

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**Yarraville Residential Heritage Area**

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**Location:**

Somerville Rd, Melbourne to Geelong railway, Avoca, Castlemaine, Woods, Willis, Simpson, Ballarat, Blackwood, Norfolk, Sussex, Stephen, Ducker, Goulburn, Lennox, Maggie, Ovens, Schild, Tarrengower, Wilson and Knox Streets YARRAVILLE, MARIBYRNONG CITY

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Overlay Number:** HO15

**Listing Authority:** Maribyrnong City

**Precinct:**

Yarraville Residential Heritage Area

**Statement of Significance:**

## Statement of Significance

The Yarraville Residential Precinct is significant to the City of Maribyrnong because:

- it (with the Yarraville Commercial & Civic precinct) is expressive of two major development periods in the City's history (Victorian-era, Edwardian-era), with all of the elements which make up an urban area from these periods, such as the transport hub and associated entertainment, civic and commercial buildings close to the station, and the surrounding residential areas which still express the dominant Edwardian and Victorian-eras, as expressed by:
  - small Victorian & Edwardian single-storey detached housing with mainly weatherboard and some brick wall cladding, corrugated iron roofing, front verandahs, similar front and side setbacks and narrow block frontages,
  - some surviving early asphalt footpaths and stone kerb and channel,
  - pre motor-car age indicated by no provision originally for on-site vehicle parking for most of the identified housing,
  - major built form of the typical Victorian era hipped roof and Edwardian era main hip and projecting gable roof form combination,
  - some early two storey masonry parapeted, zero lot line, corner-sited commercial development at prominent locations in the streetscape,
  - mature elm street tree planting typical of the Victorian-era (Criteria A3, A4);
  - of the early underlying street, subdivision pattern and street names (1859 plan of Yarraville Township) which derive from one of the early private town surveys in the Colony of Victoria and the oldest known private township plan to be created and sold within the City ( Criterion A4); and
  - it contains elements of the earlier phase of Yarraville's commercial development which occupied prominent street corners (Criterion A4).

### Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) criteria

The Australian Heritage Commission criteria consist of a set of eight criteria which cover social, aesthetic, scientific, and historic values. Each criterion has sub-criteria written specifically for cultural or natural values. The relevant criteria are:

A.3 richness and diversity of cultural features

A.4 demonstrates well the course and pattern of history, important historic events

## Description

The general character of the Yarraville Residential Precinct is that of small Victorian & Edwardian single-storey detached housing with mainly weatherboard and some brick wall cladding, corrugated iron roofing, front verandahs, similar front and side setbacks and narrow block frontages. Houses were originally with timber picket front fences and streets with asphalt footpaths and stone kerb and channel, with some surviving. Originally there was no provision for on-site vehicle parking for most of the identified housing. The major built form is of the typical Victorian era hipped roof and Edwardian era main hip and projecting gable roof form combination although there are some early two storey masonry parapeted houses. The corner-sited commercial development, had zero lot lines. Properties are generally surviving in the grid lot layout from the 1859 township layout as shown in the 'Township of Yarraville' plan and there is mature elm street tree planting typical of the Victorian-era. Of the 507 places in the precinct as a whole 429 are contributory.

In the residential areas there are concentrations of 19th century housing which survives in Ovens Street (north side), Stephen (north end) and Castlemaine Street (west end). Edwardian groups are in Sussex, Knox and part of Stephen (north) Streets. Later eras are represented in a lesser concentration in Frederick Street. Some areas, such as Stephen Street have elements of an early commercial- civic core (former Lyric Theatre) which has been superseded by the present centre grouped around the railway. Most houses are altered in detail but retain enough original fabric to express their development period better than most in the City. This is aided by

rare (in the City of Maribyrnong) mature public landscape (elms, street trees) in Stephen St, south of Somerville Road. Very little of the bluestone kerb and channel which was once prevalent in the precinct has remained except for the east end of Blackwood and Lennox Streets and the large and notable expanse of basalt pitchers on the railway yard next to Woods St.

Part of the 1859 township plan lies outside of the heritage overlay area where the existing building stock has been judged to be below the study threshold for adequate expression of the historical themes and satisfaction of the Australian Heritage Commission criteria. However the township plan itself is of significance as evoked by the street and subdivision pattern and street names which survive from its creation date.

**Thematic context**

Australian Principal Theme Making suburbs

PAHT Subtheme Making suburbs

Local Theme(s) Private subdivisions and villages in the nineteenth century

Map (Melway) 42 AB89

Boundary description Parts Somerville Rd, Melbourne to Geelong railway, Avoca St, Woods, Willis, Simpson, Ballarat, Norfolk, Sussex, Stephen, Ducker, and Knox Streets, with emphasis on all original Edwardian-era and Victorian-era elements, including basalt pitched paving, asphalt footpaths, lot sizes and street patterns.

Heritage Significance City

Creation date(s) 1849-

Local Government Area City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Private & Public

Physical Conditions: Physical Conditions:fair (disturbed, reasonably preserved)

Integrity: Integrity:partially intact/intrusions

Heritage Study / Consultant	Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder & Gary Vines, 2000
Construction Date Range	1849 -
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	MARIBYRNONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	30493
Property number	

*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*