Viewbank c1920
Stonnington History Collection MP1271

Glenvale Road Glen Iris area walk   July 2021

Start on the west corner of Glenvale Road and Viewbank Road
The name Glen Iris first appears on the Boroondara side of Gardiners Creek in 1852 when the 'Glen Iris Estate' was advertised for sale. The property, 'Glen Iris', owned by Captain Thomas Henderson, included extensive cultivated land along with a substantial villa. From 1855 the 'Glen Iris' homestead was owned by Robert Kent, who also acquired 16 acres of land on the south side of Gardiners Creek. Glen Iris Railway Station dates from 1890.
The suburb of Glen Iris is located 10 kilometres south-east of Melbourne's CBD. It is located within the Cities of Stonnington and Boroondara. Today the suburb stretches from Tooronga Road to the west through to Warrigal Road to the east.
The area covered on this walk is bounded by Burke Road, High Street and Malvern Road.

Between 1855 and 1858, crown land to the east of Burke Road, Glen Iris, was sold to speculators. The boundaries of the first Crown land sale in this area were Burke Road, High Street, and Gardiners (KooyongKoot) Creek (named after early pioneer John Gardiner).
At the time Burke Road was known as Charleville Road. 'Charleville' was the early name of St Hilary, an early house that can still be seen in Hilary Grove off Scott Grove on the west side of Burke Road. Burke Road was re-named around the 1860s to commemorate the explorer Burke, from the Burke and Wills expedition.
The land was initially bought by speculators including John Foy, William Easey, Edward Scott, Henry Harrison and William Sloggatt. The land closest to Gardiners Creek was sold first, as it was seen to be more fertile. Very little development occurred in this area until after the train line was put through in 1890. This then stimulated development around the three early homes, 'Valency', 'View Bank' and 'Glenvale', described on this walk. Further development was stimulated by the arrival of the tram along High Street around 1915.

Walk west along Glenvale Road, enter Glenvale Park and stop
In 1857 Henry Harrison built a brick house of 2 rooms and stables, on eight acres of land on Crown allotment 114 'Highfield', the house subsequently located in Burke Road on the south corner of Glenvale Road, stood on the site of this early home, and is likely to have developed from Harrison's early building. Harrison's 2 roomed house gradually increased in size, along with the addition of a kitchen, outbuildings, garden, orchard and shrubbery
By 1869 Frank Cunningham is listed as the owner/occupier of the property, then later Augustus White, merchant Richard Gutheridge, and Thomas Sharp owned the house and land. By this time the house had increased to 9 rooms.
In 1913 the property was subdivided and Glenvale Road was created. Allotments on both sides of Glenvale Road were made available for sale. In 1914 'Highfield' was purchased by the Sisters of St Joseph who ran St Roch's Primary School at the time. The house was purchased by the Presentation Sisters around 1943. The house and accompanying buildings were demolished in 200. Glenvale Park is on the site of 'Highfield's' tennis court.
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the suburb Glen Iris stretches from Tooronga Road to the west through to Warrigal Road to the East.

Return to Glenvale Road, turn right and retrace your steps to the corner of Glenvale Road and Viewbank Road. Turn right and proceed south along Viewbank Road. Stop outside 9 Viewbank Road

In 1858 15 acres of land on the north side of High Street, between Burke Road and Malvern Road, were sold to Benoni Salway. Salway erected a weatherboard house of 2 rooms. By 1859 a brick house of 7 rooms with a stable, coach-house and conveniences had been erected on the corner of High Street and Charleville Road (Burke Road). The house was later named 'Viewbank'. In 1863 pioneer bookseller and publisher, George Robertson of Angus & Robertson owned 'Viewbank'. It was then owned by pastoralist George Hebden. When William Martin owned the property in 1874, it was described as a brick house of seven rooms, with kitchen, offices, stable and coach house, with shrubbery, garden and pasture with a total value of £400. While William MacMurtie owned 'Viewbank' in 1887, the Malvern Council rate books show that the house had increased in size to twelve rooms plus a conservatory.

Boyanda and Wandeen Road were created in 1919 when the Viewbank Estate was subdi-vided. The estate of thirty-nine allotments was put up for auction in October 1919. The sale notice described the land as 'one of the highest and best positions in the district [with] ex-tensive views over the Glen Iris Valley and Ranges.' A second subdivision in 1923 created Viewbank Road.

By 1928 'Viewbank' consisted of 16 rooms and the land had been reduced to 370 feet by 350 feet with a frontage to High Street and Burke Road. Around 1928 the house became a nursing home and the remaining land was subdivided, creating twelve allotments in View-bank Road, High Street and Burke Road. 'Viewbank' remained on a much reduced irregu-lar allotment with a frontage to Viewbank Road.

This area has many houses with architectural features from the Inter-war period [1918–1939]. According to Heritage Victoria, single storey detached houses predominated during this period. Often set well back from the street on fairly large blocks, houses from this pe-riod exhibited simplicity of style that reflected both economic stringency and the move to-wards modernism. Porches replaced verandahs. Building forms were simple and fairly austere with limited embellishment, although the influence of a number of decorative styles such as Spanish Mission, Georgian Revival and Art Deco are still apparent. In the gar-dens, front fences were commonly brick, some with decorated wrought iron panels featur-ing Art Deco zigzag motifs and matching gates. There were often wide areas of lawn with narrow perimeter garden beds, trimmed hedges, small shrubs, and roses were common. The original driveways would usually have two paved wheel strips with lawn in between.

Stop at the corner of Viewbank Road and High Street. Cross to the corner on the east side

As we walk east along High Street we will pass No 1481, a brick house built around 1920 for the Misses Reynolds.

Walk east along High Street, turn left into Boyanda Road and stop outside No 3 Boyanda Road

The next street to the east is Wandeen Road. One of the earliest houses in this part of the Viewbank Estate was built at 1485 High Street, on the corner of Wandeen Road in 1923.

Opposite, you will see the now much altered house at 2 Boyanda Road. Dating from 1924, it is an early design by architect Percy Oakley, who was also responsible for the Prime

Minister's Lodge in Canberra. It was designed as a modest single-ridged gable design facing the street with a rear wing concealed behind it. Originally the front facade was dominated by the unglazed concrete tiles of the single gable roof, painted roughcast chimneys and a simple portico and pergola on massive rust-cast finished piers. It was designed in a simple Georgian Revival style and included sliding timber louvred shutters.

Continue walking north along Boyanda Road and stop outside 11 Boyanda Road on the west corner of Glenvale Road
'Pitlochry', 11 Boyanda Road, was designed by architect R. Le Poer-Terry for Miss E. G. Terry in 1927. This commanding Georgian revival residence is set high on the corner block with the garage under the living area. The building has a symmetrical composition with two projecting wings connected by a wide entry porch with Tuscan columns. The windows are arched with curved glazing bars. The garage retains its original folding timber door with windows in the upper sections. The walls of the house are roughcast rendered at floor level and rendered with deep bands on the higher parts.

Walk north along to the corner of Glenvale Road and stop
In 1986, Ralph Madder, a long-term resident of Malvern, and a resident of the Triangle, (the area bounded by Burke Road, Malvern Road and High Street), shared his memories in the Malvern News Sheet. Ralph remembered coming to Malvern with his parents in 1904. He lived first in Finlayson Street and attended Tooronga Road State School. In 1916, Ralph came to live in this area and he remembered that at the time there were only a handful of houses, including Viewbank, with its long driveway from Burke Road which was lined by pine trees. There was also the house that became the convent on the corner of Glenvale Road. Lots of lemon trees surrounded Viewbank and wild opium poppies grew on the hillside. Ralph also remembered that the rest was open paddocks and that there was low-lying land at the bottom of Glenvale Road, near Malvern Road, and ponds with wild ducks.

Ralph was among the first to purchase land in the new subdivision. He bought two house blocks in Glenvale Road. He built a weatherboard and roughcast house on the two blocks. After World War I new homes began to dot the hillside and by 1925 the neighbourhood looked much as it looks today.
Ralph remembered that Pitlochry, 11 Boyanda Road, was the last house to be built in the building boom around 1925. It became the showpiece of the neighbourhood and appeared in conspicuous contrast to its Californian bungalow neighbours. Ralph and his wife purchased this property in 1927.

Cross Glenvale Road, walk west up the hill and stop next to the St Roch's School playground.
The foundations of a Catholic parish in Glen Iris began in the early 1890s when the Vincentian Fathers of St Joseph's ParishMalvern would cycle from Stanhope Street to Glen Iris to celebrate mass in the Lloyd family home in Hilary Grove, off Scott Grove.
In 1923 a church-school-hall was built on land on land that had been loaned by the Religious of the Sacred Heart in the grounds of the Sacre Coeur Convent. At the same time the Vincentian Fathers, who would celebrate mass, leased a house on the corner of Burke Road and Valency Road as a future presbytery.
In 1927 the Glen Iris Parish welcomed the first Parish priest, Fr Patrick Roch Loughnan. He would not only provide the name for the Parish but he remained as the Parish Priest until he died in 1958. In 1928 the Parish of Glen Iris' changed its name from St.Vincent to St Roch's, named after a distinguished French 14th Century saint. It became the first and the only Australian Parish to bear St.Roch's name.

The Parish Primary School, blessed and opened in 1930 by Archbishop Daniel Mannix, has been conducted by a number of Religious Nuns including the Religious of the Sacred Heart, the Sisters of St Joseph, and the Presentation Sisters. In 1930 the St Roch's tennis courts were built facing Valency Road.

In 1937, 10 years after its founding, the decision was made to move the church from Sacre Coeur. The Spanish mission style church, on the corner of Glenvale and Burke Roads was designed by P.J. O'Connor.

Walk west to the corner of Burke Road and turn right. Walk north to the corner of Valency Road. Turn right, walk east and stop next to the tennis courts.

In 1857 William Sloggatt purchased eight acres of land on the east side of Burke Road. He later built 'Valency' a single storey brick house, which he named after his birthplace, Valency, in England. William's business interests included the production of the laundry whitener "Blue" at his factory in High Street Malvern close to Tooronga Road.

In 1861, William Sloggatt was elected to the Gardiner Road Board, the predecessor of the Malvern City Council, later Stonnington. He was elected to the position of Chairman of the Road Board in

1862, but records indicate that William may not have served his full term of one year. William devoted some of his spare time to painting, to the extent, that in 1876 three of his works, two oils and one watercolour, were exhibited at the sixth Exhibition of the Victorian Academy of Arts, Albert Street, East Melbourne.

Sloggatt's business interests varied over the years, starting with an interest in mining. Other positions he held included Secretary to the Chief of Police and a partnership in a Wine and Spirit business.

In 1886 the Sloggatts brought additional land and the following year the Valency Estate was subdivided and Valency Road and Golden Quadrant were created. 'Valency' remained on a reduced allotment at the corner of Burke Road and Valency Road. In 1913 the land surrounding the old home was subdivided and the house was leased. In the early 1920s, the Vincentian Fathers from St Joseph's Parish, Malvern leased Valency as a presbytery. In 1960, the early house 'Valency' was demolished and replaced by the current St Roch's presbytery.

Walk east along Valency Road and stop outside No 16 Valency Road

The Valency Estate was slow to develop and by 1914 only three houses had been built in Valency Road.

Cross Valency Road, and walk west to the corner of Valency Road and Golden Quadrant. Walk around the curved street and stop in front of 1 Golden Quadrant.

Both Valency Road and Golden Quadrant were created in 1887. Robert Haddon designed the Old English style house at 1 Golden Quadrant in 1915. The steep pitched gable roof with projecting gables to the front, features half timbering and dark stained timber shingles. The weatherboard timber dado was originally dark stained. The roof was originally clad in unglazed terracotta tiles and the design included casement windows designed for leaded glazing of a square grid pattern. When it was built in 1915 the house appeared in two journals - Haddon's Architectural Annual 1915 and Home and Garden Beautiful October 1915.
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Follow Golden Quadrant west towards Burke Road. Turn left and walk south along Burke Road to Glenvale Road, turn left and follow Glenvale Road east back to the starting point.