

Statement of Significance: Trelowarren, 543 Orrong Road, Armadale (March 2022)

Heritage Place: Trelowarren, Armadale	PS ref no: HO86
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(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 543 Orrong Road, Armadale (otherwise known as Trelowarren) is significant. Specifically, the form, scale, setback and detailing of the substantial 1877 boom era Italianate mansion is locally significant, along with the two remnant plantings including a ombu (*phytolacca dioica*) and kauri pine (*agathis robusta*). The front fence is of contributory value. Later alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

Trelowarren is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington. Trelowarren is also significant for its association with the prominent 19th century architect George Raymond Johnson and for being the home of Robert D. Reid, merchant and Commonwealth Senator.

Why is it significant?

Trelowarren is of historical significance in demonstrating the development of mansions on estates in the suburb of Armadale during the 19th century, prior to the wider subdivision of the late Victorian estates. 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. (Criterion A)

Trelowarren demonstrates the principal design characteristics attributed with late Victorian mansions. These include the use of slate, a hipped roof form, stucco render, a wrought iron lacework verandah and Italianate chimney capping. (Criterion D)

Trelowarren has aesthetic significance as a highly intact and fine example of a grand Italianate boom era mansion set on a substantial portion of land. The aesthetic qualities are enhanced by the wraparound wrought iron verandah, projecting bays, slate roof and conservatory. The mansion is a landmark property on Orrong Road, particularly owing to its scale, deep setback and high visibility. The place is also of aesthetic significance for the remnant Victorian plantings present onsite. These include two mature ombu (*phytolacca dioica*) and kauri pine (*agathis robusta*) trees. (Criterion E)

Trelowarren is significant for its association with the notable 19th century architect George Raymond Johnson, the designer of stately town halls including but not limited to North Melbourne, Daylesford and Collingwood. Trelowarren is also significant as being the home of Robert D. Reid, a successful merchant trader, member of the Legislative Council and later Commonwealth Senator. (Criterion H)

Primary source

Trelowarren, 543 Orrong Road Armadale, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, March 2022.