Statement of Significance: 60 Washington Street, Toorak (March 2022)

Heritage Place: 60 Washington Street, Toorak	**PS ref no:** HO742



(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The residence at 60 Washington Street, Toorak is significant. The built form, scale, fenestration and materiality of the Post-war Modernist house is of local significance. The landscaping and later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

60 Washington Street, Toorak is of representative significance to the City of Stonnington. The site also has associative significance as a residence designed by the highly significant modernist architectural firm Yuncken Freeman Architects and as the personal residence of Roy Simpson, notable architect and partner in the firm.

Why is it significant?

60 Washington Street, Toorak is of representative significance as a discernible example of innovative experimentation in geometric form and materials in residential design that typified the peak of the modernist movement in Australia. This is most evident in its built form, particularly its flat roof with exposed overhanging eaves paired with a double storey construction and glazing to the upper storey, which achieves visual boldness while simultaneously remaining lightweight in massing and scale. The emphasis of lower ground garage conveys a bunkered weight, coupled with the sheer unornamented façade providing a sense of design restraint. (Criterion D)

60 Washington Street, Toorak has associative significance as an intact residential design by the highly distinguished architectural firm Yuncken Freeman Bros. Griffiths and Simpson (later Yuncken Freeman Architects) who became one of Melbourne's most important architectural firms of the 20th century for their significant role in re-shaping the city from the 1960s and 1970s. They were responsible for important designs such as the Former BHP House (1972), Estates House (1976), Sidney Myer Music Bowl (1959) and La Trobe University Masterplan (1964). What is more, the dwelling was designed and constructed as the personal residence of architect and partner in the firm, Roy Simpson. (Criterion H)

Primary source

60 Washington Street, Toorak, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, March 2022.