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## RESIDENCE



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1 residence 36 Lesney Street  
Richmond front view apr 1985

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### Location

36 LESNEY STREET RICHMOND, YARRA CITY

### Municipality

YARRA CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0711

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO273

### VHR Registration

October 26, 1988

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 6, 1999

What is significant?

The Residence at 36 Lesney Street Richmond was constructed c.1853-54. It remains a relatively intact timber house on small timber stumps with a front verandah. An early plan of the block shows a building in two sections, the larger front section with verandah facing Lesney Street and a long stable building at the rear of the allotment. Alterations to the house include 1895 wooden additions to the rear, a brick rear portion which adjoins the long wooden stable building opening onto Little James Street and, by 1896, a formal garden and conservatory at the rear of a large verandah opening on to a side garden. From the 1850s until the 1880s the house was the home of Johann Grunberg, a cabinet maker, and his family.

From the 1880s until at least the 1960s it was owned by the Vanheems family, including the architect GW Vanheems.

How is it significant?

The Residence at 36 Lesney Street Richmond is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Residence at 36 Lesney Street Richmond is of historical significance as a relatively intact and rare representative of the gold rush-inspired boom in Melbourne's inner suburbs. The use of shiplap boards and the building's early date suggest pre-fabrication, although this cannot be confirmed. Nevertheless, the boards, spindly timber stumps and exclusive use of timber in the original construction are indicative of the rudimentary building techniques that accompanied rapid suburban expansion. The later, more substantial, extensions demonstrate the prosperity of individual households as well as the consolidation of the city in the latter years of the 19th century. The restored garden retains its 19th century layout and design, a further expression of increasing prosperity and an indication of the taste of the 19th century middle class.

The Residence at 36 Lesney Street Richmond is of architectural significance as a reminder of the nature of building design and construction during Melbourne's first gold rush boom. The building contains features of architectural interest including the half-round spouting of the east window bay, early brass window furniture, and the shiplap board cladding which suggests that the original building was an imported, pre-fabricated one.

The Residence at 36 Lesney Street Richmond is of architectural significance for its association with the architect GW Vanheems, designer of the St Patrick's Cathedral tower and spires in the 1930s, during which time he owned the Lesney Street house.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates        1850,  
Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,  
Other Names                36 LESNEY STREET RICHMOND,  
Hermes Number            981  
Property Number

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## **Extent of Registration**

### **AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Historic Building No. 711, 36 Lesney Street, Richmond to the extent of all of the buildings and the whole of the land included in the Register Book Certificate of Title volume 8132 Folio 972.

*[Victoria Government Gazette G41 26 October 1988 p.3239]*

*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/>*