
GLASS TERRACE



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2008



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1 glass terrace gertrude
street fitzroy front view row
jul78



glass terrace gertrude street
fitzroy detail side & front
oct1978



glass terrace gertrude street
fitzroy rear stonework
aug1978

Location

64-78 GERTRUDE STREET FITZROY, YARRA CITY

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0446

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO159

VHR Registration

April 4, 1979

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 24, 1999

What is significant?

Glass Terrace is thought to be the oldest surviving terrace building in Melbourne. Constructed between 1854-56 for powerful Irish born speculator/pastoralist Hugh Glass, the two storey terrace consists of eight houses in the Colonial Regency style. Architect David Ross is attributed with the design which features single storey verandahs, French windows, upper casements and restrained internal joinery. The facade is part rendered with a simple string course and parapet entablature.

How is it significant?

Glass Terrace is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Glass Terrace is of historical significance as an important record of early Melbourne urban development, and for its association with Hugh Glass. Glass Terrace is thought to be Melbourne's oldest surviving terrace, a remnant of the earliest period of town house building in Melbourne's expanding new suburbs. It forms a significant element of the 19th century streetscape of the Gertrude Street, Nicholson Street and Exhibition Gardens precinct, being the oldest and most intact element of Gertrude Street.

Glass Terrace's historical importance is accentuated by its association with its original owner, Hugh Glass. Glass was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Victoria in the 1850s and 1860s. His wealth was built on pastoral holdings and land deals and he exercised enormous influence over the colony's parliament. When his business empire collapsed in the 1860s, his suburban property holdings, including Glass Terrace, saved him from total bankruptcy.

Glass Terrace is of architectural significance as an early example of terrace house design and for its associations with the architect David Ross. Glass Terrace's restrained styling and refinement of proportion and detailing are pleasing in their own right, but the building is chiefly important as an early example of what was to become a distinctive Melbourne building type. Few terraces of similar vintage remain intact. Ross was an important architect of early Melbourne, as indicated by the large number of churches that he designed. Few of the 70 commissions that he received during his nine years of practice in Melbourne remain, making Glass Terrace a valuable connection with the work of an important early Melbourne architect.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or

consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1854,
Architect/Designer	Ross, David,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	457
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

Historic Building No.446. Glass Terrace, 64-78 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy (to the extent of the buildings and lands including fencing and walling on Certificates of Title for the respective properties).
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No.25 4 April 1979 p.940]

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/>