
Billilla House & Garden



B0032 Billilla Brighton



B0032 Billilla Halifax St
Brighton

Location

26 Halifax Street,, BRIGHTON VIC 3186 - Property No B0032

Municipality

BAYSIDE CITY

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1155

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 7, 2007

Billilla is a single storeyed, rendered brick mansion dominated by a three storeyed tower. Originally constructed in 1878 and altered in 1888 to design of prominent Melbourne architects Smith and Johnson, the character of the house was further comprehensively altered in 1907 to the design of Walter Richmond Butler. This change is evidenced by the extensive use of Art Nouveau and Jacobethan detailing around the perimeter of the Victorian house creating three totally new facades, as well as a ring of new rooms behind. Since 1977 when the former City of Brighton acquired Billilla there have been substantial changes associated with opening the house to the

public and equipping it for catering functions. The house retains all its known original outbuildings except the conservatory.

Billilla is architecturally, historically and socially important to the State of Victoria.

Billilla is of architectural significance as an extraordinary stylistic example of Walter Butler's work which shows a move by Butler to an Arts and Crafts style. The exterior of Billilla stands apart as his most comprehensive essay in the mixture of Art Nouveau and Jacobethan, expressed in rendered ornamentation over a large house, with classical idioms as the main stylistic sources. This represented a prominent departure from the norm of residential architecture at that time. Internally, it is significant for the fine quality and wide stylistic variety of its architectural embellishment, particularly in the plasterwork of the ceilings, and all the associated fittings such as door furniture, light fittings and hearths. Billilla is also important as an extraordinary example of the encasing of an earlier building. As well, Billilla is of interest for its associations with prominent Melbourne architects, Smith and Johnson who undertook the alterations of 1888.

Billilla is historically and socially important for the outstanding intact nature of its Edwardian and Victorian fabric, services and fittings, and for its outbuildings and extensive garden and grounds, all of which constitute an extraordinary example of the lifestyle and working of a wealthy Edwardian household. Billilla is also of interest for its association with William Weatherly, a close friend of Andrew Chirnside and an original shareholder in BHP, the source of his considerable fortune.

Classified: 'Local' 05/12/1963

Revised: 03/08/1998

File note 27/06/2012: G13072 (Billilla Garden) amalgamated with B0032

Hermes Number 64515

Property Number

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/>