the Lutheran community around Strathkellar

Other than this information, very little has been discovered about the history of the property. Further research should be undertaken to establish this.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 2 Peopling Australia

2.4 Migrating

2.4.1 Migrating to save or preserve a way of life

2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity

2.4.3 Migrating to escape oppression

2.4.4 Migrating through organised colonisation

2.4.5 Changing the face of rural and urban Australia through migration

2.5 Promoting settlement

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

Very Good

## **INTEGRITY:**

Very high degree of integrity.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Acton is a single storey, symmetrical house in the bungalow Arts and Crafts style. It has a hipped roof unusually clad in asbestos tiles (available for a limited time in the very early twentieth century) with the ridge lines capped in terracotta tiles. Gables project above typical casement windows on either side of the door. The gables are filled with diagonally arranged tiles and have deep wooden friezes. Identical gables are located on either side at the rear of the house above doors which open onto the verandah. There are two mature Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) which have been planted to frame the view of the house, set in a simple garden. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design, but it is possible that the house may have been designed by Frank Hammond.

How is it significant?

Acton is of architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Acton is an excellent intact example of an Arts and Crafts style bungalow from the early twentieth century. It is a good representative example of a number of very similar residences which were built at this time in the Strathkellar, Tabor and Tarrington area. The asbestos tile are an unusual construction material, and relatively rare. The use of these tiles in the gables is also unusual.

## COMPARISON:

360 Malengeeba Scout Hall, MacGregors Road, Wannon

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** 16/01/2001

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES: