

## Solomit or Straw House Heritage Precinct



Solomit or Straw House  
Heritage Precinct ALTONA,  
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study  
2006 - 169 Maidstone Street



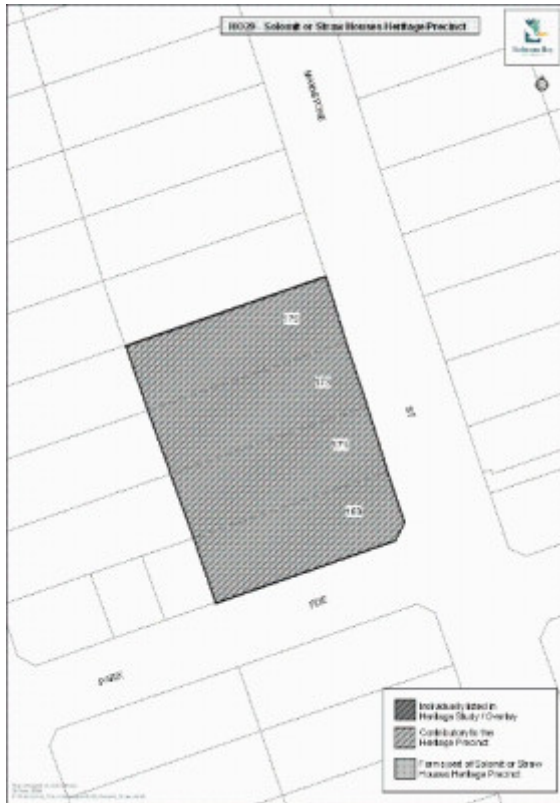
Solomit or Straw House  
Heritage Precinct ALTONA,  
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study  
2006 - 171 Maidstone Street



Solomit or Straw House  
Heritage Precinct ALTONA,  
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study  
2006 - 173 Maidstone Street



Solomit or Straw House  
Heritage Precinct ALTONA,  
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study  
2006 - 175 Maidstone Street



Solomit or Straw House Heritage Precinct ALTONA, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006

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## Location

169-175 Maidstone Street ALTONA, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO29

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Solomit or Straw Houses Heritage Precinct, which comprises four houses, which were designed by Marcus Barlow and constructed in 1941, at 169-175 Maidstone Street, Altona.

How is it Significant?

The Solomit or Straw Houses Heritage Precinct is of local historic, aesthetic and technical significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the houses are notable both individually and as a group as an innovative house type that demonstrates the development of Altona during the Interwar period and are important examples of the innovative work of noted architect, Marcus Barlow. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Aesthetically, the houses are significant as a cohesive group using the Old English style, which is distinguished by its rare construction technique. (AHC criterion E1)

Technically, the houses are significant as rare examples using a pioneering construction method that utilised unusual and innovatory building techniques as a consequence of materials shortages after the outbreak of World War 2. (AHC criteria B2 and F1)

On this basis, the following places contribute to the significance of this precinct.

- House 175 Maidstone Street Altona
- House 173 Maidstone Street Altona
- House 171 Maidstone Street Altona
- House 169 Maidstone Street Altona

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Construction dates 1927,

Architect/Designer Barlow, Marcus,

Hermes Number 22460

Property Number

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## Physical Conditions

External Condition

Fair

## Physical Description 1

This precinct comprises four similarly planned and styled 'Solomit' or 'Straw houses'. Each house uses the Old English style, and are constructed using straw insulation and render facing, in a staggered plan in a group, typical

of the late 1930s.

There are other rendered but more simply designed houses in the street that may have been built using the same product.

## **Integrity**

External Integrity

High

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Context

Set in flat area of mainly later detached housing.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Principal Australian Historical Theme(s)*

Making Suburbs

## **Physical Description 2**

*Associations*

Marcus Barlow, Solomit Ltd,

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*