
371 CHURCH STREET RICHMOND

Location

371 CHURCH STREET, RICHMOND VIC 3121

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2404

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 15, 2021

371 Church Street, Richmond is considered to be of local significance according to the following criteria:

A. Importance to the course or pattern of the City of Yarra's cultural history – The site has been occupied and domestic

dwellingings have been present within it since at least 1855, and likely earlier. The site is associated with the Kelso family,

early settlers of Richmond after whom streets and landmarks are named. Joseph Kelso was responsible for the construction of many of the early houses in the area, and on his death an obituary described him as 'one of the few

remaining members of that class of sturdy pioneers to whom the present generation owe a great deal, for it was their

industry and perseverance that paved the way for the present prosperity of the State' (Richmond Australian 19 December 1914: 3)

C. Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Yarra's cultural history – The site has

been occupied by two main stages of residential housing, the 1850s construction and a later c. 1873-1896 construction

phase where the main building on the site today. There is evidence that archaeological material likely relating to both

stages of occupation is present on the property, and it is possible that the demolition of the existing structures will

exposure further archaeological material related to both phases of historical occupation. The age of the earliest

occupation, and absence of broad-scale modern construction having taking place on the property allows for the

likelihood of features such as cesspits being present on the property. A field inspection also indicated the potential for

former garden features to be present at the site.

H. Special association with the life and works of a person or group of persons of importance – The site is associated with

the residence of the Joseph Kelso and family, an important figure in the history of development in Richmond.

Interpretation
of Site

The brief land use history presented above indicates that the post-contact history of the site can be divided into three broad categories: Phase 1: The occupation and use of the property by the Kelso family from the early 1850s potentially until c. 1873, when the lot was subdivided for sale. A c. 1855 plan indicates the presence of what is likely a house and gardens in the western part of the property, with a fenced rear yard and outbuildings present in the east. To the east of the current property boundary and extending all the way to Mary Street were gardens, possibly of a farmlet type, that appear to have formed part of the allotment. A c. 1873 plan shows this allotment subdivided into a number of smaller lots, and the Church-Street fronting property is referred to on this plan as 'Kelso House'. Phase 2: Occupation and use of the property most likely primarily as a residential home c. 1873-1942. This phase of occupation saw the original Kelso allotment subdivided and at some stage prior to 1896, a new residence constructed. It appears that this new building, which is present on the property today, likely incorporated parts of some of the previous buildings present on the lot, but that other buildings and ancillary structures were demolished. It is not known to what extent previous structures were incorporated into the new structures, nor exactly when this occurred. The main residential building on the property today, however, was present in approximately the same layout by at least c. 1896. Phase 3: Modern use of the property c. 1943-2021. In terms of known structural change that may have affected the historical fabric (archaeological and built) of the property, aerial photography indicates the presence of new and changed paths at the front and side of the main building, possible extensions to the south of the main structure, and the absence of buildings once present at the rear of the property. Otherwise, the main house structure and front entrance / garden area appear much as described on a c. 1896 MMBW plan of the property. Currently, the archaeological potential of the site is unknown / unassessed, although Aboriginal archaeological testing undertaken as part of a recent CHMP, as well as geotechnical testing, does indicate the presence of historical archaeological material on the property. • Geotechnical boreholes at the rear (east) of the property, encountered 'fill' described as 'clayey silt, silty clay, bricks and building rubble' (Melbourne Geotechnics 2020: 17-22) beneath existing concrete paving, and other boreholes located in the general vicinity of historically mapped structures encountered the same material. It is considered possible that this 'fill' represents historical archaeological material relating to the historical use of the property. Boreholes excavated in garden areas returned results consistent with this use. The presence of fill and silt/silty clay in most boreholes indicates that widespread deep excavation and removal of soils (and therefore potentially historical archaeological material) has not taken place on the property to date. • Aboriginal archaeological subsurface testing involved the excavation of one 1x1m excavation pit and five shovel test pits in sections of the property which were not paved nor housed existing structures. The locations of these pits are shown in the figure provided in Attachment E. Historical artefacts were recovered from the 1x1m excavation pit and from shovel test pits 1, 2 and 5. Recovered artefacts included animal bone fragments (sheep, avian, cattle and unidentified mammal), slate fragments, terracotta, porcelain, salt glazed stoneware, earthenware of various types, a range of bottle, window and other glass, metal artefacts, unidentified building materials, bluestone and mortar fragments.

Other Names KELSO HOUSE,

Hermes
Number 207047

Property
Number

History

A land use history review indicates that the property has likely been occupied and had substantial structures present within it since the early 1850s. It is considered likely that the study area formed part of the early estate of Joseph Kelso, a 'pioneer' of the Richmond locality who arrived in the colony in 1851. Mapping dating to c. 1855 indicates the presence of a house, fences, outbuildings and gardens in the study area by this time. Later mapping

c. 1896 indicates that while some of these early structures had likely been demolished in the course of further subdivision and re-sale of the property, others were likely incorporated into the main house structure that remains on the property today. The property appears to have been put to residential use for the majority of the historical period (to c. 1942), and that it is known to have been numbered variously 371, 203 and 157 Church Street at different times.

See attachment C for a more detailed land use history of the property.

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/>