

Statement of Significance: Houses (pair) 195-197 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield North

Date of Statement: August 2020

Address:	195-197 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield North	Name:	
Place Type:	Residential building (private)	Grading:	Significant
PS ref no:	HO207	Constructed:	1939



Photographs by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019

What is significant?

The two houses at 195-197 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield North, comprised a detached pair of single-storey hip-roofed rendered brick dwellings in a hybrid style combining the horizontal emphasis, round corners and curved windows of the Streamlined Moderne with the fluted columns and applied ornament of the classical tradition. Similar without being identical, the two houses were erected in 1939 by local designer/builder J W Fairbanks & Son, as separate but attached residences for two sisters.

The significant fabric is defined as the exterior of both houses, the detached garage to No 195 (but excluding its front wall, which is a later infill), and the matching dwarf walls (and any original metal gates) along both street boundaries. The non-original garage at the rear of No 197, facing Blencairn Avenue, is not considered significant.

How is it significant?

The pair of houses at 195-197 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield North, satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

Why is it significant?

The two houses are aesthetically significant as a distinctive example of domestic architecture from the late 1930s, deftly combining key characteristics of the prevailing Streamlined Moderne style (eg rounded corners and unusually extensive use of curved glazing) with classical touches (ie fluted porch columns) and an uncommon degree of applied ornament (included brick stringcourses and moulded elements). The exuberance and unselfconsciousness of this hybrid design is testament to the fact that it was the work of a talented and enthusiastic designer/builder rather than a qualified architect, reflecting the more populist approach to residential architecture at the time. Designed to be similar without being identical, the two houses form a unique pair and an eye-catching element in the streetscape, enhanced by retention of their original front fences. (*Criterion E*)

Primary sources

Heritage Citation HG05, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.