

---

# WHITBY HOUSE (WHITBYFIELD)

---

## Location

28 WHITBY STREET,, BRUNSWICK WEST VIC 3055 - Property No 13704

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0546

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO197

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

Whitby House is of state historical and architectural significance. It is one of the earliest surviving buildings in Brunswick, and the only surviving building of this period associated with the establishment of 'gentlemen's estates' on Brunswick's early farming allotments. These were established by businesspeople and merchants, who often built fine architect-designed houses set in extensive grounds.

Whitby House is a modest example of the uncommon Gothic style, relatively few of which were built during a period in which the classical architectural vocabulary held sway. It is an example of the work of John Gill, an important Melbourne architect in the 1850s-60s.

Whitby House is significant within Brunswick for its association with noted local figures Edward Whitby and Graham Ferry. It is in a prominent location in a predominantly single storey street and is a local landmark.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;
Architect/Designer	Gill, John,
Other Names	Individual, 1860,
Hermes Number	59140
Property Number	

---

## Physical Description 1

Whitby House is a predominantly single storey brick house with some Gothick elements. It has steeply pitched gabled roofs with small dormers and paired octagonal chimneys. The gutter boards and bargeboards have curved timber fretwork. Terracotta ridging (in two different patterns) appears to have been added at a much later date. Windows are a combination of timber-framed casements and double-hung sashes, and the east elevation has a small oriel window. Some windows have awning highlights and simple rendered mouldings. Beneath the main gable on the south elevation is an unusual moulded panel bearing the name, Whitby, and the date 1848.

The house is in generally poor condition. Its conversion into flats has included the addition of several skillion-roofed rooms and carports between the original wings. Some of the face red brickwork has been exposed at ground floor level, and much of the rendered surface is deteriorating.

### Key Architectural Elements:

Unusual Gothic Revival style  
distinctive detail windows, chimneys, bargeboards

### Conservation Guidelines:

Repair deteriorated joinery  
reinststate sympathetic front fence and gates  
reconstruct missing decorative details  
preferably remove unsympathetic 20th century additions

### Comparative Examples:

Glenfern, East St Kilda (1850s)  
Coryule Homestead, Drysdale (Charles Laing, 1849)  
Old Geelong Grammar School, Corio (Backhouse and Reynolds, 1857)  
Longeranong Homestead (1850)  
The Hawthorns, 5 Creswick Street, Hawthorn (1847)

*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/>*