

HERITAGE PLACE – CITATION ASSESSMENT

Included in HO82 in
Schedule to Clause 43.01
in Planning Scheme

NAME OF PLACE: 34 Mercer Road, Armadale.

OTHER NAMES OF PLACE : nil.

ADDRESS / LOCATION: 34 Mercer Road, Armadale.

PROPERTY INFORMATION: Double storey boom period dwelling constructed from 1888.

EXISTING LISTINGS: Identified in the schedule to the heritage overlay HO 82 in the Stonnington Planning Scheme. The property is not yet shown on the planning scheme maps. The building is included on the Register of the National Estate (File No 2/17/032/0005). A file (B573) is held by the National Trust of Australia (Vic).

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: The dwelling meets the threshold of local significance required for protection under the City of Stonnington planning scheme.

ASSESSED BY: John Statham, Conservation Consultant.

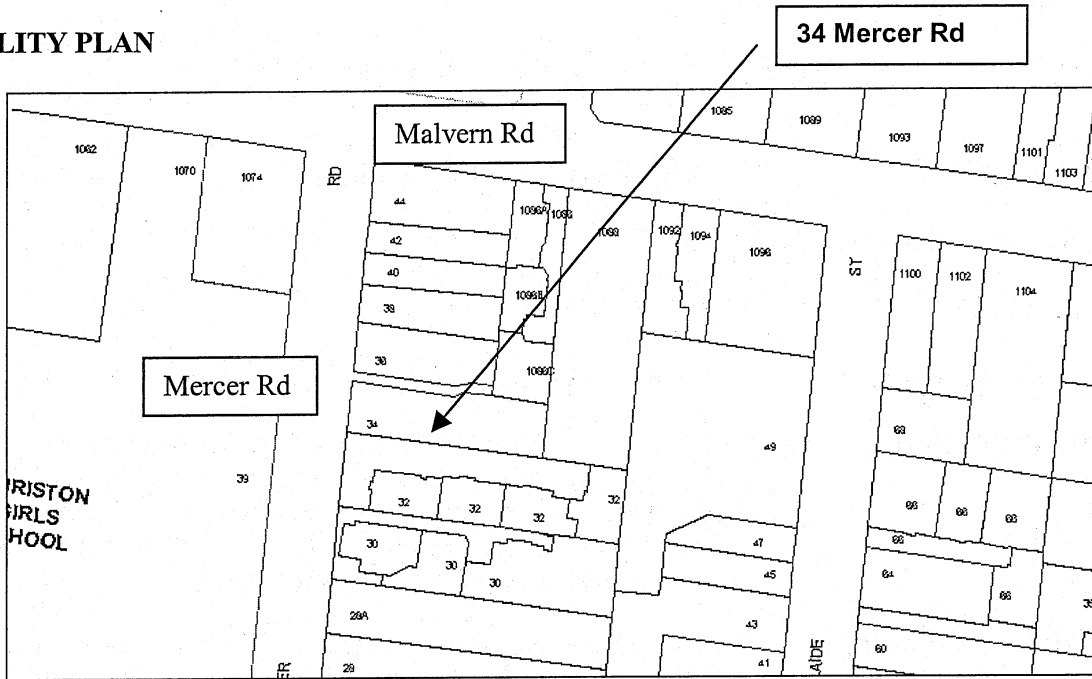
ASSESSMENT DATE: 30 September 2002.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property at 34 Mercer Road, Armadale is a double storey boom period dwelling constructed from 1888. It is of note for its severely executed façade of superimposed orders and elaborate mouldings in stucco. It is of some additional interest for its associations with noted chemist Sir David AC Rivett. The residence is of local significance and warrants continued protection under the City of Stonnington planning scheme.

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LOCALITY PLAN



Map of 34 Mercer Street, Armadale.

PHOTO



DESCRIPTION:

The subject site is located on the east side of Mercer Road in Armadale. It is a two-storey boom period dwelling constructed in rendered brick. It is notable for its façade which comprises an unusual and comparatively rare arrangement of four arcuated bays each rising through two stories and separated by half round columns. The building retains balustrades at the first floor and parapet levels.

The building is currently painted white but otherwise appears to be in good condition and reasonably intact to its exterior. A number of additions and outbuildings are believed to have been constructed to the rear of the building. No examination has been made of this section of the site.

HISTORY

The history of the subject site has not been investigated in detail, as the significance of the place has previously been established as a part of the registration of the place by the Australian Heritage Commission and the introduction of the heritage overlay by the City of Stonnington. The following extract is drawn from the Australian Heritage Commission citation for the dwelling and an examination of the relevant Sands & MacDougall directories.

Construction of the dwelling at 34 Mercer Road commenced in 1888. The development was a speculative venture undertaken by civil servant WJ Stodart. James Dodgsun, a warehouseman, completed then occupied the nine room brick house in 1889. The MMBW plan of c.1894 shows the completed dwelling on its current allotment. The properties at 34 and 36 Mercer Road appear to have shared an accessway to outbuildings at the rear along the common boundary. This no longer exists. Dodgsun remained in residence until the mid 1890s when the house was briefly occupied by Frederick Frith. From c.1897 the dwelling was home to various members of the Stewart family including Gordon R Stewart, Mrs I Stewart and Mrs GR Stewart. The first additions to the rear of the dwelling may date from the Stewart family occupation. During WWI, the property passed to Mrs Nellie Robertson before its purchase by ACD Rivett c.1929. Albert Cherbury David Rivett was Professor in Chemistry at the University of Melbourne, and served as Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He was knighted while living at 34 Mercer Road. During the Rivett occupancy, Lady Rivett undertook a number of alterations to the earlier additions to the rear of the residence. Through the 1940s, the property was occupied by Mrs Annie Lee-Steere. From c.1948 until at least the mid-1980s, the property was owned by Mrs EL Feller and later Karl Feller who constructed a carport and studio to the rear of the dwelling in 1984.

ANALYSIS

The residence at 34 Mercer Road is a notable boom period dwelling erected as a speculative venture during the late 19th century Melbourne building boom. The facade is of interest as an unusual and comparatively rare arcuated four bay, two tier composition, divided by engaged columns, in superimposed orders and enhanced with severely executed classical mouldings in stucco. Ornamentation in this manner is reasonably rare within the municipality. The building is of some interest for its associations with noted chemist Sir David AC Rivett.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The property at 34 Mercer Road is already listed as HO82 in the schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

It is recommended that the property is shown in the heritage overlay maps in the Stonnington Planning Scheme and that the boundaries are confined to 34 Mercer Road and its associated curtilage.

REFERENCES

MMBW Plan No 59, 160' to 1", 1894.

City of Malvern/City of Stonnington property file 6250.130 part 1.

Various Sands & MacDougall Directories 1890-1972