

27 and 32 Robb Street, Essendon Statement of Significance

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



32 Robb Street, Essendon, principal elevation (source: Context 2018)

What is significant?

27 and 32 Robb Street, Essendon, two similar Victorian era Italianate villas built in 1888 and c.1886-91 respectively are significant.
E.g. Individually significant examples include detached villas, terrace houses and mansions.

Significant fabric includes the:

- original built forms, roof forms, 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 extensions, fences, pools of both villas, the double garage (No 27), and the rear contemporary verandah and pergola, double carport and single garage (No 32) are not significant.

How is it significant?

27 and 32 Robb Street, Essendon, are of local architectural (representative) significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

The pair of houses at 30 and 32 Robb Street, Essendon, are significant as examples of Victorian era Italianate villas. The Italianate style is well represented in the Heritage Overlay in Moonee Valley. Individually significant examples include detached villas, terrace houses and mansions. The majority of Italianate-style dwellings in Moonee Valley City are detached houses or villas and are predominately of brick construction. Amongst many comparators on the Heritage Overlay, 3 Aberfeldie Street Essendon c.1897 (HO143) displays a similar level of brickwork patterning around the principal windows of the bay. A less sophisticated example is 23 Brown Street, Ascot Vale, c.1891 (HO392). Corner siting such as that of 27 Robb Street is demonstrated by 55 Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds, c.1898 (HO322) where the return verandah and opposing projecting bays are visible.

Both 27 and 32 Robb Street demonstrate the key characteristics of the Italianate style in their use of asymmetrical form, use of plain and polychrome brickwork, slate roofing and decorative detail. This is particularly evident in the framing of the principal window in Gothic arches composed of alternating red and cream brick outlined by label mouldings. Typical brick quoining in cream forms the principal elevations. Both 27 and 32 Robb Street retain their original building and roof forms with chimneys, fenestration to principal and side elevations enlivened by label moulds, verandahs with cast iron frieze and tessellated tile floors. The integrity of the buildings is enhanced by the high level of intactness of these main elements. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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