

719 Toorak Road - R

Architect: F J Davies

1919: 'Residence Toorak Road, Kooyong for Mrs Roberts; F J Davies, FRVIA, Architect, 44 Queen Street, Melbourne' - a distinctive blue print in which the extraordinary design of this house is complemented by particularly stylised lettering (Malvern Building Plan 1982)
1950: Cox, Leonard Bell, Consulting Physician Neurologist (Who's Who)

A distinctive house which draws on Spanish and Elizabethan influences. The swagged parapets have some relationship with Walter Butler's 13a Monaro Road nearby. Two storey, finished in unpainted rough cast (recently recoated); it is distinguished by projecting parapets facing both corner facades. At the upper level these break through the projecting eaves and are scalloped in an Elizabethan or Spanish manner. This is repeated at the ground floor porch, which extends across the south elevation and projects out on the eastern side to form a porte cochere. The arched openings are relieved with moulded reveals and a curious cloverleaf design. Apart from the parapets, the building has wide eave overhang with a glazed terracotta tile roof that may be a later alteration. There are several small window openings upstairs, including those flanking chimney breasts. A set of windows and French door penetrate the principal parapet panel facing Toorak Road. This provides access onto the front balcony. Elsewhere windows are of a simple double hung design having glazing bars in the top sashes. There are windows of a Moorish style on the ground floor living room. The building had a cypress hedge for many years with a low rendered wall. These have been replaced since 1992 by a high wall on both boundaries with new planting behind. The house and new wall are finished in a yellow ochre cement or lime finish, which retains a natural finish but in a different colour.

719 Toorak road is of regional significance as an unusual and distinctive variation on the Spanish and Elizabethan styles. The scalloped parapets and decorative detailing and strong building forms provide a unique architectural composition.