
32 Hortense Street



Review of B Graded Buildings
in Kew, Camberwell &
Hawthorn

Location

32 Hortense Street GLEN IRIS, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO386

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

32 Hortense Street is of local historical and architectural significance. Located in one of Boroondara's major interwar residential subdivisions, the Summerhill Estate, the building is a distinctive example of the application of eclectic Tudor styling to a standard size two-storey 1930s Melbourne residence. Designed by experienced residential practitioner, architect Leslie Reed, 32 Hortense Street is a confident composition which is distinguished by a combination of Medieval and Tudor references and its varied and richly applied external

materials. Though altered through the construction of rear additions, the principal street presentation of the building remains generally unaltered and the property retains its original fence and a sympathetic garden setting. The building makes a strong contribution to the predominantly interwar character of Hortense Street.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Review of B Graded Buildings in Kew, Camberwell and Hawthorn, Lovell Chen Architects & Heritage Consultants, 2006; Boroondara - Camberwell Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1991;
Hermes Number	14707
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

32 Hortense Street is a triple-fronted, two storey house of 1938, designed by the architect Leslie Reed.^[i] It has double brick walls clad in rough stone, with half-timbering over a north wing and a thickly grained slate roof with no ridge-capping. It has unusual cement or fireclay chimney shafts, halfway between a stack and a chimney pot, with a spiral external pattern. The stair window is a lancet; the ground floor living room windows in a trio with a blind arch over each; the first floor main bedroom window is a plate glass and sash 'Chicago' type. The north wing windows are plain sheets, and the upstairs wing, with half timbered spandrels, looks glassed-in. The front fence in scoria stone looks original, though the metal pickets may be later, the general garden layout and large trees all look original. The original plan was a simple, tight arrangement of rooms in an L shape with the stair well positioned in the angle of the L, forming three steps to the north east side, the intersection of Ariel Street. Behind the house, on the Ariel Street side, is a large extension in stone similar to that of the original house that alters the original geometry and makes the house appear more expansive.^[ii] Behind that is a newer garage (possibly replacing or incorporating the original) and some later fence additions, which look quite different from those of the original house.^[iii] Notwithstanding these additions, the original front section still reads as a distinct entity from the north-east, east and south-east sides.

[i] Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Buildings Index, #10703, dated 5 December 1938. Plans drawn by Leslie J W Reed, architect, 23 November 1938, in City of Camberwell archives.

[ii] Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Buildings Index, #20806, dated 28 June 1957.

[iii] Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Buildings Index, #63842, dated 2 October 1978.

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/>