

<b>Building:</b>	River House	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	67 Church Street, Abbotsford	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2D B12
<b>Building Type:</b>	Residence	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1892
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[ ] F[ ] P[x]		G[x] F[ ] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## **History**

The River House was erected in c.1892 for law clerk John Buchan. The house is one of a pair of once identical houses, the other at 24 Mayfield Street. The houses were erected the year Sir Francis Murphy, the owner of Mayfield, died. The house, rated the year of construction at NAV £20, also had a coachhouse and stables. In 1905 the house, then rated at £18, was sold to architect, William A Fettes, who retained the property until 1911 when it was purchased by William Carrodus, baker. The following year the property had increased in value to £28, possibly indicating improvements. The NAV increased again in 1929, when it was rated at £38. Carrodus retained the house until c.1930. All three early owners of the property leased it to tenants for a period.<sup>1</sup>

The house has been substantially altered since the early 1980s. The alterations were designed by local architect Gabriel Orosvary.<sup>2</sup>

## **Description**

The house at 24 Mayfield Street, Abbotsford, is a two storey double-fronted timber house on a steep site overlooking the Yarra River. Access to the house from Church Street is via the rear of the upper level. The house has been substantially altered since the early 1980s; the roof profile is one of the few recognisable original elements. The north elevation has two timber-framed balconies and extensive storage space beneath the building. The north wall appears to have been reconstructed in brick, and none of the large, timber-framed window and door openings appears to be original.

## **Comparative Examples**

House, 24 Mayfield Street, Abbotsford

## **Significance**

The River House, 67 Church Street, Abbotsford, is of local historical and architectural significance. It is one of any a few surviving 19th century houses on sites with river frontages remaining in the municipality. It is one of the few substantial houses remaining in this part of Abbotsford, which was extensively redeveloped with industrial buildings in the post-War period. Of all the riverside properties in the municipality, it is rare in having its main facade address the river rather than the street.

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1 National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No. 4265.

2 Information supplied by the present owner.