

'Oakrest', 31 The Esplanade, Portarlington Statement of Significance March 2026

Heritage Place: 'Oakrest', 31 The Esplanade, Portarlington	PS ref no: HO2067
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025

What is significant?

The property at 31 The Esplanade, Portarlington, otherwise known as Oakrest, is locally significant to the City of Greater

Geelong. Significant elements comprise:

- The 1888 weatherboard residence.
- The façade, fenestration, verandah and lacework, roof form, chimneys and bay window.
- Sightlines to and from The Esplanade and the foreshore.

Non-significant elements comprise:

- The boundary fence.
- Plantings.
- The rear yard, lean-to extension and decking.

How is it significant?

Oakrest is of historical, representative and associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

Oakrest is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong, and more locally the township of Portarlington, as a highly intact 1888 waterfront Italianate boom-era villa representing the historical resort expansion of Portarlington in the late nineteenth century. Oakrest was constructed by Montague and Maria Druce Oakes in 1888 and is one of several examples in Portarlington representing this period of luxury nineteenth century expansion in the township. (Criterion A)

Oakrest is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a Late Victorian Italianate villa constructed in 1888 in the middle of Victoria's post-Gold Rush boom-era. As such, key features which establish Oakrest's representativeness include its off-centre façade with projecting bay and bay window, hipped roof, twin brick chimneys with rendered drip moulds, sash windows, centred entrance with fanlight and sidelights, convex verandah with wrought and cast iron lacework, and timber bracketry in the

eaves. All of these features combine to create a highly intact example of the typology, establishing Oakrest's representative significance. (Criterion D)

Oakrest is of associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact seaside villa designed by the local Geelong-based architect Joseph Watts. (Criterion H)

Primary sources

Oakrest, author: Benjamin Petkov, February 2025, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy, May 2025.

Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*