
Former State Savings Bank and Residence

Location

1395 Toorak Road CAMBERWELL, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO589

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former State Savings Bank branch and residence at 1395 Toorak Road, Camberwell, constructed in 1938 by builder RF Anderson to a design by George Burridge Leith, the Chief Architect of the State Savings Bank of Victoria.

The small upper floor above the residence entry may be an early addition, as it is not shown on the 1937 plans, but it was integrated seamlessly into the overall design in detail and cladding materials, so is contributory to the whole.

The modern carport at the rear is not contributory.

How is it significant?

The bank and residence are of local aesthetic, architectural and historical significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

Aesthetically, the bank is a very accomplished example of the interwar Greek Revival. Typical features of this style include the giant-order Ionic pilasters, dentillated cornice, and pediments in a simplified Greek temple form,

which contrast with the modern glazed bricks. In comparison with other banks built in Boroondara during this period, it is also distinguished by its very high level of intactness. (Criteria E & F)

Architecturally, the bank is one of the most accomplished Greek Revival designs of architect George Burridge Leith. GB Leith was the Chief Architect of the State Savings Bank from 1920 to 1953. Leith's designs had a major impact on Melbourne's suburbs during the interwar era - both through his design of bank branches such as this one and the standardised timber and brick bungalow designs built with State Savings Bank finance. Many of these houses still survive in Hawthorn, Kew, Camberwell and Glen Iris. (Criterion H)

Historically, the bank and residence demonstrate the intensification of expanding bank branch networks in Boroondara during the late 1930s, by the State Savings Bank, Bank of Australasia, and Commercial Bank of Australia. The provision of an integral manager's residence also illustrates a common practice for all sorts of business (banks, shops, etc.) prior to the postwar dominance of the car and commuting to work. (Criterion A)

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Boroondara - Individual Heritage Citations, City of Boroondara, 2016; Boroondara - Camberwell Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1991; |
| Other Names | State Savings Bank, |
| Hermes Number | 199599 |
| Property Number | |

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/>