

Harp Village Commercial Precinct Statement of Significance August 2020

Heritage Place:	Harp Village Commercial Precinct	PS ref no:	HO839
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GRADING

- CONTRIBUTORY
- NON-CONTRIBUTORY
- EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAY
- PRECINCT BOUNDARY

GRADING

- Significant
- Contributory
- Non-Contributory
- Precinct Boundary

What is significant?

The interwar Harp Village Commercial Precinct at 623-655 and 657-665 High Street (north side), 626-694 High Street (south side), 605-613 High Street (corner with Strathalbyn), 29-31 Valerie Street (north side), 1-3 and 5-11 Strathalbyn Street is significant. The shopping strip was developed almost entirely during the interwar period, with shops and businesses established between c.1920 and 1940.

Intact and partially intact interwar upper storey facades and parapets are significant. The intact and partially intact original shopfronts at 623, 631, 639, 657, and 663-665 High Street (north side), and 664, 666, 678, and 692 High Street (south side) are significant.

The early awnings/awning linings at 605-613, 631-633, 645, 659-661, and 663-665 High Street (north side), 658, 660, 666, 672, 678-680, 684 and 692 High Street (south side), and 1-3 and 5-11 Strathalbyn Street are significant.

Non-original alterations and additions to the shops are not significant.

Non-contributory buildings within the precinct are identified in the schedule below.

How is it significant?

Harp Village Commercial Precinct is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

Historically, Harp Village Commercial Precinct is significant for its ability to demonstrate the development of new shopping strips in the municipality in response to the interwar settlement and suburban consolidation of Kew East. Harp Village was established and grew as a shopping strip between c.1920 and 1940, in direct response to the 1920s' extension and subsequent full electrification of the tramline along High Street and the related expansion of suburban settlement. (Criterion A)

Harp Village shopping strip is highly representative of the interwar era and of the interwar settlement of Kew East. Aesthetically, the precinct is distinguished as a largely intact interwar shopping strip. High visual cohesion is provided by the integrity of the upper storey facades and parapets of the single and double storey shop buildings. The shopping strip is enhanced by the retention of some early shopfronts, including a pair of shops at 663-665 High Street where the original shopfitter, TS Gill, is identified. The precinct is further enhanced by the two former bank buildings at 623 and 657 High Street, both elegantly designed corner buildings. Visual unity is provided by a high number of pairs and groups of three or more shops that are built to similar designs. This includes the interwar Spanish Mission style shops on Strathalbyn Road. (Criterion D)

Primary source

Kew East and Mont Albert Heritage Gap Study, August 2020

Number	Address	Grade
605-613	High Street	Contributory
623	High Street	Contributory
2/623-625	High Street	Non-contributory
626	High Street	Contributory
627	High Street	Non-contributory
629	High Street	Contributory
631	High Street	Contributory
633	High Street	Contributory
637	High Street	Contributory
638-642	High Street	Contributory
639	High Street	Contributory
641	High Street	Contributory
643	High Street	Contributory
644-650	High Street	Contributory
645	High Street	Contributory
647	High Street	Contributory
651-653	High Street	Contributory
652	High Street	Contributory
654	High Street	Contributory

655	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
656	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
657	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
658	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
659-661	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
660	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
662	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Non-contributory</i>
663-665	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
664	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
666	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
670	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
672	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
674	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
676	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
678-680	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
682	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
684	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
692	<i>High Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
1-3	<i>Strathalbyn Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
5-11	<i>Strathalbyn Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
29	<i>Valerie Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>
31	<i>Valerie Street</i>	<i>Contributory</i>

This document is an incorporated document in the Boroondara Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*