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# LO-YUAN



Lo Yuan

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## Location

84 Split Rock Road BEACONSFIELD UPPER, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO118

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Lo-Yuan is significant to Victoria as a well-preserved and successfully designed Arts and Crafts style residence of the mid-1920s, created by the noted architectural firm, A & K Henderson, Alsop and Martin for the Rev. Thomas Howard-Smith, a missionary who had worked in China. Because of the high integrity of the house, its style and the documentation surrounding its early ownership, it is possible to interpret the site historically, in particular the Rev. Smith's interest in the Far East.

Lo-Yuan is a faithful expression of the life of an important Victorian missionary, the Rev. Howard-Smith, and is

rare as an intact Arts & Crafts Bungalow, with eastern styling.

Lo-Yuan and its garden setting are also important to the Cardinia Shire as a notable example of one of the district's residential retreats and adds greatly to the variety of housing and gardens in the district. This place is also significant for its comparative age, judged within the shire's major development eras (post First War).

### *State & Local Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1924,
Other Names	84 Split Rock Road, Upper Beaconsfield,
Hermes Number	30064
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

This well preserved Arts & Crafts attic-style house is clad with stained vertical (upper walls) and rusticated boarding (lower), has tall red brick chimneys, has a series of steeply gabled corrugated-iron clad roofs, and deep strutted eaves. The house has an overall character which is both expressive of the owner's interest in the Far East and the designer's interest in Arts & Crafts architecture. A single level hipped roof section is at one end, with window bay attached and there are extensive insect-screened sleep-out balconies on both levels facing south and east. Typically the window joinery is picked out as trim against the dark walls, in this case using white, with the associated upper-level shutters and narrow hoods added to the trim on the north side. The entrance is inset under two tapering portal-brackets, in the Eastern manner, and between two multi-paned windows.

The Garden The property is entered by a curving gravel drive, lined with gums. Mature planting includes *Arbutus unedo* (Irish strawberry), *Liquidambar* var., *Acmena smithii* (lillypilly), *Quercus palustris* (pin oak ), *Trachycarpus fortuneii* (Chusan palm), Camellias, and a silky oak. There is a very large oak (*Q. Cerris*?) to the south of the house, tree ferns, a weeping elm, *Acer palmatum*, a Japanese cherry and persimmon. Much of the planting is contributory to the house era and style.

## **Physical Conditions**

Extensive pergolas appear to have been added at the entry but otherwise the house is externally near unchanged.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

### Historical Themes

#### 7.1 Gentlemen's rural retreats

#### 10.3 Rural retreats, gardens

## Physical Description 2

Associations - Howard-Smith, Rev. Thomas; Henderson Alsop & Martin; Watson, Thomas & Vera

*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/>*