

# Wombalana, 704 Toorak Road, Malvern – Statement of Significance, June 2021

<b>Heritage place:</b> Wombalana, 704 Toorak Road, Malvern	<b>PS ref no.:</b> HO343
--	--------------------------



Figure 1. 704 Toorak Road, Malvern (GJM Heritage, July 2020)

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

Wombalana at 704 Toorak Road, Malvern built in 1910.

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
- Federation bungalow style house which is elevated well above ground level
- Timber walls
- Slate-clad roof
- Simple overall massing with single broad longitudinal gable roof and secondary gables to either side
- Jettied gables with wall-hung shingle-clad apexes of bell-cast form, supported on projecting ceiling joists
- Narrow band of double louvres in front gable end
- Deep eaves and gable end overhangs, with exaggerated strut-like bracket supports

- Exposed rafter ends
- Tall rough cast rendered chimneys with elevated cappings
- Deep recessed porch under the front gable with rectangular timber lattice frieze and infill between double timber posts
- Triple set of double hung windows with multi-paned upper sashes to front elevation
- Rear hipped-roof timber wing with similar detailing, may have been an early addition to the house.

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

***How is it significant?***

---

Wombalana is of local historical, representative (architectural), aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Stonnington.

***Why is it significant?***

---

Wombalana has strong associations with early twentieth century subdivision of large land holdings in the municipality. The place clearly illustrates this important phase of development in the City of Stonnington (Criterion A).

Wombalana is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Federation house. It displays typical features of the Federation Bungalow style popular in the early twentieth century in Malvern and across Melbourne more broadly, including simple massing with broad roof planes, prominent jettied gables with bell-cast form and wall-hung timber shingle cladding, wide eaves with exposed rafters and exaggerated strut-like brackets and a deep recessed porch (Criterion D).

Wombalana is a well-considered and carefully detailed example of what can broadly be described as a Federation Bungalow house. The simple design, with broad main gable and multiple projecting side gables, together with the restrained use of distinctive architectural elements, including jettied bell-cast gable ends, exaggerated strut-like bracketing, wall-hung timber shingle cladding, lattice porch detailing and tall rough cast rendered chimneys, presents a picturesque composition of this architectural style (Criterion E).

Wombalana has an association with Harold Luxton, who became Lord Mayor of Melbourne in 1919 and was knighted in 1928. The house was built for the newly married Harold and Doris Luxton in 1910, and they lived at Wombalana until the late 1910s (Criterion H).

**Primary source:**

---

Malvern Heritage Review, GJM Heritage (June 2021)

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