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# Charsfield Hotel

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## Location

478 St Kilda Road, South Melbourne, MELBOURNE CITY

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 4, 2000

Charsfield is historically significant as the oldest house still standing in St Kilda Road. It is of one of the few remaining buildings indicative of the residential scale which once dominated St Kilda Road and established it as a fashionable boulevard and prestigious residential area (Criterion A.4). The guest house wing is also of interest for its association with the second phase of St Kilda's development when many of the large mansions were converted into guest houses and flats in the 1920s and 30s (Criterion A.4). Charsfield is architecturally significant as a finely detailed and well composed Italianate mansion designed by the prominent firm of Charles Webb and Sons. It is also significant for its strong stylistic connection to the Windsor Hotel, one of Webb's major works (Criterion F.1). Register of the National Estate

Location : 478 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Architect/Designer Webb, Charles & Sons,

Hermes Number 126150

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

A well proportioned Italianate mansion designed by Charles Webb and Sons, with arcaded loggia, central portico and tower and finely detailed cement ornament to main facades. The front facade of the additional wing to the south, added in 1931, complements the design of the original house at a smaller scale. Generally a simply detailed interior notable for the top lit central stair hall, the engaged Corinthian columns and ornamental plaster to pilasters to the entry hall and some intact features such as cornices and fireplaces. Some lead light windows of interest to the guest house wing.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Providing administrative structures and authorities - defence

## **Physical Conditions**

Internally and externally, the 1889 portion of Charsfield is substantially intact. The rear section has been altered internally in 1931 and integrated with the 1931 guest house wing, which itself is of high integrity. Charsfield is in excellent structural condition and in good state of repair.

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Undetermined

## **Veterans Description for Public**

The Charsfield Hotel at 478 St Kilda Road, South Melbourne was purchased in 1956 by the Australian Army as accommodation for members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC), and Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC), until 1988 when it was resold as a hotel.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*