
Former Carn Brae, Glenwood, Wrixon House



14587 image001

Location

311 Barkers Road KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO272

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The house at 311 Barkers Road, Kew is of local historical and architectural significance as an externally relatively intact attic villa from the middle to later Federation period. It is of interest for the way its attic form predates the popular attic bungalow mode of the 1920s. Its compositional line is elegant, and there are some unusual elements such as the unusually long ribbon window on the south-east wing, and the canted, open verandah bay between the verandah and the south-facing wing.

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	Glenwood, Wrixon House, Carn Brae,
Hermes Number	14587
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Wrixon House, at 311 Barkers Road, is a double-fronted Federation period house facing south to Barkers Road near the top of a steep hill, with views west to Kew, Hawthorn and the inner city. To take in these views the house has a return verandah facing south-west, its tiled roof integral and flared from the main pyramidal roof structure and anchored, compositionally, by a projecting, south-east, gabled wing and a similar wing facing west. The roof is terracotta tile in a Marseilles pattern, punctuated by two tall chimneys laid parallel with each other at the east and west sides. Between them is a prominent three-light dormer facing Barkers Road and behind a transverse paired dormer facing east and west, with a stairwell massing behind that. These dormers indicate a three-bedroom cluster in a juxtaposed plan like a pinwheel. The ridge capping is notched terracotta, coupled with round-headed terracotta finials. The verandah and wing are on a red brick base with extensive textured stucco covering above that, round the windows and extending to the chimney stacks, which are then topped with corbelled red brick. The dormers have a lighter cladding, with plain gable fronts in textured stucco. The south east wing has a half-timbered gable front and a broad ribbon window with seven lights running across its front. The verandah frieze is in vertical timber slats over segmental arches, and the verandah posts are in turned timber. The entry area and front steps are delineated by a canted bay projecting at the point where the verandah meets the southeast wing. Inside, the three principal rooms open from a central stair hall, all three having bay windows and the two front rooms having large chamfers to form an octagonal entry area under the verandah.

Some restoration of the house was undertaken after its reversion to a family house, including work on the verandah. Rear additions were made when the house was used as a private hospital, these include five bedrooms, a lounge, a combined living and dining area, triple bathroom and a laundry. This extension was altered in 1977 to establish a separate nurses' station behind the main stair, and the east bathroom area was reshaped to increase its compartments from two to three. Behind the house, a former matron's flat was also added to in 1977, to include two more bedrooms, a common room, study, kitchen and bathroom.[i]

The carriage sweep may reflect an early form but the curbing is of recent origins. A few mature trees are interspersed with more recent plantings. The original fence has been removed and replaced by a low stone fence.

[i] Drawings by R Durran and Associates: working drawing of alterations, October 1977, sourced from the City of Boroondara Building File 40/408/103957.

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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