

Crittenden House Statement of Significance

Heritage Place: 30 Longstaff Street, Ivanhoe East

PS ref no: HO212



What is Significant?

Crittenden House at 30 Longstaff Street, Ivanhoe East is significant. It was designed in 1961 by David Chancellor of the architectural practice Chancellor & Patrick for Jack Maxwell Crittenden, the director of a chain of high-end grocery/liquor stores in Melbourne, and his wife Mavis Oswin Crittenden (*née* Morgan).

The significant elements are the house and attached carport with their gable roofs, clad in slate, wide soffits with stained timber to the outer part, walls of salmon brick and contrasting area of render (north elevation), and painted timber-framed windows. Retaining walls of basalt to the rear parts of the site are also significant.

The swimming pool (1964) situated in the north part of the grounds is a contributory element to *Crittenden House*.

How is it Significant?

Crittenden House is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Banyule.

Why is it Significant?

Crittenden House is of historical significance as one of several substantial modernist houses in this part of Ivanhoe East, where there is a high preponderance of postwar architect-designed dwellings, especially concentrated in an enclave primarily east of Burke Road North. Land in this part of the suburb was relatively expensive and so attracted a well-heeled demographic, while the challenging topography of many sites demanded the services of an inventive architect. Leading designers were responsible for many houses in the area, although *Crittenden House* may be the only one in the municipality undertaken by the acclaimed architectural practice of Chancellor & Patrick. It dates from a phase in their career when their 'classic' or most-recognisable work was produced and evolved from the celebrated *Freiberg House* in Kew (1958-60). (Criterion A)

Crittenden House is of architectural significance as a remarkably intact and distinctive design dating from the end of the postwar period. The interplay of massing, often monumental, primarily brick with cantilevered concrete elements, under prominent gable roofs are recognisable elements of Chancellor & Patrick's oeuvre. The complex roof is clad in slate, has an unusual box gutter detail, includes a clerestory, and has wide soffits, which are part timber-lined. The banks of windows are timber-framed; however, framing has been avoided to the corner, amplifying the fineness of the detailing. The most dramatic intersection of forms and planes is at the carport, whose roof seems to balance precariously on a broad brick pier. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Banyule Heritage Study 2020 (RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants)