

Statement of Significance: Hallows House, 184 Kooyong Road, Toorak (March 2022)

Heritage Place: Hallows House, Toorak	PS ref no: HO737
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(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 184 Kooyong Road, Toorak (otherwise known as Hallows House) is significant. The form, materiality, sitting, fenestration, axial floor plan and enclosed forecourt of the post-war modernist house is of local significance, along with the original carport and holm oak (*Quercus illex*) tree that predates the house in the forecourt. Later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

Hallows House is of local representative significance to the City of Stonnington. It also has associative significance as a design by the prolific post-war modernist Australian architect Guilford Bell.

Why is it significant?

Hallows House is of representative significance as an exceptionally intact and articulated example of Bell's oeuvre that demonstrates aesthetic restraint, a rectilinear form and symmetrical planning that combines the tenets of post-war residential modernism with classical architectural principles. This is most evident in its highly ordered axial planning, striking brick paved forecourt, symmetrical form, unpainted secondhand brick and visual concealment from the street front, which achieves Bell's signature balance between monumental boldness urban discreteness. The incorporation of the pre-existing holm oak (*Quercus illex*) tree within the forecourt is also of particular note, and not only provides both a focal point and contrasting vertical element against the otherwise horizontal structure, but demonstrates Bell's skillful integration of picturesque landscape qualities in architectural design. (Criterion E)

Hallows House is of associative significance as a highly distinctive signature residential design by the prolific post-war modernist Australian architect Guilford Bell during the height of his solo career. Hallows House exemplifies all the elements characteristic of Bell's signature including a concern for visual concealment, ornamental restraint and axial planning. (Criterion H)

Primary source

Hallows House, 184 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, March 2022.