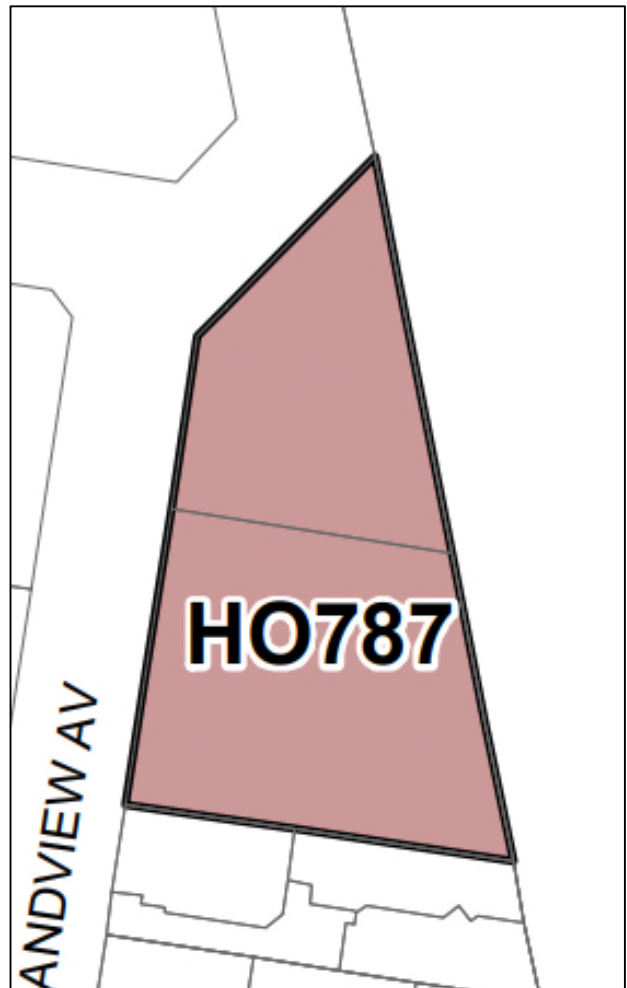


Statement of Significance: Beaumaris Playhouse and Jack and Jill Kindergarten - 24 & 26 Grandview Avenue, Beaumaris, November 2020

Heritage place: <i>Beaumaris Playhouse and Jack and Jill Kindergarten and Beaumaris Playhouse</i> 24 & 26 Grandview Avenue, Beaumaris	PS ref no: HO787
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What is Significant?

The Beaumaris Playhouse and Jack and Jill Kindergarten, built between 1966-68 to the design of Berg and Alexandra and in 1958 to the design of Douglas Alexandra, respectively, are significant.

Significant elements include:

- The original built form, scale and planned aspects of each of the buildings;
- The large window-wall to the playroom (including sliding doors and coloured glass and cross-bracing details to the end bays), vertical timber cladding, original doors and windows and covered entry porch of the Jack and Jill Kindergarten;
- The flat roof and roof lantern, timber lined eaves and splayed fascia, vertical timber lining to porches and porch ceilings and original doors and windows of the Beaumaris Playhouse.

The front fence, northern pergola and northern sun-shading to the Jack and Jill Kindergarten, and the covered rear deck and ramp, and yard fencing of the Beaumaris Playhouse are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Beaumaris Playhouse and Jack and Jill Kindergarten are of local historical, architectural (representative) and social significance to the City of Bayside.

Why is it significant?

The Beaumaris Playhouse and Jack and Jill Kindergarten are of historical significance to the City of Bayside for their demonstration of the changing face of early childhood care and education in the suburbs of Bayside in the middle of the twentieth century. The use of the Beaumaris Playhouse as a community-run 'drop-in centre' and occasional childcare provider for pre-school since 1980, reflects growing levels of mutual support between young families in the community. The Jack and Jill Kindergarten and the Beaumaris Playhouse (originally designed as an infant welfare centre and a community run playhouse since 1980) together provide an informative showcase of evolution of design for early childhood related functions in the City of Bayside during the 1950s and 1960s. These were developments that were informed both by evolving ideas in early childhood development and stylistic developments in architectural design. (Criterion A)

Together, the Jack and Jill Kindergarten, designed by Douglas Alexandra in 1958, and the neighbouring Beaumaris Playhouse designed in 1966-68 by the practice Alexandra formed with fellow Melbourne University lecturer, Ray Berg present an unusual and informative cross-section of the early and small-scaled work by architects, Douglas Alexandra and Ray Berg before and after the establishment of their joint practice in 1962. (Criterion A)

The buildings are good and intact representative examples of design for aligned early childhood uses in the 1950s and 1960s. The Jack and Jill Kindergarten with its lightweight, timber clad walls, skillion roofs and full width window-wall to the playroom is representative of the Melbourne Regional Style of the 1950s championed by Robin Boyd and its application to the design of kindergartens. The Beaumaris Playhouse represents characteristics of the modern architectural idiom as it developed in the 1960s with its simple geometry and flat roof capping smooth brickwork walls and full height wall openings. (Criterion D)

The Beaumaris Playhouse and Jack and Jill Kindergarten are of social significance for their continuing association with early childhood development care and education within the local community on these adjoining sites since they were established in 1958 and c.1966-68, respectively. The close physical placement of these two community buildings reflects their social alignment and a growing social planning appreciation of the functional concerns of families with young children living in suburbs of Bayside in the mid-twentieth century. (Criterion G)

Primary source

Mid-Century Modern Heritage Study – Council-owned places 2020