Residence
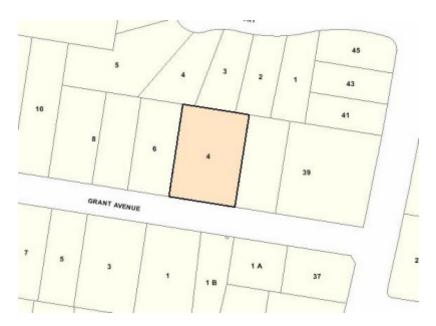

4 Grant Avenue, Toorak

Recommended extent of heritage overlay 4 Grant Avenue, Toorak.

Location

4 Grant Avenue TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 21, 2022

What is significant?

The house at 4 Grant Avenue, Toorak is a double-storey building with a graceful Regency inspired stuccoed facade. It was built c1936 to designs by architects Yuncken, Freeman & Griffiths, on land subdivided from the grounds of Orrong mansion.
Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):
-The original external form, materials and detailing.
-The high level of external intactness.
-The domestic garden setting.
-The legibility of the original form from the public realm
Post war additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

The house at 4 Grant Avenue, Toorak is of local architectural significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, the house is significant as a fine and highly regarded Regency influenced design from the interwar period (Criterion D). It is perhaps the most celebrated example of the contemporary revivalist work of the distinguished architects Yuncken Freeman & Griffiths.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - City of Stonnington Interwar Houses Study, Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, 2014;
Construction dates	1936,
Architect/Designer	Yuncken Freeman, Yuncken Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson,
Hermes Number	197642
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

4 Grant Avenue is a double-storey interwar house in a Regency revival mode. It is positioned at the front of a generous block with a circular drive of gravel that contributes to the overall formality found in planning, massing, fenestration and landscaping. The house has a parapeted rendered masonry facade with restrained Classical ornament reminiscent of an elegant Regency era townhouse. The front facade of the house has regularly arranged multi-pane sash windows and a small semi-circular stepped porch in the centre with a simple curved metal balustrade. The corners and pilasters of the main double-storey envelope are quoined and the parapet is

surmounted by urn finials. A smaller double storey wing and garage abut the east side of the house.

The house appears to remain largely intact is so far as it presents to the street. Various alterations and additions were made to the house in the 1950s and 1960s, some involving Yuncken Freeman architects.[1] Council records also indicate that the garage was rebuilt in 1987 but the external character and appearance of the house has been handsomely maintained.

[1] City of Prahran Building Inspection Cards.

Local Historical Themes

The house 4 Grant Avenue, Toorak illustrates the following themes, as identified in the *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (Context Pty Ltd, 2006):

8.1.3 - The end of an era - mansion estate subdivisions in the twentieth century
8.4.1 - Houses as a symbol of wealth, status and fashion

The house is of some historical interest as evidence of a major phase of development that took place in the 1920s and 1930s when many of Toorak's grand nineteenth century mansion estates were subdivided to create prestigious residential enclaves (TEH 8.1.3 The end of an era - mansion estate subdivisions in the twentieth century). It also illustrates the role of Georgian/Regency inspired houses as symbols of wealth, status and taste for Melbourne's upper classes of the interwar period (TEH 8.4.1 - Houses as a symbol of wealth, status and fashion).

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/