

The Ridge, 68 Mercer Street, Queenscliff



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The Ridge, 1984



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Location

68 Mercer Street QUEENSCLIFF, QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

Municipality

QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO48

HO11

Heritage Listing

Queenscliffe Borough

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 1, 2009

Statement of Significance as recorded under the Queenscliff Heritage Study 2009

The Ridge is of historical and architectural significance to the Borough of Queenscliffe. It is of historical significance due to its association with the earliest phase of development at Queenscliff; it was also the first two-storey masonry residence built in the township, prominently sited on elevated land, and strategically placed with views to the Rip. The association with successful early Melbourne businessman and merchant Edward Wight is also important, as was his long ownership of the property and subsequently that of his descendants until after World War II. Architecturally, *The Ridge* is significant as an early, imposing and substantially intact two-storey masonry residence, with a handsome and generously proportioned two-storey return verandah.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study, Allom Lovell & Associates P/L, Architects, 1982; Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Heritage Study, Lovell Chen, 2009;
Hermes Number	120739
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Ridge is a two-level, stuccoed brick house, with a M-hip roof and a two level, return verandah. The verandah posts, capitals and balustrading are of timber, the balustrade panels being composed from superimposed geometric patterns repeated three times within the panel.

Physical Description 2

The interior is appointed with white marble and black slate mantles, plaster cornices and a timber staircase, whilst there is an arched window with coloured and incised border glazing in the stair hall. Alterations include the replacement of the picket fence, the conversion of an upper level window to a door, and the sheeting of the upper verandah floor with asbestos cement. The timber balustrading is in the course of restoration.(10)

Physical Description 3

The Ridge is a visually prominent building in the town, the siting having emanated from the emphasis given to this part of the town by the establishment of both the entrance road and the telegraph line, down King Street and the desire of residents to view the Rip for incoming and outgoing shipping. The Ridge is also one of a minority of two-level masonry houses built during the 1860's, being the first in Queenscliff and the most intact

Physical Description 4

Extract from the 2009 study

(Note: An internal inspection of the property was not carried out for Stage 1 of the Heritage Study. References to the interior and internal features in the following description derive from the 1984 study.)

The Ridge is an imposing two-storey, rendered brick house, with an 'M'-shaped hipped roof and a two level skillion-roofed and generously proportioned return verandah. The roof is punctuated by two rendered chimneys with moulded cornices. Pairs of verandah posts with capitals and the frieze to the ground floor verandah are of timber and are not original. The balustrade panels (restored in the 1980s) are composed of superimposed geometric patterns repeated three times within the panel. The entrance door is placed to the side of the front facade; there is an arched window with coloured and incised border glazing in the stair hall. A single-storey hipped roof rear extension also has a wrap-around verandah.

The interior is appointed with white marble and black slate mantels, plaster cornices and a timber staircase.

Alterations include the reinstatement of the picket fence which was replaced by a brick wall; and the sheeting of the upper verandah floor with asbestos cement. An upper level door opening has been restored back to a window.

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/>