

McCracken Street Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	McCracken Street	PS ref no:	HO456
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McCracken Street

What is significant?

The McCracken Street precinct, at 30-50 and 27-49 McCracken Street, Essendon, a residential area comprising a group of interwar bungalows built in c.1927-35 on the Mar Lodge Estate subdivision (1921), is significant.

The following features contribute to the significance of the precinct:

- The pattern of development, which comprises a late nineteenth century subdivision with houses almost entirely built in the interwar years.
- The relatively intact group of interwar bungalows, and the original form, materials, setback, and detailing that are characteristic of interwar timber bungalows.
- The well-maintained garden setting.
- Original or early front fences at 29, 37 and 43 McCracken Street.
- The mature Canary Island palm trees and lych gate at 27 McCracken Street.
- The wide nature strips.
- The visual cohesion enhanced by the street trees (*Lophostemon confertus*).

The houses at 27, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 McCracken Street are Contributory. The house at 27 McCracken, situated on a prominent corner, is distinguished by two mature Canary Island Palms and a lych gate at the corner.

Non-original alterations and additions to the Contributory houses are not significant.

The house at 35 McCracken Street is not significant.

How is it significant?

30-50 and 27-49 McCracken Street, Essendon, is of local historic and representative (architectural) significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the McCracken Street Precinct, Essendon, is significant as an illustration of what was a typical pattern in the suburbs of Moonee Valley in the interwar period, when large Victorian-era mansion estates were subdivided for suburban development as they became too expensive to maintain, and then were almost completely developed during the intensive period of suburban expansion that followed World War I. This pattern of development demonstrates the accelerated suburban growth of Essendon and of the municipality during the interwar years, encouraged by improved transport connections and other important services such as being seweraged and having made roads. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the McCracken Street precinct is significant as a relatively intact group of interwar timber bungalows. The houses were built over a relatively short time span, between c.1928 and 1935, and share similar features typical of the interwar Bungalow style, including form, materials, setback and well-maintained garden settings, some with original or early front fences. The aesthetic qualities and visual cohesion of the precinct are enhanced by the good integrity of most of the houses, several of which (for example, 29, 36 and 37) retain original or early front fences. The aesthetic qualities are further enhanced by the two Canary Island palm trees in the front garden of 27 McCracken Street. These trees were popular garden plants in the interwar period and are of a maturity that suggests they may have been an early part of the garden. The aesthetic qualities and cohesive character of the McCracken Street precinct is also enhanced by the generous landscape treatment of the streetscape comprising wide lawn nature strips and mature Brush Box trees (*Lophostemon confertus*). (Criterion D) (*Lophostemon confertus*). (Criterion D)

Primary source

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