

Victorian Heritage Database Report
HELENVILLE

NOTE: THE TEXT IN THIS DATABASE IS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM PAST HERITAGE STUDIES WHICH NOW FORM REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AT CLAUSE 22.02 OF THE YARRA PLANNING SCHEME. TO ENSURE ACCURACY, THE INFORMATION WITHIN THE STUDIES SHOULD BE RELIED UPON. IN THE EVENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCIES, THE INFORMATION IN THE STUDIES PREVAILS OVER THAT IN THIS DATABASE.



Location:

377 Church Street, RICHMOND VIC 3121 - Property No 191225

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Recommended for Overlay Individually Significant

Heritage Overlay Number: HO315

Listing Authority: Yarra City

Precinct:

Church Street Precinct

Statement of Significance:

This site is subject to a Statement of Significance for the building, as well as a Statement of Significance for the Precinct in which it is located.

Please find below the Statement for the building, followed by the Statement for the Precinct

Individual place statement of significance:
Richmond Conservation Study, Volume 2

'Helenville" is significant as the Richmond residence of the gifted architect John A.B. Koch between 1885 and 1896. ,

Precinct statement of significance

Component streets include:

Brougham Street, Charles Street, Charlotte Street, Church Street, Elm Grove, George Street, Lyndhurst Street, Malleson Street, Mary Street, McGrath Court, Parker Street, Wall Street,

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Elm Grove (originally known as Catherine Street), was created by a subdivision of auctioneer Charles William's Crown Allotment 20 in 1852. By 1855 it contained about 20 houses. The street held a number of distinguished Victorian-era architects, such as James Robertson and William Salway and noted builders like James Bonham and Richard Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald's house (3 Elm Grove, c.1868) is in the Gothic Revival style (48) and was reputedly designed by the celebrated architect William Wardell. The majority of this part of the portion was developed by the early 20th century.

By the late 19th century the street had a semi-mature avenue of elm trees, stone street channels and extensive timber picket fencing and picket tree guards protecting the street trees. The elms, which were planted for Fitzgerald, are said to have been the first suburban street avenue planted. They were replaced by plane trees in the 20th century.

The MMBW Detail Plan 1065 (1896) shows the Heritage Overlay Area as near fully developed with a mixture of masonry and timber, mainly detached houses with front verandahs. The street patterns are irregular, reflecting the many private subdivision that created them, and rear right-of-ways have been provided for service access. The Church Street perimeter (see Church Street Heritage Overlay Area) was lined with large houses that have

since, in some cases, been redeveloped and their large land holdings subdivided (see McGrath Court, added onto the west end of Parker St). The Templeman Hotel (4A Charlotte St) was one of the few commercial buildings in the area (now a car park). Houses were set close to the street but are shown with fenced front gardens, footpaths were typically asphalt paved, street crossings were pitched with blue stone, but only Elm Grove was shown with street trees (planted in the footpath). Development in the area today is about 80% from the Victorian-era or Edwardian-eras, with a little over one third of those being from the Edwardian-era.

Later development evident in the Heritage Overlay Area includes an inter-war factory in Mary Street. Its good state of preservation allows expression of Richmond's rebirth as an industrial suburb in the 20th century, one of the key themes in the City.

Main development era

The main development period evident in the heritage overlay is that of the Victorian era with a substantial contribution from the Edwardian-period. There is also a contribution from some well preserved inter-war buildings and individually significant places of all eras.

Contributory elements

The Elm Grove Heritage Overlay Area includes contributory buildings as generally (but not exclusively) detached Victorian-era and Edwardian-era mainly one-storey houses having typically:

- . Pitched gabled or hipped roofs, with few facade parapets;
- . Mainly one storey wall heights but with isolated two storey houses;
- . Weatherboard, face brick (red, bichrome and polychrome), or stucco walls;
- . Corrugated iron roof cladding, some Marseilles pattern terra-cotta tiles, and some slate roofing;
- . Chimneys of either stucco finish (with moulded caps) or of matching face brickwork with corbelled capping courses;
- . Post-supported verandah or porch elements facing the street, with cast-iron (Victorian-era) or timber (Edwardian-era) detailing;
- . Less than 40% of the street wall face comprised with openings such as windows and doors;
- . Front gardens, originally bordered by timber picket front fences of around 1m height; also
- . Corner shops and residences with display windows and zero boundary setbacks.

Contributory elements also include:

- . Well preserved buildings, including one storey houses and a one storey industrial building, from the pre Second War era;
- . Hilly terrain and an irregular street pattern;
- . Mature street tree plantings (plane trees, as symbolic of the original elm plantings) in Elm Grove;
- . Public infrastructure, expressive of the Victorian and Edwardian-eras such as bluestone pitched road paving, crossings, stone kerbs, and channels, and asphalt paved footpaths

How is it significant?

HO319 Elm Grove Heritage Overlay Area, Richmond is aesthetically and historically significant to the City of Yarra (National Estate Register [NER]Criteria E1, A4)

Why is it significant?

The Elm Grove Heritage Overlay area is significant:

. For its range of 19th and early 20th century housing, particularly a number of large Edwardian residences on elevated sites in the west of the Heritage Overlay Area, and smaller housing on flatter land to the east. Collectively they stand out from the surrounding area as a cohesive group of residential buildings which are of aesthetic and historical significance within the municipality;

. For the elevated siting of parts of the precinct on Richmond Hill, providing commanding views, access to sea breezes and an ideal siting for residences of influential persons until well into the 20th century. These included architects James Miller Robertson and William Salway and the Richmond builder and timber merchant Richard Fitzgerald;

. For the contribution from some well preserved inter-war buildings such as the factory in Mary Street as a significant reminder of the mix of industrial and residential development that was so common in Richmond by World War Two, and the individually significant places of all eras; and

. For the bluestone street elements as an enhancement to the historic character of the Heritage Overlay Area, as aided by mature street plantings (planes) in Elm Grove.

References

48 National Trust. File No. 2398.

END STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Description

'Helenville' at 377 Church Street is a stuccoed brick terrace house of nine rooms, which was designed by J.A.B. Koch. Like many examples of Koch's work, it has an Italian Renaissance derived arcaded facade with balustered parapet and balcony, and the arches are supported on squat cast iron columns.

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| Heritage Study / Consultant | Yarra - Richmond Conservation Study, John & Thurley O'Connor, Ros Coleman & Heather Wright, 1985; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007; Yarra - Heritage Gap Study: Review of Central Richmond 2014, Context P/L, 2014 |
| Construction Date Range | 1885 - |
| Architect / Designer | Koch, JAB |
| Municipality | YARRA CITY |
| Other names | |
| Hermes number | 86948 |
| Property number | 191225 |

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online