

Statement of Significance: Grenfell House, 9 Mernda Road, Kooyong (March 2022)

Heritage Place: Grenfell House, Kooyong	PS ref no: HO244
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(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 9 Mernda Road, Kooyong (otherwise known as Grenfell House) is significant. Specifically, the form, scale, setback and detailing of the 1932 Arts and Crafts inspired interwar era house is of local significance, as well as the landscaping and mature oak (*Quercus*) tree. The front fence and gate, and later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

Grenfell House is of local representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is associated with well-known architect Godfrey and Spowers. In addition, the landscaping has associative significance with prominent landscape designer Edna Walling, while the mature (*Quercus*) oak tree has historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

The oak (*Quercus*) tree has historical significance as a very mature tree that pre-dates Grenfell House and therefore likely relates to the former landscape of the 1840 Glen Ferrie Estate. (Criterion A)

Grenfell House is a good representative example of an Arts and Crafts inspired interwar era house, a style which drew on the Federation Arts and Crafts movement that stood for the integration of art into everyday life through the medium of craftsmanship in architecture. Key details include the use of sandstone, brick and render to express certain features of the façade, catslide roof, wide eaves and exterior chimney breast. (Criterion D)

Grenfell House has aesthetic significance as a highly intact, fine and visually striking example of an Arts and Crafts inspired interwar era house owing to the use of sandstone and brick, the catslide roof form, scale and its placement on an estate-like lot as opposed to directly fronting a street. The mature oak (*Quercus*) tree also has aesthetic value as a large and visually prominent tree on the site that is clearly visible from the street. (Criterion E)

Grenfell House is associated with Godfrey and Spowers, well known architects early to mid 20th century architects who designed a large number of houses, warehouses and institutional buildings, along with numerous bank buildings in Melbourne. Its grounds are also associated with the influential landscape designer Edna Walling, who was particularly renowned for the use of stone and dense greenery in residential gardens. (Criterion H)

Primary source

Grenfell House, 9 Mernda Road, Kooyong, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, November 2021