

Statement of Significance: Whernside, 2A Whernside Avenue, Toorak, October 2023

Heritage Place: Whernside, Toorak	PS ref no: HO117
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(Source: Collins, J. 1976)

What is significant?

The property at 2A Whernside Avenue, Toorak, (otherwise known as Whernside, and formerly known as Belcroft) is significant. Specifically, the form, scale and detailing of the substantial 1876 mansion and the mature palm trees (*arecaceae*) are of local heritage significance. The front fence, pool, tennis courts and remaining landscaping are not significant.

How is it significant?

Whernside is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is architecturally rare as a late Victorian mansion that has been extensively altered with Arts and Crafts characteristics.

Why is it significant?

Whernside is of historical significance in demonstrating the development of late Victorian mansions on estates within Toorak during the late 19th century. Originally the residence of politician Sir James Lorimer, the mansion is also of historical significance in demonstrating residential development in the southeastern suburbs by Melbourne's wealthiest citizens during the mid to late 19th century period. The palm trees are of historical significance as early plantings associated with the former estate. (Criterion A)

Whernside possesses rare architectural qualities, as a late Victorian mansion that has been extensively altered with Arts and Crafts characteristics. There are few recorded sites of such scale within the City of Stonnington that possess these qualities or characteristics. (Criterion B)

Whernside has aesthetic significance as a high-quality example of a late Victorian mansion that has been extensively altered with Arts and Crafts extensions and decorations. The Victorian characteristics include the use of stucco render, polygonal bays, scale, decorative dental bracketing, arched windows, and hipped slate roofing. The Arts and Crafts characteristics include the use of roughcast render, timber cladding on window boxes, unadorned chimneys, and elliptical windows reflective of Harold Desbrowe Annear's design. Although it is not highly visible, the building is a landmark residence in Toorak owing to the scale, deep setback and architectural interest. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Whernside, 2A Whernside Avenue, Toorak, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2023.