
Simpson's Building

Location

222-232 Camberwell Road HAWTHORN EAST, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO500

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant

Simpson's Buildings is a distinctive wedge shaped shop terrace block fronting two of the three main roads which form the Camberwell Junction with a distinctive facade decoration. It is a building of strong visual prominence when approached from the south and east. It is a building which is of significance to the extent of the entire external footprint, specifically the Camberwell and Riversdale Road facades and the roof area.

How is it Significant

Simpson's Buildings is historically and aesthetically significant to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it Significant

Built as part of the important 1920-1925 phase of Junction development, Simpson's Buildings is a prominent, unusually designed commercial corner building with distinctive facade decoration. It is an important streetscape element which reflects the traditional two storey scale of buildings in and around the Junction.

Heritage Study/Consultant Boroondara - Camberwell Junction Heritage Study, Lovell Chen, 2012;
Other Names Also numbered 481-491 Riversdale Road, Camberwell,
Hermes Number 140783
Property Number

Physical Conditions

A prominent, two-storey, stuccoed and overpainted brick shop building in a key corner location. It features rhythmic parapet ornament with raised entablatures and pier tops, and with two gabled pediments included in the cornice moulding. Each facade is modelled with seven distinct bays divided with corbelled piers: six upper shop fronts and a stairwell bay. The ground level shop fronts have all been altered, and a recent cantilever awning is in place. Clerestories may remain behind this awning. In common with most 1920s shop terraces, the main cornice has been lowered to just above the window-heads, and the surfaces above that have been treated as a kind of deepened parapet. This parapet has a lighter cornice with regular brackets that suggest dentil moulding but are more widely spaced; another twenties characteristic. Each parapet centre or pediment is supported emblematically at the centre of each bay by three tapering brackets, resembling timber components on contemporary bungalows. The pier tops are supported, again emblematically, by corbelled scrolls, again quite thin in frontal section. The upper facade is substantially intact, other than for the overpainting of originally exposed brick while the shop fronts have all been altered.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>