Statement of Significance: Osborne Street Interwar Group, South Yarra (June 2026)

Heritage Place:	Osborne Street Interwar Group South Yarra	**PS ref no:**	HO806



Figures 1-3: *Examples of the three flats buildings within the group, including Green Gables Flats* (top left) *at 121 Osborne Street, Harrow Flats* (top right) *at 125 Osborne Street, and Allambi Flats* (bottom) *at 135 Osborne Street, South Yarra* (GJM Heritage, June 2024).

What is significant?

The Osborne Street Interwar Group, a group of three interwar flat buildings at 121-135 Osborne Street, South Yarra, constructed 1935-37.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Two-storey brick flats, in the Interwar English Domestic Revival (nos. 121 and 125) and Moderne styles (no. 135)
- Hipped roofs with tile cladding
- Asymmetrical principal elevations with projecting front gables (nos.121 and 125)
- Symmetrical principal elevation with prominent flat-roofed central bay (no. 135)
- Detailing including decorative brickwork to gable ends and entrances, wrought iron balustrading, curved walls and balcony balustrading, single and grouped multi-paned timber-framed sash windows
- Variety of brick and rendered brick chimneys
- Consistent setbacks behind landscaped frontages
- Rear vehicle access and accommodation
- Low brick fences at the street boundaries.

How is it significant?

The Osborne Street Interwar Group at 121-135 Osborne Street, South Yarra is of local historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

The Osborne Street Interwar Group at 121-135 Osborne Street, South Yarra has strong associations with the development of the municipality in the interwar period. This period of development transformed the built environment and social character of the area by replacing larger properties and substantial mansion estates with higher density flat developments. This was largely a result of rising labour and materials costs following World War I, which made the cost of maintaining large properties difficult and led to a significant increase in the subdivision of large estates across the municipality to create higher density living. As a highly intact group of flats dating to the interwar period, the Osborne Street Interwar Group clearly illustrates this important phase of development in the City of Stonnington (Criterion A).

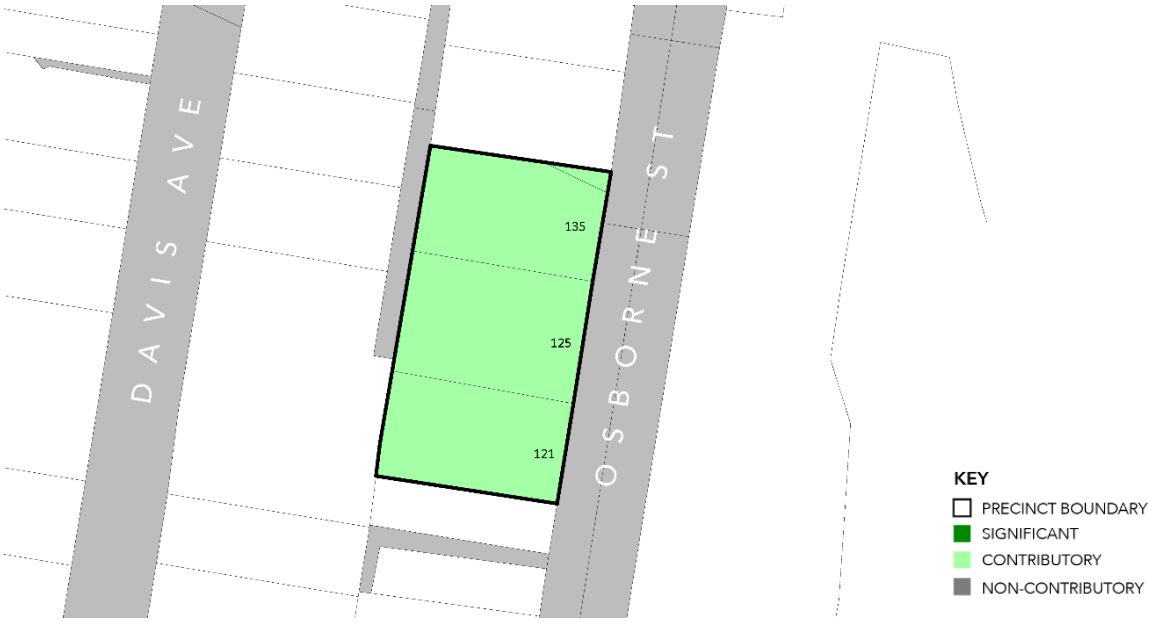
The Osborne Street Interwar Group at 121-135 Osborne Street, South Yarra contains a cohesive collection of fine and highly intact representative examples of flat buildings dating to the interwar period. Constructed in the English Domestic Revival or Moderne style, the buildings display typical features of this period, including the use of face brickwork with tile-clad hipped roofs, asymmetrical front elevations with projecting front gables (nos. 121 and 125), symmetrical front elevation (no. 135), decorative brick detailing, wrought iron balustrading, curved walls and balustrading, multi-paned timber-framed windows, brick and rendered brick chimneys and low brick boundary fences (Criterion D).

The Osborne Street Interwar Group at 121-135 Osborne Street, South Yarra forms a highly unified group of interwar architect-designed flats constructed in the English Domestic Revival or Moderne style. The consistent siting, scale, building forms and materiality – in conjunction with the garden settings and low brick front fences – presents a highly architecturally consistent and aesthetically cohesive streetscape (Criterion E).

Primary source

South Yarra Heritage Review (GJM Heritage, March 2025).

Group map



Gradings schedule

Street address	Name	Grading
121 Osborne Street, SOUTH YARRA	*Green Gables*	Contributory
125 Osborne Street, SOUTH YARRA	*Harrow*	Contributory
135 Osborne Street, SOUTH YARRA	*Allambi*	Contributory