

Residence

55 Lansell Road, Toorak 3142



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

History and Description: This two-storey residence, designed in the severe modern style of the early 1940's was the home of G.J. Cole from 1946 until his death. Its first occupier was H. Wallace Smith from c. 1941, and the building, designed for a corner site in Lansell Road, is geometric in form. Coursed brickwork walls rise to form a plain parapet, which conceals the flat roof of the basically rectangular building. Windows, which puncture the walls, are not uniform in size or placement, but at each level, a constant sill height and a continuous projecting facade with an appearance of overall uniformity. Strips of glass bricks are employed and these also form a bay to the north of the residence. Typical of the era, a lemon scented gum tree graces the garden, which is itself enclosed by a stone fence of random construction.

Significance: The building is a noteworthy example of the experimentation with geometric forms carried out in Melbourne as a result of the International style in Europe. It is particularly severe in its reduction of elements to mere lines on a surface. This residence is also of significance due to its long association with a well-known Victorian businessman G.J. Cole.

Intactness: This building of the 1940's is in substantially intact condition.

References

Sands and McDougall Directories, 1940-1974