

# ST HILDA HOUSE



ST HILDAS HOUSE SOHE  
2008



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st hildas house clarendon  
street east melbourne front  
view roof line



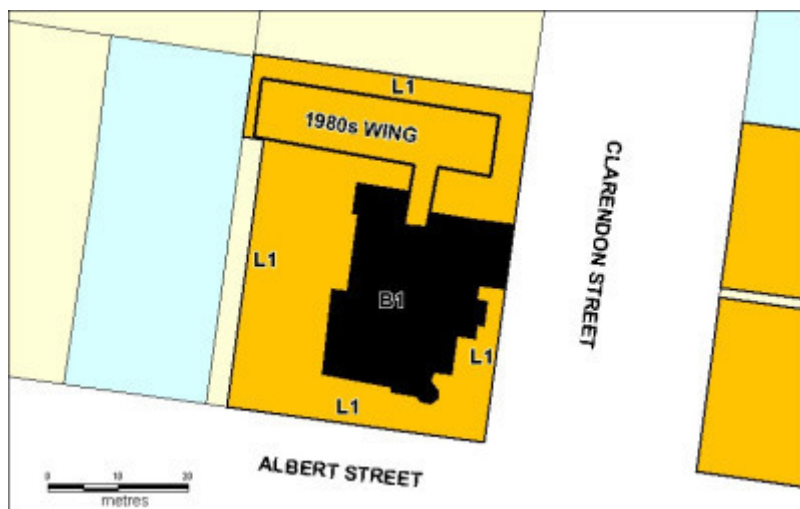
1 st hildas h481 exterior jan  
2001



st hildas house clarendon  
street east melbourne  
verandah detail sep1981



st hildas h481 jan 2001



st hildas H481 extent jan 2001.pg

## Location

1-19 CLARENDON STREET EAST MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

## **Municipality**

MELBOURNE CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0481

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO134

## **VHR Registration**

November 26, 1980

## **Amendment to Registration**

May 10, 2001

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

What is significant?

St Hilda's was built in 1907 by R S Phillips for James Griffiths. The architects were Ward and Carleton. Griffiths had migrated to Australia in 1873 and founded the successful tea business of the same name. Both Griffiths and his wife were committed to Christian missionary work and in 1902 Mrs Griffiths was appointed President of the Women's Missionary Council. Almost immediately the house was completed it was given in trust to the Christian Missionary Society to become a Church of England Missionary Training Home.

Missionary zeal was still an important component of the Anglican faith at the turn of the twentieth century, and missionaries trained at St Hilda's could find work in many parts of Asia, as well as at Aboriginal missions in Victoria and other parts of Australia. In 1907 it seems that St Hilda's was used exclusively for training women missionaries, as a separate facility for men existed in North Melbourne. When St Hilda's was finished in 1908 the Sister-in-Charge was Miss Clara Odgers, and three women were accepted for training. Thirty-three missionaries were already working both overseas and at the Aboriginal Missions at Lake Condah and Lake Tyers.

In the 1930s the house changed use to become the St Hilda's Church of England Deaconess House. In the 1960s it was sold and converted into apartments. From 1982 until 2001 the building was an office of Bates Smart, architects. Bates Smart restored the house, retaining much of the original fabric and fittings, and researched and reproduced the original paint scheme.

St Hilda's is a two storey house constructed of red brick relieved by panels of terra cotta with large areas of the exterior of the first floor covered in roughcast. The building possesses elements derived from the English Elizabethan, Romanesque and Norman periods of architecture. Half-timbered gables, arcading and cushion column capitals express these influences, whilst the corner tower with its flared eight sided spire and walls and

the roof terracotta grotesques (eg eagle) are typical of the grander so-called Queen Anne style residences of the Federation period.

Internally the British Arts and Crafts movement inspired the tiled mantels, foliated leadlight patterns, fretted decorative trusswork and stained timber wainscotting. Extant elements include the linoleum floor in the hallway; the main bathroom, complete with pressed metal dado, glazed tiling, bath and washbasins; the built-in linen cupboards at the top of the rear stairs; and the stencilled Evangelical inscriptions on the walls of the dining room and reception room.

A modern two storey rear addition with open-plan studio space is linked to the main house via a two level glass-walled walkway. This building does not form part of the registration.

Why is it significant?

St Hilda's is architecturally significant as a fine example of the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. Its picturesque approach is a variation of the so-called Queen Anne style, which was dominated by red brick, terracotta and asymmetrical planning. Additionally, in the execution of detail, the design draws on the influence of Art-Nouveau. It is significant for its essentially intact interior, including both layout and fittings. The timber wainscotting, the robust pressed metal dado in the dining room and the coloured leadlight glass representation of plants and foliage contribute to an impressive and highly intact Arts & Crafts interior.

St Hilda's is historically significant both within the history of the Church of England and within the context of female employment at the turn of the twentieth century. As a training home for missionaries it was one of the few places to provide vocational training for women.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously

hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Exterior

- \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \* Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipework, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \* Regular garden maintenance.
- \* Installation, removal and replacement of garden watering systems.

#### Interior

- \* Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves and skirtings.
- \* Installation, removal and replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed.
- \* Installation, removal and replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- \* Installation, removal and replacement of smoke detectors
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.

Construction dates	1907,
Architect/Designer	Ward & Carleton,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ST HILDA'S HOUSE, ST HILDAS HOUSE,
Hermes Number	356
Property Number	

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## History

### Contextual History:History of Place:

Commissioned as a home for the Christian Missionary Society, underwritten by Mr & Mrs James Griffiths. Griffiths had migrated to Australia in 1873 and founded the successful tea business of the same name. They were committed to missionary work. In 1902 Mrs Griffiths was appointed President of the Women's Missionary Council. Missionary zeal was still an important component of the Anglican faith at the turn of the twentieth century, and missionaries trained at St Hilda's could find work in many parts of Asia, as well as at Aboriginal missions in Victoria and other parts of Australia. In 1907 it seems that St Hilda's was used exclusively for training women missionaries, as a separate facility for men existed in North Melbourne. In 1908 the Sister-in-Charge was Miss Clara Odgers, and three women were accepted for training at St Hilda's. Thirty-three missionaries were already working both overseas and at the Aboriginal Missions at Lake Condah and Lake Tyers.

The house continued to be used by the Missionary Society until the 1960s, when the MMBW acquired the house in order to make way for a ring road. Ring road did not proceed and in common with many large East Melbourne mansions in the 1960s, the house became a boarding house.

In November 1981 architects Bates Smart & McCutcheon bought the house at auction for \$460,000.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 481 in the category described as a Heritage place is now described as:

St Hilda House, 1Ð17 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, Melbourne City Council.

#### EXTENT:

1. All the buildings and structures marked as follows on Diagram 481 held by the Executive Director: B1 House.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 481 held by the Executive Director.

Dated: 8 May 2001

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 19 10 May 2001 875]

*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/>*