

Statement of Significance: Clarence Lodge, 58 Norwood Road, Caulfield North

Date of Statement: August 2020

Address: 58 Norwood Road, Caulfield North	Name: <i>Clarence Lodge; Heristal</i>
Place Type: Residential building (private)	Grading: Significant
PS ref no: HO212	Constructed: 1890



Photographs by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019

What is significant?

Clarence Lodge, at 58 Norwood Road, Caulfield North, is a large single-storey double-fronted hip-roofed Late Victorian villa in a hybrid Queen Anne style, with tall chimneys, prominent gable end, shaped bargeboards, canted bay window, leadlight windows and expansive return verandah with turned posts, lattice freeze and tessellated floor. Designed by architect R B Rieusset, the house was built in 1890 for successful Boom-era businessman and his wife, who lived there only very briefly before his business collapsed in 1891.

The significant fabric is defined as the entire exterior of the house.

How is it significant?

Clarence Lodge satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history.
- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
- Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Why is it significant?

Clarence Lodge is aesthetically significant as a distinctive and idiosyncratic example of Boom-era residential architecture. Its design freely adapted the typical forms and motifs of the prevailing Late Victorian villa style (eg double-fronted asymmetrical façade composition, return verandah and canted bay window), merged with those that are more indicative of the emerging Queen Anne style (eg overscaled gable end with shaped bargeboards, turned posts and tall chimneys). Within this unusual composition, several elements are particularly quirky, such as the verandah extended across the projecting bay, the canted highlight window above the verandah roof, and the turned timber finials supporting the gablet eaves. The house demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement as an early manifestation of the gradual shift towards the Federation style, which would dominate domestic architecture in Australia in the first decade of the twentieth century. It is rare as one of only a small number of houses in Melbourne from the late 1880s and early 1890s that can be considered as prototypes for this important aesthetic shift. (*Criteria B, E and F*)

Primary sources

Heritage Citation HG010, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.