
1 Harcourt Street



Hawthorn Heritage study
1992



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Location

27 Auburn Road HAWTHORN and 1 Harcourt Street HAWTHORN EAST, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO247

HO151

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significance of Individual Property

1. A highly individual adaptation of the Australian style in the Queen Anne, at the height of its popularity.
2. A rare example of the overall hipped roof type, adapted to two storey mansion house form.

3. Illustrative of the inventive work of Hawthorn's great architect Beswicke.

4. A substantially intact mansion which is a landmark in Auburn Road and Harcourt Street.) The last of Beswicke's mansions here, and the gateway building to the mansion house precinct in Harcourt Street.

HO151 Harcourt Street Precinct, Hawthorn

The Harcourt Street Precinct, Hawthorn, is an area of heritage significance for the following reasons:

- Harcourt Street features a concentration of nineteenth century mansions of a high level of design, a number of which retain expansive grounds.

-The mansion houses are interspersed with series of distinctive and substantial Federation designs, and interwar houses in Tudor and related modes.

- The southern part of the precinct is notable for smaller middle class houses on Rathmines Road, Auburn Road, some with miniature arched tower-form porches of a type occasionally seen in Canterbury and Kew. These are accompanied by broad single-fronted, single-storey verandahed Italianate middle-class housing in Bayview Avenue and Molesworth Street. This stock is largely intact, usually with stonepatterned timber facades or polychrome brickwork, often with mature gardens and sometimes with original fencing.

- The mansion designs by the noted architect John Beswicke, in an Italianate mode that complemented his designs for Hawthorn and Camberwell Town Halls and the Glenferrie and Auburn shopping centres. The south and west end has similarly vigorous and distinctive designs by a later generation of architects, as well as the Auburn Primary School at 51 Rathmines Road, built in stages from 1890.

-The character of the area is enhanced and rendered distinctive by broad kerbside lawns and mature street trees, arching over Harcourt Street and Higham Road within the precinct boundaries. The William Angliss Reserve, adjacent to the precinct at its east end, visibly separates the precinct from neighbouring areas and reinforces its garden character.

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Boroondara - Hawthorn Heritage study 1992, Meredith Gould, Conservation Architects, 1992; |
| Architect/Designer | Beswicke, John, |
| Other Names | Talana, |
| Hermes Number | 14890 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Talana is amongst the most elaborate Queen Anne residences in Melbourne. Executed in the required red brick, the decorative embellishments are in render and rough cast, overlaid with timber. The house is extremely large. Its two storey height is emphasised by an extra high ground floor, a raised plinth above ground level, and the large hipped roof. Although the house has a basic gable wing, two co-ordinate point form, it departs from the standard Queen Anne pattern in several areas. The principal facade to Harcourt Street has overlaid on the basic form, a tower and entry porch gable feature; the return verandah is a highly individual design. The corner bay expression in the verandah is atypical and the gothic tracery in the tower window unusual on a Queen Anne design.

The roof is clad with Marseilles tiles. Given their date, these are probably of imported French origin along with the cappings and griffin. Although the building addresses the corner site with its corner balcony, the principal facade

is clearly Harcourt Street. The grounds provide an appropriate context for the building but do not contain a garden which makes a contribution on its own.

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/>