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# Cottingley



Hawthorn Heritage study  
1992



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## Location

16 Glenroy Road HAWTHORN, Boroondara City

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO50

## Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

1. A superb example of Prairie house design inspired by Walter Burley Griffin but from the hand of Billson, his articulated assistant and an influential architect in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Few examples of this type survive in Melbourne.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Hawthorn Heritage study 1992, Meredith Gould, Conservation Architects, 1992;
Other Names	Cottingley,
Hermes Number	14881
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Billson's use of Griffin's design principles does not detract from this design. It is a beautiful house innovatively planned and superbly detailed (see attached plan). The plan shows the most unusual side orientation of the house facing the somewhat narrow garden. There is no division between front and back, and the internal living spaces flow out via covered spaces or terraces to the ground beyond. Billson takes the then unthinkable step of having no living rooms facing the street, rather he places these functionally to get the best relationship with the site. The plan grows around an impressive entry under a porte-cochere. A little unrealistically, there is no garage, nonetheless, the porte cochere draws the house out into the landscape in a horizontal plane and scoops the viewer in. The hall is centrally located and on an axis with the dining room on a raised level. To one side is the large living room, service activities are grouped beyond, bedrooms grouped to the other side of the hall. Billson incorporates built in robes, and for the period, extensive storage elsewhere. A state of the art kitchen and laundry incorporate the most up to date facilities and appliances.

Externally the house is dominated by the two interesting gables. Below the wall planes are juxtaposed to create a plastic effect and the whole is anchored to the ground with an implied plinth. The geometrically divided casement windows decorate the exterior. Wide eaves shade the walls. A fence of render in bays with planter box piers completes the design.

*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/>*