

COLES HOUSE

Location

55 LANSELL ROAD, TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO70

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

This 1940s Toorak residence has state architectural significance as a fine example of 'the experimentation in geometric forms carried out in Melbourne at this time as a result of the influence of the International style precedent in Europe. The irregularly shaped corner block is partly bordered by a granite fence that matches the pilasters in the side entrance and contributes to the design significance of the site. The house has research value related to its possible association with the architect Harry Norris, one of the major Melbourne practitioners of this style. The residence has state historical importance as the home of the Victorian businessman, G. J. Coles, over a long time.

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

1940,

Architect/Designer Norris, Harry A,

Hermes Number 30628

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The building's design is geometric in form. Smooth rendered brick walls rise to form a plain parapet, which conceals the flat roof of the basically rectangular structure. The windows, which puncture the walls, are uniform depth but vary in width and placement. A constant sill height and a continuous projecting horizontal hood link the fenestration and provide an appearance of uniformity to the facade. Strips of glass bricks, a popular design feature at this time, are employed and also form a bay to the north of the building. At ground floor level the northern facade curves away to the west creating a roof garden. The 'ocean liner' image is evoked in this form and is reminiscent of the luxurious Burnham Beeches residence in Sassafras, designed by Norris in 1930.¹ The building occupies an irregularly shaped corner block partly bordered by a granite fence, matching the pilasters in the side entrance.

Reference

Apperly, R., R. Irving and P. Reynolds *Identifying Australian Architecture*, p. 184.

Local Historical Themes

8.4.2 Functional, eccentric and theatrical - experimentation and innovation in architecture 6.3 Constructing capital city economies

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/>