

Statement of Significance: Flete, 10 Flete Avenue, Armadale (March 2022)

Heritage Place: Flete, Armadale	PS ref no: HO38
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(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 10 Flete Avenue, Armadale (otherwise known as Flete) is significant. Specifically, the form, scale and detailing of the 1882-83 Late Victorian Italianate style residence is locally significant. The cast iron fence, whilst not original, is contributory. The tennis court, landscaping and later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

Flete is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is associated with the architect Thomas Watts.

Why is it significant?

Flete is of historical significance in demonstrating the development of Victorian mansions on estates in the suburb of Armadale during the mid-19th century, prior to the wider subdivision of the. The mansion is also of historical significance in demonstrating residential development in the south eastern suburbs by Melbourne's wealthiest citizens during the gold rush period. The house was home to a range of well-known occupants including Supreme Court Judge Sir Hartley Williams, Judge Sir John Latham, and internationally famous opera singer Dame Nellie Melba. (Criterion A)

Flete is aesthetically significant as a fine and intact example of a Late Victorian residence, exhibiting the principle characteristics associated with that period. Key characteristics of aesthetic value include the wrought iron lacework verandah, projecting polygonal bays, a hipped slate roof, decorative Italianate chimney caps, decorative bracketing under the eaves, stucco render, decorative timber joinery and deep wrap around verandah. The interior is of aesthetic significance, built around a central hall configuration and elaborately decorated with an arched ceiling, plastering and pillars. The cast iron front fence also adds to the aesthetic value of the place. (Criterion E)

Flete has associative significance as a house designed by the prominent 19th century architect, Thomas Watts. (Criterion H)

Primary source

Flete, 10 Flete Avenue, Armadale Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, September 2021.