
HOUSE



664 Bell Street

Location

664 BELL STREET,, PRESTON VIC 3072

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO205

Heritage Listing

Darebin City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The house, constructed c.1916 in the Craftsman Bungalow style, and the mature Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) at 664 Bell Street, Preston. The form, original materials and detailing and siting of the house within a generous garden setback contributes to the significance of the place.

Later alterations and additions to the house including the later garage to its west are not significant. The high front brick fence is intrusive.

How is it significant?

The house and Canary Island Palm at 664 Bell Street are of local historic, architectural and aesthetic significance to Darebin City.

Why is it significant?

The house at 664 Bell Street, Preston is historically significant as place that provides tangible evidence of the recovery in development in the relatively undeveloped areas of Preston following the economic crash of the late 1890s and prior to the post-First World War boom (Criterion A).

The house is architecturally significant as an fine and relatively early example of an attic style California/Craftsman Bungalow with Arts and Crafts detailing. The aesthetic qualities of the house are enhanced by its siting behind a generous garden setback containing a mature Canary Island Palm, which provides an appropriate and related setting for the house. (Criteria D).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;
Construction dates	1916,
Hermes Number	120723
Property Number	

Historical Australian Themes

5. Building Suburban Darebin

5.1 Patterns of settlement

5.3 Developing the suburban ideal

Physical Description 1

The house at 664 Bell Street, Preston is an interesting Edwardian-era design, which illustrates the transition toward the Craftsman bungalow style of the inter-war period. It comprises a main section with a steeply pitched roof of terracotta tiles encompassing an attic from which two gabled wings extend to either side. The building has deep eaves throughout which are supported by eave brackets in the Arts and Crafts style. The gables of the wings and the major gable are filled with weatherboarding, as is that of the projecting minor gable roof which forms the verandah at the eastern side of the building's southern frontage. In each case these are supported on small corbels over brick walls, the upper parts of which are rendered in roughcast. The verandah, which is supported on four irregularly arranged posts on a balustrade wall, shelters a small projecting multi-pane casement window and the front door, the remainder of this gable end accommodating a three light casement window supported on decorative corbels. There are also windows in the upper section of the major gable facing Bell Street.

The western gable wing supports a tall chimney which is rendered in the Arts and Crafts fashion. Its north side features a small two-light casement window with a projecting striped awning, but the remaining windows of this wing are concealed beneath a flat roofed garage. This represents a later addition, although an attempt has been made, in the use of panelled doors, to bring this in keeping with the house.

The house is in good condition and, apart from the addition of the garage, has a relatively high degree of external integrity when viewed from Bell Street.

The house is setback from the street behind a high brick front fence, which is of post-Second World War. A notable planting in the front yard is a mature Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), which is a typical inter-war planting and appears to date from soon after the construction of the house.

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/>