

Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under Part 3, Division 7 of the *Heritage Act 2017*

Name	East Melbourne Synagogue
Location	494-500 Albert Street East Melbourne, City of Melbourne
Date Registered	4 November 1981
VHR Number	VHR H0495
VHR Category	Heritage Place
Hermes Number	353



East Melbourne Synagogue (May 2018)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

To amend the existing registration of VHR H0495 in accordance with s.62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* by:

- Adding land.

Reasons for the proposed amendment:

The registration of the East Melbourne Synagogue, which was gazetted on 4 November 1981 in the Register of Historic Buildings, requires updating. No land was able to be registered under the *Historic Buildings Act* until 1 June 1982. For places added before that time, only the buildings are included in the registration, not the land on which they sit or an appropriate curtilage. Places registered since that time include both buildings and land and early registrations are currently being updated to reflect this change.

Under s.49(1)(d) of the *Heritage Act 2017* the Heritage Council may include additional land to registered places.

The existing registration documentation is provided at Attachment 1 of this report.

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

Recommendation Date: 10 May 2018

AMENDMENT BACKGROUND

An application to amend the registration for the East Melbourne Synagogue by adding land was accepted by the Executive Director on 20 April 2018. The application was prompted by a need to provide clarity around the registration and potential future works at the place. The gazettal of this place in the Register of Historic Buildings on 4 November 1981 did not provide for any land or curtilage to be included in the extent of place.

It is the view of the Executive Director that additional land should be included in the extent of registration to offer sufficient curtilage to provide a setting and to protect the cultural heritage values of the place.

CURRENT EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Historic Building No.495 East Melbourne Synagogue, 488 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 109 4 November 1981 p.3615]

The registered place is located within the declared World Heritage Environs Area.

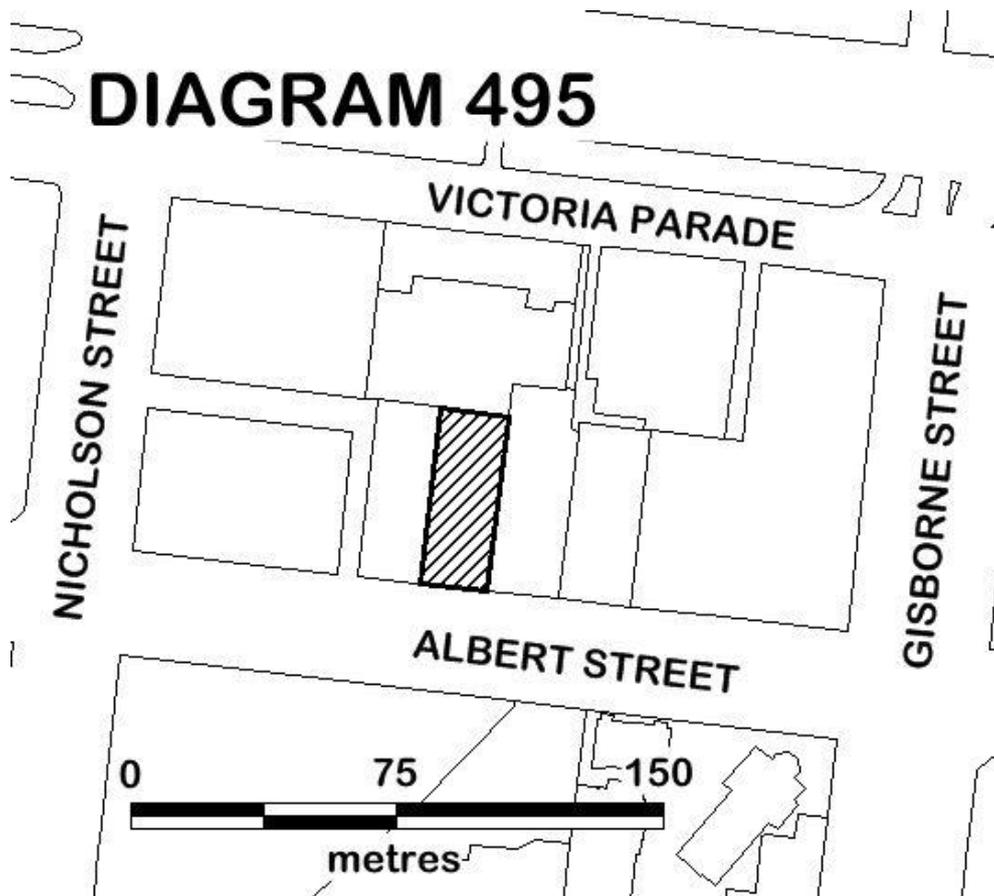
No extent diagram accompanies the 1982 registration.

PROPOSED CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Heritage Place (no change).

RECOMMENDED EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 495 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 81025.



The extent of registration of the East Melbourne Synagogue in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 495 including the land, the main synagogue building (including the exterior and interior) and entrance gates and fencing fronting Albert Street.

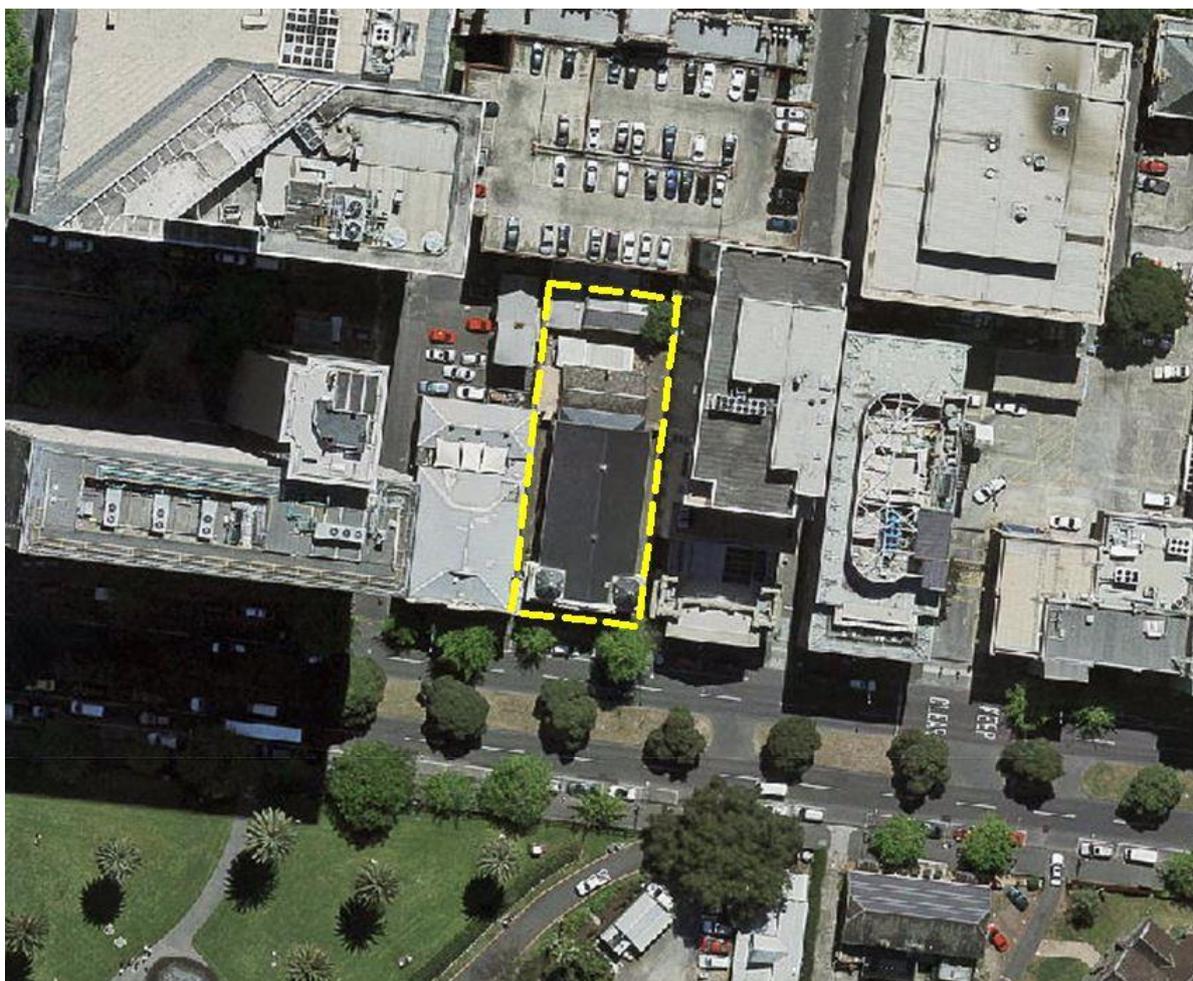
The recommended extent is the same as the nominated extent.

RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The proposed extent of registration for the East Melbourne Synagogue consists of the whole of the cadastral block at 494-500 Albert Street, East Melbourne encompassing all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 81025. The East Melbourne Synagogue was gazetted in 1981 in the Register of Historic Buildings, which did not include any land within the extent of registration.

It is the view of the Executive Director that the proposed extent will offer sufficient curtilage to provide a setting and to protect the cultural heritage values of the place.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING PROPOSED REGISTRATION



RECOMMENDATION REASONS

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL LAND IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

The Executive Director recommends that the Heritage Council amend this registration in accordance with s.62 of the *Heritage Act 2017*. He recommends that the Heritage Council add land to this registration in accordance with s.49(1)(d) *Heritage Act 2017* on the grounds that the land surrounding the place is important to the protection or conservation of the place.

The significance of the East Melbourne Synagogue has been recognised by its inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0495). This is an early listing (1981) and only the synagogue building and not the land on which it stands are included in the registration.

The East Melbourne Synagogue was consecrated in September 1877 and is historically significant as the oldest and largest functioning Synagogue in Victoria. It was designed by noted architects Crouch and Wilson and is architecturally significant for its conventional but imposing Renaissance Revival facade with the unusual addition of the two octagonal domes flanking the central pediment. It is also of architectural significance for the survival of an intact bema and tabernacle, and the unusual arrangement of impost blocks over the cast iron columns of the gallery. Other buildings are located to the north of the synagogue, including a school room, succah with adjacent flat for the Rabbi, a kitchen and toilets. The East Melbourne Synagogue is socially significant for its associations with the Jewish community in East Melbourne particularly as an early focal point for religious worship in East Melbourne.

It is recommended that the cadastral block – defined as all Lot 1 on Title Plan 81025– be included as part of the registration of the place.

ATTACHMENT 1

EXISTING REGISTRATION DETAILS

EXISTING CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Heritage place.

EXISTING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Historic Building No.495 East Melbourne Synagogue, 488 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 109 4 November 1981 p.3615]

The registered place is located within the declared World Heritage Environs Area.

No extent diagram accompanies this registration.

EXISTING STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The East Melbourne Synagogue (Mickva Yisrael) was consecrated in September 1877. The first Synagogue in Melbourne was established in 1847 in Bourke Street, but its Rabbi, Moses Rintel, with thirty predominantly German-Jewish followers, split away in 1857 to establish the Mickya Yisrael. The two-storeyed building designed by noted Melbourne architects Crouch and Wilson in 1877 is of rendered brick with a slate roof. The facade was completed in 1883 in the style of the Renaissance Revival. The facade comprises five bays, with the central three bays treated as a slightly projecting pedimented temple front. Tuscan pilasters divide the bays of the lower floor, and Corinthian pilasters divide the upper floor bays. The Star of David is set in bas-relief within the tympanum. A continuous parapet is carried over the tympanum and the dentillated cornice. Twin steeply-raking octagonal domes flank the central pediment. The internal space is organised by a gallery on three sides carried by cast iron columns. The balustrade of the gallery is of swag-bellied cast iron. The main ceiling is panelled with a dentillated and modillionated cornice. A Bema and Tabernacle and the interior in general remain in an intact state.

How is it significant?

The East Melbourne Synagogue is of historical, social and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The East Melbourne Synagogue is historically significant as the oldest and largest functioning Synagogue in Victoria. It is a replica (internally) of Melbourne's first (since demolished) synagogue in Bourke Street.

The East Melbourne Synagogue is socially significant for its associations with the Jewish community in East Melbourne, and particularly as an early focal point for religious worship in East Melbourne. The Synagogue is of social significance to the Mikvah Yisrael congregation, who split away from the Melbourne congregation in Bourke Street in 1857. They were without a permanent meeting place for twenty years until the consecration of the new building on 5th September 1877.

The East Melbourne Synagogue is architecturally significant for being representative of the fine work of noted Melbourne architects Crouch and Wilson. It is also significant for its conventional but imposing Renaissance Revival facade with the unusual addition of the two octagonal domes flanking the central pediment; the survival of an intact bema and tabernacle, and the unusual arrangement of impost blocks over the cast iron columns of the gallery.

Last updated on 19 January 2000

EXISTING PERMIT POLICY

The registered place is located within the declared World Heritage Environs Area for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens. In accordance with the permit considerations set out in the Heritage Act 1995, proposed works to the registered place must consider:

- the effect of the works on the World Heritage values of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens; and
- the approved "World Heritage Environs Area Strategy Plan: Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens" (Department of Planning and Community Development, 2009).

The Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000, as they relate to actions that may impact on World Heritage values, must also be considered.

EXISTING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

No Permit Exemptions accompanied the 1981 registration.