

# House, 16 Somers Avenue, Malvern – Statement of Significance, June 2021

Heritage place: House, 16 Somers Avenue, Malvern

PS ref no.: HO334



Figure 1. 16 Somers Avenue, Malvern (GJM Heritage, July 2020)

## ***What is significant?***

16 Somers Avenue, Malvern built in 1935 to designs by architects F L & K Klingender.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The original external form, materials and detailing of the house
- The house's high level of integrity to its original design
- Large attic-style house in the Interwar Old English style
- Complex terracotta shingle-clad roof with main longitudinal gable to south and transverse gables to north
- Hipped gable roof
- Broken pitch roof to form front verandah
- Tall clinker brick chimneys with corbelled cappings
- Terracotta shingle-clad hipped roof front bay
- Multi-paned, double-hung windows.

Later alterations and additions are not significant. This includes the front fence and gate.

***How is it significant?***

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16 Somers Avenue, Malvern is of local historical, representative (architectural), aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Stonnington.

***Why is it significant?***

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16 Somers Avenue, Malvern has strong associations with the early twentieth century subdivision of large estates which were established by wealthy Melbournians during the land boom of the 1880s. The place clearly illustrates this important phase of development in the City of Stonnington (Criterion A).

16 Somers Avenue, Malvern is a fine and highly intact representative example of an interwar house. It displays typical features of the Interwar Old English style popular in the interwar years in Malvern and across Melbourne more broadly, including asymmetrical massing, broad gable and hipped-gable roofs, tall chimneys, multi-paned windows and the use of materials such as terracotta roof shingles and clinker brick (Criterion D).

16 Somers Avenue, Malvern is a well-considered and carefully detailed example of an Interwar Old English-style house. The simple design, with intersecting gabled roofs and hipped-roof bay, together with the restrained use of distinctive architectural elements, including terracotta roof shingles, tall clinker brick chimneys and multi-paned windows, presents a picturesque composition of this architectural style (Criterion E).

16 Somers Avenue, Malvern has a strong association with noted architect, F L Klingender, who designed the house for himself in the 1930s. Klingender had a close association with Malvern and Toorak, having designed a number of houses in these suburbs from the early to mid-twentieth century. The house is a fine example of Klingender's residential design work from the interwar period (Criterion H).

**Primary source:**

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Malvern Heritage Review, GJM Heritage (June 2021)

N Lewis & Associates, *City of Malvern Heritage Study*, 1992