

# Bronte, 11-13 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff



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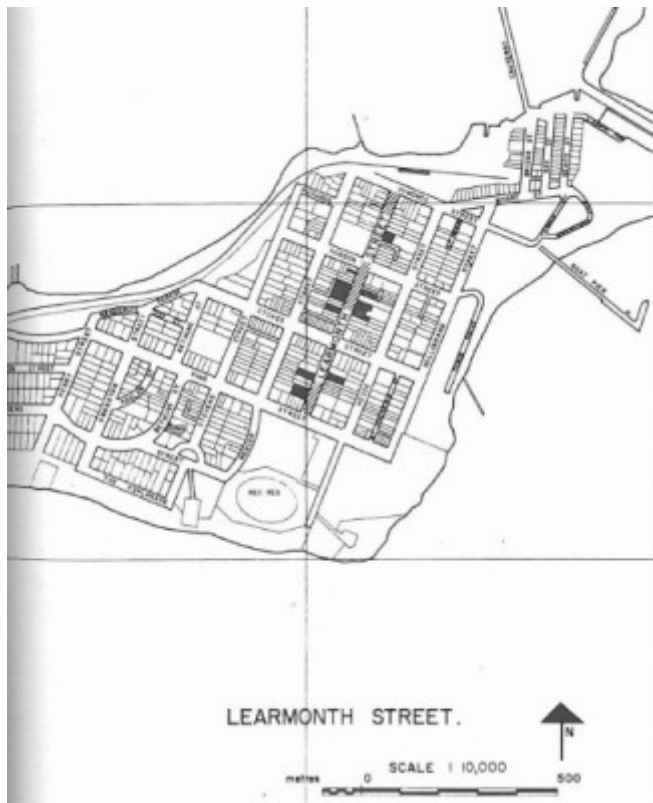
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## Location

11-13 Learmonth Street QUEENSCLIFF, QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

## Municipality

QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO123

HO11

## 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

*Bronte* is of historical and aesthetic/architectural significance to the Borough of Queenscliffe. The building dates to the earliest phase of construction in the township, and is associated with the early pilot service. It is also evocative of the architectural character bestowed on Queenscliff by the pilots. The lookout tower is significant for being the best and perhaps the earliest example of a building element derived from the needs of the pilots.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study, Allom Lovell & Associates P/L, Architects, 1982; Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Heritage Study, Lovell Chen, 2009;
Construction dates	1853,
Hermes Number	120703
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

What remains of Bronte is evocative of the architectural character bestowed on Queenscliff by the pilots. The concave-hip roof, clad in sheet zinc, has a compass-point finial upon the timber tower. The walls of this tower are

overlaid with timber pilasters much after the style of the town and following the design of the bay window on the east facade. The tower in turn, sits on the flat-top..hipped roof of a timber clad pavillion which was originally verandahed on its eastern face and formed the main rooms of the original Bronte.( 10) The skillion has been added, the remaining western section of the house having been demolished since 1966.( 11) A simple stuccoed chimney is an indicator of the age of the building.

Bronte is a picturesque reminder of the Caught family and the pilot service. Other pilots' houses have survived for as long and faired better (e.g., 28 Mercer Street and Roseville, 1-2 Mercer Street), perhaps with less of a strong association with one family.( 12) However, the tower of 3ronte, being of timber and near to original, is the best and perhaps earliest exemplification of architecture as derived from the needs of the pilots.

## Physical Description 2

Extract from the 2009 study

The original five-room building is the northern hipped roof (slate) section with bracketed eaves, which is almost square in plan with weatherboard walls and a simple rendered chimney. The weatherboard-clad observation turret is situated centrally on the roof of this part of the building. It has a concave hipped roof in zinc sheet with a compass point finial and bracketed eaves. The walls of this tower are overlaid with timber pilasters. This building originally had a verandah along the east elevation[i] (now removed). The original bay window, overlaid with timber pilasters, has been retained. A weatherboard skillion extension has been added to the west elevation of this building, the remaining western section of the house having been demolished since 1966.[ii]

To the south is a later zinc sheet clad, hipped roof extension with a skillion verandah to the west elevation and a rendered chimney. The addition of this part of the building approximately doubled the size of the dwelling. This section of building contains several disproportionately large window openings. A painted brick lean-to addition adjoins this part of the building on the south elevation.

Dominating the site to the east (No. 11 Learmonth Street) is *Whitehall*, a large guesthouse which was built in the mid-1920s on the east section of the original land purchased by pilot J G Caught (Section Six). The property retains its lawn on the west of the house, facing Learmonth Street.

Despite the piecemeal growth of this property, the general form of the original building, including the observation tower, is largely intact. However, several elements have been replaced including the timber framed window to the north side of the turret; and the apparent re-cladding of parts of the west skillion extension, which also includes a new door opening on the north elevation. There is also evidence of some repairs to the weatherboard cladding and sheet metal roofs. The west wall of the south section of building appears to be a later infill of what was possibly a deep verandah. This would also account for the overly large windows to this facade.

[i] McWilliams Map of Queenscliff, 1864.

[ii] Aerial Photograph 2.4. 1966.

## Intactness

FAIR

*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/>*