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# 'Monomeath' - Williamstown & Westbourne Grammar School



'Monomeath' - Williamstown & Westbourne Grammar School, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006



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## Location

67-68 The Strand WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO292

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

'Monomeath' (also known as Williamstown Grammar School), comprising the residence designed by W Bennett Hall and constructed by James Styles in 1888 and the former migrant hostel buildings constructed c.1951 by the Melbourne Harbour Trust, at 67-68 The Strand, Newport.

How is it Significant?

'Monomeath' at 67-68 The Strand, Newport is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant for its strong associations as the home of the regionally prominent contractor, politician and engineer, James Styles. It is now one of a small number of surviving maritime villas constructed by important local people along The Strand during the nineteenth century when it was an important and fashionable address. It is also significant for its association with the Melbourne Harbour Trust and its use as a migrant hostel during the 1950s, which demonstrates the influence of postwar migration upon the municipality. (AHC criteria A4, B2 and H1)

Aesthetically, the 1888 house is locally rare example of a near original richly decorated and successfully designed Victorian Italianate villa, which is enhanced by its elevated site and complemented by the cast iron palisade fence. It contributes to a small group of Victorian era villas in this part of The Strand. (AHC criteria B2, E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Architect/Designer Hall, W Bennett,

Hermes Number 22275

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

### *Monomeath*

'Monomeath' is an ornately decorated, bi-chromatic brick Italianate styled verandahed villa with a slated hip main roof, which has a large setback from the Strand. Symmetrically placed semi-hexagonal window bays to the main facade create hipped roof bays, placed against the main roof. Other significant original details include:

-The richly decorated cast iron verandah on three sides with ogee profile corrugated galvanised steel roof and gothic arched entrance.

-Canted bays with pointed head double-hung sash windows

-The building is raised on a high bluestone plinth

-Unusual multi-sided bi-chromatic chimneys with paneled shafts

-Deep front garden

-Cast-iron palisade fence and gate with bluestone plinth along the frontage

'Monomeath' appears generally original externally except for details at openings. The later former migrant hostel buildings occupy part of the original front gardens and partially obscure the view of the house.

This house may be compared with contemporary, similarly decorated attached and detached villas in Canning Street, North Melbourne (5), and more typically in Hawthorn and Camberwell.

*Former migrant hostel*

The former migrant hostels are now used as club and class rooms. They are simple gabled weatherboard structures, which reflect the austerity of the postwar years.

## **Integrity**

External Integrity and condition

*Integrity - High. Condition - Good.*

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

One of a small number of Victorian era villas in the Strand, which is related in form to Nos. 69, 74 and 75.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Making Suburbs, Developing Cultural Institutions and Ways of Life, Educating, Shipping and Port Facilities.

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

James Styles, W Bennett Hall, Williamstown Harbour Trust, Williamstown Grammar School

*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/>*