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# ALEXANDER MILLER SHOPS & RESIDENCES (FORMER)



RICHMOND CHURCH  
STREET 533.jpg

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## Location

533-537 CHURCH STREET, RICHMOND VIC 3121 - Property No 161605

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO381

## Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

### What is significant?

The three Edwardian shops built for draper and benefactor Alexander Miller at 533-537 Church Street, Richmond are significant to the extent of the 1910 fabric.

The three single-storey brick shops have tall parapets with 'Chinese' pediments on ogee parapets. Numbers 535 and 537 have timber shopfronts with battered glazed green ceramic tiles plinths and recessed doorways with encaustic tile thresholds. The reconstructed elements of the decorative parapet to No. 537 assist in interpreting their significance.

Apart from the reconstructed decorative parapet elements, other non-original alterations and additions are not significant.

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

The Alexander Miller shops & residences at 533-537 Church Street, Richmond are architecturally and aesthetically significant to the locality of Richmond and the City of Yarra.

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

Alexander Miller's shops & residences are architecturally and aesthetically significant (Criteria D & E) as a representative example of Edwardian shops, which are notable for their distinctive design, including the timber parapet form and detailing, and for the original shopfronts at nos. 535 and 537.

Heritage Study/Consultant Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;

Construction dates 1911,

Hermes Number 168654

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

These three single-storey red brick shops have very high parapets shaped in what has been described by Richard Peterson as 'a most exotic design'. The parapets terminate with rare Chinese (concave) pediments and flagpoles, supported on flat, fluted brackets, over an ogee parapet, plain with capping mould. Between, are parapet piers, surmounted by pineapples. Cornice and frieze-mould are set between plain, round corbels. The exposed north side wall of 533 Church Street is face red brick and the parapet wall stepped in profile.

Two shops have rare timber shop-fronts (535, 537) set on battered glazed green ceramic tiled plinths, with recessed and splayed doorways and encaustic geometric tile paving to the thresholds. Only the shop-fronts of 537 and 535 are near original (although 537 is reputedly a replica based on 535). Only 535 and 537 have encaustic threshold tiles. The top of one pineapple is missing (533/535). The canvas-canopy of 533 and the shop-front sign-writing of 537 are unrelated to the Edwardian-era as is the air-conditioners projecting from the doorway of 537. The sills of openings on the north of 533 have been altered.

*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/>*