

6 Banchory Street, Essendon Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Cloverlea (formerly Narwonah)	PS ref no:	HO485
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6 Banchory Street, Essendon, principal elevation (source: Context 2018)

What is significant?

The former 'Narwonah' (now 'Cloverlea') at 6 Banchory Street, Essendon, is significant. It was built in 1915 as the home of George Alfred Mitchell, a prominent businessman and City of Essendon councillor and mayor.

Significant fabric includes the:

- original building form and roof form, porch, fenestrations and original setbacks;
- chimneys and slate roof;
- gable end and eaves details;
- roughcast walls and weatherboard cladding;
- projecting polygonal oriel window resting on struts;
- porch details including timber posts and roughcast dwarf walls; and
- window and door joinery including leadlights to windows and large entrance sidelights with Art Nouveau leadlights.

The later rear addition is not significant

How is it significant?

6 Banchory Street is of local architectural (representative), aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

The former 'Narwonah' at 6 Banchory Street is important as a very early Californian Bungalow in the municipality, constructed for a prominent member of the Essendon area, which provided a model for what would become the most popular residential style of the 1920s. The house demonstrates characteristics that would become standard for the expression of this style in Victoria, including the transverse gable roof balanced by nesting minor gables to the façade, heavy timber posts on dwarf piers supporting the porch, expressed purlins and simple brackets visually supporting the eaves, box windows with simple leadlights, and the contrast of textures in its cladding. (Criterion D)

The bungalow is distinguished by its very fine and unusual joinery details such as the fretwork and basket-weave pattern of the porch gable, the entirely louvered roof gable behind it, and the polygonal corner oriel window resting on struts. The very large entrance sidelight with Arts Nouveau leadlight is also of note. (Criterion E)

The former 'Narwonah', built in 1915 for George Alfred Mitchell is significant for its long association with Mitchell. Mitchell and his family lived at the property until his death in 1951. He was a prominent public figure in Essendon and businessman: he served on the Essendon City Council for eighteen years and was elected mayor in 1924 and 1934, and was a member of the Corn Exchange. Mitchell and family hosted numerous dances and parties at 'Narwonah' that were often featured in contemporaneous social columns. (Criterion H)

Primary source

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