



File No. Her/2003/000208

**Heritage**  
 VICTORIA

16 Jul 2004

 Ms Elizabeth Feller  
 34 Mercer Road  
 ARMADALE VIC 3143

 Nauru House  
 Level 22  
 80 Collins Street  
 Melbourne 3000

 Telephone (03) 9655 6519  
 Facsimile (03) 9655 9720  
 www.heritage.vic.gov.au

 2366  
 R Dicker  
 Recommendations

Dear Ms Feller,

**RESIDENCE, 34 MERCER ROAD ARMADALE**

An assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the above place has now been completed. In recognition of its cultural heritage significance, I will not be recommending that the Heritage Council include the place in the Heritage Register. Instead I will recommend that the Heritage Council refer the nomination to the relevant planning authority for inclusion of the place in its planning scheme.

*NB. Already in HO 82 (refer Am C34)*

The attached document outlines the basis of my recommendation including an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Notification of my recommendation will be published in the **Herald Sun** newspaper on 19 July 2004. A final decision on my recommendation will not be made by the Heritage Council until after the expiration of a period of 60 days from that date.

You or any other interested parties may make written submissions to the Heritage Council before it makes its final decision. You may also request a hearing before the Registrations Committee of the Heritage Council to present your views personally or to discuss matters further. You should realise that such a hearing would be open to all interested parties. Written submissions must reach the above address before midday, 16 September 2004.

To ensure the protection of the place until the Heritage Council has made its determination, you are obliged to inform me of the following:

- Any applications for planning permits or amendments, or planning permits or amendments granted in relation to the place or object within 10 days of the action being taken or 10 days from the date of this letter.
- Any activities proposed or being carried out that may adversely affect the item within 10 days of becoming aware of them.
- Any proposals to dispose of the whole or part of the item at least 10 days before entering into a contract for that disposal.

You are also obliged to give a copy of this letter and attachments to any purchaser before entering into a contract of sale otherwise the contract may be voidable.

If you have any queries please contact Janet Sullivan, Registrations Co-ordinator on 03 9655 6519  
or email [janet.sullivan@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:janet.sullivan@dse.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Sullivan', with a small flourish at the end.

**Ray Tonkin**  
**Executive Director**

cc. *Ms Madeleine Ranieri, National Trust, City of Stonnington*

# Victorian Heritage Register



Heritage  
VICTORIA

## RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

NAME: RESIDENCE

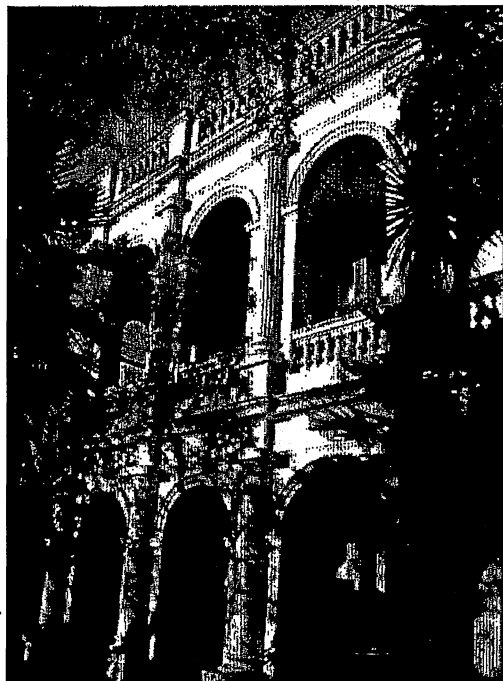
VHR NO: Not applicable

LOCATION: 34 Mercer Road ARMADALE

CATEGORY: Not applicable

FILE NO: Her/2003/000208

OFFICER/S REPORTING: Anne Cahir



### RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object be referred to the relevant planning authority for inclusion in a planning scheme [Section 32(2)]

*Tracy O'Neill*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\* Manager  
Heritage Assessments

*29/6/04*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

*30.6.2004*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

HERMES ID: 12857

HERITAGE REGISTER NUMBER:

NAME: RESIDENCE

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# Victorian Heritage Register



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## REASON:

The street elevation of the house at 34 Mercer Rd, Armadale has a two tiered column and beam superimposed expressed structure of a type more usually found in commercial and civic structures rather than in residential buildings. The house has, however, only one elevation of distinction and the interiors are tightly and sparsely detailed. The appearance of the building is diminished by the removal of the principal entrance portico which was the only distinguishing feature to a side elevation of the house. Comparatively, the major houses Mandeville Hall [H676], Mosspenock [H420], and The Terricks, and others are superior examples of the Victorian Free Classical style. All the evidence supporting the significance of the house at 34 Mercer Rd, Armadale indicates that it is not of sufficient cultural heritage to warrant inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. The house is of local significance and should be retained at its present level for protection under the local planning scheme.

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

### Draft - Not yet approved by Heritage Council

The construction of the residence at 34 Mercer Rd, Armadale was commenced in 1888 as a speculative venture by civil servant W J Stoddart. James Dodgshun, a warehouseman, completed then occupied the nine roomed house in 1889. Dodgshun appears to have lost the house in the 1890s financial crash as the house is in the ownership of the Metropolitan Building Society in 1894-5. Gordon Stewart, a solicitor, became owner of the house in 1896 and the family apparently retained ownership until at least 1916 when Mrs Belle Stewart is listed as the owner. During the 1930s and 1940s, 34 Mercer Rd was occupied by Sir David Rivett and his wife Stella, the daughter of Alfred Deakin. Rivett was a distinguished scientist; he was the deputy chairman and chief executive office of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, [the forerunner to the CSIRO], and held numerous other scientific and academic positions. In the 1950s, the house was bought by architect Karl Feller and the house still remains in ownership of the Feller family.

The house at 34 Mercer Rd, Armadale is a large two storey stuccoed brick residence with an unusual front facade with engaged columns in superimposed orders defining the arcuated four bay balustraded veranda and balcony. The original portico to the main entrance at the side of the house has been removed. An addition of a brick section to the rear of the original building was possibly constructed in about the 1920s. The principal rooms and entrance hall of the house retain their original detailing except for the probable removal of a window to the stair hall which is lit only by an added small highlight window.

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HERMES ID: 12857

HERITAGE REGISTER NUMBER:

NAME: RESIDENCE

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# Victorian Heritage Register



## DETERMINATION BY HERITAGE COUNCIL

*(Strike out where not applicable)*

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(a)]
- That ALL or PART of the Place or object may be of cultural heritage significance and to make a provisional determination to include it in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(c)]
- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register but instead referred to the relevant planning authority [Section 42(1)(a)(i)]
- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register but instead other steps be taken to protect or conserve it [Section 42(1)(a)(ii)]

Comment:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Meeting No	Date	Registrations Co-ordinator	Date