

Heritage Citation – Individual Place

Heritage Place: Residence
Address: 1 Cross Street, Toorak

HO Reference: HO728
Citation status: Final
Date Updated: 24 October 2023
Year of Construction: c.1890

Designer: Unknown
Builder: Unknown



Photograph of 1 Cross Street (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Location map and extent of 1 Cross Street.

Heritage Group: Residential buildings
Heritage Type: Terrace

Key Theme: Building suburbs
Key Sub-theme: Middle class suburbs and the suburban ideal

Significance Level: Local

Recommendation: Recommended for the Heritage Overlay as an individual place.

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 1 Cross Street, Toorak, is significant. Specifically, the form, scale, detailing and fenestration of the freestanding boom era Victorian Italianate terrace is of local significance. The verandah posts, landscaping, front boundary fence and later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

1 Cross Street is of local historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

1 Cross Street is historically significant in demonstrating the development of Victorian residences within Toorak by Melbourne's wealthiest citizens during the late 19th century, following the rapid subdivision and sale of residential land during the 1880s boom period. (Criterion A)

1 Cross Street is of representative significance as an articulated Victorian Italianate terrace, including principal design characteristics such as a tall decorative parapet concealing a double gable roof, original arched timber sash windows with expressed sills, arched label moulds caps and keystones, stucco walls, rendered chimneys with cornice mouldings, corner brackets and withes, cast iron lacework to the balustrade and valance, a solid timber panel door with original timber joinery, and decorative party walls with precast console brackets. (Criterion D)

1 Cross Street is aesthetically significant as a well-kept and grand example of a two-storey freestanding Victorian Italianate terrace. Key characteristics contributing towards its aesthetic significance include its tall arched parapet form, profiled rendered chimneys, bay window, expressive arched windows with hood mouldings and other decorative detailing including stucco ornament, precast urn finials and intricate iron lacework. (Criterion E)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	1 Cross Street is historically significant in demonstrating the development of Victorian residences within Toorak by Melbourne's wealthiest citizens during the late 19th century, following the rapid subdivision and sale of residential land during the 1880s boom period.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.

D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	1 Cross Street is of representative significance as an articulated Victorian Italianate terrace, including principal design characteristics such as a tall decorative parapet concealing a double gable roof, original arched timber sash windows with expressed sills, arched label moulds caps and keystones, stucco walls, rendered chimneys with cornice mouldings, corner brackets and withes, cast iron lacework to the balustrade and valance, a solid timber panel door with original timber joinery, and decorative party walls with precast console brackets.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	1 Cross Street is aesthetically significant as a well-kept and grand example of a two-storey freestanding Victorian Italianate terrace. Key characteristics contributing towards its aesthetic significance include its tall arched parapet form, profiled rendered chimneys, bay window, expressive arched windows with hood mouldings and other decorative detailing including stucco ornament, precast urn finials and intricate iron lacework.
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.

Description

• Physical Analysis

1 Cross Street, Toorak, is a two-storey freestanding terrace house built in the Victorian Italianate style. It is comprised of brick with a white stucco finish and features a double gable roof with corrugated galvanised iron sheeting. The roof profile is concealed behind a tall and ornate triple arched parapet on the front (east) facade, a flat parapet along the side (north and south) elevations and a set of triangular parapets that mirror the roof profile along the rear (west) parapet. Notably, three rendered profiled chimneys extend from the main roof along the north and south side parapets. These chimneys are characterised by cornice mouldings, corner brackets and withes with a form typical of the Italianate style.

1 Cross Street is primarily defined by its highly detailed front façade across two levels. The ground floor facade presents asymmetrically, with the main entrance located to the left behind a raised arched entrance portico. To the right of the main entrance is a bay window comprising three arched timber sash windows. The windows sit on a continuous expressed dentilled sill with similarly finished engaged piers flanking the windows. Arched label moulds cap the windows with highly detailed keystones that feature pre-cast bust mouldings. The ground level side walls also include a blind arch, characterised by an arched label mould and expressed sill with a festoon mould at its base. Two non-original and closely spaced square timber posts are located at the centre of the raised porch to support the first storey verandah above.

The upper floor façade features symmetrical fenestration and detailing. Two tall timber sash windows are flanked by three centred blind arches with a similar finish to the blind arch on the ground floor level. The verandah is supported by two non-original square white timber posts and features an ornate cast iron balustrade and valance. A sill course and label mould runs the length of the upper floor façade. The side walls on the upper floor level feature highly detailed precast console brackets with leaf shaped and a lion head mould. The verandah roof is clad in a corrugated sheet metal. Extending from the verandah roof is the level course with dentil and bracketed mouldings under the cornice. The parapet features a triple arched form with the centre arch slightly shorter in length but taller than the two flanking arches. The flanking arches are detailed with a festoon moulding and the centre arch has a mould with an incised texture. The arches are flanked with piers with an incised textured mould. The parapet is capped with an extruded sill course emphasising the form of the piers, arches and precast urn finials atop the piers.

The side elevations feature arched and rectangular windows at various locations. The windows include a label mould and sill. The chimney shafts are extruded on the elevation and supported by four brackets at the level course. The level course is extruded with an incised texture detail along the length of the north and south elevation. A two-storey addition adjoins the original structure at the rear and a separate freestanding garage/study is located directly south elevation of the residence. The garage/study is rendered, has a flat parapet and double-length counterweight garage door. Given the setback behind the main structure, materiality and the presence of ivy growing across the façade, it is a visually recessive structure beside the original main structure.

The residence is located with a short setback from the street. The street front boundary is demarcated by a short, non-original iron palisade fence that includes an entrance gate and a car gate leading to the

front porch and carport. The short driveway and carport are laid with concrete pavers. The front yard space is laid with aggregate and garden beds along the boundary and side of the structures. The backyard is also laid with aggregate and includes a paved patio area and swimming pool. There are several mature trees located along the perimeter fence in the backyard.

1 Cross Street is located between the junctions with Stonnington Place and Church Street, close to the main Glenferrie Road. The property is currently used as a private residence. 1 Cross Street is considered to be in good condition overall. The site has been extensively relandscaped and therefore is a large extension to the rear of the original structure, however it is not visible from the street. Owing to some alterations to the verandah, landscaping to the front setback and garage addition, the property is considered to be of moderate integrity.

- **Alterations and Additions**

- Two-storey addition added to the rear of the residence (1964).
- Roof reclad with corrugated galvanised iron (1964).
- Garage/study added.
- Verandah posts replaced.
- Square downpipes and water head added to the side elevations.
- New landscaping to the front and rear setbacks.
- Swimming pool added.

History

- **Historical Context**

For thousands of years preceding European colonialism, the area now known as Stonnington was the traditional home of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung people of the Eastern Kulin Nation. This environment would have provided Traditional Owners with access to pre-contact plains, grassy woodland, and floodplains on the banks of the Yarra River (Birrarung), Gardiners Creek (Kooyong Koot), and Hawksburn Creek (now channelised), in a rolling landscape on the northern shore of Port Phillip Bay. It is important to note that the rich cultural heritage of Traditional Owners in Stonnington did not end with colonialism—it has a rich presence to this day.

Following the establishment of Melbourne in 1835, squatter John Gardiner and many others like him sought out land in what would become present day Toorak and surrounds on account of its densely timbered landscape, undulating terrain and proximity to water. By 1840, crown land sales marked the area's transition to pastoral settlement, and later in 1851, with the purchase of land in Hawthorn by Thomas Herbert Power, the surrounding environments gradually became a place where the early merchant and squatter elite of Melbourne built their homesteads. In Toorak, this is best represented by the purchase of lot 26 by James Jackson, associate in Jackson, Rae & Co. soap and candle merchants. Jackson was described by politician William Westgarth as 'Melbourne's greatest merchant of this early time' (Forster 1999, 10). It is only fitting that his house, called Toorak House, would be the namesake of what would become arguably the most affluent suburb in Melbourne. Following the discovery of gold in the 1850s and the wealth this produced for ancillary trades, the Toorak area drew in Melbourne's newly wealthy. Today, over a century later, Toorak still has connotations of wealth and prestige as best represented in its history and built environment (Forster 1999, 5–26).

- ## Place History

The land on which 1 Cross Street is located was formerly part of a Crown Portion 25, which comprised eighty-four acres of land bounded by present day Toorak Road, Malvern Road and Glenferrie Road (Foster 1999, 28). Purchased by Charles Bruce Graeme Skinner for £10,972 in 1853, this land was soon subdivided into a series of small allotments and streets, paving way for the gradual development of several residential and commercial buildings.

While the precise construction date of 1 Cross Street has not been ascertained, records indicate that it was likely erected a few decades later in c.1890 opposite the noted Doona Estate, the year that it first appears in valuation books as a building off School Street (Foster 1991; Alway 1929). Its construction coincided with a period of rapid expansion and development that was taking place in the area following both the gold rush and subsequent 1880s land boom. Melbourne experienced a period of unprecedented prosperity, growth and development. Urban boundaries were pushed out as people, sharing in the ideals of ownership, sought new residential lands to build their homes (Context Pty Ltd 2009, 41). In the case of Toorak, the suburb attracted members of the wealthy middle class due to its favourable topography and close proximity to the village of Melbourne.

Valuation records describe the dwelling as a brick house of seven rooms and lists an individual named Robert Guyton as the owner and occupier in 1890. Guyton's occupancy appears to have only lasted three years however, with the name Robinson listed as the occupier of the house by 1893 (Foster 1991). By 1907, 1 Cross Street is depicted on a MMBW map as an unnumbered freestanding terrace with a front verandah and bay window, as well as a now demolished verandah along the north side elevation (MMBW 1907). Aside from another dwelling occupying the corner of Cross Street and Church Street, 1 Cross Street is the only residence fronting the short and narrow Cross Street during this year, with neighbouring land to the south comprising vacant lots and neighbouring land to the north comprising the rear grounds of residences fronting School Street (MMBW 1907).

While the dwelling remained unnumbered during the early 20th century, 1935 sees it listed as 3 Cross Street. During this period, Charles W. Bell is attributed to the property as the occupant (Sands & McDougall 1935). Bell is attributed to the property until at least c.1945, and by 1950, an individual named James A. Jones is recorded in directories as the occupant (Sands & McDougall 1950). The dwelling was later re-numbered 1 Cross Street in the 1960s (Sands & McDougall 1965).

According to building records, key alterations to the property throughout the mid 20th century include major extensions at the rear of the property including a kitchen, sunroom and laundry in 1964 by the architectural firm Meldrum & Partners, as well as the addition of a carport in 1966 (Meldrum & Partners Architects 1964; Meldrum & Partners Architects 1966). It was last sold in 2017 and continues to be used as a residential property.

Comparative Analysis

As a finely detailed Victorian Italianate terrace constructed during the late Victorian period, 1 Cross Street is directly comparable to several Victorian Italianate terrace houses that were also erected in the municipality during the boom era. Popularised following the development of Toorak House in 1850 and its subsequent use as the Governor's residence in 1854, the use of Italianate derived elements in domestic architecture was particularly prevalent in the Victorian colony. Its connotations with the social

and political elite was integral to its success, and the style grew in popularity during Melbourne's 1880s boom period as a result of rapid population growth, prosperity and development.

Key comparative examples include:

- **Ardeer, 22 Armadale Street, Armadale (HO532).** The site consists of a grand two-storey detached terrace built c.1891 in the Victorian Italianate style with stucco ornament and cast-iron lacework. The terrace is of a similar level of integrity and aesthetic interest to 1 Cross Street, owing to the parapet, detailing and rear extensions. Other noted analogous features include the double gable roof with corrugated iron sheeting concealed behind a tall parapet. With regards to alterations and additions, both properties also have contemporary additions sited ancillary to the main building, where Ardeer has a contemporary carport and 1 Cross Street a standalone garage. Of the two, 1 Cross Street is more ornamental in its façade design, as evidence in the arched label moulds and keystones that cap the windows, the precast urn finials, and a projecting bay window on the ground floor.
- **11 and 13 Cromwell Road, South Yarra (HO304 and HO228).** Built in the early 1890s, the semi-detached Victorian Italianate pair is a good example of 'high Victorian' design. The richness of the stucco ornament and cast-iron fences/lacework makes it a more prominent and notable example than 1 Cross Street, however many similarities can be drawn between the two buildings including the tall parapet, use of iron lacework, recessed entrance treatments with arched fanlights and elaborate stucco ornamentation.
- **30 Sutherland Road, Armadale (HO539).** The site consists of a grand two-storey detached terrace built in 1890. While it is similar to 1 Cross Street in terms of its overall form, symmetry, integrity and condition, 1 Cross Street is arguably a more finely-detailed and notable example of the Victorian Italianate style in comparison due to its elaborate stucco ornament, parapet form, arched windows and doorways, and bay window.

While 1 Cross Street falls within an architectural style and period of development that is well represented within the municipality, the above comparative analysis demonstrates that it is of equal, and in some instances, superior, aesthetic and architectural interest when compared to other prominent Victorian Italianate dwellings on the Heritage Overlay. This is particularly due to the detailing and arched form of its high parapet and fenestration, as well as its unusual bay window.

References

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Stonnington City Council. 2019. Heritage Citation Report: Ardeer, 22 Armadale Street, Armadale, Hermes ID 200135. Unpublished report. PDF file.

Stonnington City Council. 2019. Heritage Citation Report: Houses, 11 Cromwell Road, South Yarra, Hermes ID 31316. Unpublished report. PDF file.

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Further Images



South-west facing view from Cross Street (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



North-west facing view from Cross Street (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



North-west facing oblique view from Cross Street (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of ground floor bay window (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of the upper floor façade (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of upper floor façade (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of parapet (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of south-east parapet corner and profiled chimney (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).

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