

<b>IDENTIFIER</b>	HOUSE		
<b>Other/s</b>	Henke House (former)		
<b>Address</b>	38 Monash Avenue BALWYN	<b>Date/s</b>	1940
<b>Designer/s</b>	H C Henke	<b>Builder/s</b>	A T Ashford
<b>Theme/s</b>	6.3.3 Creating middle class suburbs 6.7.2 Making homes for the middle classes	<b>Heritage Group</b>	Residential Building (Private)
		<b>Heritage Category</b>	House
		<b>Heritage Status</b>	-
<b>Intactness</b>	Good	<b>Significance</b>	Local
<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in HO as individual place



<b>Extent</b>	To title boundaries	<b>Survey date</b>	4 May 2016
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## History

This house was erected in 1940 for metallurgist-turned-engineer Herbert Henke and his wife Joy. Born in Minyip in north-western Victoria, Herbert Conrad Henke (1918-2003) was the youngest of nine children of German emigrants Carl Friedrich and Carolina Wilhelmina Henke, who had travelled overland from Hahndorf in South Australia and established a farm at Boolite, near Warracknabeal. Completing a Diploma of Metallurgy at the Stawell School of Mines, Herbert had moved to Melbourne by January 1940, when he got engaged to Miss Joyce (Joy) Tayler of East Malvern (*Age*, 27/01/1940:21). Intending to provide a new house for himself and his future wife, Henke acquired a block of land in Monash Street, Balwyn. On 20 May 1940, he was granted a building permit to erect what was described as a “five room brick veneer and timber dwelling”, valued at £945. Although no architect’s name is mentioned in the council documentation, it can be assumed (based on the testimony of Henke’s son Glenn) that Henke almost certainly designed the house himself. At the time of its proposed construction, he was employed as a draftsman with an engineering company that was involved in the manufacture of munitions. As this contributed directly towards the war effort, Henke’s profession was officially declared as a Reserved Occupation, thereby exempting him from military service. After the war, he continued to work as a draftsman until at least 1949. He subsequently took a position as a design engineer with Major Furnace & Combustion Engineers Pty Ltd, a well-established South Melbourne company that relocated to new premises in Moorabbin in 1952.

While it has been suggested that the new house in Monash Avenue was designed in a German chalet style to pay homage to its owner’s European heritage, this is disputed by Glenn Henke, who points out that his Australian-born father was not overly interested in his Germanic ancestry and, in any case, would not have wished to have called attention to it so publicly in 1940, when Australia was at war with Germany. Conversely, Glenn Henke recalls his father telling him that he wanted a house in the popular Tudor Revival mode and so engaged the services of a local builder who was highly regarded for building houses in that particular style. Building permit records identify the builder of Henke’s house only as “A Ashford”; electoral rolls confirm this to have been Arthur Thomas Ashford (1910-1992), who lived in nearby Metung Street and was a carpenter by trade. While Ashford may well have been a prolific and well-respected builder in Balwyn at that time, little further information about his work has yet been found. He almost certainly erected his own house at 31 Metung Street (c.1937; since demolished) and is known to have built at least one other in the same street (address unconfirmed) for a gentleman with the surname Cray (*Building & Construction*, 14/03/1939). By the early ‘50s, Ashford was advertising himself as a supplier of timber houses and pre-cut housing frames, under the auspices of A T Ashford & Company (*Age*, 13/08/1952:13).

Council documentation shows that construction of Henke’s house was virtually if not actually completed by October 1940, when the Building Surveyor undertook a final inspection. Although the family remained living there for a decade, Joy Henke pined after a more bucolic lifestyle on a larger bush block. The couple acquired a 4½ acre property in Warrandyte where Henke began to erect a new house, again to his own design. Drawing on his talents for engineering and invention, coupled with a keen awareness of popular trends in modern residential architecture, he completed a large flat-roofed brick house with Warrandyte stone facing, full-height windows and expansive stone-paved terraces. Completed in 1950, it appeared on the front cover of the *Australian Home Beautiful* in June 1959. Henke went on to design a holiday house for the family at Rye, which was even more ingeniously realised with a bold parabolic roof made up of laminated timber arches and hardboard. This, too, was subsequently published in the *Australian Home Beautiful*.

## Description

Set well back from the street on a densely landscaped block, the house at 38 Monash Street is a single-storey brick dwelling in the Tudor Revival style that was popular in the late 1930s. Of dark-coloured clinker brick construction, the house has a steep tile-clad hipped roof that incorporates a tall brick chimney and an off-centre projecting bay with half-timbered gable end and a metal weathervane at the apex. This projecting bay also incorporates the entry porch, which has an archway edged in glazed Roman brick and a black-painted metal balustrade with a quatrefoil motif. The house thus presents an asymmetrical façade to the street.

## Integrity

The exterior of the house appears to be substantially intact.

## Historical Context

This part of Balwyn, loosely defined by Belmore Road, Whitehorse Road and Balwyn Road, attracted relatively little settlement in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras; even though a number of new residential subdivisions were laid out during that time, the area remained sparsely developed into the early 1920s. However, a subsequent phase of suburban infill saw the area gradually fill out from the later 1920s, hitting its peak during the 1930s. Monash Avenue was one of several new streets in that area (together with Elliot Avenue) that were formalised by the City of Camberwell in the early 1930s as part of an ambitious road-building scheme to promote residential settlement in various hitherto underdeveloped parts of the municipality, including Glen Iris and Balwyn North.

## Comparative Analysis

Some particularly fine examples of houses in the inter-war Tudor Revival style can be found in Balwyn North, including *Vedere* at 44 Panoramic Road (c.1946) and numerous others within the *Riverside Estate* (HO231), typified by those at 6 Kyora Parade, 11 Walbundry Avenue and 7 Inverness Way. However, notable counterparts are less common in the part of Balwyn between Whitehorse Road and Belmore Road. Although this area was once strongly defined by streetscapes of inter-war dwellings (perhaps less apparent now, due to recent demolition and redevelopment), the mature Tudor Revival idiom is not well represented therein. Its most common manifestation is in a simplified version, where the distinctive stylistic vocabulary is reduced to a tokenistic use of clinker brick, corbelled eaves and the occasional four-centred arch to a front porch. This “Builder’s Tudor” is typified by clinker brick examples at 39 Elliott Avenue, 29 Metung Street, 6 Austin Street and 6 Cremorne Street, and less common rendered versions at 30 Percy Street and 155 Gordon Street. Only rarely do Tudor Revival houses rise above this norm, as with the clinker brick house at 22 Austin Street that includes more unusual mediaevalised motifs such as bell-cast eaves and a canted oriel window. Even that example, however, is less striking than Herbert Henke’s former home at 38 Monash Avenue, which, with its decorative half-timbering and ornate metal work including weathervane and quatrefoil railings, stands out as a particularly fine example of the idiom.

## Grading and recommendation

The house at 38 Monash Avenue, Balwyn, is an individually significant heritage place in the City of Boroondara.

## Statement of Significance

### *What is significant?*

Dating from 1940, the house at 38 Monash Avenue, Balwyn, was designed by engineer/metallurgist and amateur architect Hebert Henke for himself, and was erected by Arthur Ashford, a local builder who was well known for erecting houses in the fashionable Tudor Revival style. Henke’s house closely adhered to that idiom: a single-storey double-fronted clinker brick dwelling with steeply pitched tile-clad roof, half-timbered gable and front porch with arched opening and metal railings.

The significant fabric is defined as the entire exterior of the house.

### *How is it significant?*

The former Henke House at 38 Monash Avenue, Balwyn, satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Boroondara Planning Scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

### *Why is it significant?*

The house at 38 Monash Avenue is significant as a modestly-scaled yet unusually striking example of residential architecture in the Tudor Revival style of the late 1930s. Designed by a talented non-architect owner and erected by a leading local builder known for that idiom, the house combines the basic stylistic vocabulary of clinker brick construction, arched porch, corbelled eaves and steeply-pitched roof with more sophisticated elements that include an ornate half-timbered gable end, weathervane and metal porch railings with a quatrefoil motif (*Criterion E*).

**Identified By**

Built Heritage Pty Ltd.

**References**

City of Camberwell Building Permit No 13,081, dated 20 May 1940. Held by City of Boroondara.

*Australian Home Beautiful*, Jun 1959, pp 31-35, and Nov 1961, pp 10-11, 13.

Telephone interview with Glenn Henke, April 2016.

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