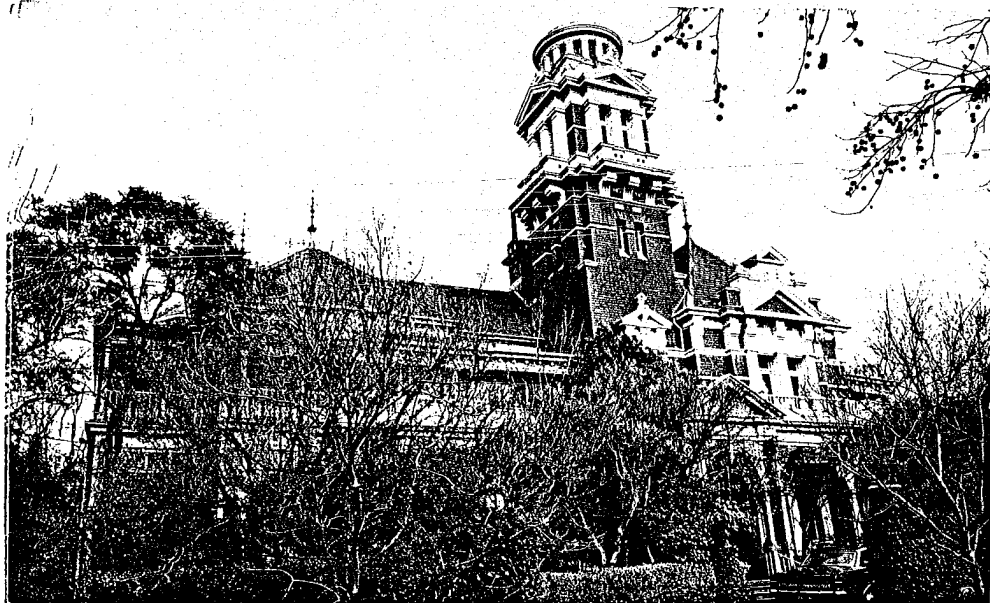


' ILLAWARRA'

1 Illawarra Crescent, Toorak



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, retained on the Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

Current Assessments 'Illawarra' is included on the Register of the National Estate and classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Description 'Illawarra' a monumental and elaborate two storey brick mansion with dominant tower, located on a most elevated site off St Georges Road Toorak, was erected in 1889-91 by builder G. B. Leith for prominent land speculator Charles Henry James. The uniquely detailed 'boom style' mansion designed by James Birtwhistle to replace an earlier residence on the same site is constructed of high quality materials with excellent and opulent interior finishes.

Significance 'Illawarra' at Toorak, is historically significant as the residence of the infamous and unabashed land boomer politician C.H. James, is a well known Toorak landmark and an outstanding work of comparatively unknown architect James Birtwhistle. The ornate mansion epitomises the spectacular excesses of the final years of the land boom and is of architectural importance as a unique composition which prophetically foreshadows Edwardian innovations and trends of the early 20th century.

Intactness 'Illawarra' is a building of outstanding craftsmanship, standing on a restricted suburban site in Toorak. The mansion house is well preserved, essentially intact, currently occupied as apartments, and in the guardianship of the National Trust.

References

The Architects Index, Department of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 2066.  
Building, Engineering and Mining Journal, 7 February, 1891, p.  
45.

The Mercury, Collingwood, 4 April, 1889.

Beaver, E. A., 'Illawarra Melbourne' in Australia Council of  
National Trusts, Historic Houses of Australia Cassel  
Australia Ltd, Nth Melbourne 1974, pp. 236-241.

Pollack, Norman, 'Illawarra' History Research Essay, Department  
of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne, 1967.

(National Estate citation reprinted with permission of the  
Australian Heritage Commission)