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# SOMERSET TERRACE



Somerset Terrace



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## Location

54-64 BAKER STREET, RICHMOND, YARRA CITY

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

Somerset Terrace, a late Victorian terrace row comprising six houses constructed by 1887, at 54-64 Baker Street, Richmond is significant. The terrace is slightly elevated, which enhances its street presence, and the houses have small front gardens. Unusually, it is single storey at the front and has original double storey wings at the rear. It is constructed of bi-chromatic brick and has a continuous (i.e., not penetrated by the brick wing walls) concave verandah, originally with a cast-iron frieze set within a timber frame with cast iron brackets (this survives at nos. 54 & 60). The parapet is composed of a moulded cornice once framed by corbels at either end. There is a central triangular pediment set within low piers (that once supported orbs/urns) flanked by consoles and surmounted by an acroterion that contains the name 'Somerset Terrace'. The wing walls beneath the verandah

are decorated with corbels, once surmounted by orbs, which have been removed. Each house has a relatively tall tripartite window with colonettes and a bluestone sill, and a panelled front door with top light. The contrasting brick surrounding the windows and doors creates the appearance of quoining.

The front fences and non-original alterations and additions to the terrace are not significant.

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

Somerset Terrace is of local historic and architectural significance to the City of Yarra.

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

Somerset Terrace is historically significant as tangible evidence of the large terrace rows constructed as speculative ventures during the 1880s land boom, which was characterised by higher density development as land values increased. It demonstrates a significant phase of residential development during the late nineteenth century. (Criterion A)

Somerset Terrace is architecturally significant as representative example of a Victorian terrace row constructed during the 1880s. Typically, the decoration is more restrained than the terraces constructed during the late Victorian 'boom' era and includes features such as the bi-chromatic brickwork, verandah with cast iron frieze and brackets, a parapet with moulded cornice and central pediment and other stucco detailing. The elevated siting of the terrace enhances its streetscape presence. It is notable for its uncommon form comprising a single storey front with double storey rear wings. (Criteria B & D)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Heritage Gaps Study: Review of remaining 17 heritage precincts from the 2009 Gaps report, Context Pty Ltd, 2013; Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Other Names	Houses,
Hermes Number	176232
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

Somerset Terrace is a late Victorian era terrace row comprising six houses. The terrace is slightly elevated, which enhances its street presence, and the houses have small front gardens. Unusually, it is single storey at the front and has original double storey wings at the rear.

The terrace is constructed of bi-chromatic brick and has a continuous (i.e., not penetrated by the brick wing walls) concave verandah, originally with a cast-iron frieze set within a timber frame with cast iron brackets (this survives at nos. 54 & 60). This type of verandah frieze (in a frame) was popular from the 1870s. The parapet is composed of a moulded cornice framed by corbels at either end. There is a central pediment set within low piers (that once supported orbs or urns) flanked by consoles with a triangular top surmounted by an acroterion that contains the name 'Somerset Terrace'. The wing walls beneath the verandah are decorated with corbels, which were once surmounted by orbs, which have been removed. Each house has a relatively tall tripartite window with colonettes and a bluestone sill, and a panelled front door with top light. The contrasting brick surrounding the windows and doors creates the appearance of quoining.

The terrace appears to be in good condition and has a moderate level of intactness. Apart from the alterations mentioned above other changes include:

- . The over-painting of the bricks to nos. 54 & 56.
- . The removal of chimneys.

- . The removal/replacement of the cast iron frieze to nos. 56, 58, 62 & 64.
- . The removal/loss of decorative orbs along the wing wall ends.
- . The replacement of the presumed tiled verandah floor - nos. 56 & 58 retain original bluestone borders.
- . The reconstruction of the west-side wall.

The appearance of the terrace is marred by a variety of high front fences in varying materials.

*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/>*