

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

NAME: RESIDENCE

VHR NO: Not applicable

LOCATION: 42 WALTHAM STREET (REAR) RICHMOND, YARRA CITY

CATEGORY: Not applicable

FILE NO: 606833

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
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REASON:

42 Waltham Street (rear) is of local historical and architectural significance. However, it does not have sufficient cultural heritage significance to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

The residence is an interesting example of a simple Italianate building from the mid-1850s, however it is not an excellent example of the style. There are currently 26 residences listed on the Victorian Heritage Register of Italianate design. These include more simply conceived two-storey buildings such as Richmond House (H0206) and Milton House (H1164) to such grander homes as Bontharambo (H0359) and Bishopscourt (H0027). 42 Waltham Street is comparable to Merchiston Hall (H0192), a two storey rendered stone house designed in simple block form early. This large and fine Italianate mansion is an important work of Geelong architects, Backhouse and Reynolds.

An example of James Blackburn Jnr's work on the Register is the prefabricated Iron House, Brunswick (H0665) constructed in 1854, and is significant as rare and substantially intact example of a portable iron cottage.

It is recommended that the residence at 42 Waltham St, Richmond not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. 42 Waltham Street is currently protected by the Yarra City planning scheme within the West Richmond Precinct on the heritage overlay (HO332) and is considered the appropriate level of protection.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The two-storey, Italianate brick residence at the rear of 42 Waltham Street, Richmond, was built c. 1854-55 and is likely to have been designed by the owner, architect James Blackburn Jnr.

The land on which the house stands was purchased in 1854 by Blackburn Jnr's mother, Rachel Blackburn, who lived at a house in 44 Waltham Street, now demolished. Blackburn Jnr's father was an important architect in both Tasmania and Victoria, and his achievements included the establishment of the Yan Yean Reservoir during his time as City Surveyor. James Blackburn Jnr followed his father into architecture, designing the prefabricated Iron House, Brunswick (H0665) and taking over his father's stake in the partnership Newson & Blackburn. By 1858, the house at number 42 was described in the 1858 Richmond rate book as a brick house of 5 rooms and a kitchen, valued at £110. Blackburn sold his house in 1862, and by 1882 it was listed as an eight roomed house, occupied by a Malvern wine merchant, Warren George Brown.

The large, Italianate house at 42 Waltham Street has simple decorative elements, including eave brackets, string course dividing first and ground floor levels, a columned entrance, painted stucco walls and a portico entrance. It is situated to the rear of a block of flats which

Victorian Heritage Register



now obscure it from the street, and by the mid-1980s, the house had been internally altered to accommodate three flats.

The residence at 42 Waltham Street, Richmond is of local architectural significance as an early Italianate residence in Richmond.

The residence at 42 Waltham Street, Richmond is of local historical significance for its association with the Blackburn family of architects.

DETERMINATION BY HERITAGE COUNCIL

(Strike out where not applicable)

- That the Place or object be included in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(a)]
- That ALL or PART of the Place be included in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object or part of a place NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(c)]
- That the Place NOT be included in the Heritage Register but instead referred to the relevant planning authority [Section 42(1)(d)(i)]
- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register but instead other steps be taken to protect or conserve it [Section 42(1)(d)(ii)]

Comment:

Meeting No

Date

Registrations Co-ordinator

Date