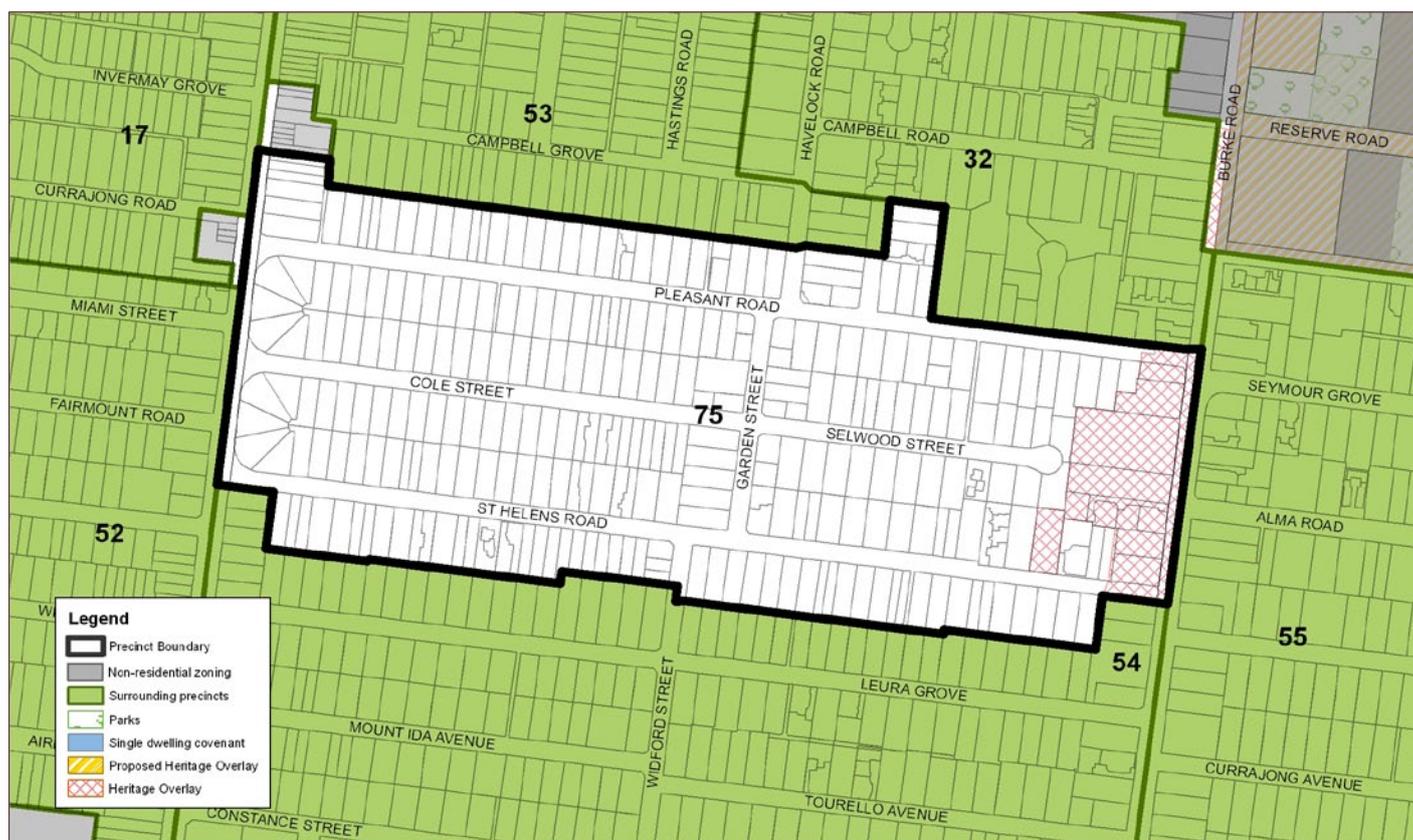


# Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



## DESCRIPTION

Precinct 75 is located in Hawthorn East and is bounded by Pleasant Road, Tooronga Road, Burke Road and St Helens Road. A portion of the Burke Road heritage overlay area (HO144) is also within the precinct which is significant for its various Victorian and Federation houses and dispersed interwar dwellings and walk up flats.

This precinct is predominantly characterised by 1 and 2 storey dwellings from various eras, including a high proportion from the interwar and late Edwardian period, particularly in and around St. Helens and Pleasant roads. The

precinct is also characterised by a number of semi-detached duplex houses, many of which present as single dwellings to the street. Newer dwellings and town houses are gaining prominence, including dwellings with period reproduction detailing.

Lot frontages to the precinct's single dwellings are generally between 10 to 20m wide, while the frontages to the precinct's duplexes are generally narrower at 8 to 10m wide. Front setbacks are generally between 5 and 9m.

While the precinct has a detached character, some garages and side walls are set on the boundary on one side.

Front fences vary from street to street, with many medium to high fences in some areas. While rear gardens vary in size, the precinct generally has an open, backyard character.

Most streets contain medium to large street trees which are a unifying feature in the streetscape.

# Design Guidelines

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Various building eras, including high proportion of interwar housing;
- 1 and 2 storey single detached dwellings and attached duplexes;
- Detached character;
- Medium front setbacks;
- Landscaped front gardens;
- Rear garden character;
- Variety of front fence heights from low to high; and
- Medium to large street trees.

## PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To facilitate contemporary design that integrates with the precinct's detached, 1 and 2 storey character and enhances the garden setting of dwellings.

This will be achieved by:

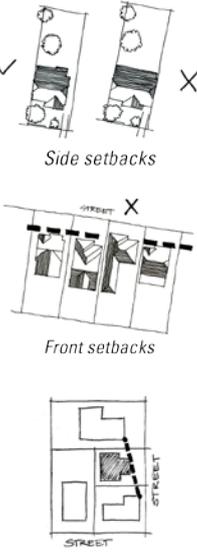
- Encouraging the retention of large trees and landscaped gardens;
- Ensuring buildings are sufficiently setback from front and side boundaries to retain the existing streetscape rhythm.
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Ensuring car parking structures do not dominate the streetscape;
- Encourage design that integrates with the heritage styles of the precinct;
- Maximising soft landscaping and minimising areas of hard surfaces; and
- Encouraging low or open style front fences.
- Encouraging new attached townhouses to present as single dwellings to the street.

## THREATS/ISSUES

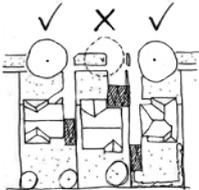
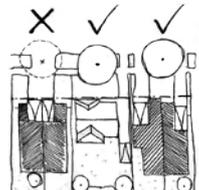
- Loss of historic buildings;
- Boundary to boundary development;
- Buildings that appear bulky and 'box' like;
- Dominant new dwellings and upper level extensions;
- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation;
- High, solid front fences that disrupt the rhythm of the street and prevent views of front gardens;
- Removal / loss of large trees;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind; and
- Period reproduction building design.

# Design Guidelines

## TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<b>VEGETATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and enhance the landscaped setting of dwellings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure front gardens incorporate soft landscaping that complements the streetscape.</li> <li>Ensure the retention of large trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of large trees.</li> <li>Front gardens dominated by hard surfaces.</li> <li>Loss of front gardens.</li> </ul>	 <p>Encourage landscaped gardens</p>
<b>SITING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and enhance the existing streetscape rhythm and sense of spaciousness.</li> <li>To maintain the existing backyard character and enhance the area's leafy feel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure buildings are setback no less than the average distance of the front setback of the adjoining properties on either side or 9m, whichever is less.</li> <li>Ensure buildings are setback from at least one side boundary in accordance with the prevailing streetscape spacing.</li> <li>Ensure buildings are sufficiently setback from rear boundaries to maintain the open, backyard character of the immediate area where this exists.</li> <li>Provide a secluded private open space area with a minimum dimension of 4m to enable the planting and retention of large trees.</li> <li>Ensure new development on a corner site is adequately set back to provide a transition between the adjoining buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dwellings set too far forward.</li> <li>Attached, boundary to boundary development.</li> <li>Dwellings built to or close to their rear boundary with other residential properties.</li> </ul>	 <p>Side setbacks</p> <p>Front setbacks</p> <p>Siting on corner sites</p>
<b>BUILDING HEIGHT AND FORM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the existing 1 and 2 storey scale and pitched roof character of the precinct.</li> <li>To ensure buildings do not dominate the streetscape or disrupt the existing streetscape rhythm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure buildings are composed of facades that are no more than two storeys high to the street.</li> <li>Ensure buildings incorporate roof forms that integrate with the pitched roofs in the street.</li> <li>Ensure attached side by side development is designed to read as one dwelling within the streetscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three storey facades to the street.</li> <li>Large bulky buildings or extensions that dominate the streetscape.</li> <li>Symmetrical presentation of side by side townhouses.</li> </ul>	 <p>Maintain 1 &amp; 2 storey streetscape scale</p> <p>Integrate with pitched roofs</p> <p>Avoid symmetrical design</p> <p>Avoid 3 storey facades</p>

# Design Guidelines

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN DETAILS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure building materials and facade articulation integrates within the streetscape.</li> <li>To minimise period reproduction design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use building materials that integrate with the streetscape character.</li> <li>Ensure new dwellings and visible additions complement the historic buildings in the precinct.</li> <li>Ensure rooflines of new buildings, extensions and additions incorporate sloping roofs with greater than 10 degrees roof slope and reflect the existing character of surrounding dwellings.</li> <li>Break buildings into separate elements and use eaves, overhangs and other design details to articulate the facade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bland design such as sheer or plain rendered facades.</li> <li>Period reproduction design.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Integrate with heritage streetscapes</i></p>  <p><i>Avoid bland design</i></p>
<b>FRONT BOUNDARY TREATMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance the consistency of front fence heights and maintain views of front gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure front fences are no more than 1.5m or the average fence height in the street (whichever is less).</li> <li>Ensure the retention of original front fences where heritage overlays apply.</li> <li>Front fences along declared main roads (RD1Z) may be up to 2m in height where this is consistent with the prevailing fence height on the neighbouring properties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High solid front fences.</li> </ul>	  <p><i>Avoid high front fences</i></p>
<b>CAR PARKING STRUCTURES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise the loss of front gardens and the dominance of car parking structures.</li> <li>To ensure basement garages do not increase the visual bulk of buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure car parking structures, including entrances to basements, are setback at least 1m behind the dwelling facade and are designed to minimise their prominence.</li> <li>Ensure basements project no more than 0.5m above natural ground level, unless the finished floor level of abutting properties is greater than 0.5m.</li> <li>Where possible, locate the entry to basement garages to the side or rear of dwellings so they are not visible from the street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driveways and car parking structures that dominate front setbacks or obscure views of the dwelling.</li> <li>Adjoining garage doors facing the street in side-by-side townhouses.</li> <li>Basement ramps that commence at the street frontage.</li> <li>Basement garages that result in buildings with a 2.5 to 3 storey appearance from the street.</li> <li>Driveways, basements and ramps that cover the extent of the site.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Location of car parking structures</i></p>  <p><i>Avoid adjoining garages</i></p>

# General Information

## ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STUDY

This Precinct Statement was completed in 2012. The methodology involved a review of the Residential Urban Character Study from 1996 as well as substantial community consultation and fieldwork. As a result of this review the City's residential areas have been divided into 75 precincts.

The common characteristics of each area in terms of building scale, setbacks, building style and form and the area's landscape character were taken into account when determining the boundaries of each precinct.

The resulting Neighbourhood Precinct Character Statements describe the existing character of each precinct as well as the precinct's preferred future character.

Those characteristics most valued by the community were reflected in the preferred character statements. The accompanying design guidelines table provides direction for new buildings which ensure future development assists in achieving the area's preferred character.

The Boroondara Neighbourhood Character Study is based on an analysis of existing neighbourhood character and does not take into account other planning policy objectives such as housing capacity, access to services and sustainability.

## HOW THE PRECINCT STATEMENTS WILL BE USED

The Precinct Statements will be used when assessing planning permit applications in residential zones. In instances where no planning permit is required (e.g. for single dwellings on lots over 500m<sup>2</sup>), the Precinct Statements will be used when assessing report and consent applications to vary the siting requirements of the Building Regulations.

New development proposals will be assessed against the directions contained in the "objective", "design response" and "avoid" columns in the design guidelines Table of Elements. Proposals will need to demonstrate how they meet the objectives in the table if they do not meet the relevant "design response" or "avoid" criteria.

With the exception of the guidelines relating to rear garden character, the view from the street will be used to assess consistency with the design guidelines. Existing development that does not comply with the design guidelines should not be used as a precedent when designing new buildings or building extensions.

## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Precinct Statements will be used in conjunction with other policies and guidelines in the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

Where a conflict occurs between the Precinct Statements and an existing Design and Development Overlay or Council's Heritage

Policy, the provisions of the Design and Development Overlay or Council's Heritage Policy will take precedence.

# Glossary

## CHARACTER ELEMENTS IN DESIGN GUIDELINES TABLE OF ELEMENTS

- **Building Height and Form** – refers to building height (as measured from natural ground level), roof form and the massing of building elements.
- **Building Materials and Design Details** – refers to external building materials, façade articulation and design elements such as verandahs, awnings, window configurations and eaves.
- **Car Parking Structures** – refers to the presence and location of on-site car parking structures such as garages, carports, driveways and uncovered car spaces.
- **Front Boundary Treatment** – refers to the presence, height and style of front fences.
- **Lot Frontage** – refers to the width of lots.
- **Siting** – refers to front setbacks, side setbacks and the area's rear garden character.
- **Vegetation** – refers to the trees and landscaping on the site.

## GENERAL TERMS

- **'Box'-like** – refers to a building with proportions and detailing that give the building a box-like appearance. Typical characteristics include sheer two storey walls, no or narrow eaves, a symmetrical, un-articulated front facade and a low pitched or flat roof form with parapet detailing.
- **Historic Buildings** – refers to early buildings that date from the establishment of the area or that are important to the area's history.
- **Heritage Buildings** – refers to historic buildings that are subject to statutory protection through a Heritage Overlay or the Victorian Heritage Register.
- **Period Reproduction Design** – refers to design that incorporates mock heritage detailing such as Mock-Georgian and Mock-French Provincial elements.
- **Front Setback** – The distance between the front property boundary and the dwelling, categorised as:
  - **Small:** 0 to 5 metres
  - **Medium:** 5 to 9 metres
  - **Large:** 9+ metres
- **Front Fence Height:**
  - **Low:** 0.5 to 1.2m high
  - **Medium:** 1.2m - 1.5m high
  - **High:** over 1.5m high
- **Roof Forms:**
  - **Flat** – refers to a roof with a gradient of 10 degrees or less.
  - **Pitched** – refers to a roof with two slopes that meet at a central ridge.
- **Multi-Unit Dwellings:**
  - **Flats / Apartment Buildings** – refers to several dwellings contained in a multi-storey structure.
  - **Town Houses** – refers to dwellings of 2 or more storeys that have their own entrance and private yard, but which adjoin another dwelling.
  - **Villas** – refers to groups of dwellings which have their own entrance and private yard, which may or may not adjoin another dwelling, but which generally share common areas such as driveways and car parking.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Understanding Planning Terms Information Sheet**, City of Boroondara, (search for this title at <http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au>).

**What house is that? A Guide to Victoria's Housing Styles**, Heritage Victoria, (search for this title at <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage>).

**ResCode provisions**, Clause 54 and 55 of the Boroondara Planning Scheme at <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/boroondara/home.html>.