

27 Robb Street, Essendon Statement of Significance April 2021

Heritage Place:	Riverlea	PS ref no:	HO507
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27 Robb Street, Essendon, principal elevation (source: Context 2018)

What is significant?

'Riverlea', at 27 Robb Street, Essendon, a Victorian era Italianate villa built in 1888, is significant.

Significant fabric includes the:

original plan form, roof form, original pattern of fenestration on the principal and side elevations; polychromatic brickwork, slate roof, basalt foundations, verandahs with iron friezes, original chimneys; and

decorative eaves and brackets, Gothic hood moulds, tessellated verandah floor, original window and door joinery.

The rear extension, fences, swimming pool, and the double garage are not significant.

How is it significant?

27 Robb Street, Essendon, is of local architectural (representative) and aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

The house at 27 Robb Street, Essendon, is significant as an example of a Victorian era Italianate villa. It demonstrates the key characteristics of the Italianate style in the use of asymmetrical form, use of plain and polychrome brickwork, slate roofing and decorative detail. Typical brick quoining in cream frames the principal elevations. The house retains its original building and roof forms with chimneys, fenestration to principal and side elevations enlivened by label moulds, a return verandah with cast iron frieze and tessellated tile floor. The integrity of the house is enhanced by the high level of intactness of these main elements. The house is particularly distinguished from more typical examples of this type by the Venetian Gothic framing of the principal window in pointed arches composed of alternating red and cream brick voussoirs outlined by label mouldings. (Criteria D & E)

Primary source

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