
TSOSHAAN MANSIONS

Location

777 MALVERN ROAD, TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO79

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Tsoshaan has State significance as one of the earliest and most interesting examples of custom-built blocks of flats surviving in Melbourne. Built in stages between 1918 and 1922, to the design of a leading domestic architect, Arthur W. Purnell, Tsoshaan is an important example of his work and of early flat development in Toorak. Its significance is enhanced by a complementary garden setting which reflects the building's distinctive Eastern style of architecture. Garden features include a driveway through a Pagoda-roofed gate and garden beds with volcanic boulders lining the driveway and paths.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Conservation Review City of Prahran Volume 2: Individual Buildings (A1), Context Pty Ltd, 1993;
Construction dates	1918,
Architect/Designer	Purnell, Arthur William,
Other Names	Mansion flats,
Hermes Number	30666

Physical Description 1

The design has strong Eastern influence in its pagoda roof form and other bungalow features such as pergolas and deep balconies: The pilasters, moulded eaves brackets and urns mounted against the walls contribute to the palatial character of the building. The house is surrounded by large plantings of cedar and camphor laurel. A driveway enters from the corner through a pagoda roofed gate flanked by large *Cypressus torulosa*. Garden beds are constructed of volcanic boulders lining the driveway and paths.

Tsoshaan is also notable for its garden setting, which reflects the building's Eastern style of architecture. The gate, serpentine drive and plantings in the wall at first floor level are of particular note. Arthur Purnell used the same exotic combination for his own house at 490 Punt Road, South Yarra, in 1926.¹

Reference

1. City of Prahran, *Significant Tree and Garden Study* p.26.

Local Historical Themes

8.6.2 Developing apartment living 8.6.3 Architect designed apartments

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/>