Statement of Significance: Leila Street Precinct, Prahran (June 2026)

Heritage Place:	Leila Street Precinct Prahran	**PS ref no:**	HO785



Figures 1-4: *Examples of residences included in the precinct (L-R, starting at the top) 9-11, 15, 25, and 29-31 Leila Street, Prahran* (Extent Heritage, February 2024).

What is significant?

The Leila Street Precinct, comprising a group of twelve Victorian-era cottage dwellings on Leila Street, is locally significant.

The precinct is characterised only by contributory properties. Refer to the grading maps below for designations.

Character elements that contribute to the significance of the precinct include:

- The distinctive pattern of the 1870 Leila Street subdivision, and subsequent c. 1886-1888 development created by the group of Victorian era cottages sited close together on narrow allotments;
- A high degree of integrity and visual homogony stemming from all structures being constructed in same period with no infill development;

- The regularity and harmony of the Victorian-era cottages characterised as freestanding structures with a single-storey presentation to the street, modest single fronted façades with either an exposed projecting gable roof form or hipped rooves clad with corrugated sheet metal, bullnosed or convex verandahs with corrugated sheet metal, turned and square timber posts and cast iron lacework, corbels and brackets, timber weatherboard cut to appear like stone blockwork, paired pendant eave brackets, single timber sash windows, and polychrome brick chimneys; and
- The retention of original or sympathetic, low to medium height timber picket fencing.

Later alterations and additions to the properties are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Leila Street Precinct is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

The Leila Street Precinct is historically significant as an intact collection of Victorian-era weatherboard and brick masonry cottages constructed during the height of Melbourne's 1880s land boom, which ushered in a period of intense and far-reaching growth and development in Melbourne's metropolitan suburbs. The Leila Street Precinct represents this historical wave of development as a highly intact collection of working- class cottages constructed to accommodate and house the rapidly expanding industrial workforce who were taking residency in Prahran in the late nineteenth century. (Criterion A)

The Leila Street Precinct is aesthetically significant as a visually cohesive and homogenous collection of residential workers cottages, comprising twelve single-storey Victorian weatherboard cottages and brick duplexes. The residences are of high integrity as a group and demonstrate consistent built form and materiality, detailing, property sizes, heights, scale, and setbacks. These features, as well as the intact polychrome brick masonry chimneys and the sympathetic low to medium height timber picket fencing, make for a visually consistent residential streetscape. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Prahran and Windsor Heritage Review (Extent Heritage, April 2024).

Precinct map



Gradings schedule

Street address	Grading
9 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
11 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
13 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
15 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
17 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
19 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
21 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
23 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
25 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
27 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
29 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory
31 Leila Street, PRAHRAN	Contributory