

Billilla is located at 26 Halifax Street, Brighton, is one of Melbourne's few remaining considerable homesteads. Billilla Historic Mansion is a picturesque heritage property integrating a stately formal garden and the glorious historic house, which was the former the home of the Weatherly family. Merchant Robert Wright built Billilla Mansion in 1878 on land which had originally been owned by Nicholas Were. Billillia house has built based on combination architectural styles, featuring a Victorian design with Art Nouveau features. The house retains many original Victorian elements and a number of outbuildings still stand to the rear of the property including the butler's quarters, dairy, meat house, stable garden store and coach house. Billilla house was used as a backdrop in the Australian 1980 Channel 10 miniseries adaptation of Sumner Locke Elliott's "Water under the Bridge". It was used at the Sydney harbourside home of Luigi, Honor and Carrie Mazzini.

Billilla has a single floor and rendered brick three-storied tower. In the beginning it is constructed in 1878 and modified in 1888 to design of outstanding Melbourne architects Smith and Johnson, the character of the building was further generally changed in 1907 to the design of Walter Richmond Butler. This change is obvious because of the large use of Art Nouveau and Jacobethan detailing around the perimeter of the Victorian house creating three totally new facades, as well as a ring of new rooms' behind. Billilla house is significant stylistic example Walter Butler's work. The combination of Art Nouveau and Jacobethan is shown in rendered ornamentation over a large house, with classical idioms as the main stylistic sources. This expressed an outstanding moving from the norm of residential architecture at that period of time. Interior of Billilla house is consist of the good quality and wide stylistic diversity of its architectural embellishment, particularly in the plasterwork of the ceilings, and all the related fittings such as door furniture, light fittings and hearths. Billilla is important as an outstanding example of the encasing of an earlier building.

Year Construction Started	1878
Architect / Designer	Butler, Walter Richmond, Smith & Johnson
Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901) Free Classical, Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Art-Nouveau



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Victorian Heritage Database place details - 19/4/2012 Billilla House