

# Oceania, 61 Hesse Street, Queenscliff



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Oceania House, c.1888. (North facade)



Oceania House 1981. (East facade)



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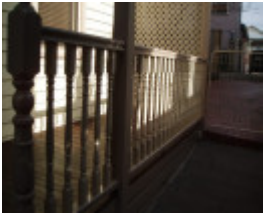
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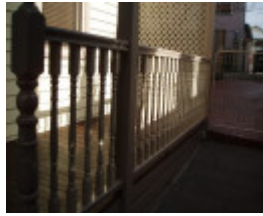
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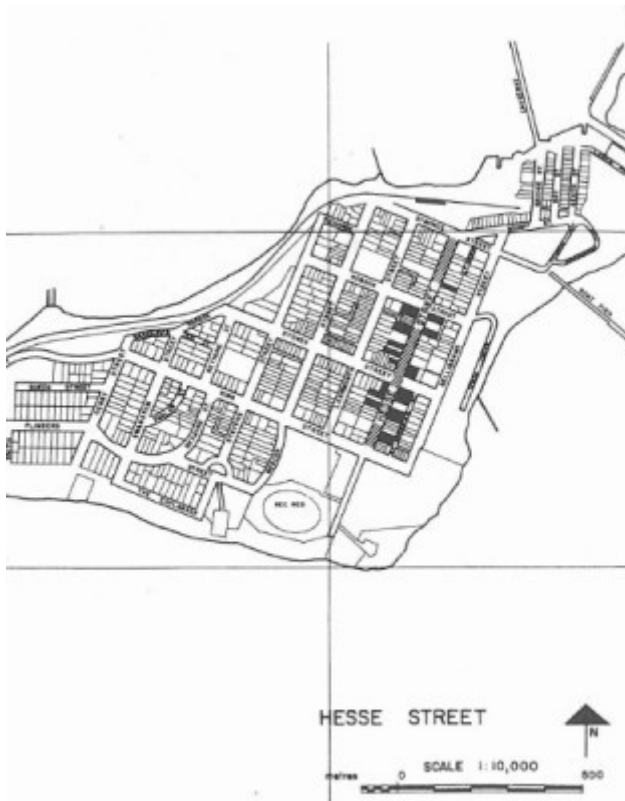
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Oceania House location

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## Location

61 Hesse Street QUEENSCLIFF, QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

## Municipality

QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO107

HO7

## Heritage Listing

Queenscliffe Borough

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 1, 2009

Statement of Significance as recorded under the Queenscliff Heritage Study 2009

*Oceania House* is of historical and architectural significance to the Borough of Queenscliffe. It is of historical significance as an 1880s two storey residence which was later remodeled into a guest house and accordingly has associations with Queenscliff's tourism boom of the late-nineteenth century, and continuing popularity into the twentieth century. It is also of interest for its original siting overlooking Market Place Reserve and connection to Hesse Street, which has been lost through subsequent development of the Reserve. The current isolation from Hesse Street therefore provides evidence of the changing pattern of development in this area of the township. Architecturally, *Oceania House* is significant as an example of the Queenscliff vernacular style of early two storey residences, albeit built in the 1880s, and one of relatively few substantial weatherboard, two-storey, hipped roofed verandahed dwellings in the town. It is additionally enhanced by its external decorative treatment, including to the verandah and front door.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study, Allom Lovell & Associates P/L, Architects, 1982; Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Heritage Study, Lovell Chen, 2009;
Construction dates	1884,
Hermes Number	120600
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The siting of the house, being well back from Hesse Street, may be explained by the existence of a Market Place Reserve which occupied the allotment to the north and thus allowed Oceania a frontage. Subsequently, when this allotment was sold<sup>(3)</sup> and the market place disbanded, a right-of-way was taken through from Hesse Street to allow access to Oceania and this was known as 'Oceania Place'.

Oceania is a two-storey, hipped roof timber house with a concave-roof timber verandah on two sides. This house is relatively undecorated externally; simple timber work and panelled side and top lights to the front door being the only gestures in this respect. Alterations to the house include the construction of an external timber stair to the upper verandah level, the removal of the interior staircase, the recladding of most internal walls, with the exception of the north-east room at ground level and the filling in of both levels of the verandah, on the eastern face.

## Physical Description 2

Extract from the 2009 study

*Oceania House* is a two-storey, weatherboard house with hipped roof forms, a two-storey timber return verandah with concave roof to the north and east sides, and openings placed symmetrically in the front facade. The house was originally relatively undecorated externally, save for a fretwork frieze to the ground floor verandah, decorative metal balustrade panels to the verandah at first floor level, and side and top lights to the front door. Later alterations have added a large carport, an octagonal sunroom/conservatory, as well several modifications to the south elevation including a side entrance porch.

There are three high level, small sideways-sliding timber sash windows of six panes each; one to the west elevation, and two to the south elevation. Other windows include a large round-headed window with stained glass side panels at first floor level on the south side (presumably associated with the internal staircase/landing); more generally timber-framed, double-hung sashes; and sets of timber-framed French doors at first floor level, with fanlights above.

Since 1984, the Oceania has been largely restored to its 1880s appearance with the removal of several twentieth century additions including the external timber stair and verandah infill, and the reinstatement of the balustrade panels.

## Intactness

GOOD

*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/>*