
Netherby House

Location

8 Queens Road, South Melbourne, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 4, 2000

Netherby is one of the few mansions remaining in Queens Road (Criterion B.2). It is associated with the development of that area as a fashionable and prestigious residential area (Criterion A.4). It is notable for its Victorian Italianate architectural characteristics. It has Boom style details internally and externally. This is a house type for which Melbourne is renowned (Criterion D.2). It demonstrates a high degree of technical and design achievement in the skilful integration of 1920s additions (Criterion F.1). It is associated with William G Sharp, prominent Melbourne timber merchant and proprietor of the long established timber firm of John Sharp and Sons. Netherby was the home of the Sharp family for over forty years (Criterion H.1).

Condition and Integrity: The principal facades are of high integrity. The changes to the house are not readily seen from the street and those changes which are publicly visible have been integrated into the original fabric. There have been minor additions such as external blinds and air conditioners. Sympathetic additions were made to the house in the 1920s and included the added bay to the north, the part enclosure of the verandahs and the addition of an annexe to the dining room. In 1952 most of the plumbing was upgraded and in 1956-57 the rear wings were constructed. The house is in good condition and well maintained.

Location : 8 Queens Road, Melbourne.

Construction dates 1890,

Hermes Number 126160

Physical Description 1

Constructed in the early 1890s in the grand Italian Renaissance revival style, Netherby, facing Albert Park, is a large, detached villa with full verandahs. Much larger than its neighbours, it originally included a long fernery along the northern side of the residence, a small conservatory adjoining the large tennis court and a waterhole to help provide an adequate water supply for the extensive garden. The east and west elevations fully express the elements of the grand Italian Renaissance revival style with the exception that Netherby does not have a tower. Main features of Netherby include a hipped and slated roof, timber framed double hung windows with compound moulded timber architraves internally and load bearing brickwork walls with ruled stucco render and cement mouldings.

Netherby also has stuccoed chimneys with cornices, entablatures and panelled shafts. Pilasters frame the main windows and support unusual broken and scrolled pediments over the ground level windows and key stoned flat arches over the upper windows. Decorative horizontal layers were added with a rich bracketed cornice mould under the eaves and the lesser string mould at the storey line each with their entablatures. The arcaded verandah has full arches supported on cast iron columns and piers, with cement balustrading between. The verandah was partially closed in about 1925 but originally terminated on the stair hall rather than on the projecting room bay which was typical of the style. The tall arched stair window is given full expression on the exterior as a major vertical element to properly complete the composition. The front door is surrounded by stained glass and there is a large stained glass window in the main stairwell. The interior of the ground floor has encaustic mosaic tiles in browns, creams and blacks, set within a stone border. Other features include ornamental sub-floor vents and the panelled and boarded ceiling. The entry door has six panels and fits the scale of the building with its deep reveal, side panelling, panelled fanlight and arched profile. Internally the main receiving rooms have been modified. One room retains most of its character with deeply moulded cornices and skirting although the inclusion of the ground level verandah in about 1925 has modified the symmetry of the room and created a deep ceiling beam where the room width opening was made. The main bedrooms are well preserved with moulded ceilings and joinery. Enclosure of the verandah created a lead light gallery to one of the rooms where the verandah arches are retained and enriched with embossed art metal in the tympanum and timber panelling below the window. In 1952 most of the plumbing was upgraded with fixtures on the ground and first floor being replaced with new bathroom and toilet fittings. Substantial changes were made to the property in 1956-57 with the construction of the rear wings. These additions were constructed with a desire for austere utility. The wings are clad externally with red pressed bricks. One wing has a gabled roofline and the other a near flat or skillion roof. The wings are set either side of a narrow light court and communicate at ground level only. Additions have replaced the fernery, small conservatory and tennis court. The garden has remnant layout and elements, largely consisting of the concrete circular drive dated from pre-1945 and some mature plantings mostly in the front garden. Plantings which date from the late nineteenth, early twentieth century include two CINNAMOMUM CAMPHORA (camphor laurels) and two ACEMENA sp, (lillypilly).

Historical Australian Themes

Providing administrative structures and authorities - defence

Usage/Former Usage

Undetermined

Veterans Description for Public

The site of Netherby House, 8 Queens Road South Melbourne, is part of land alienated in 1875 from the Albert Park Reserve and subdivided into large allotments to be sold as residential blocks. From 1968 until June 1994, the property was used by the Army Reserve, initially as a headquarters unit and later as a training establishment.

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/>