

Statement of Significance: Gelbart House, 5 Heyington Place, Toorak (March 2022)

Heritage Place: Gelbart House, Toorak

PS ref no: HO733



(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 5 Heyington Place, Toorak, (otherwise known as Gelbart House), is significant. The built form, scale, setbacks, fenestration and materiality of the post-war modernist house is of local significance, along with the original garage. The landscaping and later alterations and addition are not significant.

How is it significant?

Gelbart House is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington. The building also has associative significance as a structure designed by the significant modernist architectural partnership Holgar and Holgar.

Why is it significant?

Gelbart House is historically significant as a post-war modern residence that was erected after the post-war development of residential enclaves in Toorak, seeing the creation of cul-de-sacs along generous residential roads, and thus forms a tangible link to this period of planning and development in Toorak. As a house designed by European émigré architects for European émigré clients in the post-war period, Gelbart House is also historically significant in demonstrating the significant design contributions architects such as Holgar and Holgar and their progressively-minded clients made to residential development within the municipality. (Criterion A)

Gelbart House is aesthetically significant as a highly intact, bespoke and unique post-war modernist design with a striking streetscape character and a Hollywood inspired visual appeal. Illustrative of the unique style associated with the architectural firm of Holgar and Holgar, physical elements contributing to the overall aesthetic significance of the house include the rectilinear form and proportions, concrete arched buttresses, recessed entrance treatment with overhead steel screen, the floor-to-ceiling glazing and unhindered views to the building from the northern and eastern elevations owing to a lack of fencing. The buttresses in particular express the structure of the residence while creating a sense of movement with its arched form. (Criterion E)

Gelbart House is of associative significance as a highly distinctive residential design by the architectural partnership Holgar and Holgar. (Criterion H)

Primary source

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