
Cotham



Review of B Graded Buildings
in Kew, Camberwell &
Hawthorn

Location

340 Cotham Road KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO291

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Cotham is of local historical and architectural significance as a fine, representative and externally intact example of a flat block of the late interwar period, where Medieval forms and styling has been applied to group and modulate modern flats. To the extent that its external form expresses the layout of the flats within, the design reflects the new acceptability and prestige of apartment life in the later 1930s.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Review of B Graded Buildings in Kew, Camberwell and Hawthorn, Lovell Chen Architects & Heritage Consultants, 2006; Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Other Names	Cotham,
Hermes Number	14609
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Cotham is a block of six flats with roughcast stucco on the walling and an eventful roofline of steep gables punctuated by clinker-brick corbelled chimneys and a small copper-clad pyramidal tower. The roof is clad in glazed tiles in the Marseilles pattern. The flats' internal layouts are expressed by a repeated series of asymmetrical facade episodes with two of the four three bedroom flats being angled at 90 degrees to the rear of the site. The front elevation to Cotham Road therefore presents the living and dining room elevation as a 'side' for the other two three-bedroom units, and the two-bedroom units are sandwiched in between the three-bedroom units.[i]

The windows are almost all sashes, some grouped on either side of a fixed plate glass window in the Chicago pattern then popular in Melbourne apartment designs, some being simple paired sashes and some being triple sashes under arches. The arches in this design are flattened and outlined solidly with clinker brick, and the same border surrounds all windows visible from Cotham Road, apart from the oblong stair well windows. There are three pairs of balconies in the projecting pavilions, fronting the living and dining area of each flat. One of these holds a stair hall, with the other two stairs being recessed rather than expressed. '*Cotham*' is inscribed vertically down the front elevation in 'period' lettering.

The hedged garden looks contemporary with the building, though probably renewed over the years, and the trees along the drive to the north and east sides are mature.

The front fence and gate are in similar colours and texture but are not original. A car port was added at the rear, out of sight from Cotham Road.[ii]

[i] See preliminary drawings for an assortment of internal alterations, possibly those relating to the brick fence and internal additions by L Chester and given a permit dated 27 June 1984: see City of Kew Building Index, # 1135.

[ii] Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #1217, dated 16 August 1984.

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/>