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## 658 Nicholson Street



658 Nicholson St, Fitzroy North



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### Location

658 NICHOLSON STREET FITZROY NORTH AND 658 NICHOLSON STREET FITZROY NORTH, YARRA CITY

### Municipality

YARRA CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO423

### Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 6, 2023

### What is significant?

The property at 658 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy is a large two storey brick Federation house built as a doctor's surgery and residence in 1907. The house is square in plan with hipped slate-clad roof forms with terracotta ridge capping, and two projecting gabled bays to the north and west flanking a deep return two-storeyed verandah. The walls are exposed face-brick with overpainted string course lines, while the verandah has a deep cast-iron lacework frieze and cast-iron columns. An original iron palisade fence, on a stone plinth, marks the front (Nicholson Street) boundary. The additions to the rear (east) side of the house are not elements of heritage significance; the wide concreted driveway to the north side of the house and the bitumen car park to the rear detract from the presentation of the building.

### How is it significant?

The property at 658 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

### Why is it significant?

The property at 658 Nicholson Street is of local historical significance. The dwelling is an example of a substantial private residence of the Federation period, constructed on a main thoroughfare for surgeon Dr John McInerney, who ran his medical practice from the property. It provides evidence of later development in this part of Nicholson Street, and North Fitzroy, following the sale of land in the area in the 1860s. Nicholson Street in this area was not in fact substantially developed until the early part of the twentieth century. The property is also of local aesthetic/architectural significance. The dwelling, although fairly plain in its detailing for a Federation house, is nevertheless a large and substantially intact residence, with prominence to Nicholson Street. The plan of the building, with two projecting gabled wings flanking a deep return two-storeyed verandah, is a strong feature. The cast-iron lacework frieze to the verandah is unusually detailed; while the stucco-fronted west gable with flat-faced, round arched windows, is well resolved.

## Theme

### 6. Building towns cities and the garden state

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Gaps Study 2012 (Heritage Gaps Amendment two), Lovell Chen, 2012;
Other Names	House, later Dental Health Services Victoria, & garden,
Hermes Number	175796
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

has 658 on house; 2 storey; former Catholic church residential building? some garden; opposite HO326

## Intactness

Good

## Integrity

The property at 658 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy, is a large two storey brick house built as a doctor's surgery and residence in 1907. The house is square in plan form with hipped slate-clad roof forms with terracotta ridge capping, and projecting gabled bays to the north and west. The exterior walls are exposed face-brick with flat-faced overpainted string course lines at sill and upper window levels on each storey. The gable to the front (west) bay is supported on curved timber brackets above a wall frieze in roughcast stucco, which in turn is above a moulded string course. The two upper windows on the west wing have flat-fronted arches; the other windows are all large double-hung sashes with flat or slightly cambered heads, some with overpainted dressings. There is a bay window on the recessed front facing Nicholson Street, capped by a moulded cornice. The gabled wing facing north has a plain gable in exposed face brick with corbelled kneelers, angled brick and cement-rendered coping, and an orb finial in cement. The house has a return two-storeyed verandah with cast-iron lacework frieze and cast-iron columns. Aerial photographs suggest the overpainted steel verandah roof has been recently replaced. The main entry on the north side appears to have the original timber door and frame with side and fan lights.

The house is positioned towards the front (west) and south of the site, with a wide concreted driveway to the north boundary and bitumen car parking to the rear. An original iron palisade fence, on a stone plinth, marks the front (Nicholson Street) boundary. There are also additions to the rear (east) side of the house. Some of the windows to the house have been replaced and air-conditioning units have been fitted to three existing windows. The changed colour of the brickwork on the north elevation, at ground level under the verandah, suggests that a window may have been bricked-in here. Also on the north bay at ground level, the brickwork has been overpainted and the wall extended approximately 1m to the east where a cyclone wire fence and gate enclose the rear car park.

*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/>*