

**RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A
NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER**

NAME: RESIDENCE

VHR NO: Not applicable

LOCATION: 3 PORTLAND STREET RICHMOND, Yarra City

CATEGORY: Not applicable

FILE NO: 606887

OFFICER/S REPORTING: Libby Blamey



RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object be referred to the relevant planning authority for inclusion in a planning scheme [Section 32(2)]

Manager
Heritage Assessments

Date

Executive Director

Date

REASON:

The residence at 3 Portland Street, Richmond does not demonstrate sufficient cultural heritage significant to be added to the Victorian Heritage Register.

The early and mid-1850s residences listed on the Register demonstrate the features residential architecture of the period, both in rural and metropolitan areas. The cottage at 34 Waterloo Crescent, St Kilda (H0780), the cream brick residence at 64 Avoca Street, South Yarra (H0809), the Iron House, 399 Coventry Street South Melbourne (H0220) and the stone cottage at 73 Koroit Street Warrnambool (H0577) are all intact and important representatives of the architecture of the mid-1850s and are historically and architecturally important to the State of Victoria.

However, the residence at 3 Portland Street is not an intact example from this period. The extension and alterations to the original form of the house obscure an understanding of its intended design and of architecture from the period. These works obscure an understanding of the original style and form and have reduced the integrity of the place to a degree where it can not be considered to be of state significance.

It is recommended that 3 Portland Street, Richmond not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. It is currently protected by the Yarra City planning scheme within the Richmond Hill Precinct on the heritage overlay (HO332B) and is considered the appropriate level of protection.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The residence at 3 Portland Street comprises a single storey cottage constructed prior to 1855 and a more recent double storey extension. It was briefly the home of the architect and surveyor Robert Russell.

Portland Street, created in the 1880s, was merely a narrow laneway in the mid-1850s, running between Rowena Street and what is now Firebell Lane. John Steel Magee's map of 1855 depicts four buildings located along this lane by this time. Robert Russell was appointed surveyor to Port Phillip in 1836, before being replaced by Robert Hoddle the following year. Russell subsequently went into private practice as an architect and surveyor, his only known surviving work being the St James Old Cathedral (H0011). Russell moved frequently, and resided in Fitzroy, East Melbourne and at least two addresses in Richmond. In 1856, Russell and his family moved to England.

The residence at 3 Portland Street, as depicted on the MMBW plan of 1897, was oriented south, rather than west facing the road. There was a verandah on the southern elevation, grassed area south of the house to Firebell Lane, and stables to the north of the building. The slate roof of the cottage is of interest, being of two parallel hipped roofs joined by a smaller hipped roof. Though the building was originally of stuccoed brick, it has been recently been

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given a new wall finish and a two storey extension has been added. The Victorian-era verandahs on the south and west elevations have been removed and the brick chimney rebuilt in recent years.

The residence at 3 Portland Street, Richmond is of local architectural significance as a pre-1855 cottage, albeit one which has been altered from its original form.

The residence at 3 Portland Street, Richmond is of local historical significance for its association with architect and surveyor, Robert Russell.
