
Rothbry



Review of B Graded Buildings
in Kew, Camberwell &
Hawthorn

Location

35 High Street South KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO527

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Rothbry is of local historical and architectural significance as a substantial residence of the 1910s which demonstrates the shift in larger houses from the Federation mode to a simpler patterning and an attic storey expressed directly through the main gable, associated with the Bungalow mode of the early inter war period, 1919-1928. It is generally externally intact, and retains part of its original or early fence.

What is significant?

The High Street South Residential precinct developed gradually between the late nineteenth and the first decades of the twentieth century. The development of the area generally relates to the initial horse tramway along High Street in the nineteenth century, followed by the introduction of the electric tram and the subdivision of the Findon Estate in the early twentieth century. The proximity to Kew Junction is also important. Of note are the high number of reasonably intact Victorian and Federation era dwellings, and the interwar dwellings in the western area of the precinct. Buildings within the precinct are typically single and attic storey, double-fronted detached villas. A few larger double-storey villas, terraces and semi-detached dwellings are scattered throughout. Characteristics include the predominant use of brick and roughcast render, and Federation-style villas with prominent, decorative verandahs/porches and pitched terracotta tiled roofs. Interwar housing, in the form of bungalows and attic-storey residences, is primarily found in Henry Street, Bowen Street and the west end of Miller Grove. Specific buildings of individual and contributory significance which are important to the precinct are identified in the attached schedule.

How is it significant?

The High Street South Residential precinct is historically and architecturally significant to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the High Street South Residential precinct is significant for demonstrating the gradual pattern of subdivision and development of Kew from the mid-1870s through to the first decades of the twentieth century. The development on High Street followed a common pattern in the area, with initial development in the later Victorian period, generally close to Kew Junction, followed by a downturn in the 1890s economic 'bust', and then new development in the improving years after the turn of the century. Conversely, development to the west of High Street, including that of the former Findon estate, more readily exemplifies the residential subdivision of large nineteenth century estates in the early decades of the twentieth century. New streets (Miller Grove, Bowen Street and Henry Street) and medium sized allotments were created from a linear-form subdivision in 1913, which were subsequently developed during the late 1910s and 1920s. Despite the drawn out history of development, unifying characteristics of the Victorian and Federation era dwellings, and the later interwar development, include the generally consistent use of brick and overall uniformity of allotment sizes. The generally free-standing houses on generous sized allotments also reflect on the apparent affluence of the original residents and the desirability of the area. Architecturally, the High Street South Residential precinct is significant for incorporating a variety of building types and styles from the Victorian and Federation eras, and interwar period. Dwellings of single and attic storeys, including double-fronted detached villas and some larger double-storey villas, are found in the precinct together with terraces and semi-detached dwellings. Brick and roughcast render are common materials, while double-fronted Federation-style villas stand out due to their prominent, decorative verandahs/porches, including some with highly ornamented timber fretwork, and pitched terracotta tiled roofs. The diagonal alignment of High Street, with dwellings on sharply angled frontages, has encouraged construction of vigorous diagonally-oriented designs with views of side elevations, and entrance and verandah ornamentation. Conversely, the 1920s bungalows in the west of the precinct display a comparatively high occurrence of juxtaposed front gables, rather than the simpler transverse roof type more common elsewhere in Boroondara.

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	Rothbry, 2 Miller Grove,
Hermes Number	14629
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Rothbry, 35 High Street, Kew, (also known as 2 Miller Grove, Kew) is a large attic-storey Federation villa of brick construction. The complex gabled roofscape is clad with slate and finished with terracotta ridge cresting and finials and penetrated by slender tapered rendered chimneys with brick banding. The multiple gable ends are shingle-clad with timber fretwork screens and the broad gable over the main entrance contains an open attic balcony, whereas a formerly open roof terrace on the north-eastern side of the house has been enclosed. The asymmetrical facade displays a rendered finish with red face brick plinth and dressings and is screened by a deep verandah which is accessed via wide bluestone steps and features tapered brick columns and arched timber fretwork. Elsewhere, projecting bays contain bays of timber-framed casement sash windows with leaded awning highlight sashes. The entrance contains a pair of polished timber doors with leadlight glazing.

A double-storey outbuilding/garage, which matches the main house in construction and detail, is located in the south-west corner of the property. The origins of this building remain unclear.

The property is generally screened by an early (if not original) timber paling fence with matching V-jointed timber and lattice gates and pergolas, the exception being a section of later paling fence adjoining the outbuilding and extending east along Miller Grove. The landscape includes mature exotic plantings designed around a circular driveway and a non-original swimming pool in the north-east corner of the garden.

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/>