

# Melbourne Planning Scheme

## Incorporated Document

HO3 North & West Melbourne Precinct Statement of  
Significance ~~April~~July 2022

**This document is an incorporated document in the Melbourne Planning Scheme  
pursuant to Section 6(2) (j) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987**

## 3.0 HO3 – North and West Melbourne Precinct

### 3.1 History

North Melbourne and West Melbourne Precinct is located within the suburbs of the same name. The precinct developed as part of the extension of Melbourne to its north, associated with the mid-nineteenth century growth in population.

In the mid to late 1840s, there were growing calls for the boundaries of the city of Melbourne to be extended, although some allotments in Jeffcott and Batman streets to the north-west of the original Hoddle Grid had by this time been surveyed.<sup>1</sup> In 1849, a site was chosen for the Benevolent Asylum, on 'the summit of the hill overlooking the junction of the Moonee Ponds with the Salt Water swamp'. It was 'the most magnificent that could be well imagined peculiarly eligible for a public building'.<sup>2</sup> The foundation stone was laid in June 1850, and the asylum opened in 1851.<sup>3</sup> The location of the asylum at the then western end of Victoria Street interrupted the subsequent route of the thoroughfare.

In 1852, during Robert Hoddle's tenure as Surveyor General, survey plans were prepared by Charles Laing for the first residential allotments north of Victoria Street in what became Carlton and North Melbourne; the extension of the city to its north had effectively been formalised.<sup>4</sup> From La Trobe Street, King and Spencer Streets were extended towards Victoria Street on a curved north-west axis past the site of the flagstaff, later Flagstaff Gardens. The latter incorporating the high point of Flagstaff Hill, adjoins the south side of the precinct, and was historically an important viewing place in early Melbourne, and the site of a signal station which communicated with a similar station at Point Gellibrand (Williamstown). Flags flown from the flagstaff indicated the arrival of ships in Hobsons Bay;<sup>5</sup> and drew crowds to this early feature of West Melbourne.

North of Victoria Street, the new streets followed a more rigorous grid, on a north-south and east-west alignment. Flemington Road, on the northern boundary of North Melbourne, was based on an earlier track to Geelong with a crossing at the Saltwater (Maribyrnong) River.<sup>6</sup> The track was in place as early as 1840, and Flemington Road became a stock route to the Newmarket livestock saleyards, opened by 1859-60.<sup>7</sup>

Allotments east of Curzon Street, between Victoria and Queensberry streets, were auctioned in September 1852, with allotments in Dryburgh and Abbotsford streets sold in March 1853.<sup>8</sup> A plan of 1852 indicates that 'North Melbourne' referred to the allotments along Spencer and King streets, with an area called 'Parkside' to the north of Victoria Street. Parkside took in parts of what is now Parkville and North Melbourne, with allotments laid out to either side of Flemington Road, and along Queensberry Street West.<sup>9</sup> In January 1855, North Melbourne was proclaimed as the Hotham ward of the City of Melbourne, after Lieutenant Governor Sir Charles Hotham.<sup>10</sup> The Kearney plan of 1855 shows the northern part of North Melbourne was intended to address Royal Park, with radial allotments around London-style circuses incorporating small parks and squares. However, the pressures of the population boom following the start of the gold rushes saw this scheme modified by the 1860s, when allotments along Molesworth, Chapman, Erskine and Brougham streets were sold.<sup>11</sup> This elevated area became known as 'Hotham Hill', and had allotments of more generous proportions than the earlier subdivisions to the south; it was also subsequently developed with some substantial residences.<sup>12</sup>

The 1855 rate books for Hotham ward indicate that the majority of early residences in the precinct were small cottages constructed of wood, with some buildings of brick or stone. A commercial and civic precinct had developed by this time, centred on Queensberry, Errol and Leveson streets. Hotels were prominent, including the bluestone Lalla Rookh in Queensberry Street and the Empire Hotel in Errol Street; bakers, grocers and butchers; and small scale manufacturers including saddle and boot makers were also operating.<sup>13</sup>

Development along Victoria Street related to its role as a main thoroughfare out of the city. The presence of saddle and tent makers, farriers and veterinarians,<sup>14</sup> also demonstrates the importance of these early North and West Melbourne commercial activities in servicing the growing goldfields traffic and migration of people to the gold rush centres north-west of Melbourne.

In March 1858, a reported 1500 residents of Hotham met to agitate for separation from the City of Melbourne, indicating an early level of political engagement by the local residents. In September 1859, the Borough of Hotham was proclaimed.<sup>15</sup> The first town hall was constructed on an elevated site at the corner of Queensberry and Errol streets in 1862-63, and was replaced in 1875-76 by the present municipal complex designed by noted architect George Johnson. In 1887, the name of the Town of Hotham was changed to the Town of North Melbourne.<sup>16</sup>

West Melbourne also developed its own identity in the nineteenth century. It was an early residential suburb with mixed housing types, ranging from small dwellings and cottages through to more substantial villas and double-storey terraces. Substantial housing stock developed along the main thoroughfares of King, William and Dudley Streets, in conjunction with commercial and manufacturing land uses. More modest housing was located towards the West Melbourne Swamp and railyards.<sup>17</sup>

By the latter decades of the nineteenth century, the precinct was predominantly a working-class area, accommodating workers and their families associated with many diverse commercial, manufacturing and small and large scale industrial operations. These were located in, or adjoined the current precinct area. By way of example, a row of terraces at 461 to 483 Queensberry Street, owned by prominent local resident John Stedeford, was occupied in 1890 by carpenters, a waiter, labourer, slipper maker, cab proprietor, tinsmith, broom maker, banker and a boarding house operator. Of the twelve properties in Scotia Street in this period, seven were occupied by labourers, with a bootmaker, joiner, saddler and folder also listed in the municipal rate books.<sup>18</sup> Likewise, residents of the south end of Chetwynd Street included a carrier, engine driver, traveller, barman, lithographer, boilermaker and a blacksmith.<sup>19</sup>

Larger industries and employers were located to the perimeter of the precinct. Queen Victoria Market was developed to the east from the mid-1850s; the Hay, Corn and Horse Market to the north at the intersection of Flemington Road and Royal Parade developed in the same period; while the Metropolitan Meat Market was established in Courtney Street in 1880. Abattoirs were also located outside the precinct area. Railway yards and rail infrastructure were to the south-west of the precinct. The West Melbourne swamp was made over in the late nineteenth century to become Victoria Dock, the main cargo port for the booming city of Melbourne.

A number of agricultural implement manufacturers were located in Hotham; timber milling occurred in the west of the precinct; tanners and soap manufacturers operated from Boundary Road; and the Melbourne Gas Works and Omnibus Company stables were situated on Macaulay Road.<sup>20</sup> Carriage works, foundries and factories can be seen on the MMBW plans of the 1890s, near the commercial centre of North Melbourne. Many of these were situated on the smaller streets and lanes of the precinct, which had developed off the principal streets.<sup>21</sup>

Religious denominations were well represented in the precinct, with the Catholic Church prominent among them. Within Hotham, reserves were set aside for the Presbyterian, Church of England, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic faiths.<sup>22</sup> Many large church buildings and schools were constructed throughout the precinct, including St Mary's Star of the Sea (1891-1900) on Victoria Street and the State School (1882) on Queensberry Street. By 1916, the population of North Melbourne was 17,000, of which 50 percent were Catholic, and a number of Catholic schools were established to service the community.<sup>23</sup>

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries a number of political associations also formed in the suburb, including the North Melbourne Political Association (1850s); North Melbourne arm of the Liberal Association of Victoria (1880s); and the North Melbourne Political Labor League (1900s). Women's Suffrage League meetings were held at the North Melbourne Town Hall in the 1880s and 1890s, and anti-conscription meetings were held in the suburb in World War I.<sup>24</sup>

In 1869, the North Melbourne Football Club was formed, being one of the earliest Australian Rules football clubs. Its players were colloquially known as the 'shinboners', believed to be a reference to the local abattoir workers.<sup>25</sup> The club's first games were played in Royal Park, and for a time it was known as the Hotham Football Club. Together with the cricket club of the same name, the football club played games at the Arden

Street Oval, just outside the precinct boundary, from the 1880s. The historic ground has continued to be the home of the 'Kangaroos', an historic working-class football club with its roots in the local community.

In 1905, the Town of North Melbourne was incorporated back into the City of Melbourne as the Hopetoun (North Melbourne) ward.<sup>26</sup> In 1911, the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum was demolished, opening up Elm and Miller streets for residential development and Victoria Street for traffic. In the mid-twentieth century, the State Government undertook a program of 'slum clearance' which resulted in the demolition of houses in a number of blocks in the precinct. Aside from Hotham Hill to the north, the precinct's character by this time derived from its residential and industrial uses.<sup>27</sup>

Much of West Melbourne's early housing stock was also demolished with the changing nature of the suburb throughout the twentieth century. Its earlier identity was to a large extent transformed with the growth of industry and manufacturing, and later again with the advance of corporate and office development out of the city.<sup>28</sup>

Another significant development in North Melbourne, was the opening of the swimming baths in December 1909, on the triangular site at the corner of Macaulay Road and Arden Street, adjoining the precinct. This occurred in the early twentieth century when municipal funded baths were being opened across Melbourne.<sup>29</sup>

Although small-scale manufacturing and industrial uses remain, particularly at the fringes of the precinct, North and West Melbourne's proximity to the city has seen it return to a favoured residential locality.

### 3.2 Description

The extent of the North and West Melbourne Precinct is identified as HO3 in the planning scheme maps.

Significant and contributory development in the precinct dates from the mid nineteenth century through to the interwar period, although Victorian development predominates. Some places of heritage value may also be outside this date range.

The precinct is predominantly residential, albeit many streets combine residential and mixed-use development where dwellings are seen with commercial, manufacturing and industrial buildings. The precinct varies in terms of its intactness, with streets incorporating both historic and infill development; visible changes and additions to historic buildings; and numerous examples of adaptation of former manufacturing and industrial buildings (such as factories and warehouses) to residential and other uses. In the north-west of the precinct, which has comparatively intact residential streets, there is less commercial, industrial or infill development. Although the principal residential streets in the centre of the precinct are wide, much of the development to these streets is fine-grained and modest. There is also variety throughout the precinct in building and allotment sizes, and building heights, styles, materials and setbacks.

The majority of residences are of brick construction, either face brick or rendered masonry, with some earlier buildings of timber and stone. There are a comparatively high number of early buildings in the precinct, including development of the 1850s and 1860s. Victorian terraces and modest cottages predominate, and are typically simply detailed with limited or no setbacks to the street, and on narrow allotments with long backyards giving onto rear lanes and ROWs. In some streets, there are unusually intact rows of modest single-storey dwellings, the survival of which is a significant characteristic of the precinct.

The precinct also has larger Victorian dwellings, including two-storey terrace houses of face brick or rendered masonry. These have verandahs, again generally limited setbacks, and typically lower scale rear wings. Larger terraces and detached houses are more common in the northern part of the precinct. This includes Flemington Road, which has a Victorian boulevard character and some grander residences, but also more modest development at the west end within the precinct.

The site of the former Benevolent Asylum in the south of the precinct, located between Miller, Elm, Curzon and Abbotsford streets, has Edwardian dwellings constructed from the early 1910s. These properties have larger allotments and deeper front setbacks; and dwellings of face red brick, with prominent gabled roofs.

The precinct has secondary or 'little' streets, including named lanes, which accommodate historic workers cottages, warehouses and workshops, and occasionally stables. Small scale early twentieth century industrial development was also typically established in the secondary streets, with a sometimes intricate network of lanes giving access to these operations. Many of these latter developments replaced earlier often very modest dwellings, some of one or two rooms in size, as shown on the MMBW plans. These extremely modest workers cottages were therefore once more extensive.

Development on lanes to the rears of properties includes occasional historic outhouses such as water closets; rear boundary walls vary, with many original walls removed or modified to accommodate vehicle access. The latter is generally not visible from principal streets, but more common to rears of properties.

Large brick warehouses, from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, with no street setbacks and dominant building forms are located in the east of the precinct, including in the area concentrated on O'Connell and Cobden streets, north of Victoria Market.

Commercial development is concentrated on Errol, Leveson, Victoria and Queensberry streets. Errol Street is especially notable for its intactness and distinguished buildings, with commercial activity dating from the 1850s, and complemented by the remarkable town hall development of the 1870s. This street, together with this area of Queensberry Street, is the village focus of North Melbourne, and is given emphasis by the town hall tower which has historically dominated the precinct and remains visible from distances. Victoria Street is also a highly intact commercial street, with consistent two-storey Victorian shops to both sides of the street, between Errol and Peel streets.

Historic commercial development throughout the precinct demonstrates many of the characteristics of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial/retail streets in inner Melbourne. The majority of buildings are two-storey, with no setbacks; have retail spaces at ground level with the original living quarters above and storage/service spaces to the rear. Ground floor facades vary in intactness, with modified shop frontages but also some surviving original or early shopfronts. These variously retain recessed entries and timber-framed shop windows with timber stall boards or masonry plinths. First floor facades are more intact, with original windows and parapets. There are also original or early iron post-supported verandahs with friezes, including return verandahs to street corners.

The precinct has corner shops and corner hotels, including a concentration of hotels in the area around Victoria Market. The 'corner pub' is very common, with many established in the middle decades of the nineteenth century.<sup>30</sup> While many have been demolished or adapted to different uses, the ubiquitous corner hotel demonstrates an important aspect of the social life of the precinct's working-class community.

Churches and ecclesiastical complexes, which are comparatively larger than those of many other inner Melbourne precincts and suburbs, feature prominently and are often sited to intersections. They include St Marys Anglican Church, the Catholic St Mary's Star of the Sea, and the former Presbyterian Union Memorial Church (now Uniting Church) which has a prominent spire. Their dominant forms have historically contrasted with the surrounding low-scale housing, and the church spires are often visible from distances.

Queensberry Street is a Victorian street, with diverse development along its length including ecclesiastical, civic, institutional, commercial and residential buildings. There is also a concentration of buildings included in the Victorian Heritage Register on or close to Queensberry Street, including St Mary's Anglican Church, the town hall complex, Queensberry Street State School (later the College of Printing and Graphic Arts), the Uniting Church in Curzon Street, and the former Cable Tram Engine House.

Social housing, dating from the latter decades of the twentieth century is also prevalent in North Melbourne, but mostly outside the precinct boundary.

### 3.2.1 Pattern of development

Regarding subdivision, the centre of the precinct, between Victoria and Arden streets follows a regular grid pattern, with wide and long north-south and east-west streets. Secondary or 'little' streets connect with the main streets and roads and provide access through large blocks of development. This hierarchy of streets reflects the original mid-nineteenth-century road reservations; the wide and long streets also provide areas of the precinct with an open character, and internal views and vistas.

The regular grid changes north of Courtney and Molesworth streets, where the streets angle to the east to Flemington Road in the area of Hotham Hill; and south of Victoria Street where the streets angle to the west to meet those of the CBD grid, including William, King and Spencer streets, which extend out to the southern part of the precinct. The irregular juxtaposition of north-running streets angling east to meet Flemington Road generally reflects the street arrangement shown on the 1855 Kearney map. This pattern also gives rise to several large and irregular intersections in the north which allow for deep views into the precinct from Flemington Road, including along the wide Dryburgh, Abbotsford and Harcourt streets. Allotments associated with the elevated area of Hotham Hill are also more generous than those of the earlier subdivisions to the south.

The precinct also has large and irregular intersections where three or more streets meet at oblique angles; examples include the junctions of Errol, Courtney and Haines streets; Victoria, Curzon and King streets; Capel, William and Walsh streets; and Victoria, Leveson and Roden streets.

Flemington Road was historically important as a route to Geelong, and during the gold rushes as a route to the goldfields to the north-west of Melbourne. The Roads Act of 1853 provided for a number of wide (3 or 4 chains) routes out of Melbourne, indicating the then Surveyor General, Robert Hoddle planned for the growing city. Flemington Road was one of these. Other historically important thoroughfares to the north of Melbourne, in or adjoining the precinct include Victoria, Peel and Elizabeth streets.

In terms of infrastructure, streets in the precinct variously retain bluestone kerbs and channels, while lanes generally retain original or relayed bluestone pitchers and central drains.

### 3.2.2 Topography

Topography has played an important role in the precinct. Elevated Hotham Hill in the north of the precinct slopes down to the south and west, and historically attracted more prestigious residential development. Historically a creek circled the south side of the hill, and flowed south and west to feed the low-lying West Melbourne Swamp. The latter formed a natural boundary to the area. Larger blocks and residences on Hotham Hill developed after the creek was drained and undergrounded.

The west of the precinct also historically afforded views to Melbourne's docks and wharves, where many of the precinct's residents were employed. The topography has in addition resulted in some buildings having entrances elevated off the ground, and building rows which step up or down, following the grade of streetscapes.

### 3.2.3 Parks, gardens and street plantings

The precinct generally has limited open space, but with some triangular pocket parks. Flagstaff Gardens and Royal Park adjoin the precinct, as does the Arden Street Oval. Many of the principal north-south and east-west streets have street trees, including planes, elms and some eucalypts. These include Queensberry, Chetwynd, Leveson and Curzon streets, and most of the streets in the north-west of the precinct. Flemington Road is lined with elms on the precinct side.

## 3.3 Statement of Significance



<u>Heritage place:</u>	<u>North and West Melbourne Precinct</u>	<u>PS ref no:</u>	<u>HO3</u>
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~~North and West Melbourne Precinct (HO3) is of local significance. It satisfies the following criteria:~~

- ~~• Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).~~
- ~~• Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic/architectural significance).~~
- ~~• Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (social significance).~~

## What is significant?

North and West Melbourne Precinct was developed from the mid-nineteenth century as part of the extension of Melbourne to its north and west during a period of significant population growth. Significant and contributory development in the precinct dates from the mid nineteenth century through to the interwar period, although Victorian development predominates, particularly from the late nineteenth century. Some places of heritage value may also be outside this date range. The precinct is mainly residential, but with diversity of building form and uses within streets~~historic mixed-use development~~, and several commercial streetscapes. Mature street plantings and rows are also part of the significant development of the precinct.

The following are the identified 'key attributes' of the precinct, which support the assessed significance:

- Typical nineteenth century building characteristics including:
  - Use of face brick and rendered masonry building materials, with timber and bluestone indicating earlier buildings.
  - Hipped roof forms with chimneys and parapets; verandahs which are simply detailed or have more decorative cast iron work; iron palisade fences on stone plinths; and limited or no front and side setbacks.
- Comparatively high number of buildings of the 1850s and 1860s.
- Modest workers' cottages as the common housing type, often in consistent and repetitive terrace rows, with simple forms and detailing.
- Other development including larger Victorian dwellings and two-storey terrace houses; Edwardian and interwar dwellings on the site of the former Benevolent Asylum; and other Edwardian and interwar buildings located throughout the precinct.
- Typically low scale character, of one and two-storeys, with some larger three-storey buildings.
- Streets of consistent scale, or with greater scale diversity and contrasting modest and larger buildings.
- Nineteenth century residential development influenced by the precinct's topography, with more substantial built form located in elevated areas of both suburbs, particularly Hotham Hill and between Spencer and King streets
- Streets which display a diversity of historic mixed-uses including residential, commercial, manufacturing and industrial ~~uses~~.
- Nineteenth and twentieth century hotel buildings and shops located on corners and within residential street blocks.

- Secondary or 'little' streets, including named lanes, with workers cottages, warehouses and workshops, occasional stables and small scale early twentieth century commercial and industrial development.
- Building forms with elevated entrances, and building rows which step up or down, following the topography and grade of streetscapes.
- Importance of Errol, Victoria and Queensberry streets, being some of inner Melbourne's most extensive and intact commercial streetscapes.
- Remarkable 1870s-80s civic development at the corner of Errol and Queensberry streets, with the town hall tower being a local landmark.
- Views from lanes to [historic-early](#) outbuildings and rears of properties, providing evidence of [historical](#) property layouts.
- Undulating topography which has allowed for views and vistas of prominent elements such as the town hall tower and church spires.
- Important role of religion as demonstrated in the large and prominent ecclesiastical buildings and complexes.
- Evidence of change and evolution in the precinct, with streets having buildings from different periods, and [historic-early](#) buildings such as former factories and warehouses adapted and converted to new uses.
- Nineteenth century planning and subdivisions as evidenced in:
  - Hierarchy of principal streets and secondary streets and lanes.
  - Regular grid of straight north-south and east-west streets in the centre of the precinct.
  - Contrasting street alignments in the north of the precinct, where streets angle east to meet Flemington Road; and in the south of the precinct, where the CBD streets extend to meet the precinct.
  - Large and irregular street intersections including three or more streets meeting at oblique angles.
  - Lanes which provide access to rears of properties and act as important minor thoroughfares.
- Principal streets characterised by their width and open character, with vistas available along their length; these are sometimes distinguished by street tree plantings including planes, elms and eucalypts.
- Importance of major roads and thoroughfares which border or traverse the precinct including Flemington Road, [once](#) a grand Victorian boulevard [that marked which was historically](#) the route to the goldfields; and Victoria, Peel and Elizabeth streets.
- [Historical](#) street materials including bluestone kerbs and channels, and lanes with original or relayed bluestone pitches and central drains.
- [Vehicle](#) accommodation is generally not visible from principal streets, but more common [to-at the](#) rears of properties, with lane access.

[Within the broader HO3 precinct, the following are the key attributes of the following areas \(refer to Figure 1\):](#)

[Hotham Hill Residential Area:](#)

- [Elevated location, with generous streets, central medians and centreline plantings.](#)
- [Streetscapes demonstrate generally high level of intactness.](#)



- Largely freestanding single and double-storey villas dating from the last decades of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century.
- Dwellings range in scale from modest cottages to more substantial villas.
- Terrace rows of various sizes are present throughout.
- Residences with defined setbacks, presenting modest gardens to the street.
- Dwellings are typically of masonry construction in face brick often incorporating complex arrangements of bichrome and polychrome brickwork.
- Other masonry buildings are rendered and incorporate straightforward Italianate detailing such as urns, classical pediments and balustraded parapets.

#### *Benevolent Asylum Estate Area:*

- Early twentieth century residential subdivision, with dwellings constructed from the mid-1910s.
- Larger allotments and deeper front setbacks.
- Area noted for uniformity of architectural expression.
- Predominantly single-storey Edwardian villas and interwar bungalows, including freestanding houses and semi-detached pairs.
- Dwellings of face red brick, with prominent gabled roofs.
- Small numbers of other interwar buildings on consolidated allotments, typically in the form of workshops, small factories and flats.

#### *Victoria and Errol streets Civic and Commercial Area*

- Commercial heart of precinct.
- Varied building scales, includes modest allotments to north of Queensberry Street, with larger remises between Victoria and Queensberry Streets.
- Early (from 1860s) retail development to Queensberry Street.
- Two-storey commercial premises of typical form for the Victorian period.
- A number of notable substantial commercial buildings are also present, dating from Victorian and Edwardian periods.
- Residential development at its northern and eastern ends.

#### *West Melbourne Residential Area:*

- Substantially intact mid-late nineteenth century residential streetscapes.
- South section is typically two-storey villas and semi-detached pairs with Italianate detailing, with some buildings of architectural distinction.
- North section comprised of late nineteenth century single-storey cottages and semi-detached pairs, with notable groups of two-storey villas and some long terrace rows.

### **How is it significant?**

North and West Melbourne Precinct is of historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance to the City of Melbourne.

### **Why is it significant?**

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The North and West Melbourne Precinct is of **historical significance**, as a predominantly Victorian-era precinct associated with the nineteenth century growth of Melbourne to ~~its~~ the north and west of the city and for its ability to demonstrate that period of development. The surviving layout and building stock are important for their ability to reflect on particular aspects of this history. As early as 1852, streets in the centre of the precinct, and north of Victoria Street, were laid down in a rigorous grid and this pattern remains. Early development of the 1850s and 1860s also reflects local involvement in servicing the goldfields traffic and migration of people from Melbourne to the gold rush centres to the north-west. Hotham Hill, in the north of the precinct, was a notable development from the 1860s, its elevated position attracting grander residential development. West Melbourne also developed its own identity in the nineteenth century, being an early residential suburb with mixed housing types, which was later largely transformed including through the expansion of industry and manufacturing. Major roads and streets which traverse or border the precinct, including Victoria, Peel and Elizabeth streets, and Flemington Road, were historically important early Melbourne thoroughfares and boulevards. Flemington Road in particular was envisioned by Robert Hoddle as an early major route out of Melbourne, its status confirmed in the *Roads Act* of 1853. (Criterion A)

The working-class history of the precinct is particularly significant, and is demonstrated in the characteristically modest dwellings and historically diverse mixed-use development, including the proximity of houses to commercial, manufacturing and industrial buildings, nineteenth century historic corner shops and hotels, and churches and schools. The Catholic Church was a particularly prominent local denomination. Residents of the precinct were employed in some of Melbourne's most important nineteenth and early twentieth century industries, located close to the precinct, including markets, abattoirs, railways and the port at Victoria Dock. Residents were also politically active, forming various associations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and being prominent in the women's suffrage and World War I anti-conscription movements. Welfare and community groups also established a strong presence in the suburb, providing services to the unemployed, women and children. (Criterion A)

The North and West Melbourne Precinct is of **social** significance. Residents value the early character of its historic streetscapes, its 'walkability', and its notable commercial development and village character centred on Errol, Victoria and Queensberry streets. Proximity to the nearby Queen Victoria Market, Arden Street Oval and the city, is also highly valued. Places such as churches, pubs, schools and other places of gathering are also valued by the community. (Criterion G)

The ~~aesthetic/architectural significance of the~~ North and West Melbourne Precinct is of aesthetic significance, particularly for the architectural expression of its key buildings and streetscapes, largely ~~rests in~~ for its Victorian-era development including workers' cottages, rows of simply detailed modest dwellings, and two-storey terrace houses. These are complemented by larger Victorian dwellings, Edwardian and interwar development on the site of the former Benevolent Asylum, and commercial and industrial historic mixed-use buildings, with the latter often located in residential streets. There is also some variety in building and allotment sizes, and building heights, styles, materials and setbacks. In the Hotham Hill area, residential streets are wide and elevated, and the building stock is comparatively intact, with- and features generally larger residences. In the precinct's south, development is finer grained. Large brick warehouses, from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, are located in the east of the precinct near Queen Victoria Market. The precinct also has some of inner Melbourne's most extensive and intact commercial streetscapes, including significant concentrations on Errol, Victoria and Queensberry streets. Errol Street is particularly distinguished by the remarkable 1870s civic development, with the town hall tower an important significant local landmark. Throughout the precinct, principal streets connect with secondary or 'little' streets, reflecting typical nineteenth century planning. These secondary streets reinforce the 'permeable' character and pedestrian nature of the precinct, enhanced by the network of lanes which are demonstrably of nineteenth century origin and function, and continue to provide access to the rears of properties. The lanes were also historically used to access small scale commercial and industrial operations, concentrated in the secondary streets of the precinct. Aesthetically, the precinct also has an open character, and internal views and vistas, deriving from the long and wide streets and several large and sometimes irregular intersections. Principal streets are also distinguished by street plantings of planes, elms and eucalypts. (Criterion E)

## Primary source

*North Melbourne Heritage Review, Lovell Chen and Extent Heritage, 2022*

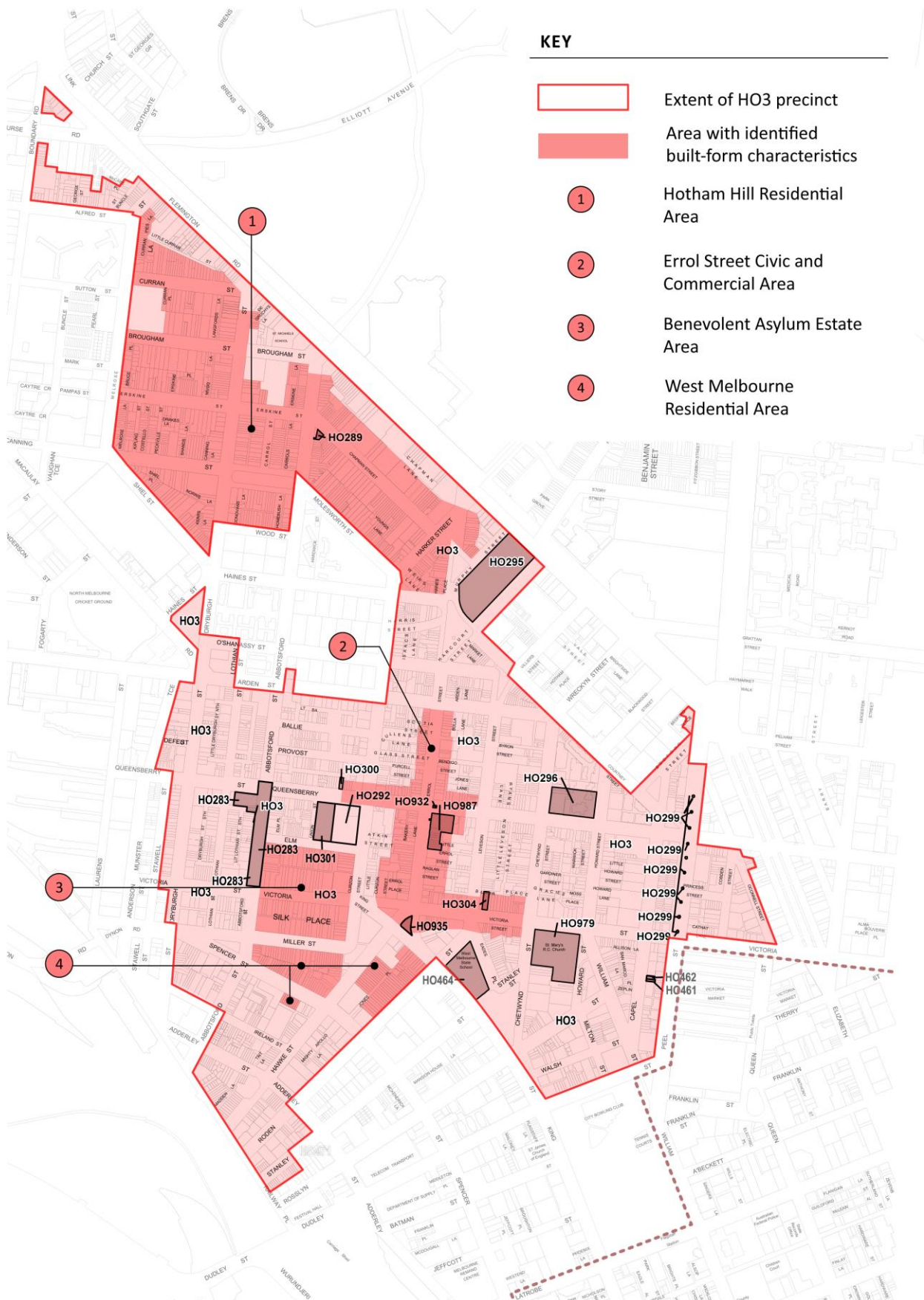


Figure 1: Map of HO3 North & West Melbourne Precinct

- <sup>1</sup> Plan of North Melbourne, South Melbourne, c. 1846, held at State Library of Victoria.
- <sup>2</sup> *Argus*, 6 September 1849, p. 2.
- <sup>3</sup> Mary Kehoe, *The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum: Hotham's Premier Building*, Hotham History Project, 1998, p. 13.
- <sup>4</sup> 'Plan of the City of Melbourne and its extension northwards', Charles Laing, 1852, held at State Library of Victoria and Marjorie J. Tipping, 'Hoddle, Robert (1794–1881)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hoddle-robert-2190/text2823>, published first in hardcopy 1966, accessed online 29 June 2015. See also *Pride of Hotham: A tale of North Melbourne and a red-headed architect*, Hotham History Project, North Melbourne, 2006, p. 14.
- <sup>5</sup> See Victorian Heritage Register citation for Flagstaff gardens (VHR 2041).
- <sup>6</sup> City of Melbourne Heritage Precincts Project (draft), Meredith Gould Architects 2004, p. 31.
- <sup>7</sup> Guy Murphy, *At Home on Hotham Hill: A portrait of a nineteenth century entrepreneur*, Hotham History Project, North Melbourne, 2004, p. 32.
- <sup>8</sup> Parish of Jika Jika, plan no. M314 (3), Central Plan Office, Land Victoria and *Argus*, 8 March 1853, p. 3.
- <sup>9</sup> Map of Melbourne and its extension', compiled by William Green, 1852, held at State Library of Victoria.
- <sup>10</sup> Bill Hannan, *Pride of Hotham: A tale of North Melbourne and a red-headed architect*, Hotham History Project, North Melbourne, 2006, p. 17.
- <sup>11</sup> 'Melbourne and its suburbs', compiled by James Kearney, 1855, held at State Library of Victoria and Parish of Jika Jika, plan no. M314 (3), Central Plan Office, Land Victoria.
- <sup>12</sup> Winsome Roberts, *Molesworth Street: A North Melbourne neighbourhood, 1840–1905*, Hotham History Project, North Melbourne, 2002, p.17.
- <sup>13</sup> *Sands & Kenny* directory, 1857.
- <sup>14</sup> *Sands & Kenny* directory, 1857.
- <sup>15</sup> Bill Hannan, *Pride of Hotham: A tale of North Melbourne and a red-headed architect*, Hotham History Project, North Melbourne, 2006, p. 19.
- <sup>16</sup> Agency VA 3153 North Melbourne, agency description, Public Record Office Victoria.
- <sup>17</sup> Overview provided by L Siska, submission, 10 February 2016.
- <sup>18</sup> City of North Melbourne rate books, Middle Ward, rate nos 1976–1988, 1890, VPRS 5707/P3, Public Record Office Victoria.
- <sup>19</sup> City of North Melbourne rate books, Eastern Ward, rate nos 656–673, 1890, VPRS 5707/P3, Public Record Office Victoria.
- <sup>20</sup> Bill Hannan, *Pride of Hotham: A tale of North Melbourne and a red-headed architect*, Hotham History Project, North Melbourne, 2006, p. 15, City of Melbourne Heritage Precincts Project (draft), Meredith Gould Architects 2004, p. 33 and *Sands & McDougall* directory, 1873.
- <sup>21</sup> MMBW detail plans nos 759, 760 and 762, 1896, held at State Library of Victoria.
- <sup>22</sup> City of Melbourne Heritage Precincts Project (draft), Meredith Gould Architects 2004, p. 32.
- <sup>23</sup> *Spectator and Methodist Chronicle*, 11 February 1916, p. 179, City of Melbourne, *Thematic History—A History of the City of Melbourne's Urban Environment*, 2012, p. 78.
- <sup>24</sup> *Argus*, 20 May 1859, p. 5, 10 January 1880, p. 5; *North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser*, 14 July 1905, p.2; *North Melbourne Advertiser*, 23 June 1876, p. 2, 15 December 1888, p. 3; *Age*, 2 October 1916, p. 9.
- <sup>25</sup> 'History', North Melbourne Football Club, [www.nmfc.com.au](http://www.nmfc.com.au), accessed 26 March 2015.
- <sup>26</sup> Agency VA 3153 North Melbourne, agency description, Public Record Office Victoria.
- <sup>27</sup> City of Melbourne Heritage Precincts Project (draft), Meredith Gould Architects 2004, p. 33.
- <sup>28</sup> Overview provided by L Siska, submission, 10 February 2016.
- <sup>29</sup> *Argus*, 23 December 1909, p.9.
- <sup>30</sup> It has been noted that there were some 80 hotels in North Melbourne, and some 40 in West Melbourne, in the nineteenth century. Information provided by Mary Kehoe.