
Residence



1 Towers Road, Toorak

Location

1 Towers Road TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO520

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Relevant HERCON criteria are shown in brackets.

What is Significant?

The substantial double-storey interwar Georgian revival style house at 1 Towers Road, Toorak was built c1937 on land subdivided from the grounds of the nineteenth century mansion 'The Towers'. The design is attributed to architect Bernard Sutton.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The original external form, materials and detailing of the building.
- The high level of external intactness.
- The legibility of the original built form from the public realm.
- The unpainted state of the face brick and rendered elements.
- The domestic garden setting (but not the fabric of the garden itself).
- The front fence.

Modern fabric, including the garage addition, is not significant.

How is it significant?

The house at 1 Towers Road, Toorak is of local architectural significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

The house is architecturally significant as a fine and highly intact interwar Georgian revival style residence (Criterion D).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - City of Stonnington Interwar Houses Study, Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, 2014;
Construction dates	1937,
Architect/Designer	Sutton, Bernard,
Hermes Number	200327
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The property at 1 Towers Road is occupied by a stately double storey Georgian revival style house. It is sited close to the front boundary and stands behind a tall wrought iron fence with brick piers topped by rendered 'pineapple' motif finials. The house has a hipped slate roof and mottled cream brick walls with rendered dressings. The facade is composed from two distinct parts, being a symmetrical parapeted front wing and a recessive lower height wing to the east side. Ornament is generally focused on a central pedimented bay rising above the main entry, which is defined by an elegant Adamesque entry portico. Above the portico is a tripartite window with a rendered architrave and 'broken' pediment. The main triangular pediment above is plainly adorned apart from a louvred circular vent and rendered cornices. A plain rendered frieze runs across the parapet providing a strong horizontal emphasis. The front entry wing is flanked by symmetrically arrangement timber-framed sash windows with louvred shutters characteristic of the Georgian revival mode.

The house appears to remain largely intact externally aside from a single storey garage addition on the east side (presumably built in front of the original garage). Various alterations were made to the house in 2004 but these were mainly confined to the interior apart from changes to some windows on the east side elevation and rear elevation.[1] These works have not diminished the integrity of the house as it presents to the street.

[1] City of Stonnington Building Permit No. 2004 0022/01.

Local Historical Themes

The house at 1 Towers Road, 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 first few decades of the twentieth century when many of Toorak's large 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 large architect designed houses in the fashionable Georgian revival style 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/>