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# Bona Vista

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## Location

59 Kensington Road SOUTH YARRA, Stonnington City

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO64

## Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Bona Vista is of state historical significance as an example of a 19th century suburban mansion with a tower still in a garden setting, although of later date. It has high architectural significance as an example of one of the earliest known examples of the use of the Queen Ann Revival style in Victoria, displaying an unusual combination of stylistic influences. Located in spacious grounds (recently designed and planted), it is of aesthetic significance and has additional historical importance for its associations with the original Bona Vista (now named Grantham) which was also owned by the famous Hobson family.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Conservation Review City of Prahran Volume 2: Individual Buildings (A1), Context Pty Ltd, 1993; Stonnington - Prahran Conservation Study Identification of Buildings & Areas of Major Significance, Nigel Lewis & Associates, 1983;
Construction dates	1884,
Other Names	59 Kensington Road, South Yarra,

Hermes Number 30616

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Bona Vista represents a combination of architectural styles. It is an early example of a style in which Classical and medieval elements are combined. Its overall Italianate form with its square plan and hipped roof is adorned with a Tudor gabled porch. The corner tower suggests the French Renaissance and the windows vary from multiple pane tudor type to the flat arched classical type. It has been remarked that, although no one style is given full rein, an overall picturesque effect is achieved.<sup>1</sup> The 1880s designing architect is unknown.<sup>2</sup> Although the exterior of Bona Vista remains largely intact, internally little survives from the Linton or earlier era. The 1980s garden, although new, has been judged as of local significance as one of the few properties in Prahran which continue the tradition of mansion gardens. It contains some significant plantings from the previous garden and the new lake is located on the site of the original fountain shown in the 1895 drainage plan.<sup>3</sup>

## References

1. National Trust File No. 2665.
2. Miles Lewis, *Australian Architectural Index* searched.
3. City of Prahran *Significant Tree and Garden Study*.

## Local Historical Themes

8.4.1 Houses as a symbol of wealth, status and fashion 8.1.2 Seats of the mighty - mansion estates in the nineteenth century

*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/>*