

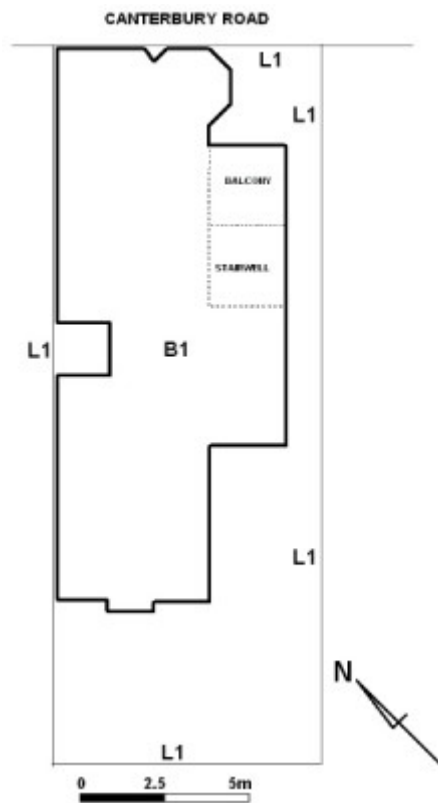
# THE CANTERBURY



THE CANTERBURY SOHE  
2008



1 the canterbury 236  
canterbury road st kilda front  
pm2 jul99



H1836 the canterbury 236 canterbury road st kilda plan

## Location

236 CANTERBURY ROAD ST KILDA WEST, PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1836

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO73

## VHR Registration

October 14, 1999

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 21, 1999

What is significant?

The Canterbury, built in 1914, is one of Victoria's earliest surviving examples of flats in the modern sense of the word, with fully self-contained residences, each on one floor, within a multistorey building. Previously only older American and English models of flats, more akin to hotels or boarding houses, had been adopted in Melbourne. A nearby example is the Majestic Mansions of 1912 in Fitzroy Street.

The Canterbury was designed by the architect brothers HW and FB Tompkins for owner Mrs Gurney and its first three floors were built by W Picol (or possibly Picot) in 1914. The big boom in self-contained flat development in St Kilda would not occur until 1919-20, and only a very few developments of this kind survive from the intervening years. The storey added to the Canterbury in 1919 contained two flats, and the cap of the tower was relocated to a higher level.

The design of the Canterbury appears to have been influenced by a number of the contemporary stylistic fashions. Suggested influences include Queen Anne, American Romanesque, Arts and Crafts and English Free Style. The simple main mass of the building is finished in plain red brick and white painted plain stucco, with simple timber windows with expressed white frames. Several have stained glass decorative patterns at the centre of the lead light glazing. The angled front facade is formed of three main element, a narrow strip of plain red brick on the front boundary with a single window at each floor, a projecting octagonal turret with onion top cap, and a series of curved concrete balconies supported on squat ionic columns. Foliage patterns decorate the turret spandrels and the leadlight windows. The common staircase is not visible or expressed on the facade, as at this time flats with external staircases were associated with insalubrious lower class housing.

How is it significant?

The Canterbury is of historical and architectural importance to the State of Victoria

Why is it significant?

The Canterbury is of historical importance to the State of Victoria for its associations with the changes in social attitudes and lifestyles taking place in Melbourne, and manifesting especially in St Kilda, in the early twentieth century. The Canterbury was the precursor of a new residential building type which was to become dominant in St Kilda, and is a marker of the beginnings of high density and elevated living in Melbourne.

The Canterbury is of architectural and aesthetic importance for its idiosyncratic design, which has few close parallels. The Canterbury was one of the earliest explorations of the design requirements of a new residential building type. In the design of Canterbury a variety of features from various contemporary styles were integrated into an abstracted and novel form, recognisably residential but also showing large city building features. It is a rare example of domestic/residential work by the Tompkins brothers, who generally specialised in large commercial works.

The Canterbury is also important for the good aesthetic quality of its architecture, which successfully addresses the particulars of a narrow site, and proximity to the railway station and the high-density residential precinct of Fitzroy Street. The unusual compression of elements and asymmetry creates a dynamic facade for the narrow site. The angled facade and tower creates the impression of a corner building, and give a sophisticated address, to the busy intersection of Canterbury and Fitzroy Streets some distance off.

The Canterbury demonstrates rarity as a precursor in the introduction to Melbourne of a new building type. It is among the earliest extant self-contained walk up flat buildings in St Kilda, and in Melbourne as a whole.

## 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](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Internal:

\* All non structural alterations to the interior of the flats, excluding the stairwell, and which do not cause any change in the exterior of the building

External:

\* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like

\* Repainting of previously painted surfaces in the original colours

\* Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good

\* Regular garden maintenance

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1914,                 |
| Architect/Designer      | Tompkins, HW & FB,    |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place,     |
| Other Names             | THE CANTERBURY FLATS, |
| Hermes Number           | 4550                  |
| Property Number         |                       |

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## Plaque Citation

Designed by H. W. and F. B. Tompkins, The Canterbury is one of Victoria's earliest surviving blocks of flats. Built in 1914 with a storey added in 1919, it introduced a new building type to Melbourne.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

The Canterbury is of historical importance to the State of Victoria for its associations with the changes in social attitudes and lifestyles taking place in St Kilda and Melbourne in the early twentieth century. The Canterbury was the precursor of a residential building type which was to become dominant in St Kilda, and is a marker of the beginnings of high density and elevated living in Melbourne.

### Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

The Canterbury demonstrates rarity as an urban residential building type. It is among the earliest extant self-contained flat buildings in St Kilda, and in Melbourne as a whole.

### Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

### Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

### Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

The Canterbury is important for its unusual design and aesthetic characteristics. The Canterbury is an unusual building in which a number of features from various contemporary styles are integrated into a novel form. The features include the Arts and Crafts influenced oriel tower and a balcony drum made up of heavy classical elements. The lack of differentiation of the ground or lower floors from the upper floors is another unusual feature. The Canterbury is important as an early exploration of the design requirements of a new residential building type.

The Canterbury is also unusual because its design is tailored to a particular site. The unusual compression and asymmetry of elements creates a dynamic facade on a narrow site. The angled facade and tower creates the impression of a corner building, and gives a strong address to the busy intersection of Canterbury and Fitzroy Streets some distance off.

#### Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

#### Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

#### Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

## **Extent of Registration**

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1836 in the category described as a Heritage place:

The Canterbury, 236 Canterbury Road, St Kilda, Port Phillip City Council

#### EXTENT:

1. All of the building B1 shown on Diagram 1836 held by the Executive Director, being lots 1-5 and common property on Plan of Subdivision PS344637F.
2. All of the land L1 shown on Diagram 1836 held by the Executive Director, being land described in Certificate of Title Volume 06529 Folio 627.

Dated: 7 October 1999

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 41 14 October 1999 pp.2263-2264]

*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/>*