

Statement of Significance: 1-2/5 Moralla Road, Toorak (March 2022)

Heritage Place: 1-2/5 Moralla Road, Toorak

PS ref no: HO745



(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

1-2/5 Moralla Road, Kooyong, is significant. The form, scale, fenestration and materiality of the post-war modernist house and unit are of local significance, along with the original front boundary fence and rear courtyard for 2/5 Moralla Road. The landscaping for 1/5 Moralla Road and later alterations to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

The site is of representative significance to the City of Stonnington. It also has associative significance as two structures designed by the highly significant modernist architect Roy Grounds.

Why is it significant?

1-2/5 Moralla Road, Kooyong, is of representative significance as discernible example of innovative experimentation in geometric form in residential design that typified the beginning of the modernist movement in Australia. This is most evident in the built form of both structures, particularly the balcony and verandah of 2/5 Moralla Road supported restrained pillars and railing overlooking a paved courtyard, the flat roof of both structures, boxed timber eaves and exposed rafters. The lack of ornamentation, paired with Grounds' window designs, are features that would come to inform future modernist design touchstones. These features achieve visual boldness while simultaneously remaining lightweight in massing and scale. Furthermore, as with many post-war residential designs associated with the modernism idiom, the building was construction under the pressure of environmental and site constraints, specifically in relation to the dimensions of the block. (Criterion D)

1-2/5 Moralla Road, Kooyong is of associative significance as a house and unit designed by Roy Grounds. Roy Grounds is considered to be one of the most important architects of his generation and certainly one of Victoria's most well-known and influential modern architects. He was one of the few architects to work in the modernist idiom before WWII and in the 1950s was a member of the Grounds Romberg and Boyd partnership, a highly significant architectural firm of its time. (Criterion H)

Primary source

1-2/5 Moralla Road, Toorak, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, March 2022.