

**'BONA VISTA'**

59 Kensington Road, South Yarra, 3141



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 'Bona Vista' is included on the Register of the National Estate and is recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Description 'Bona Vista', in Kensington Road, South Yarra, is now in Commonwealth ownership, but was originally erected in 1884. The property largely remains from the 1870's subdivision of the original 1840 allotment and also contains the original house 'Grantham', which already existed when 'Bona Vista' was erected. The house of 1884 is an early example in Melbourne of the adoption of the Queen Anne style, revived in England from the 1870's, and the use of brown face brickwork and render highlighting, contrasts with the popular Italianate idiom of the 1880's. Steep pitched roofs, gable ends, a corner tower with conical turret, tall chimneys and tall rectangular windows all add to the picturesque, although heavy appearance. In the 1920's the property was purchased by the Linton family and additions occurred to 'Bona Vista' in this period. This family itself is of importance, with Sir Richard Linton being a successful businessman and politician and his sons Richard and Robert, the latter being a doctor particularly prominent in the development of ophthalmology in Australia.

Significance 'Bona Vista' is the oldest known example of Queen Anne revival style architecture in Victoria, and possibly in Australia. This, together with its intactness, make it of particular architectural importance. The intact property, its remaining garden and the 1920's additions are also of note.

Intactness Although largely intact, the building is deteriorating from neglect. Some remnant sections of the garden survive and the house is enhanced by the large grounds.

References

Department of Housing and Construction, Report on 'Bona Vista'