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# HOUSES



244-6 Gower Street, Preston

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## Location

244-46 GOWER STREET, PRESTON, DAREBIN CITY

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO213

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

The Victorian polychromatic brick houses at 244-6 Gower Street, Preston were constructed c.1892 as investment properties for John Sullivan, a farmer on land that formed part of the Heart of Preston estate, which was one of the largest estates in Preston during the land boom of the late 1890s. The chimneys to no.244 have been removed, but the houses otherwise remain relatively intact when viewed from Gower Street. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- the c.1892 house and fabric including the chimneys
- the form of the roof (but not the material)

Later, non-original alterations and additions, including the front fence are not significant.

*How is it significant?*

The houses at 244-6 Gower Street, Preston are of local historic and architectural significance to Darebin City.

*Why is it significant?*

Historically, the pair of houses is significant as evidence of the small degree of successful development achieved by developers in Preston during the land boom just before the economic crash of the 1890s. The closeness to the former Preston Shire Hall, built in 1893-5, shows the beginnings of urban settlement close to Preston's new civic precinct. (AHC criteria A.4, D.2, H.1)

Architecturally, the pair of houses is significant as a representative example of Victorian polychromatic brick cottages, with typical features that are externally relatively intact. The detail to the surviving chimneys to no.246 is of note. (AHC criterion D.2)

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011; |
| Construction dates        | 1892,  |
| Hermes Number             | 43991  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Description 1

A pair of single-storey, single-fronted brick Victorian cottages, set back a short distance from their street boundaries by small gardens. Both houses have hipped roofs clad in corrugated galvanised steel sheeting. The house at 246 Gower Street has two original polychromatic brick chimneys, with unusual diagonal decorative elements at their corners, towards their tops, while the chimneys have been removed from No. 244. The houses have timber eaves brackets, and below these, verandahs extend across their south (Gower Street) elevations. The houses are faced in brick, with a polychromatic detail around the timber tripartite windows, doors and the ends and corners of walls. The ends of the party wall and the east wall of 244 Gower Street have moulded cement figures (caped masks), lion heads and consoles. The houses' timber picket fences, and the metal lattice of 244 Gower Street, are of recent origin.

*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/>*