Revell, 9 Toorak Avenue - S

Architect: Edward F Billson

1920: E H Pearse Esq. Dwelling Toorak Avenue, Malvern Edward Fielder Billson
Architect, 395 Collins St. Melbourne (Malvern Building Plan 2238)

This two storey residence has a low pitched hipped roof with a wide, low chimney on the
ridge line. It has boxed eaves with exaggerated overhangs. The simple repetition of
casement windows and vertical piers provides a character common to most Prairie style
houses. It is likely that the roof was originally clad in unglazed cement tiles with
unpainted rough cast finish on the walls. In 1992, the planked timber fence contributed to
the building's character. The building was apparently intact other than the modern glazed
terracotta tile roof and the painting of the building a uniform white colour that detracted
from its compositional elements. The only notable change since 1992 has been the
removal of the fence.

Edward Fielder Billson, who practised in the inter-war period, is best known for his
working association with Walter Burley Griffin. In conjunction with others of the office,
such as J.F.W. Ballantyne and Eric Nicholls, as well as Griffin himself, this group
established the Prairie school in Melbourne.

9 Toorak Avenue, designed by Edward Billson in the Prairie style, is of state significance
as one of the most important surviving examples of the Prairie style school in Melbourne.