Statement of Significance: Arundel, 10 Chastleton Avenue, Toorak, October 2023

Heritage Place: Arundel, Toorak	**PS ref no:** HO18



(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 10 Chastleton Avenue, Toorak (otherwise known as Arundel) is significant. The scale, form, detailing and siting of the substantial Arts and Crafts Georgian Revival house, as well as the Interwar era garage and original front entrance gate are of local significance.

The plantings and timber fence are not significant.

How is it significant?

Arundel is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is associated with Chief Assistant Government Astronomer, Charles Merfield.

Why is it significant?

Arundel is historically significant as demonstrating the development of early 20th century mansions and houses within Toorak. The 1939 garage is historically important as demonstrating early 20th century parking facilities, during a time when the motor car was gaining popularity amongst the wealthy. (Criterion A)

Arundel is aesthetically significant as a highly intact and distinct Arts and Crafts Georgian Revival house. It is also important in exhibiting the principal aesthetic characteristics attributed to the later works of Harold Desbrowe-Annear. These characteristics include: a rectilinear form; shallow-pitched gable roof; decorative floral plasterwork; a pillared portico or porch; and decorative elliptical windows. In the early 20th century and towards the end of Harold Desbrowe-Annear's career, the aesthetic characteristics represented at Arundel became emblematic of Desbrowe-Annear's Arts and Crafts Georgian Revival style. The garage was constructed in 1939 to the designs of another architect, and though not original to the site, still possesses aesthetic significance as a sympathetically designed outbuilding. (Criterion E)

Arundel has associative significance as the home of, Charles James Merfield for whose family the house was built. Charles James Merfield was the Chief Assistant Government Astronomer and noted for his contributions to both astronomy research and railway engineering in Victoria and New South

Wales. The house has remained under continual occupation and ownership by the Merfield family for almost a century. (Criterion H)

Primary source

10 Chastleton Avenue Toorak - Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, November 2023.