

## Statement of Significance: Australian Glass Manufacturers' Housing Heritage Precinct

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Australian Glass Manufacturers' Housing Heritage Precinct	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO325
------------------------	---	-------------------	-------



Type 1



Type 3



Type 2



Type 1

### What is significant?

The extant timber-framed residences to the west side of Bernard Street and the east side of Robb Street which were erected as workers housing for Australian Glass Manufacturers and were designed by the noted architectural firm Buchan, Laird and Buchan. Significant elements included the original tile clad (variegated terracotta or concrete) gable roofs, cream brick chimneys, timber-framed windows, and entry porches.

### Contributory elements:

The contributory places are:

- Bernard Street (odd) 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 19, 21
- Robb Street (even) 2, 4, 18, 24, 26

This document is an incorporated document in the [Hobsons Bay](#) Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

### How is it significant?

The Australian Glass Manufacturers' Housing Heritage Precinct is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

### Why is it significant?

Historically the houses constructed by Australian Glass Manufacturers in the precinct are significant as purpose-built workers housing that were erected at a time when the company was undergoing rapid expansion. Australian Glass Manufacturers, initially known as Melbourne Glass Bottle Works Co Ltd and now Australian Consolidated Industries (ACI), was one of the first major industries to locate in the area and is the oldest operating industrial complex in the Municipality. It was a major source of employment in Spotswood area, and the houses, located opposite the factory, are illustrative of the facilities provided by the company for its workers. The close proximity of the housing allowed workers to quickly attend to unexpected issues including machinery breakdowns and staffing shortfalls. Designed by Buchan, Laird and Buchan architects who were interested in good quality housing, the group of houses is an unusual example of company-sponsored housing in the Municipality. (Criterion A and B)

The single storey dwellings are of aesthetic significance as a cohesive group of houses designed by noted architects Buchan, Laird and Buchan. Consisting of three different designs which are largely distinguished by their roof form and plan, the houses are unified by their scale, material palette and detailing. The relatively modest timber houses are evocative of their construction period, consisting of intersecting masses and incorporating large windows, recessed porches and cream brick chimneys. Whilst there are other similar low-cost workers housing groups in the Municipality, they are mostly constructed of brick or concrete and date to the 1940s rather than the 1950s. (Criterion D).

### Primary source

---

*Spotswood Activity Centre Structure Plan Heritage Study 2022*

HOBSONS BAY PLANNING SCHEME

<b>Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Grade</b>
3	Bernard Street	Contributory
5	Bernard Street	Contributory
7	Bernard Street	Contributory
11	Bernard Street	Contributory
13	Bernard Street	Contributory
19	Bernard Street	Contributory
21	Bernard Street	Contributory
2	Robb Street	Contributory
4	Robb Street	Contributory
18	Robb Street	Contributory
24	Robb Street	Contributory
26	Robb Street	Contributory

This document is an incorporated document in the [Hobsons Bay](#) Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

OFFICIAL