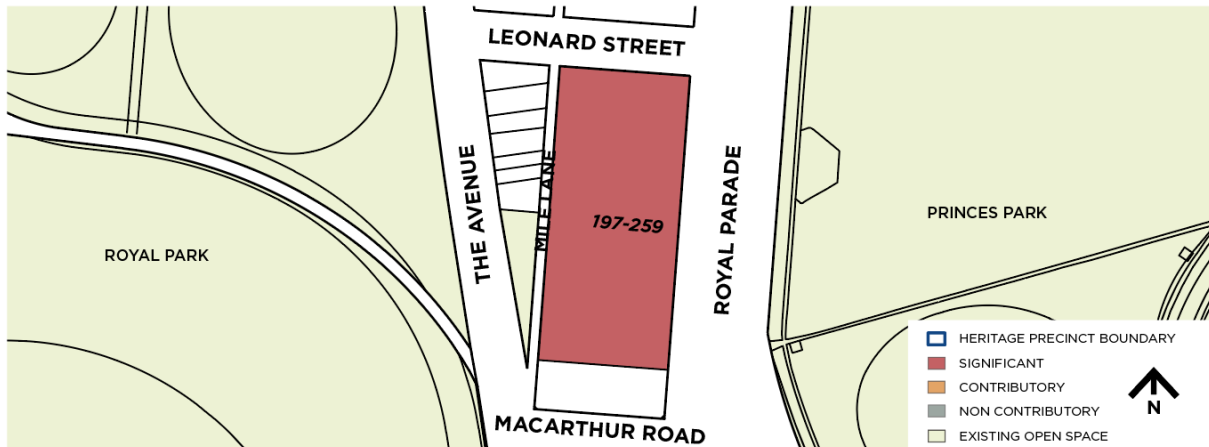


International House Complex, 197–259 Royal Parade, Parkville Statement of Significance (GML Heritage, September 2025)

Heritage Place:	International House Complex, 197–259 Royal Parade, Parkville	PS ref no:	HO1445
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What is significant?

International House Complex at 197–259 Royal Parade, Parkville, built between 1881 and 1972, is significant.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- the complex of buildings at 197–259 Royal Parade, including:
 - 217–223 Royal Parade, Greycourt (1881)
 - 247–255 Royal Parade, Ayr Cottage (1886–87)
 - 197–205 Royal Parade, Ida Scheps Building (c1915)
 - 231 Royal Parade, Clunies Ross Building (1956–57)
 - 241 Royal Parade, Warden’s Residence (1957)
 - 241 Royal Parade, Kitchen, Dining Hall and West Wing (1957 and 1970; c1971)
 - 231–241 Royal Parade, Samuel Wadham Wing (1963)
 - 207–215 Royal Parade, Scheps Wing (1971–72)
- the original external form, materials and detailing of the complex of buildings; and
- the buildings’ high level of integrity to their original design; and
- the landscape setting of open lawn with mature specimen tree plantings and ornamental garden beds.

The Founders Building (2004) and George Hicks Building (2015) are not significant.



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | 217–223 Royal Parade, Greycourt (1881) | 6 | 231–241 Royal Parade, Samuel Wadham Wing (1963) |
| 2 | 247–255 Royal Parade, Ayr Cottage (1886; 1904–05; 1907; 1937) | 7 | 241 Royal Parade, Kitchen and Dining Hall (1957 and 1970) |
| 3 | 197–205 Royal Parade, Ida Scheps Building (1915) | 8 | 207–215 Royal Parade, Scheps Wing (1972) |
| 4 | 231 Royal Parade, Clunies Ross Building (1956–57) | 9 | 207–223 Royal Parade, Founders Building (2004) |
| 5 | 241 Royal Parade, Warden's Residence (1957) | 10 | 197–205 Royal Parade, George Hicks Building (2015) |

Aerial photograph showing the buildings and additions developed on five separate allotments.
(Source: Nearmap, 2022, with GML overlay)

How is it significant?

International House at 197–259 Royal Parade, Parkville, is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why is it significant?

International House is of historical significance for the evidence it provides of major change in higher education policy following the conclusion of World War II. Such change was associated with the surge in higher education attendance of both domestic and overseas students. Australia sought to build its relationship with its international neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region and in July 1951 launched the Colombo Plan, resulting in an influx of overseas students to Australia. International House was established to address an acute housing shortage for both domestic and overseas students attending the University of Melbourne, receiving funding from the Australian, Malaysian and Singapore governments to do so. International House is distinguished from other residential colleges within the University of Melbourne, as the first student housing complex to be owned and managed by the university. This was only made possible through an amendment to the *University Act 1923*, which allowed the University of Melbourne to become directly involved in the provision of housing for higher education students. (Criterion A)

International House is of aesthetic significance as a complex of buildings, both purpose-built and adapted, for use as a residential accommodation for University of Melbourne students. Between 1953 and 1976 the University of Melbourne incrementally acquired land and buildings to create a consolidated site for International House. As a result, the new purpose-built buildings have been carefully incorporated within the earlier layers of built-form development. The careful siting of new

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

buildings means they can be read in the landscape as distinct built forms—responding sensitively to the earlier buildings in terms of alignment and spacing—and largely continuing the rhythm of the 1868 subdivision pattern along Royal Parade. Each distinct building contributes aesthetic variety in the mix of architectural styles popular from its respective period including Victorian Italianate, Rustic Gothic, Federation Queen Anne and Modernist styles. (Criterion E)

International House is of social significance as an important residential community for both domestic and international University of Melbourne students since 1957. It has social significance for the role it has played in maintaining a student community of current undergraduate and graduate students and alumni from Australia and from more than 40 countries around the world. Since 1957, International House has provided residential accommodation, as well as social, cultural and sporting programs which have enriched the higher education experience of their residents living and studying in Parkville, and continues to maintain a strong alumni community. (Criterion G)

Primary source

Parkville Heritage Review (GML Heritage, October 2023)