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# DENBIGH COURT



Denbigh Court



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## Location

6-8 DENBIGH ROAD,, ARMADALE VIC 3143 - Property No 29930

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO435

## Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### **What is significant?**

Denbigh Court, 6-8 Denbigh Road, Armadale designed by Bates, Smart & McCutcheon and constructed in 1927, is significant. The significant attributes are the original Mediterranean style form, materials and detailing of the flats and the four original gateposts to the pedestrian entry on the north side, and the gatepost at the south end at the front boundary corner. The relatively high degree of external intactness as viewed from Denbigh Road is integral to the significance of the place.

The two storey building at the rear of the main block, and later alterations and additions including the non-original sections of the front fence and gates are not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

Denbigh Court is of local historic and architectural significance to the City of Stonnington.

### **Why is it significant?**

Historically and architecturally, Denbigh Court is significant as a well-executed example of residential flats created by the conversion of existing dwellings. The involvement of Bates, Smart & McCutcheon demonstrates the practice of using leading architects to avoid criticism of flat development, particularly the 'conversion' type. (Criterion A & D)

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Stonnington - Residential Flats in Stonnington - Heritage Citations Project, Context P/L, 2013; |
| Construction dates        | 1927,   |
| Architect/Designer        | Bates Smart & McCutcheon,   |
| Other Names               | Conversion Flats,   |
| Hermes Number             | 165869  |
| Property Number           |   |

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## **Physical Description 1**

Denbigh Court is a two-storey building with a complex hip roof which illustrates its conversion from a pair of two-storey Victorian duplexes to a large block of flats in the 1920s. The original duplexes were set well back from the street and had narrow hipped-roof rear wings with a light well between them. The building was roughly doubled in size by the additional of a front extension with a slightly lower M-hipped roof. The entire building is rendered.

Even with this extension, the building still has a front garden, which is set behind a low rendered wall with a clinker-brick base.

The flats facade is divided into six bays, with arcades to the central four bays set beneath the roof, creating porches. At the ground floor level this is an arcade of semi-circular arches, while above are trabeated (rectangular) openings. The piers at both levels have simple classical details, creating simple capitals at the ground floor and panels on the upper piers. The symmetrical arrangement of classical openings, flat surfaces and restrained details indicate the influence of the Mediterranean Revival. This style was popular in the 1920s and is most commonly seen in residential and commercial buildings in Canberra.

The windows to the facade are nine-over-nine double-hung sashes to the first floor and nine-over-twelve French windows to the ground floor, lending a Georgian Revival accent. This is in contrast with the very ornate geometric leadlights to the stairwells on the side elevations. There are multiple entries to the flats, all through arched

openings, and all with internal stairs.

Alterations to Denbigh Court (since its conversion into flats) include the recent recladding of the roof in corrugated metal (Zincalume). The conversion plans, held at the University of Melbourne Archives, show it as a slate roof. There have also been some changes to the front fence. Originally, there was a group of four tall piers with a timber pergola on top at the north end, providing the pedestrian entry. There was a vehicular entry created by two tall posts and a pergola at the south side. Between them was a row of three low and one mid-height piers with low fence between them. At present, the four north piers around the pedestrian entry survive but have lost their pergola. On the south side, only one tall pier survives (sans pergola) at the front boundary corner. The intermediate piers have been raised in height to match the tall ones and neo-Victorian palisade fencing installed between them.

The building constructed in 1927 at the rear of the main block is simply designed with a hip roof with minimal decoration. The original garages have been demolished.

*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/>*