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# Wanbuno



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

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## Location

37 Riversdale Road HAWTHORN, Boroondara City

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO473

## Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

*Wanbuno*, 37 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, is of local historical and architectural significance. It is a fine example of a largely intact and substantial Federation brick attic-storey villa, with an asymmetrical plan, projecting bays and a centrally located recessed porch entrance. The house is also distinguished from many of its local contemporaries, through the comparatively high degree of formal integration of elements, achieved particularly in the continuity of line, integration of porch and bay window transoms, and in the complex roofscape. The house

also embodies elements common to highly regarded Ussher and Kemp houses in Boroondara, such as the vertical string-corbelled chimney treatments, stuccoed cornice, basket-arched fenestration, and juxtaposition of canted bays in front of a flat fronted wing behind. The house is also an early example of the central porch and dormer mode in Federation houses, just gathering momentum in this period as a house style in Kew and Camberwell.

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|---------------------------|--|
| 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; |
| Construction dates        | 1900,  |
| Other Names               | Wanbuno,   |
| Hermes Number             | 14577  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Description 1

*Wanbuno*, at 37 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, is a substantial Federation, face brick, attic-storey house on an asymmetrical plan, with projecting bays to the south facade and a centrally located recessed entrance under a porch. The roof has a main central hip and secondary hips over the bays, including faceted roofing in two half-octagons over bays; the roof is clad with Marseilles tiles and terracotta ridge-capping incorporating square scalloping. The chimneys are distinctive, being of red face brick with a moulded stucco cornice supported on an unusual quartet of long, vertically proportioned corbels. Ball-type finials are located over the bays, with a larger scroll type finial over the main roof hip, immediately behind the bays. The porch roof is integral with the main south roof slope. A hipped-roof dormer, probably an open balcony originally, projects from the main roof hip immediately above the porch. It is supported on dwarf walls clad in rounded shingles; the central window appears to be a later addition. The thick-timber porch fretwork includes a sturdy double arch and turned columns. This is complemented by the solidly proportioned canted bays, which are basically timber frames for basket-arched main panes, each topped by a pair of smaller basket-arched high lights with small-scaled square lead lighting and chequerboard panes alternating between opal green and amber. The walls behind each bay are plain coursed red face brick, with a moulded string course and unpainted stuccoed upper frieze. The walls generally have a two-course cream-brick base, and basalt footings. A bay was added to the west elevation at a later stage, utilising a two pane window with similar basket-arched framings to those on the main bays. This is fairly unobtrusive, being partly shrouded by trees, at least from the entrance to the property. Much of the garden appears of long standing, loosely stemming from an early twentieth-century garden form.

*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/>*