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# Pyrus Park

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## Location

7 Vears Road ASHBURTON, BOROONDARA CITY

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO926

## Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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Hermes Number 208933

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Pyrus Park is located on a large block at the south-east corner of Vears Road and Poulter Street. As noted in the history, the c1899-1901 front wing faces High Street, but the south part of the block has been subdivided off - creating 335, 357 and 1/359 High Street - cutting the house off from High Street. It still retains, however, an extensive front garden containing a number of mature trees, including a very tall Monterey Pine located at the south-west corner of the block.

The front wing is two rooms deep with an asymmetrical front (south) facade featuring a canted bay to the east side and a front verandah beside it. The projecting canted bay sits below a semihexagonal roof joined to the principal M-hipped roof, all clad in slates (renewed). It has three red brick corbelled chimneys. Ogee-profile rafter tails are just visible below the eaves, instead of the enclosed eaves more typical of the Italianate style. This may reflect the relatively late date of the

wing, as early Federation houses were also being built at the turn of the century, and they frequently featured exposed rafters.

The walls of the house are of tuckpointed red brick, with brown Hawthorn brick dressings (segmental window arches and bands at window sill and head level). The corners of the canted bay also feature slender barley-twist colonnettes. This same type of colonnettes divide the front window beneath the verandah from sidelights. All windows to the front window are double-hung sashes (single panes). The front door was not sighted.

The front verandah has a hipped roof with a straight profile. The corrugated iron is of recent date. The verandah posts are slender Corinthian columns, typical of Victorian Italianate houses, and the combined bracket and frieze cast iron is a poplar floral pattern.

The west side elevation is of red brick with plain jointing (light grey mortar, no tuckpointing), as was typical for secondary elevations. The two windows have red brick flat arches, bluestone sills, and one-over-one sash windows.

The original house of c1885 is attached to the rear of the front brick wing. Its front facade faces Vears Road (west). It is a timber house clad in weatherboards with a hipped roof clad in (recent) corrugated steel. Both the wall height and overall roof height are lower than the later brick wing, indicating its more modest, early origins.

Judging from the roof form, and the 1987 plan (see Figure 4), the house was originally L-shaped, with a long (four-room) wing along the north side and a shallow (one or possibly two-room) wing to the south. The room on the north side projects somewhat, creating the classic asymmetric Italianate front facade with a front verandah along the recessed south side. The projecting front room has a hipped roof, and a corbelled brick chimney set behind the front room, on the ridge. The timber weatherboards appear to be square edged. The window beneath the front verandah has a moulded surround and has two-over-two, indicative of its early date. While the roof of the verandah has been reclad, its shallow concave profile is likely to be original.

There have been cumulative changes to the c1885 timber house, though its origins are still legible. These include replacement of the front (west) verandah posts and cast-iron ornament, replacement of the window on the projecting front room with a small three-over-three sash window, the creation of a bullnose verandah along the north elevation, and most likely the addition of Victorian-era timber brackets beneath the eaves (as these extend around the north side). The 1987 works included demolition of a room at the rear and associated chimney, creation of new openings along the north side elevation, and the construction of an extension in place of the demolished rear room, as detailed in the History. A carport has also been constructed on the west side of the house, partially obscuring views to the c1885 house.

*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.*

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