

# FOOTSCRAY PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE



Fmr Psychiatric Hospital - Footscray.jpg IMG 5948



East elevation



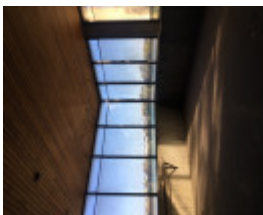
Concrete panels



Second floor



IMG 5921



Second floor



IMG 5938

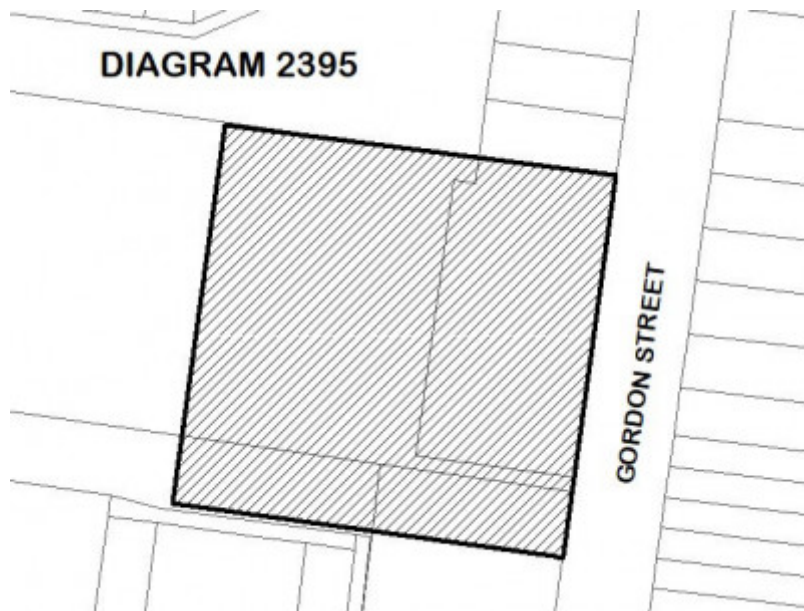


Diagram 2395

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### **Location**

160 GORDON STREET FOOTSCRAY, MARIBYRNONG CITY

### **Municipality**

MARIBYRNONG CITY

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H2395

### **VHR Registration**

May 28, 2020

### **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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### **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - June 1, 2020

#### **WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?**

The Footscray Psychiatric Centre (exterior and interiors), paving, ramps, stairs and landscaping immediately

surrounding the building as well as fixtures and fittings attached to the building at the time of registration.

### **HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

The Footscray Psychiatric Centre is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

#### **Criterion A**

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

#### **Criterion D**

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

### **WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

The Footscray Psychiatric Centre is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Footscray Psychiatric Centre is historically significant as an important example of a facility that emerged from changes in the understanding and treatment of mental illness in the late twentieth century. It demonstrates this phase, known as deinstitutionalisation, which was characterised by a move away from treatment in large psychiatric hospitals, towards treatment within the community. This is evident in the physical fabric of Footscray Psychiatric Centre, through its comparatively small size, location separate from but adjacent to an existing public hospital and its internal layout of rooms designed for short residential stays, treatment and day-to-day activities. The phase of deinstitutionalisation is of historical importance to the State of Victoria, having had a profound effect on the lives how mental illness is understood and treated. [Criterion A]

The Footscray Psychiatric Centre is architecturally significant as a notable example of a community mental health facility. It was purpose built to perform this function and demonstrates the principal characteristics of the class through its size, siting and internal layout. It is also architecturally significant for its dramatic Brutalist design which exhibits the principal characteristics of the style, including use of textured concrete, exterior expression of interior features and highlighting of building services and paths of travel. It is noteworthy for its particularly monolithic interpretation of the style. It is an important example of the use of the Brutalist style in Victoria and a key example of the employment of the style by the Victorian Public Works Department for a major institutional work. [Criterion D]

## **Permit Exemptions**

<p class="c1">General conditions</p> <p>Exemptions from the need for a permit under the Act for categories of works and activities that may be carried out in relation to places and objects in the Register can be granted at the time of registration (under s.49(3) of the Heritage Act). Exemptions from the need for a permit under the Act for categories of works and activities in relation to places and objects can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.92 of the Heritage Act).</p> <p><em>General Condition 1<br /></em> 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.</p> <p><em>General Condition 2<br /></em> Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.</p> <p><em>General Condition 3<br /></em> All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.</p> <p><em>General Condition 4<br /></em> Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.</p> <p><em>General Condition 5<br /></em> Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.</p> <p>Under s.49(3) of the Heritage Act 2017 the Heritage Council may include in its determination categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object without the need for a permit under Part 5 of the Act, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object. The following permit exemptions are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Footscray Psychiatric Centre.</p> <p class="c1">Categories of works and activities that may be carried out in relation to the Place without the need for a permit under the Act</p> <p><em>Exterior</em><br /> The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.</p> <p>- Minor patching, repair and maintenance which replaces like with like without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the

large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance.

- Localised repairs and maintenance to the roof to prevent ingress of water.
- Works to, or removal of, the 1990s verandah on the south elevation except where it intersects with the 1970s fabric
- Removal of graffiti from concrete elements via non-abrasive methods. No high-pressure hoses or wire brushes etc should be used.
- Removal of graffiti from metal elements via non-corrosive methods.
- Removal of or maintenance to existing signage attached to building.
- Preparation and painting of currently painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and paint type provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of earlier paint schemes.
- Maintenance, replacement or removal of existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning plant and making good.
- Maintenance, replacement or removal of existing services such as cabling, pipe work, ducting, plumbing (including downpipes), wiring, security lighting, antennae, aerials and fire services that use existing routes, conduits, voids or attachment points and making good, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric.
- Works and activities related to control of birds and vermin.

**Interior**

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

- Installation, removal or replacement of safety devices such as detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like.
- Preparation and painting of currently painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and paint type provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of earlier paint or other decorative schemes. No stained or varnished timberwork is to be painted.
- Removal of paint from originally unpainted surfaces including ceilings, wall panelling, joinery, doors, architraves and skirtings by non-abrasive methods.
- Removal or replacement of existing services including cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits, voids or attachment points, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric.
- Repairs, refitting or rewiring lift cars, motors, equipment and the like.
- Works and activities related to control of birds and vermin.

**Public safety and security**

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

- General maintenance for the purposes of safety and security including the removal of broken glass, the temporary shuttering of windows and doors and covering of holes provided this work is reversible.
- The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings, and security or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. If additional damage to significant fabric is required to stabilise and make safe, every attempt must be made to conserve and retain as much significant fabric as possible. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.

**Landscaping**

The following works do not require a permit provided they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.

- Maintenance and repairs to existing roads, service roads, driveways and car parks.
- Installation, removal or maintenance of features required for car park operations such as bollards, speed humps, wheel stops and boom gates.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or other services provided there are no visible above ground elements. Landscaping, paving and other surface treatments are to be returned like for like on the completion of works.
- Erecting, repairing or replacing existing signage (directional signage, road signs, speed signs) and installing new signage which does not obscure heritage fabric. Note: Interpretive signage requires a permit.
- The processes of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, disease and weed control, maintenance of existing plants and replacement with similar species.
- Management and maintenance of trees including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood and pest and disease control.
- Repair and maintenance of existing paving, gutters, paths, stairs and garden walls.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Clearing and maintenance of drains and gutters.

## Theme

### 8. Building community life

Construction dates	1974,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,

Other Names                      Footscray Psychiatric Hospital, Former Footscray Psychiatric Centre, Former  
Footscray Psychitric Hospital, Former Psychiatric Hospital,  
Hermes Number                      199432  
Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

Heritage Act 2017

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 2017**, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by adding a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H2395

Category: Registered Place

Place: Footscray Psychiatric Centre

Location: 160 Gordon Street, Footscray

Municipality: City of Maribyrnong

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2395 encompassing part of Lot 1 on Title Plan 11529, part of Lot 1 on Title Plan 242851 and part of Crown Allotments 7B and 7C, Section 15, Parish of Cut Paw Paw.

28 May 2020

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

*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/>*