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## 23 Riversdale Road



Review of C\* Grade Buildings  
in the Former City of  
Hawthorn

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### Location

23 Riversdale Road HAWTHORN, Boroondara City

### Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO472

### Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

No 23 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, is of historical and architectural significance at a local level. It is a fine and well-executed example of a substantial Federation brick villa on an asymmetrical plan with Queen Anne overtones. Its prominent siting on the high side of the street, and its straightforward, dignified and solid proportions, epitomize aspects of Federation period development in Hawthorn. The house is also distinguished when compared to many Federation designs in Boroondara, displaying an early use of formal simplification and

plainness of massing, window and wall treatments that mark many later Federation houses. This includes reducing the verandah to a simple recessed porch, and the simple treatment of the south-west eave in the area of the canted bay, which has exposed rafters and virtually no fascia. The expressed chimney breast, built clear of the western wing gable, is also unusual when compared to the main run of Federation housing.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Review of C* Grade Buildings in the Former City of Hawthorn, Lovell Chen Architects & Heritage Consultants, 2006; Boroondara - Hawthorn Heritage Study, Meredith Gould Conservation Architects, 1993;
Hermes Number	14576
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The house at 23 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, is a substantial single-storey double-fronted Federation-era brick villa on an asymmetrical plan with Queen Anne overtones. The facade comprises a pair of projecting bays flanking a recessed central entrance porch, with a faceted bay at the south-west corner. The gabled slate roof features terracotta cresting and ball finials, some exposed rafters, and numerous corbelled red brick chimneys, one of which has an expressed breast. The walls display tuck-pointed, red face brick with moulded string courses and bands. The porch appears to have been altered with the introduction of small cast iron balustrade panels and frieze brackets. The front door case appears to be original, with timber-framed side and top-lights. Fenestration generally comprises tall window openings with timber-framed, double-hung sashes; the front windows also contain multi-coloured leadlight fanlight sashes. The eastern front gable is a half-timbered face corbelled out with a concave roughcast moulding. The west gable has been renewed at a later stage in a related but differing panel face, with the roughcast corbelling now absent. A timber finial (or flagpole) at the front of this gable has been removed. A brick garage is visible to the rear; other alterations have also occurred to the rear of the property.[i]

[i] City of Hawthorn Building Index, Permit #1710, dated 16 August 1951.

*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/>*