

# ENSOR



ENSOR SOHE 2008



1 ensor 172 victoria parade  
east melbourne front view  
nov1990



ensor 172 victoria parade  
east melbourne detail of  
balcony nov1990

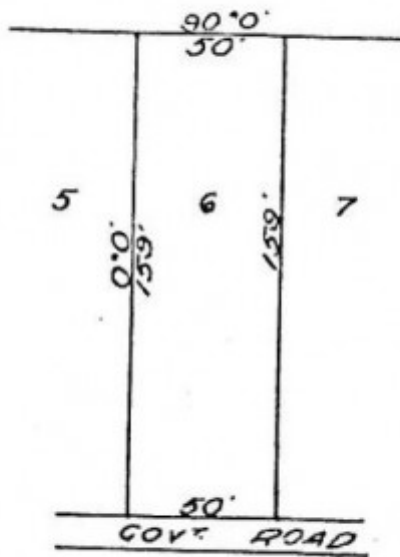


Ensor 172 Victoria Parade  
Front View



ensor 172 victoria parade  
east melbourne entrance  
gates nov1990

VICTORIA PARADE



H0860 H0860 plan

**Location**

168-172 VICTORIA PARADE EAST MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

**Municipality**

MELBOURNE CITY

**Level of significance**

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0860

**Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO182

**VHR Registration**

November 13, 1991

**Heritage Listing**

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 19, 2000

### What is significant?

Ensor is a two-storey Victorian brick and stucco mansion built in 1875 for Joseph Levy by the prominent Melbourne firm of architects Crouch & Wilson. It has an elaborate three bay facade with a two storey arcaded verandah, executed in intricate cast iron, flanking the projecting central entrance bay. The facade is heavily detailed with ornate render details. The main rooms of the building exhibits the opulence of elaborate moulded plaster cornices, friezes, and ceiling roses, generous rooms, and an interesting stair balustrade of cast iron balusters with timber handrail. The extended service wing, which appears to have been the hospital section, is of a more restrained nature.

### How is it significant?

Ensor is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

Ensor is architecturally significant as a substantially intact example of a nineteenth century high-Victorian mansion designed by the prominent architectural firm of Crouch and Wilson. Crouch and Wilson were prolific designers of churches in Victoria. Ensor is representative of the grand residences that once typified Victoria Parade at the height of the Victorian era.

Ensor is historically significant for its associations with Joseph Levy, a prominent member of the East Melbourne Jewish Community. It was later owned by the notorious financier and parliamentarian, Benjamin Fink.

## 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	1875,
Architect/Designer	Crouch & Wilson,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	406
Property Number	

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## History

### Contextual History:

There was little development of East Melbourne before 1852 as the area remained reserved by the government long after Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond were made available for development. In 1848 Bishop Perry chose the area for his Anglican Bishop's Palace overlooking the Fitzroy Gardens. The first public land sales in East Melbourne took place in June 1852, when 20 allotments were sold off. Between 1852 and 1870 a total of 299 crown allotments were sold off.

Development took off in the late 1850s after the gold rush subsided. Many terraces were built for rental and lodging. The residential area known as Yarra Park was bounded by Wellington Parade, Vale Street and Punt Road. It was the site of the original police barracks but was subdivided in the 1880s.

(Ashton and Wilson, East Melbourne Conservation Study 1975)

### History of Place:

Crown Allotment 6 Section 2 was sold at the Crown land Sales on 17th June 1866 to B Overend. Ensor was built in 1875 for Joseph Levy, a prominent member of the Jewish community in East Melbourne, by J.W. Linacre. It was built according to a design by the architects Crouch and Wilson. It was initially let to Archibald Fiskin, the celebrated pastoralist and stock agent, and then to James Aitken before it was purchased by the notorious land financier, Benjamin Fink, who gained notoriety as one of the most culpable speculators of the 1880s land boom in Melbourne, and for whom the Melbourne Punch coined the phrase 'to fink it'. In about 1890 it became a private hospital, in 1907 it became a boarding house, and is now the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital Nurses' Home.

Associated People: Assoc.People BENJAMIN FINK, PARLIAMENTARIAN & FINANCIER

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 860.

Ensor, 172 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

(The whole of the buildings and land entered in the Register Book Certificate of Title Volume 7380 Folio 884, shown in the plan endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G44 13 November 1991 p.3116]

*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/>*