
Building:	House	Significance:	B
Address:	261 Highett Street, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	2H B5

Building Type:	Residence	Construction Date:	1893
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[x] F[] P[]		G[x] F[] P[]	

Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
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 house at 261 Highett Street was built in 1893. The first owner was Thomas Colbert, a grocer, who already owned a 4 room wooden house at No. 267. The first occupier of No. 261 was Susan Gore, a widow. The Rate Books for 1893 indicate an unfinished 4 room brick house, valued at £6, at No. 261. The house remained in the ownership of the Colbert family until at least 1941.¹

Description

The house at 261 Highett Street is a two-storey detached polychromatic brick terrace. Italianate in style, it has brown brick walls with cream and red window dressings, string courses and diaperwork. There is a convex-profiled corrugated-iron clad verandah between two wing walls with rendered copings and vermiculated consoles. The verandah has a cast iron lacework frieze. There is no balcony. Windows are timber-framed double-hung sashes, with bluestone sills. The parapet has polychromatic brick panelling with an unpainted rendered coping, cornice, and a central segmental pediment flanked by scrolls and decorated with swags. There is an urn at each corner of the parapet. The house has two polychromatic chimneys with rendered moulded caps.

The brickwork colours and patterning, and the parapet match those on the adjacent single-storey house at 263 Highett Street (see separate datasheet). Both houses have timber and woven wire front fences.

Comparative Examples

263 Highett Street, Richmond

Significance

The house at 261 Highett Street, Richmond, is of local architectural significance. It is a particularly elaborate example of polychromatic brickwork, and unusual in its incorporation of three cream and red brick string courses into the upper level, including within the parapet. The house is particularly intact, retaining its original unpainted rendered dressings. The house forms an interesting and significant pair with No. 263, a double-fronted single-storey composition of the same elements, with many very similar or identical details.

¹ Sands & McDougall Directory, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1900, 1910. Richmond Rate Books, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1941-42.