
Huntingtower



Hawthorn Heritage study
1992



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Location

106 Church Street HAWTHORN, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO31

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Note further research is recommended to enable comparative assessment for the architect.

1. A most unusual composition of central tower, gable and return verandah executed in the materials favoured by the aficionados of the "Modern Italian", but here interpreted in the French second empire style. A rare example of this material/style combination.

2. One of the best illustrations of the boom period, mansion house development at Hawthorn, when mansion houses were required to achieve maximum impact by their careful placement and design, even on small allotments, and continuing Hawthorn's established 1860 and 1870s mansion house character into a suburban setting.

4. A landmark in Church Street.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Hawthorn Heritage study 1992, Meredith Gould, Conservation Architects, 1992;
Architect/Designer	Beswicke, John,
Other Names	Huntingtower,
Hermes Number	14873
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

A red brick and render, French second empire design for a mansion on a particularly tight mansion site. Although small, the site is prominently located on Church street Hill, and highly visible on its corner allotment. The design features the central tower, placed over the entrance and flanked by a gabled projecting wing and a recessed return wing with two storey cast iron verandah. At the termination of the verandah return is a conservatory at ground level.

The roof is slated, with projecting oculi matching the tower openings to the top level. On the gable end, the fascia is formed into a decorative truss. Below, paired windows imply access to a balcony, encrusted with render embellishment, which forms the roof to the ground floor bay projections. The tower is elaborately decorated with rendered quoins, pilasters, arches and architraves. At the top the parapet is formed by a heavy rendered balustrade surrounding a viewing platform. Chimney stacks are also elaborately detailed in render.

In contrast the main body of the house has quite plain walls of red brick. The cast iron verandah incorporates the then dated timber frieze frame, but utilizes cast iron "straight" panels of varying size linking the verandah and the original elaborate fence.

The building is remarkably intact, including the front garden hard landscape and paving to the rear. The once extensive outbuildings have been demolished.

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/>