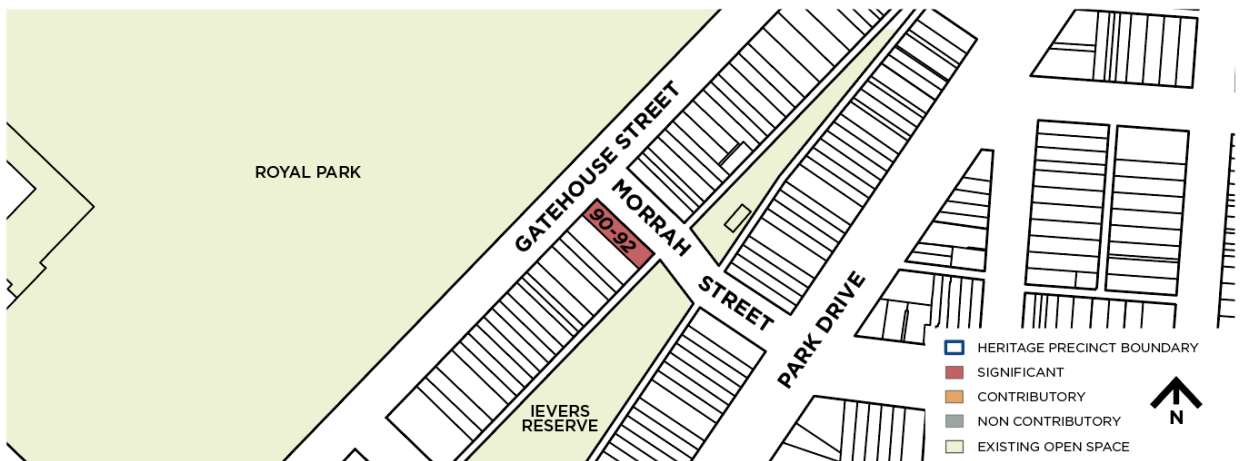


## Saunders House, 90-92 Gatehouse Street, Parkville Statement of Significance (GML Heritage, September 2025)

|                        |                                                         |                   |        |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| <b>Heritage Place:</b> | Saunders House,<br>90-92 Gatehouse Street,<br>Parkville | <b>PS ref no:</b> | HO1435 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|



### What is significant?

The Saunders House at 90–92 Gatehouse Street, Parkville, built in 1962, is significant.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include the:

- original external form, materials and detailing; and
- high level of integrity to its original design; and
- original pattern of fenestration including clerestory, highlight and sidelight windows; and
- prominent, yellow-painted front door; and
- original salvaged-brick and iron fence.

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

More recent alterations and additions, including the glass block infill to the dining room window and front door sidelights, the insertion of a third window to the kitchen (facing Gatehouse Street), and the roof-mounted air-conditioning unit, are not significant.

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

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The Saunders House at 90–92 Gatehouse Street, Parkville, is of representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Melbourne.

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

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The Saunders House is of representative significance as an example of a largely intact Modernist house. Key design elements representative of the style include its response to its site, informality in planning, expressed structure, use of unadorned materials, and bold geometric forms. (Criterion D) The Saunders House is of aesthetic significance as the only residential design by David and Doreen Saunders. Designed as a home for the Saunders family, it demonstrates careful consideration and manipulation of the terrace typology. The skillion roof and stepped-back levels create a sloping frontage that reflects the established Victorian-era terrace house typology in Parkville, in order to conform with the strict planning regulations of the compact urban block at the time. The roof is split in the middle to allow for additional windows, so that natural light flows into the tightly planned interiors. The Saunders House received critical praise from peers and the general public, including architect and academic Dr Reyner Banham, who defined the term 'New Brutalism' in 1955, and architecture critic Neville Quarry, who celebrated the design in 1967 as 'modern un-imitative architecture'. (Criterion E)

The Saunders House is significant for its association with the well-regarded architectural historian David Saunders. Saunders was a seminal figure in the study of nineteenth-century Australian architecture, completing his thesis work on the architectural work of Joseph Reed and terrace housing in Melbourne, and was an early advocate of heritage conservation. Saunders was a graduate of the University of Melbourne, and lectured at the university from 1956 to 1968, during which time he designed and built the Saunders House with his wife Doreen for their young family. (Criterion H)

### **Primary source**

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*Parkville Heritage Review* (GML Heritage, October 2023)