

65 Charles Street, Ascot Vale Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	House	PS ref no:	HO471
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65 Charles Street, Ascot Vale, principal elevation (source: Context 2018)

What is significant?

The Edwardian Queen Anne house with Italianate and Art Nouveau references at 65 Charles Street, Ascot Vale, is significant. It was built in 1906-07 for owner-occupier Andrew Murdoch.

Significant elements include the:

- Original and built form, slate roof with terracotta ridge cappings and finials, brick chimneys;
- Block timber cladding, return verandah, original fenestrations, window hoods, and
- Gable end details of simple timber strapping over pressed metal, eaves brackets and frieze panels, verandah timber posts and fretwork, and original window and door joinery.

How is it significant?

65 Charles Street, Ascot Vale, is of local architectural (representative) significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

65 Charles Street, Ascot Vale, is a highly intact example of the Queen Anne-Italianate fusion that was common in the first years of the twentieth century and illustrates the transition from one dominant style to another. As is typical for such houses, it retains the M-hipped roof with a long transverse ridge, slate roofing, cornices chimneys, and bullnose verandah set below brackets eaves from the Italianate style. Key characteristics of the Queen Anne style are seen in the plan with projecting gabled bays to two elevations with a return verandah in between to create a diagonal axis of symmetry, the half-timbering treatment to the gables, and the terracotta roof ridge capping and finials.

The verandah treatment is unusual and distinctive, combining Italianate Corinthian columns with sinuous solid timber fretwork which displays the influence of Art Nouveau on the Queen Anne style. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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