

# **Heritage Citation**

# HOUSE (FORMER DAIRY DEPOT)

Address:	41 Perth Street, Prahran	
Prepared by:	GJM Heritage/Purcell	
Date:	June 2017 (updated 31 July 2018)	

Place type: Residential, dairy depot	Architect: Not known
Grading: Locally significant	Builder: Not known
Integrity: Very High	Construction Date: 1905-07
Recommendation: Include in the Heritage Overlay	Extent of Overlay: To property title boundary

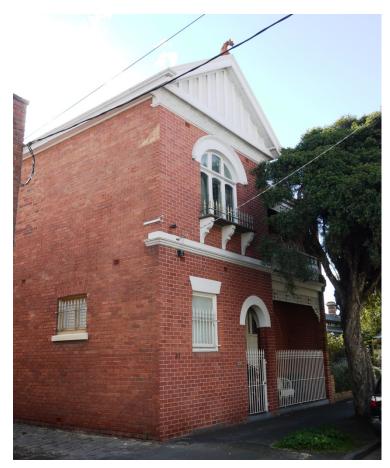


Figure 1. 41 Perth Street, Prahran (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



#### **Statement of Significance**

#### What is significant?

The Federation house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran, a two-storey dwelling built in 1905-07.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The house's original external form, materials and detailing
- The house's high level of integrity to its original design.

Later alterations and additions, such as the rear addition, are not significant.

# How is it significant?

The house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran is of local historical and architectural significance to the City of Stonnington.

# Why is it significant?

The Federation house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran has historical significance for its long association with the local dairy industry in the established suburb of Prahran from 1905 to 1944 and demonstrates the family-run operation of dairies, with owners living on site (Criterion A).

The Federation house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran is a rare surviving example of a building associated with the dairy depots which were established in Prahran and across Melbourne more broadly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Criterion B).

The house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran is a fine example of a Federation house which displays typical features of the period. These include the use of materials such as red brick, roughcast render, terracotta roof tiles, decorative roof ridge capping and finial and half-timbering to the front projecting gable (Criterion D).

#### **Historical Themes**

The place illustrates the following themes as outlined in the *Stonnington Environmental History* (2009):

- 6 Developing the Victorian & National Economy
- 6.1 Working the land
  - 6.1.3 Dairying
- 8 Building Suburbs
- 8.2 Middle-class suburbs and the suburban ideal

#### Locality history

The close proximity of the former Prahran municipality to the centre of Melbourne resulted in its early development and growth. The municipality comprised the localities of South Yarra (east of Punt Road), Prahran, Windsor, Toorak (west of Kooyong Road), Hawksburn, and Armadale (west of Kooyong Road). The name Prahran was derived from the Aboriginal word for the area, 'Pur-ra-ran', which is reportedly a compound of two words, meaning 'land partially surrounded by water' (City of Stonnington [CoS]).

The Prahran municipality was first surveyed for farm lots in 1840. Most original Crown grantees subdivided their allotments for resale and a hierarchy of development quickly emerged. The desirable elevated locations immediately south of the Yarra River, in Toorak and South Yarra, attracted residential development in the form of substantial houses on large allotments. By 1849, land sales had reached Dandenong Road at the southern extent of the Prahran municipality, in the lower-lying areas that were prone to flooding. Development here comprised dwellings and worker's cottages on small allotments

(Context 2006:37-40; 2009:11). The commercial area at the junction of Chapel Street and Toorak Road had begun to develop by the mid 1850s. In Prahran, Windsor and parts of South Yarra, much of the land was cultivated as small market gardens in the 1850s and 1860s. The early importance of this industry is illustrated by the opening of the Prahran Market in 1864 (Context 2006:92).

The Prahran Road District was proclaimed in 1854, soon becoming a municipality in 1855, and a Borough in 1863. In 1870 the Borough of Prahran was proclaimed a Town, and then a City in 1879 due to population growth (CoS). In the 1860s and 1870s the population of the municipality more than doubled, from approximately 10,000 in 1861 to 21,000 in 1881 (Victorian Places).

In 1860 the private Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company, opened a line through Richmond to South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor. In 1878 the Victorian Government purchased the existing railways in the municipality as part of a project to build a line through Oakleigh to Gippsland. The new Oakleigh line, which was opened in 1879, ran through Malvern, Armadale, Toorak and Hawksburn to join the existing line at South Yarra. The arrival of the Oakleigh railway line coincided with the start of the land boom, which resulted in considerable urban growth (Context 2006:65-7).

The Prahran municipality was serviced by a web of public transport routes when cable trams were established in Toorak Road and Chapel Street in 1888 and 1891 respectively, and major commercial centres grew along these tram routes. By 1891 the population of the municipality had again doubled from 21,000 in 1881 to almost 40,000 in 1891. By the 1890s, much of the Prahran municipality had been developed, and by 1900 the majority of large land holdings had been broken up, with subdivision often proceeding without any planning oversight. In terms of building stock, middle-class enclaves did develop throughout the former City of Prahran, however, it was in the neighbouring City of Malvern that the development of the 'suburban ideal' was to find its fullest expression (Context 2009:12). The population of the Prahran municipality grew at a steady rate from 1891 to the early 1930s, during both the 1890s and 1930s depressions (Context 2006:69; Victorian Places).

The 1903 Australian Handbook (as cited in Victorian Places) entry for Prahran stated that the municipality comprised rail and cable tramcar networks, a landmark town hall, numerous 'public buildings of a charitable, educational, and ecclesiastical character', 'handsome recreation areas' that beautified the neighbourhood, and many tree lined streets. The entry further noted that the 'outskirts of the municipality [were] adorned by very many elegant private houses, the residences of merchants and others in business in Melbourne' (Victorian Places).

By 1927 the Prahran municipality had five electric tram routes: Dandenong Road (1911), High Street (1910), Malvern Road (1915), Toorak Road (1927) and Chapel Street (1926). By 1933, the municipality had a population of 51,000 (Vic Places; Context 2006:70 & 2009:6). In the 1930s, the local housing stock, comprising many small dwellings and workers cottages, was considered in reports on slum reclamation (Victorian Places). The 1946 *Australian handbook* (as cited in Vic Places) stated that the municipality was largely residential, with a number of factories, 80 acres of parks and gardens, and recreational facilities. In 1947, the municipality reached its peak population, at almost 60,000 people (Victorian Places).

During the early post-war period, slum reclamation projects coincided with a boom in flat development, with private flat developments in east Prahran and Housing Commission projects in Prahran and Windsor often occurring in the reclamation areas. This resulted in an influx in migrants, particularly of Greek and British nationality, in the 1950s and '60s, who occupied the old working-class houses and newly built Housing Commission flats. By 1991 the population of the municipality had declined to 42,000 (Vic Places; Context 2006:142). The City of Malvern amalgamated with the City of Prahran in 1994, to form the City of Stonnington. In 2011, the housing stock of the Prahran locality comprised 50% flats and units, 20% row houses and 30% freestanding houses (Victorian Places).



#### Urban dairy depots

Many people in early Melbourne, including what is now the City of Stonnington, kept their own cows for dairy production, grazing them on their property or vacant land nearby. As towns grew and space became more limited, often a system of town commons developed where town cows were pastured on reserves set up for the purpose. As land in towns became scarcer following the rapid population growth during the gold rushes and subsequent development, the system of dairy distribution developed and expanded. At this stage, farms on Melbourne's fringe, and particularly Gippsland, became more prominent as suppliers of dairy products to the urban populations (Vines 1993:7; Context 2009:8).

An early example of a dairy farm in the municipality is James and William Woodmasons' Dairy, which was first established in the 1850s (first as a market garden) on the corner of Malvern and Glenferrie roads, which grazed cows and distributed dairy products to the local area (Context 2009:8). The property was subdivided in 1913, creating Woodmason and Wagner streets, while Woodmason retained the reduced corner lot (LV:V3608/F447). Woodmasons' Dairy, later named Melrose Dairy, remained at 1133 Malvern Road until c1970s; an interwar shop remains on the north-east corner site in 2017 (Valuers Field Book). Woodmason Ice Supply Pty Ltd (also referred to as Melrose Ice Works) was established at 318 Glenferrie Road in 1923 (SHC; S&Mc). The dairy and iceworks were local landmarks for many years (Context 2006:93, 130; SHC). Dairies in the former City of Prahran include Palermo Dairy in South Yarra (1864; which probably grazed cows and distributed dairy products), and White's Cotswold Hills Dairy on Williams Road, Prahran (which appeared in the Sands & McDougall Directory c1905 and served as a dairy depot) (Context 2009:10; SHC; S&Mc).

In the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, a local neighbourhood dairy, or dairy depot, was an essential urban service (Context 2009:8). Dairy products were delivered to the urban dairy in bulk, then sold directly or delivered to the neighbourhood twice daily. The dairy was often located on an urban-size allotment, ideally sited on a corner lot or adjacent to a laneway for access to outbuildings and stables, and could include a residence for the dairyman. The lack of refrigeration during transport and threat of contamination was a problem during this early period, resulting in frequent deliveries and the later development of associated ice works.

In 1905, there were a large number of dairies listed in the Sands & McDougall Directories within the inner, more densely populated localities, such as Abbotsford, Brunswick, Carlton, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Fitzroy, North Melbourne, Prahran, Richmond and South Melbourne. North Melbourne and Richmond also had a high number of dairy produce merchants (S&Mc). The 1905 Sands & McDougall Directory listed approximately 19 dairies in Prahran, with six 'dairy produce' locations. Of the 19 dairies in Prahran, remnants of dairy-related buildings may remain (although further research is required to confirm) at 51 Alfred Street (Figure 2), 12 Henry Street (Windsor) (Figure 3), and 16 York Street, all of which appear to date to the Victorian period. Dairy-related buildings dating to the Federation period are known to remain at 41 Perth Street, Prahran. The remainder of the current City of Stonnington (excluding Prahran) had approximately 31 dairies, six 'dairymen' and 13 'dairy produce' locations in 1905 (S&Mc).

Refrigeration played an increasing role in the supply and distribution of milk from circa 1911 (Context 2009:9). In the 1920s and '30s metropolitan milk supplies took on a new appearance as the so-called 'Model Suburban Dairies' were constructed with the latest in hygiene and commercial packaging. It was during this period that the almost universal system of bottling pasteurised milk and delivery throughout the metropolitan area began (Vines 1993:11). Legislative changes made it increasingly difficult for small local dairies to survive. In 1933, a new Milk Board raised standards in dairies, resulting in the de-licensing of about half of Melbourne's dairies. The remaining dairies were forced to make improvements to their facilities and many flourished. Further reductions in the number of dairies, and began purchasing milk from farmers for resale to the dairies, effectively making dairies the agents of the Milk Board. By the 1960s, the expansion of Metropolitan Dairies further saw the decline of small urban dairies, which gradually dwindled



as the face of milk production and distribution changed. Many closed or became the local neighbourhood store or 'Milk Bar' (Context 2009:9).



Figure 2: 51 Alfred Street, Prahran (Google Streetview, 2017)



Figure 3: 12 Henry Street, Prahran (Google Streetview, 2017)

#### **Place history**

The current 41 Perth Street had a history of nineteenth century ownership, before Frances H. Mason, hat manufacturer 'of Perth Street' purchased the property in October 1877. Subsequent owners included the Premier Permanent Building Land and Investment Association from May 1885 and George Henry, gentleman, from March 1891 (LV: 993/F403). The property served as a dairy depot from at least 1891; the *Argus* (25 Nov 1891:8) published an ad in 1891 for a 'Man, for milk cart wanted' at 41 Perth Street, Prahran. The 1896 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan (Figure 4) showed the footprint of an earlier house at 41 Perth Street, also located on the front title boundary, with stables on the rear (west) boundary and other outbuildings along the boundary lines, with a central pitched section, accessed off the laneway (MMBW).

In October 1898, Antonio Brunet, dairyman 'of No. 41 Perth Street, Prahran' purchased the property V1694/F776). The Sands & McDougall directories confirm that 41 Perth Street continued to serve as a 'dairy' under Brunet's ownership. The 1899 rate books confirmed that Antonio Brunet, dairyman, was the owner and occupant of a 6 room weatherboard house (the earlier house; as the existing house is brick) at 41 Perth Street, with a Net Annual Value of 26 pounds (RB).

In September 1904, Brunet sold the property to Rosamond A. Shinkfield, married woman (LV:V1694/F776). The 1905-06 rate books recorded that John Shinkfield was the owner of 41 Perth Street which was still



occupied by the earlier 6 room weatherboard house and stables, however, the entry is also annotated with 'New B Villa', indicating that a brick villa was being erected; the property had a Net Annual Value of 36 pounds at this date and the names Coppin and Giddy, dairymen, were struck out as the occupants. The following year, the 1906-07 rate books noted that John Shinkfield, dairyman, owned and occupied 41 Perth Street, still described as having a 6 room weatherboard house and stables, but a note in the description stated '[illegible] in progress'. The Net Annual Value had slightly increased to 44 pounds. The 1907-08 rate books confirmed that Shinkfield was now the owner and occupant of a six room brick house and stables at 41 Perth Street, with an increased Net Annual Value of 52 pounds. This indicates that the existing brick house was built in 1905 to 1907 for owner and dairyman John Shinkfield.

Prior to purchasing the property on Perth Street, J. Shinkfield had occupied 9 Wattle Street, Prahran (since demolished), which had served as a dairy from at least 1900 (S&Mc). The Shinkfield's remained the owners of 41 Perth Street until 1963 (LV:V1694/F776). The Sands & McDougall directories confirmed that 41 Perth Street served as a 'dairy' under Shinkfield's ownership and occupancy.

In 1920, John Shinkfield's name was crossed out in the rate books, replaced with William Bedford, dairyman, as the occupant of 41 Perth Street (RB). In the late 1920s, 'Prahran Dairy' on Perth Street was advertised in local newspapers (*Prahran Telegraph*, 19 Nov 1926:7; 29 Apr 1927:7). A 1926 article stated that 'this dairy claims to be one of the most up-to-date that delivers milk south of the Yarra. The milk they distribute is produced at Dandenong, where it is immediately cooled on the farm before being transported by motor wagons to the distributing depot in Perth street, Prahran, where it is at one brine-cooled, ensuring that the consumers get it in the best of condition.' The article continued, 'Mr. Bedford, the proprietor, was a member of the A.I.F., and personally supervises cooling, distribution, etc.' The 1930 rate books confirmed that 41 Perth Street continued to be occupied by William Bedford, dairyman, while owner Shinkfield, dairyman, occupied 35 Perth Street (just south of Greville Street) (RB).

In 1935, the business 'Shinkfield (J.) Pty. Ltd., dealers in and producers of dairy and farm produce, etc.' was advertised for sale. The Directors of 'J. Shinkfield and Sons' were listed as John, Leslie Robert, Jack Frederick and Rosamond Annie Shinkfield (*Daily Commercial News and Shipping Lists*, 31 Jul 1935:4). It is not confirmed if Shinkfield was still associated with the dairy depot at 41 Perth Street at this date.

In the late 1930s, 'Prahran Dairy' at 41 Perth Street was now advertised by F. W. Keating, and in 1941, 41 Perth Street continued to be listed in the Directories as 'Prahran Dairy' (*Age*, 6 Mar 1936:16; S&Mc). In the 1943-44 rate books, the name Evelyn Mary Keating (dairy 'ppress') was struck out as the occupant, replaced with occupant Albert William [illegible surname], traveler (RB). From 1944, occupants listed in the rate books did not have occupations associated with the dairy industry. This strongly suggests that the property ceased to serve as a dairy depot in 1944.

In 1963, the Shinkfields sold the property to Antonin Pavlas (LV:V1694/F776). Council valuation records indicate that the two-storey residence served as four apartments from at least 1968. A sales advertisement for the house in 1984 described the house as a 'handsome solid brick Edwardian residence', and stated that the house was divided into '4 flatettes' (Valuers Field Book). In 1985, Willie Wegmuller and Fred Schulze purchased the property. After this date the property had various owners (LV:V1694/F776). The rear portion of 41 Perth Street was transferred and consolidated with 43 Greville Street in 1988; in 2017 the rear of 41 Perth Street and the rear of 43 Greville Street are both addressed as 41A Perth Street (the modern garages at the rear of 41 Perth Street appear to serve the apartments in Deiner's Ice Works) (Valuers Field Book).

Permits were granted for alterations to the house in 1988 which appear to have mainly comprised internal alterations and probably returned the house to single occupancy. These works included the replacement of the balustrade (further detail not provided; this may have applied to both ground and first floor balustrades) and 'new windows in part' (locations not known). The large addition to the rear of the house existed by 1988 (Valuers Field Book). In 1989 and 1992, the place was advertised for sale as the 'historical old dairy', noting the recent 'architect-inspired' restoration of the house (Valuers Field Book).



No direct connection has been found between the dairy depot and Diener's Iceworks at the rear of 43 Greville Street (also addressed as 41A Perth Street), which was owned and occupied by Herbert Diener, fuel merchant (RB). In the early 1950s, Diener was listed as an ice merchant 'of Greville Street, Prahran' (*Mercury*, 24 Jan 1953:7).

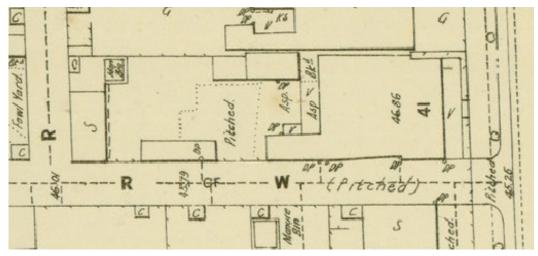


Figure 4. The 1896 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan showed the footprint of an *earlier* house, and outbuildings, at 41 Perth Street, also located on the front title boundary (MMBW).

#### Description

The dwelling at 41 Perth Street is a substantial double-storey detached dwelling, built to the boundary on the north, south and east of the site. In both form and detail, the dwelling is a transitional design, reflecting the earlier Victorian period in form and plan and Federation period in its detail. Constructed between 1905 and 1907, the dwelling remains in good condition.

The house comprises one main hip roof with prominent street facing gable end, creating an L shaped plan, and a rear portion with a hipped roof. Two chimneys, one red brick with roughcast render (overpainted) capping and terracotta pot and one overpainted brick with brick corbelling, survive. The wall construction is tuckpointed red brick, with a moulded rendered band delineating first floor level. The roof is clad in interlocking Marseilles tiles, with decorative terracotta ridge cappings and dragon finial to the gable peak (Figure 5). A separate, low pitched roof is located over the two-storey verandah that is slightly recessed behind the gable bay. The verandah has an encaustic tile floor, decorative timber wave frieze and ornate timber brackets on both ground and first floor, with metal palisade fence to ground floor and cast lacework balustrade panels (modern) to first floor (Figure 6). The prominent gable end is finished in roughcast render (overpainted) with vertical timber strapping creating a half-timbered effect (Figure 5). The roughcast render continues in a moulded band to the arched window head below. Double hung windows to the ground floor have rendered window heads (overpainted) and bullnose brick sills, while windows under the verandah have rendered sills. The main first floor window is an ornate tripartite arched window with rendered hood mould and head stops (overpainted), and a Juliet balcony with palisade rail supported on a deep corbel table (Figure 5). The front door, recessed under a rendered archway (Figure 1), is a timber panel door with fanlights, and half panelled, half glazed sidelights set in a decorative timber frame with dentilated lintel. A modern timber screen door has been installed.

Modern garaging is located at the rear, accessed off the adjacent laneway, and a high brick fence encloses the side boundary.



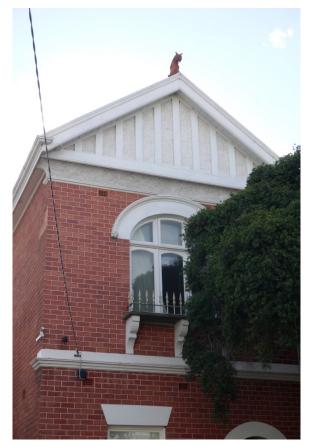


Figure 5. Gable end with dragon finial (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)



Figure 6. Verandah detailing (GJM Heritage/Purcell, June 2016)

#### Integrity

The house retains a high degree of integrity to its construction date, in fabric, form and detail. While the house has undergone some alterations and additions, these do not diminish the ability to understand and appreciate the place as an intact example of a dairy depot residence from the early twentieth century.

#### **Comparative Analysis**

Suburban dairy depots were an essential service in the nineteenth and well into the twentieth century and large numbers occupied sites in the current City of Stonnington. In 1905, when the present house was constructed at the dairy at 41 Perth Street, Prahran, there were approximately 19 dairies occupying sites in



Prahran and approximately 31 in the remainder of the current municipality.

The former Malvern Dairy, 37 Clarence Street, East Malvern has been included in the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme (HO421) and retains the dairy (c1930) and adjacent residence, built in the nineteenth century before the dairy was established. This dairy operated from c1918 until c1946.

Other dairies have been identified, however none of these retain substantial fabric. Dairies such as Woodmasons / Melrose Dairy, 1125-31 Malvern Road, Malvern operated from as early as the 1850s until well into the twentieth century, however no fabric has been retained. Of the 19 dairies in Prahran, remnants of dairy-related buildings may remain at 51 Alfred Street, 12 Henry Street (Windsor) and 16 York Street, however further research would be required to confirm this. These all appear to date from the Victorian period. Two other dairies which were established in the former City of Prahran were the Palermo Dairy, South Yarra (1864) and White's Cotswold Hills Dairy, Williams Road, Prahran (c1905), however these do not appear to remain.

The dairy at 41 Perth Street, Prahran operated for a substantial period from at least 1891 until 1944 and was known as the Prahran Dairy from the late 1920s. The current house was built in the Federation period (c1905-07) by dairyman John Shinkfield to replace an existing house at the same location.

It would appear that few former dairy buildings remain in the City of Stonnington and the house at the former dairy at 41 Perth Street, Prahran is therefore an important remnant building which illustrates the once essential dairy service in the City of Stonnington.

#### **Assessment Against Criteria**

Following is an assessment of the place against the recognised heritage criteria set out in *Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (July 2015).

**Criterion A:** Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

The Federation house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran has historical significance for its long association with the local dairy industry in the established suburb of Prahran from 1905 to 1944 and demonstrates the family-run operation of dairies, with owners living on site.

**Criterion B:** Possession of uncommon rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity)

The Federation house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran is a rare surviving example of a building associated with the dairy depots which were established in Prahran and across Melbourne more broadly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Criterion D:** Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

The house at 41 Perth Street, Prahran is a fine example of a Federation house, which displays typical features of the period. These include the use of materials such as red brick, roughcast render, terracotta roof tiles, decorative roof ridge capping and finial and half-timbering to the front projecting gable.



# **Grading and Recommendations**

It is recommended that the place be included in the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme as a locally significant heritage place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Stonnington Planning Scheme:

External Paint Controls?	
Internal Alteration Controls?	No
Tree Controls?	No
Outbuildings or Fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-3?	No
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	No
Incorporated Plan?	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	No

# **Extent of the recommended Heritage Overlay**

To the property title boundary, as indicated by the purple polygon on the aerial below.



Figure 7. 2016 aerial of subject site (Source: Stonnington City Council).

#### **References:**

City of Prahran Rate Books (RB) Prahran Ward: 1899-1900, entry 6396; 1903, entry 6421; 1905-06, entry 6445; 1906-07, entry 6434; 1907-08, entry 6511; 1920, entry 7953; 1926-27, entry 8471; 1930-31, 1940-41, entry 10960; entry 8913; 1942-43, entry 10767; 1943-44, entry 10753; 1945-46, entry 10752; 1950-51, entry 10948.

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Victorian Places, 'Prahran', < http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/>, accessed 8 March 2017.

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