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# Prahran Market

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## Location

163-185 Commercial Road PRAHRAN, Stonnington City

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO24

## Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

A complex State Architectural, historic and social significance. The Prahran Market, founded on its present site in 1881, is one of the oldest surviving public market places in Melbourne. The large rendered brick building fronting Commercial Road was built in 1891 to designs by the notable architect Charles D'Ebro and is substantially original externally except for extensive ground floor alterations and paintwork. This building is one of the few large-scale and most ornate terrace shop rows in Melbourne. Between 1976 and 1982 the market was substantially rebuilt to the designs of the Gunn Hayball partnership. The use of curved tubular steel and corrugated iron, perforated steel panels and pastel colours, the sympathetic refurbishing of historic buildings and the incorporation of contextual elements make this a notable innovative work of the period. The rebuilt Prahran Market received the RAI Award of Merit 1982 and remains intact.

The market site has been of enormous social significance for over a century.

Heritage  
Study/Consultant

Stonnington - References to National Trust of Australia (Vic) Register, National Trust of Australia, 1900; Stonnington - City of Stonnington - Heritage Precincts - Intact Shop Fronts Survey 2012, Context P/L, 2012;

Construction dates

1891,

Architect/Designer D'Ebro, Charles,  
Other Names 163-185 Commercial Road, Prahran,  
Hermes Number 30511  
Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The D'Ebro-designed rendered brick building is a large, imposing symmetrical facade incorporating decorative elements derived from the Queen Anne revival. Nothing is left of the 1890s interior of the building except for the barrel-caulthood entry way and iron gates. Nothing remains of the rear facade except for the roof.

The 1970s covered market area is a simple, functional, large span steel truss shed. The courtyard section facing Commercial Road includes curved tubular steel and corrugated iron, perforated steel panels and a pastel colour scheme indicative of architectural concerns in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

## Local Historical Themes

7.2 Creating specialised shopping centres 5.5.4 Municipal buildings and civic pride

## Shopfront

Intact elements: 7 timber shopfronts (original or part restored), arched highlights, engaged columns to shop windows, recessed entry with perforated zinc screen to highlights, panelled timber door with margin glazing, rendered stallboard.

*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/>*