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## House at 2 Ferguson Street



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WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons  
Bay Heritage Study 2006



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### Location

2 Ferguson Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO119

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

'Brittanica', constructed in stages between 1862 and 1889, at 2 Ferguson Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

'Brittanica' at 2 Ferguson Street, Williamstown is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

#### Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as part of a small group of houses that illustrate the early residential development in Ferguson Street before it became the main commercial centre of Williamstown from the late nineteenth century onwards. It is also significant for its strong associations with locally important people such as pilot and Melbourne Steamship Co founder, James Deane, thereby evoking Williamstown's special role in Melbourne's early maritime history. (AHC criteria A4, D2 and H1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a rare example of a two-storey weatherboard Victorian Italianate villa of individual design, which is a major element in the residential streetscape at the bayside end of Ferguson Street. It is distinguished by rare features such as projecting two level bay windows and the unusual detailing of the side elevation with its pointed arch windows. (AHC criteria B2, E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Other Names Brittanica,

Hermes Number 15050

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

This ashlar boarded and weatherboarded two storey asymmetrically planned house is in the Italianate style, with a slated hipped roof, bracketed eaves and a semi-octagonal window bay on the main facade. A more extensive timber wing of lesser height adjoins at the rear, facing the ROW to the east.

The front wing appears to be Deane's renovations of 1889 while the rear, which is angled, may be from the earlier building. Pointed arches on the side elevations lend an ecclesiastical character to the design. Side and top lights enrich the entrance whilst typical Victorian-era moulded architraves surround most openings. The verandah has been replaced.

Two storey houses constructed of timber are rare in Williamstown and throughout the metropolitan area. Only isolated examples are known to exist in North and South Melbourne.

## Integrity

External integrity and condition

*Integrity - Moderate. Condition - Good.*

## Physical Description 2

Context

'Brittanica' is one of a surviving early residential group at the commencement of Williamstown's main commercial centre which, although not closely related in scale to the rest of the group, is connected in history, period detail, siting and overall form. This two-storey building is an appropriate termination to the group.

## Historical Australian Themes

Making suburbs

### **Physical Description 3**

#### *Associations*

John Clark, James Deane, Hal Porter, CJ Polain

*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/>*