
Terrace



643-647 Park Street



639-643 Park Street

Location

639-647 PARK STREET,, BRUNSWICK VIC 3056 - Property No 2319

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO555

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2023

What is significant?

The terrace houses at 639-647 Park Street, Brunswick are significant. The built form, style and arrangement of the Victorian era terrace row is significant, along with key decorative features including the cast iron elements, remaining slate roofs, timber joinery to eaves, awnings and openings, and the remaining dechrome brickwork. The bluestone retaining walls at 639-645 Park Street, Brunswick are also significant. Rear extensions to all of the dwellings are not significant.

How is it significant?

The terrace houses and bluestone retaining walls are of local historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

The place has historical significance as some of the first buildings to be built on the northern side of Park Street, east of Stranger Street. Further, they exemplify a building strategy during this period in which the end terrace (No. 639) 'larger and grander than the rest' was 'usually located at the end or corner of the row' and 'was the model which with suitable cost savings was multiplied all the way down the row' (Stapleton & Stapleton 1997: 49).

(Criterion A)

The place demonstrates principal characteristics of a Victorian Italianate terrace row, including the form/scale, roof materiality, brickwork, setback and cast iron/timber awning elements. (Criterion D) The place has aesthetic significance as a high-quality Victorian Italianate terrace row which retains its overall form, streetscape pattern and key features including the iron lacework, bichrome brick and bluestone retaining walls. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Moreland Heritage Nominations Study, Extent Heritage, 2022;
Construction dates	1880,
Hermes Number	56560
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Victorian terrace houses

Physical Conditions

Good The houses are all in good condition overall, though there appears to be some water ingress issues to some guttering and the bluestone retaining wall to No. 641 show evidence of salt attack.

Integrity

Minor Modifications

Physical Description 2

The subject site consists of four single-fronted Victorian Italianate terraces and a double-fronted Victorian Italianate terrace.

No. 639

The house at 639 Park Street is a double-fronted, single story house which forms the eastern end of a row of four other terraces. Being double fronted and considerably wider than the others, however, it appears to be another example of an end of terrace dwelling that '*larger and grander than the rest*' was '*usually located at the end or corner of the row*' and '*was the model which with suitable cost savings was multiplied all the way down the row*' (Stapleton & Stapleton 1997: 49).

The dwelling is constructed of brick with a rendered facade and features a tiled transverse gable roof shared with its three neighbouring properties, topped with a di-chrome chimney. The underlying brickwork is likely to have matched that of its neighbouring dwellings, which the adjoining property reveals as dichromatic brick. Timber eaves brackets are evident above the front facade, which features a skillion verandah with cast iron lacework and intact corbels. The central timber front door and timber double-hung sash windows flanking each side of the door appear to be original. The dwelling has a substantial two-storey rear extension with a hipped roof of Colourbond, partly visible from Park Street.

The front garden contains plantings which are broadly sympathetic to the period, appearing as wild and overgrown with a mix of carpeting shrubs, ferns, climbing roses and mature trees like maples and birch. These screen views of the dwelling.

No. 641-647

The dwellings at 641-647 Park Street, Brunswick consist of a set of four single-fronted, single-storey terraces. They are connected to No. 639. On the most part, the dwellings are characterised by several original elements including dichrome brickwork, east-west gable roofs clad with slate, skillion verandahs clad in sheet metal with cast iron lacework, timber joinery including double-hung windows, eaves brackets, and bluestone retaining walls.

No. 641, 643 and 645 retain their dichromatic brickwork, whilst No. 647 has been painted and had metal work installed to enclose the verandah. No. 645 and 647 have their original slate rooves, whilst No. 641 and 643 have had galvanised iron installed. All dwellings appear to have been extended to the rear.

The plantings in each individual front setback vary, with a range of plantings including palms, lavender, succulents and ferns.

Park Street is a wide street lined with native plantings such as gum trees and *Melaleuca linariifolia*. The housing stock on the northern side of Park Street within the vicinity of the subject site is characterised by a mixture of Victorian, Federation and Inter-War dwellings. The subject site is located opposite the Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

Intactness

Alterations and Additions:

No. 639:

- The front facade has been rendered, and would likely have originally been dichromatic brickwork*
- Roof replaced with Marseilles tile - likely to have been originally slate*
- Two-storey extension to the rear (visible from the street)*
- Screen door installed

No. 641:

- Slate roof replaced with galvanised iron
- Single-storey rear extension

No. 643:

- Slate roof replaced with galvanised iron
- Timber window to facade replaced with aluminium*
- Single-storey rear extension

No 645:

- Blue stone fence painted*

- Single-storey rear extension

No. 647:

- Boundary fence replaced or rendered, painted and topped with a brick infill.
- Chimney removed*
- Gates and screens added to facade to enclose the verandah
- Brickwork painted*
- Single-storey rear extension

The terrace row has been well kept with regards to significant fabric and retains its overall form and streetscape pattern. There are some adverse alterations, such as the tiles and render to No. 639 and the facade additions to No. 647. Overall though, the terrace row has high integrity as a group.* Denotes element that detracts from the cultural significance of the place.

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/>