
SHOPS

Location

535-541 TOORAK ROAD, TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO173

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The building at 541 Toorak Road is of regional and possibly state significance as a fine and substantially intact example of the Old English commercial mode of the interwar period, and for its dominant role within the important Toorak Village Group of Old English shops. It is of additional significance as a fine example of the commercial work of Robert Bell Hamilton, a prominent commercial and domestic architect in this period and leader in the use of Old English modes in the interwar years. The building at 541 Toorak Road is important for its landmark position within the Toorak Village Group, and, as part of that group, as a contributory element within a stylistic group which is relatively rare within the Greater Metropolitan area. They are quite possibly the grandest example of an Old English or Tudor Revival suburban commercial premises in Victoria, and are certainly the best example of the mode in Stonnington.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Prahran Conservation Study Identification of Buildings & Areas of Major Significance, Nigel Lewis & Associates, 1983;
Construction dates	1860, 1934,
Architect/Designer	Reed, Leslie,

Other Names	Flats,
Hermes Number	30846
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

As outlined above, the premises at 541 Toorak Road include the remainder of an old house, much altered, with Old English shopfronts added in 1933 and even more recent additions, in the same Old English mode, to Grange Road.

The facade to Toorak Road is the most strongly modelled and impressive of the various Old English shopfronts associated with this area. Symmetrical like most other examples, it features a canted first floor on timber brackets, with half timbering and a combination of gable and helm roofs clad with terracotta tiles. The central bay to the first floor projects out as a flat oriel, and the windows to the first floor are leadlight casements. The corner, eastern wall is part half timbered but largely masonry, executed in a decorative pattern with an ornate parapet detail.

The frontage to Grange Road appears to retain the footprint of the original house, although the elevation treatment has been transformed to match the Toorak Road frontage. Today it reads as a number of discrete pavilions sympathetic to the character established by the corner building but of a somewhat more simplistic design. The castellated, Tudor parapet treatment to the south east bay of the old house may represent its original character, but this is unknown.

The resultant composition is stylised and self-conscious in the typical interwar manner, but in its size and complexity is extraordinary and is broadly regarded as a landmark within the area. The shopfronts to the ground floor have been rebuilt in recent years.

Local Historical Themes

7.2 Creating specialised shopping centres

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/>