

## 50 and 2/50 Fletcher Street, Essendon Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Winbush House	PS ref no:	HO489
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*50 Fletcher Street, Essendon, principal elevation (April 2018). (Source: Context, 2018)*

### What is significant?

Winbush House at 50 Fletcher Street, Essendon, is significant. The two-storey Moderne style house was designed by architect Harry Winbush as his home in 1936 (and extended to incorporate his office in 1959).

Significant fabric includes the:

- original building form and roof form;
- roof parapet with brick banding;
- rendered and face brick walls including unpainted face brick details such as tapestry brick accents;
- window and door joinery including the leaded glass window to stairwell;
- stepped entry porch beneath a cantilevered concrete roof;
- brick garage; and
- low brick front fence.

The 1950s south extension and office to the north at 2/50 Fletcher Street, Essendon, are contributory elements of the place.

The garage door and metal palisade fence are not significant.

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**How is it significant?**

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Winbush House at 50 Fletcher Street, Essendon, is of local architectural (representative) and associative significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

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**Why is it significant?**

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Winbush House at 50 Fletcher Street, Essendon, is a fine representative example of the Moderne style applied to a tight suburban block. The mix of curved and planar surfaces typical of the style complements the contrast between the pale render and subtle touches of dark face brickwork. The house demonstrates the strong emphasis on the horizontal, typical of the style, created by the roof parapets with brick bandings, and the narrow brick bands around windows and doors reminiscent of quoining. The stepped entry beneath a concrete hood is of particular note. (Criterion D)

The house at 50 Fletcher Street and the office extension at 2/50 Fletcher Street are of historical significance for their association with the life and works of local architect Harry Winbush. Designed by Winbush in 1936, a year after his marriage, it served as the family home for the next fifty-four years. As he did not have to incorporate the taste of any client, it can be considered a pure expression of his style at this very active time in his career. The extensions to the north and south of the house illustrate his continued use of the property and its respectful adaptation to changing needs, particularly the northern wing where he moved his architectural practice. (Criterion H)

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**Primary source**

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