
FORMER DRESDEN VILLA SITE

Location

26 HALIFAX STREET BRIGHTON, BAYSIDE CITY

Municipality

BAYSIDE CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2434

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 1, 2024

What is significant?

The archaeological remains of an early nineteenth century weatherboard villa constructed between 1885 and 1887. The villa and associated land was later acquired by the adjacent mansion Billila, before its demolition in the early twentieth century. The site has since been part of the landscaped garden at Billila.

How is it significant?

The site is of archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

The site is significant not for its association with the registered Billilla property but for its potential to contain earlier, largely unrelated archaeological remains of the 'Dresden' property.

Interpretation of Site	The footprint of the nineteenth century villa, Dresden, and the adjacent fernery, seen in the MMBW plan of 1906, is an area of high sensitivity. The area of the house may include subsurface archaeology such as footings and deposits associated with habitation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; the lining of the cellar in particular is an element that could remain, given the lack of disturbance in this area. Since Dresden's demolition, this area appears to have been mainly used for landscaping, indicating a low level of disturbance. The footings of the fernery are not known, but was likely a lightweight structure, with less archaeological potential than the house itself.
Other Names	"Dresden",
Hermes Number	212374
Property Number	

History

SiteCard data copied on 01/08/2024: The former nineteenth century villa, "Dresden", was located in the north-western corner of the current grounds of Billilla. The exact construction date has not been confirmed, but it appears to have been built between 1885 and 1887. The Brighton rate books of 1887 and 1890 described the building as weatherboard, with either 8 or 9 rooms, owned and occupied by Charles Bruhn. The land associated with the property is listed as extending approximately 90 feet (27 metres) along Halifax Street and 123 feet (37 metres) to Belle Avenue. Bruhn later leased the property to tenants, but in the early twentieth century the building does not have a separate listing in the directories, indicating it had been incorporated into the Billilla property. It appears to have been demolished by 1910.

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/>