17 and 19 Union Road, Ascot Vale Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Semi-detached houses	**PS ref no:**	HO478

17 & 19 Union Road, Moonee Ponds, principal elevation (source: Context, 2018)

What is significant?

The semi-detached Edwardian Queen Anne pair at 17-19 Union Road, Ascot Vale, is significant. The pair was constructed as rental properties in c1914 for owner Thomas Barnby, who owned the nearby National Tower Hotel.

Significant elements include the:
- original built form and hipped and gabled roof forms of the Edwardian pair;
- roughcast and face brick surfaces, projecting square bays, original pattern of fenestration, stepped parapets, original chimneys and remaining terracotta chimney pots; and
- decorative moulding and pediment, barge boards, bullnose verandahs and cast iron friezes, original window and door joinery and leadlight windows;

The rear extensions to the houses, the high front brick fences, and the glazed awning at the front of number 19 are not significant.

How is it significant?

The pair at 17-19 Union Road, Ascot Vale, is of local aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

The semi-detached pair at 17-19 Union Road, Ascot Vale, is of aesthetic significance for its unusual form and detail as applied to a house form that was common during the Edwardian period. While adopting typical elements of the house type and Queen Anne style, including separately massed roof form, strong gable-fronted elements dominating the front façade, red brick walls with smooth and roughcast render accents, chimneys with a red brick shaft and roughcast cap, cast-iron verandah ornament in a flat pattern that emulates timber fretwork, and banks of casement windows with highlights. It is distinguished from more typical examples by its massing and details. These include the massing of double-fronted houses to resemble a single-fronted house by means of the long pronounced gabled front roof, by the device of a projecting bay window that continues up to the eaves giving the dwellings a strong vertical emphasis, as well as exposing a greater depth of the boarded eaves lining creating a wings-like effect. Details of note include the Art Nouveau leadlight windows and the triangular pediment adorned with neoclassical bas-relief to the front windows, as well as the uncommon lattice pattern of the cast iron. (Criterion E)

Primary source

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