

Heritage Citation – Individual Place

Heritage Place: Residence
Address: 5 Myamyn Street, Armadale

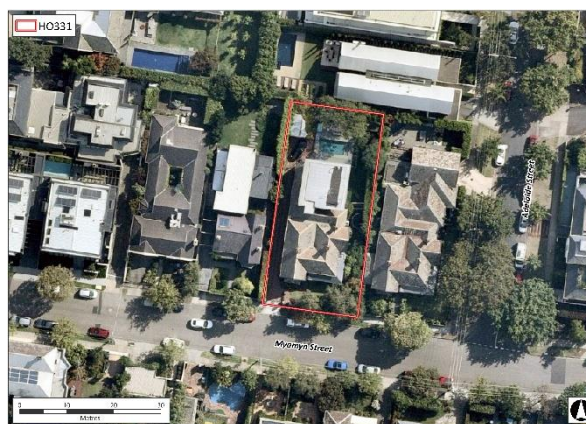
HO Reference: HO331
Citation status: Final
Date Updated: 22 March 2022

Designer: Possibly Arthur Fisher
Builder: Unknown

Year of Construction: 1896



Photograph of 5 Myamyn Street (source: Extent Heritage, 2021).



Location map and extent of HO331.

Heritage Group: Residential buildings
Heritage Type: House

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

Significance Level: Local

Recommendation: Retain as an individually significant place on the HO.

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 5 Myamyn Street, Armadale is significant. Specifically, the form, scale and detailing of the Victorian era dwelling with Medieval/Free Style influences is of local heritage significance. The front fence, landscaping, swimming pool and later alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

5 Myamyn Street is of local aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is associated with one of Australia's most famous mining magnates, Bowes Kelly.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, 5 Myamyn Street is distinguished by its intact and high-quality medieval-inspired detailing. Elements of note include the front bay window with a separate hipped roof resting on paired brackets, elaborate timber surrounds to the windows and decorative verandah joinery. Other aspects that contribute to the aesthetic value of the dwelling include the hipped slate roof with a projecting gable, and the dichrome face brickwork. (Criterion E)

The dwelling is associated with one of Australia's most famous mining magnates, Anthony Edward Bowes Kelly (also just referred to as Bowes Kelly), who originally owned the property. (Criterion H)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

<i>A</i>	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
<i>B</i>	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
<i>C</i>	<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.
<i>D</i>	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
<i>E</i>	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	Aesthetically, 5 Myamyn Street is distinguished by its intact and high-quality medieval-inspired detailing. Elements of note include the front bay window with a separate hipped roof resting on paired brackets, elaborate timber surrounds to the windows and decorative verandah joinery. Other aspects that contribute to the aesthetic value of the dwelling include the hipped slate roof with a projecting gable, and the dichrome face brickwork.

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>	The dwelling is associated with one of Australia's most famous mining magnates, Anthony Edward Bowes Kelly (also just referred to as Bowes Kelly), who originally owned the property. It is unclear if the architect is Arthur Fisher.

Description

• Physical Analysis

5 Myamyn Road is a single-storey Victorian house with Medieval/Free Style influences. It is an open face brown Hawthorn brick structure laid in a running bond. The double fronted façade is highlighted by horizontal single and double course red brick bands. The building has a gable roof projecting from the façade and a secondary projecting hip roof over a window bay. The gable has ivy growing on the façade wall and fully enclosed double hung timber sash windows with a fixed leadlight stained-glass with paired angled bracketed eaves. The structure has a slate roof with a metal roof ridge cap and paired angle bracketed eaves. There are three open face brick corbelled chimneys extending from the roof of the main structure. The chimney corbels are highlighted in the same red brick detail as the façade walls of the structure.

The front façade has a raised covered tiled porch with corrugated galvanised iron roofing, turned timber verandah posts and valance. There is a hipped roof projection extending from the front awning above the steps to the front door. The projection and awning are capped with a dentilation bargeboard and valance. There are wall mounted lights on the front gable and verandah wall.

The grounds of 5 Myamyn are heavily landscaped. There are two birch trees, boxwood hedges and a young acer tree in the front yard. There is an area of lawn in the front yard, eastern garden to the side and backyard. There is a driveway laid in red brick with a river pebble centre that terminates at the carport. There is an extensive back yard with a swimming pool.

The street boundary is demarcated by a high brown brick open face wall with concrete cap with cast spheres. There is a spear head car and main entrance fence gates are painted black.

5 Myamyn Road is located close to the main commercial precinct on High Street, Armadale Train Station and the Mercer Road Tram stop. It remains in use as a residential property and is considered to be in

good condition. There have been major extensions and additions to the dwelling and landscape at the rear. However, the façade, side walls and roof of the original building are largely intact (with the exception of the gable truss and verandah brackets) and would be considered to have high integrity.

- [Alterations and Additions](#)

- Extensions to sitting room at eastern side of main structure (1936).
- Alterations to roof decking and eaves (1975).
- Gothic Revival barge board removed.
- Verandah brackets removed.
- New gutters and downpipes. Addition of a swimming pool (2011).
- Extension to north (rear) of the main structure (2011).
- Addition of a skylight over east façade roof.
- Addition of a brick driveway and front yard path.
- Replacement of earlier fence with a brick wall and metal gate.
- New corrugated iron sheet added to the awning.

[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.

The first land sales in what would become Armadale began in 1854 following the surveying of Glenferrie Road and High Street. The suburb of Armadale was formally included in the City of Prahran and, as is the case with many of the suburbs in Stonnington and surrounds, it received its name from a lone but notable property. Armadale House was built by one James Munro, son of the first keeper of the Prahran pound. On arriving in Australia from his home in Sutherland, Scotland, Munro worked for the stationer business Fergusson and Moore—Fergusson being James Fergusson of Kooyong. Armadale House, built in c.1887, was the first of many grand houses constructed in the suburb in the late 19th century. Munro went on to become Premier of Victoria and, later, Attorney General, before losing all in the economic crash of the 1890s. Following the turn of the century, many of the original 19th century properties faced demolition and subdivision, encouraging growth in early 20th century and the interwar period. While Armadale today enjoys an affluent reputation for its association with the surrounding suburbs of Toorak, Malvern and Kooyong, traces of remnant working class houses can be seen at the small timber workers cottages present in some parts off High Street and near the border with Malvern (Cooper 1924, 268).

- ## Place History

Erected in 1896 for prominent Australian mining magnate Anthony Edward Bowes Kelly, better known as Bowes Kelly, 5 Myamyn Street comprises one half of the matching pair of houses with Medieval/Free Style influences (see 7 Myamyn Street). While the architect has not been verified for the site, these two dwellings were possibly constructed to designs laid out by architect Arthur Fisher (Nigel Lewis & Richard Aitken Pty 1992). Fisher was a local in the area and lived at 1 Sorrett Avenue. 5 and 7 Myamyn Street highly resemble his designs at 127, 129 and 133 Manning Road in East Malvern.

Between 1889 and 1894, Bowes Kelly is listed as the owner of a 133 foot allotment that 5 and 7 Myamyn Street would later come to occupy (Malvern Rate Books). A pastoralist and land speculator throughout the 1870s and 1880s, Kelly purchased a one-fourteenth share in the new Broken Hill Mine in 1884 following news of silver discoveries in the Barrier Ranges (Wheeler 1983). He went on to sit on the board of directors from 1885 and by 1893, he was both the director and principal shareholder of Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Co. Ltd (Wheeler 1893). He lived in the dwelling Waiora at Glenferrie Road, Malvern from 1888 before moving to the mansion Moorakyn, also in Malvern, in 1901.

Kelly was a keen property investor and developer throughout the 1890s, and c.1896 saw the construction of two houses on his allotment at Myamyn Street. From 1896 until at least 1900, sharebroker William H Clark is listed as the occupier of an eight room dwelling at 5 Myamyn Street (Malvern Rate Books, Sands & McDougall 1900). A MMBW Plan from this period shows steps leading into the front entrance and one bathroom (MMBW 1902). Following Clark's occupancy, several more residents passed through the house. This included L. S. Christie by 1905 and Mrs. K. W. Anthony by 1910 (Sands & McDougall 1905, 1910). Given their relatively short duration of stay, it is likely that these initial occupants were leasing the property from Kelly.

Ownership of 5 Myamyn Road was ultimately transferred by the interwar period, with Lionel B. Lewers becoming the official owner and occupier from around 1930 until c.1955. Although not much is known about Lewers, his two and a half decade occupancy at the dwelling is certainly noteworthy. The dwelling was known as Clontibret during this period, and architectural drawings from 1936 reveal a series of alterations and additions made to designs by architect P. Scott-Williams (Scott-Williams 1936). This included covering part of the side verandah to extend the sitting room. New additions as part of the extension included hardwood flooring, windows and a bay (Scott-Williams 1936).

By 1960, Mrs. W. A. Borthwick is listed as the owner (Sands & McDougall 1960). Borthwick stayed at the house for over a decade and is listed as the occupier until around 1974. By 1975, couple Mr. and Mrs. Gingham had purchased the house. This transfer of ownership saw another number of alterations to the property. As indicated in the architectural plans by C. Humphries from December 1975, these included alterations to the roof decking, renovations to the kitchen, new eaves, as well as the insertion of wardrobes and vanities in the two bedrooms and two bathrooms respectively (Humphries 1975). Due to the lack of available historical material, the history of the dwelling from the late 20th century onwards largely remains unknown. Property records indicate that it was sold five times between 1982 and 2001, and then another two times in the 21st century.

Comparative Analysis

The following comparative analysis focuses on a range of dwellings located in the City of Stonnington that share stylistic similarities to 5 Myamyn Street, as Victorian houses with Medieval/Free Style influences. Many of the dwellings were built as investment properties for Bowes Kelly. Further, while the architect has not been verified for a number of these sites, the similarities in the dwellings indicates that they were possibly constructed to designs laid out by architect Arthur Fisher.

The selected houses were designed in an eclectic manner with a medieval character to the gable facing the street and secondary projecting gable roof over a window bay. The medieval character is further reinforced with the entry gableton verandah on some examples. The steep pitched roofs, tall chimneys and the lack of stucco ornamentation on these red face brickwork buildings represents a rejection of the Italianate and the more flamboyant Queen Anne styles.

Comparative examples include:

- **7 Myamyn Street, Armadale (HO538).** Built at the same time as 5 Myamyn Street, owned by Bowes Kelly and potentially designed by Arthur Fisher. This building is more intact with the decorative timber joinery to the decorative barge board remaining in place. Other notable features of difference include the low timber picket boundary fence and the siting on a corner lot.
- **Norwood (133 Manning Road, Malvern East) (HO552).** Designed by Arthur Fisher and built in 1889. The building is slightly more intact with the decorative barge board remaining, however it is more simplistic in overall design. The verandah does not include the medieval style gableton, the projecting bay window is less decorative and visually prominent, and the building is tuck pointed as opposed to dichrome face brick.
- **12 Mercer Road, Armadale (HO328).** Built in 1899, originally owned by Bowes Kelly and potentially designed by Arthur Fisher. This dwelling is arguably less intact than 5 Myamyn Street owing to the lack of decorative timber joinery to the gable end and gableton to the verandah, single-storey brick addition to the side of the front room and modern chimney vents. The projecting bay window detailing is more restrained in its style than 5 Myamyn Street. The site has a much more sympathetic timber front fence.
- **14 Mercer Road, Armadale (HO329).** Built in 1899, originally owned by Bowes Kelly and potentially designed by Arthur Fisher. This dwelling is more intact than 5 Myamyn Street with the decorative barge board remaining in place. However, a garage has been added onto the side of the dwelling forming part of the façade. The projecting bay window detailing is more restrained in its style than 5 Myamyn Street. The site has a much more sympathetic timber front fence.
- **16 Mercer Road, Armadale (HO330).** Built in 1899, originally owned by Bowes Kelly and potentially designed by Arthur Fisher. This building compares well in terms of intactness to 5 Myamyn Street. Both buildings are missing their decorative barge boards but retain other key features such as the gableton to the verandah. The projecting bay window detailing is more restrained in its style than 5 Myamyn Street. The site has a much more sympathetic timber front fence.

Compared to the above properties, 5 Myamyn Street is not the most intact example of a Victorian house with Medieval/Free Style influences. However it retains much of its original street facing fabric and is more intricately detailed than other examples through the use of dichrome brickwork and timber joinery to the project bay window. As a result, the dwelling is considered to be a high-quality and notable example of the style.

References

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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



Detail of front façade (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



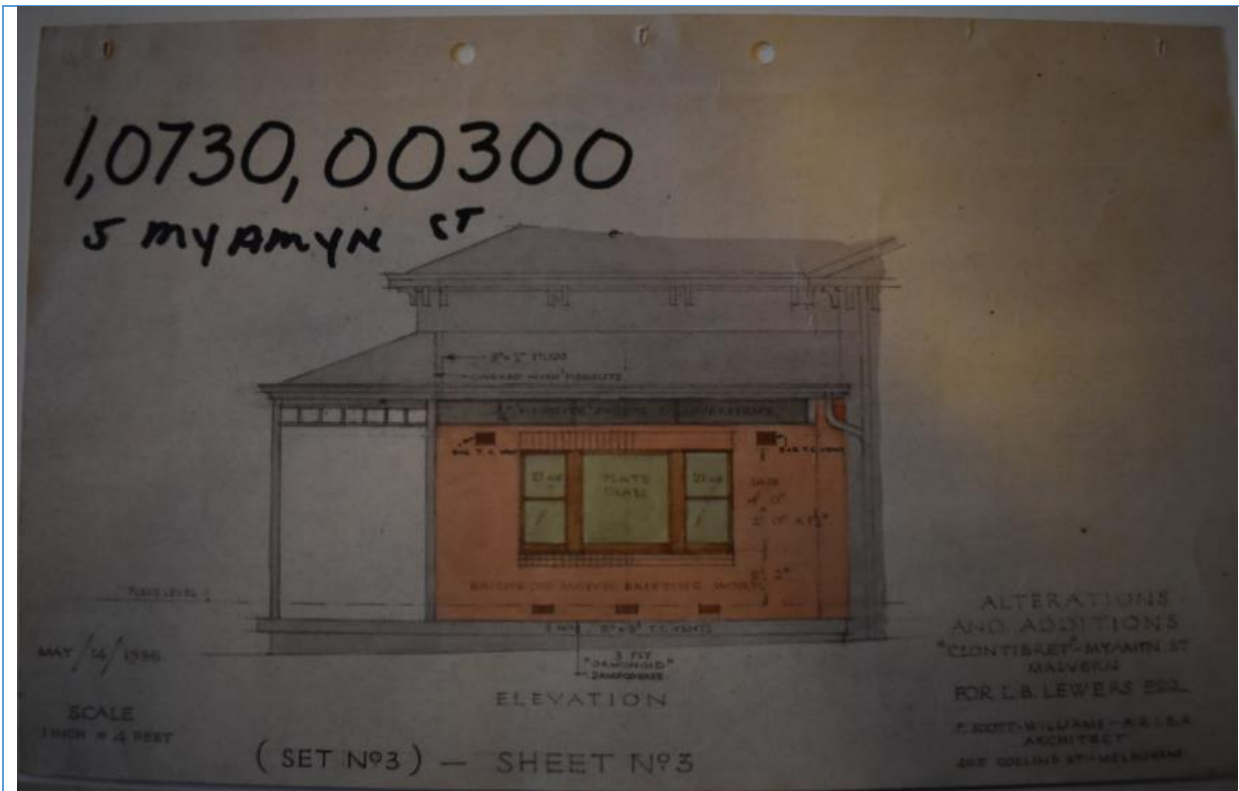
View along driveway (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Overview of front façade and fence (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Overview of front façade and fence (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Architectural drawing of sitting room extension from 1936. Source: P. Scott-Williams. (1936, May). *Alterations and Additions 'Clontibret' Myamyn Street, Malvern, for L.B. Lewers ESQ* [architectural plan]. Stonnington History Centre Collection.

Authors

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