

# Victoria Street Heritage Precinct



Victoria Street Heritage Precinct WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006



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## Location

Victoria Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

## HOBSONS BAY CITY

### **Level of significance**

Included in Heritage Overlay

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO33

### **Heritage Listing**

Hobsons Bay City

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### **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Victoria Street Heritage Precinct, which comprises all land within HO33 and generally includes properties with a frontage or side boundary to Victoria Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Victoria Street Heritage Precinct is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Victoria Street Heritage Precinct is part of the Folkestone Estate, which is associated with two well-known Williamstown figures, AT Clark and John Morgan and illustrates the speculative subdivisions created during the late nineteenth century that were not fully developed until the mid-twentieth century. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a cohesive late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential street that is notable for the relatively intact groups of larger and predominantly single storey, single detached villas on generous allotments, which are enhanced by mature garden settings and mature street trees. There are also distant views to the sea and the railway station at either end of the street. (AHC criterion E1)

On this basis, the following properties and other elements contribute to the significance of the precinct:

- Esplanade 106.
- Victoria Street (odd) 1, 3, 9, 13, 15-23, 27, 31-37, 43, 49-53, 61-71, 75, 79, 83-119 and 121.
- Victoria Street (even) 22-34, 38, 44-50, 54, 56, 60-66, 70-80 and 94-104.

*Please note that some heritage places within this precinct may also have an individual citation in this Study.*

53 Victoria Street is not the original dwelling - reconstruction has occurred in accordance with the ICOMOS Burra Charter.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Construction dates	1885,
Other Names	Hannan's Farm Heritage Precinct, Williamstown Beach Heritage Precinct,
Hermes Number	22467
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

Victoria Street is a well-established residential precinct that is distinguished by the high proportion of Federation and Interwar era picturesque villas and bungalows, which are complemented by Victorian-era villas that are related in terms of their siting, scale and materials. Key characteristics of the street include:

- Detached siting with relatively consistent generous front and side setbacks that have allowed the establishment of mature gardens with canopy trees.
- Predominant single storey scale, although there are a small number of notable two storey houses such as the Queen Anne influenced villas at 51 and 80, and the Interwar houses at 72 ('Pevensey'), 115 and 119.
- Complex hip and gable roof forms, in terracotta tile, slate or iron.
- Mostly double and triple fronted and often asymmetrical forms.
- A higher proportion of brick houses than in other parts of Williamstown, which includes a rare example of an asymmetrical rendered brick Victorian Italianate villa at No.37 with detailing not found elsewhere in Williamstown.

The setting of the houses is enhanced by the mature street planting of ash trees in the nature strip, however, the trees are not related to the development period of the street and have replaced the once notable WW1 memorial palm avenue. Few front fences are original, but most are low and many are in a related reproduction period style such as timber pickets. Original or early front fences remain at properties including No. 78 (Interwar) and 63 (Victorian).

The northern entry to the street from Kororoit Creek Road is marked by the landmark Rifle Club Hotel, a two storey brick and stucco hotel that demonstrates influences of the Californian Bungalow style employed in some of the houses further down the street. At the corner of Railway Crescent is the Williamstown Croquet Club Pavilion, which is an elegant building in the Interwar 'Mediterranean' style.

The main streets within the Hannan's Farm and Folkestone Estates, which include Hannan Street are set apart from the adjoining 1880s subdivisions to the east (which followed the general pattern established by the Government Survey) by their north-south orientation. This creates views of the sea at the southern end of the precinct while to the north in Victoria Street, the Williamstown North Railway Station is a distant focal point. Victoria Street, because of its width and its visual link to the sea, has a sense of openness that is not evident in other more closely, subdivided areas of Williamstown.

Bluestone kerbing and guttering extends the length of Victoria Street and the roadway has been sealed to the guttering although it is apparent that gravel verges existed on both sides of the sealed roadway. Victorian styled seats are placed at intervals in the grassed nature strip.

## Integrity

Integrity

High.

## Physical Description 2

### Context

Victoria Street is one of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century precincts to the west of the Botanic Gardens that also includes the Hannan's Farm and Williamstown Beach Precincts, which share similar historic and aesthetic characteristics.

## Historical Australian Themes

### *Principal Australian Historical Theme(s)*

Making Suburbs.

## Physical Description 3

### *Associations*

AT Clark, Michael Hannan.

*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/>*