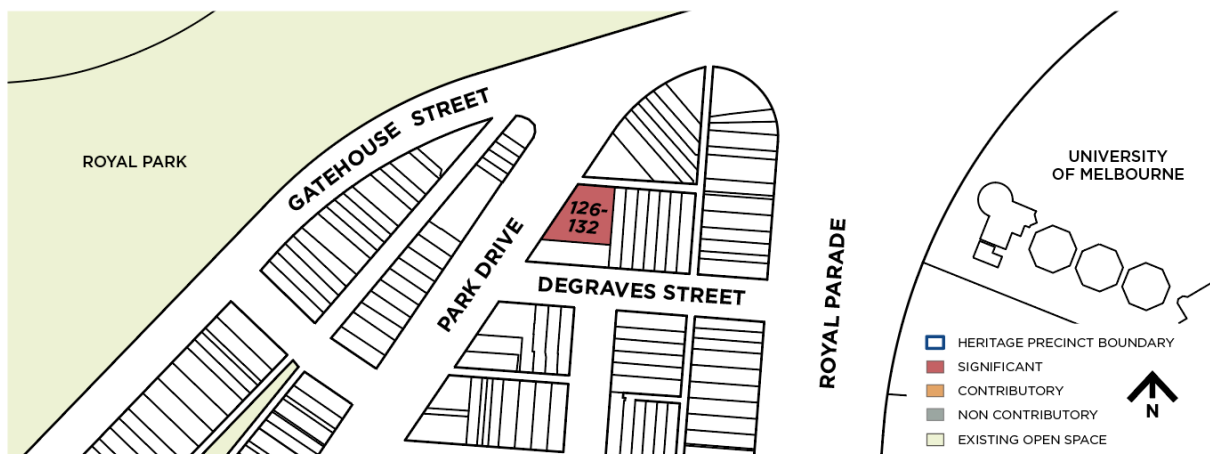


Park Heights, 126–132 Park Drive, Parkville Statement of Significance (GML Heritage, September 2025)

Heritage Place:	Park Heights, 126–132 Park Drive, Parkville	PS ref no:	HO1440
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What is significant?

Park Heights at 126–132 Park Drive, Parkville, built in 1970–71, is significant.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include the building's:

- original external form, fabric and detailing; and
- high level of integrity to its original design; and
- original stepped diagonal plan; and
- sculptural arrangement of the primary elevation; and
- integrated wall vents; and
- pattern and size of the original fenestration; and
- incorporation of bush aesthetic style landscape design; and
- other decorative details.

Most recent alterations and additions, including contemporary pipes, services, and security systems, are not significant.

How is it significant?

Park Heights at 126–132 Park Drive, Parkville, is of local historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why is it significant?

Park Heights has historical significance as an example of a postwar low-rise block of flats showing the influence of Late Modernist design. The building demonstrates the balance between the growing popularity of high-density accommodation close to the city centre, and the importance placed upon spacious modern living with access to natural spaces and clean air. As such, it is historically representative of the postwar development of Melbourne generally, and Parkville specifically, when land in inner-city suburbs was at a premium and flats were developed in irregular lots, often replacing earlier Victorian-era houses. Park Heights is a key example of postwar flat design in Parkville, showcasing a considered architectural response to the existing streetscape, and the integration of rooftop gardens to provide recreational outdoor space within a limited lot. (Criterion A)

Park Heights is significant as a representative example of postwar flat design in the Late Modern style. Constructed in 1970–71, it serves as a highly intact example of postwar design in Melbourne, incorporating a typically Late Modern modular form and emphasising material expression. Park Heights is representative of this trend through the incorporation of wide panels of glazing, balconies, and ground-level gardens to provide street outlooks and natural light. Significantly, it incorporates a rooftop ‘Sky Garden’ that aimed to provide the ‘delights of the country close to the heart of a big city’ (Age, 20 February 1971: 27). (Criterion D)

Park Heights has aesthetic significance as a postwar Late Modern block of flats. It is highly authentic to its 1970–71 construction, retaining its original form and fabric, and displaying a characteristically modular form in an uncommon diagonal plan. Its multistorey design shows a considered response to the existing streetscape and the topography of the site, with a conscious expression of horizontality, verticality, and strong geometric forms. It has particular significance for the sculptural design of the primary elevation. Modulated bays are positioned on diagonals to create a faceted effect, juxtaposing solid and void, and light and shade, to give the building a sense of dynamism.

Typical of the Late Modern style, there is an emphasis on material expression with unobtrusive natural coloured brickwork and timber, and the absence of applied decoration, enhanced by rustic landscaping. It retains significant structural details and design features, such as the grid plan of the fenestration and integrated wall vents on the northern elevation. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Parkville Heritage Review (GML Heritage, October 2023)