HO116 – House, 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee

Heritage Place: House	**HO Reference:** HO116 **Date updated:** 15 October 2026

Address: 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee



Figure 1. House at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.

Item Group: Residential buildings (private) **Item Type:** House	**Key Theme:** Building towns and cities **Key Sub-theme:** Interwar housing
Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Unknown	**Construction:** c.1915-1920s **Style:** Interwar Bungalow
Significance Level: Local	
Recommendation: Retain solar energy controls.	

Controls:	○	External paint controls	○	Internal alteration controls	○	Tree controls

	○	Included on Victorian Heritage Register	○	Incorporated Plans	○	Outbuildings and fence not exempt
	○	Prohibited uses may be permitted	○	Aboriginal Heritage Place	●	Solar energy system controls

Curtilage

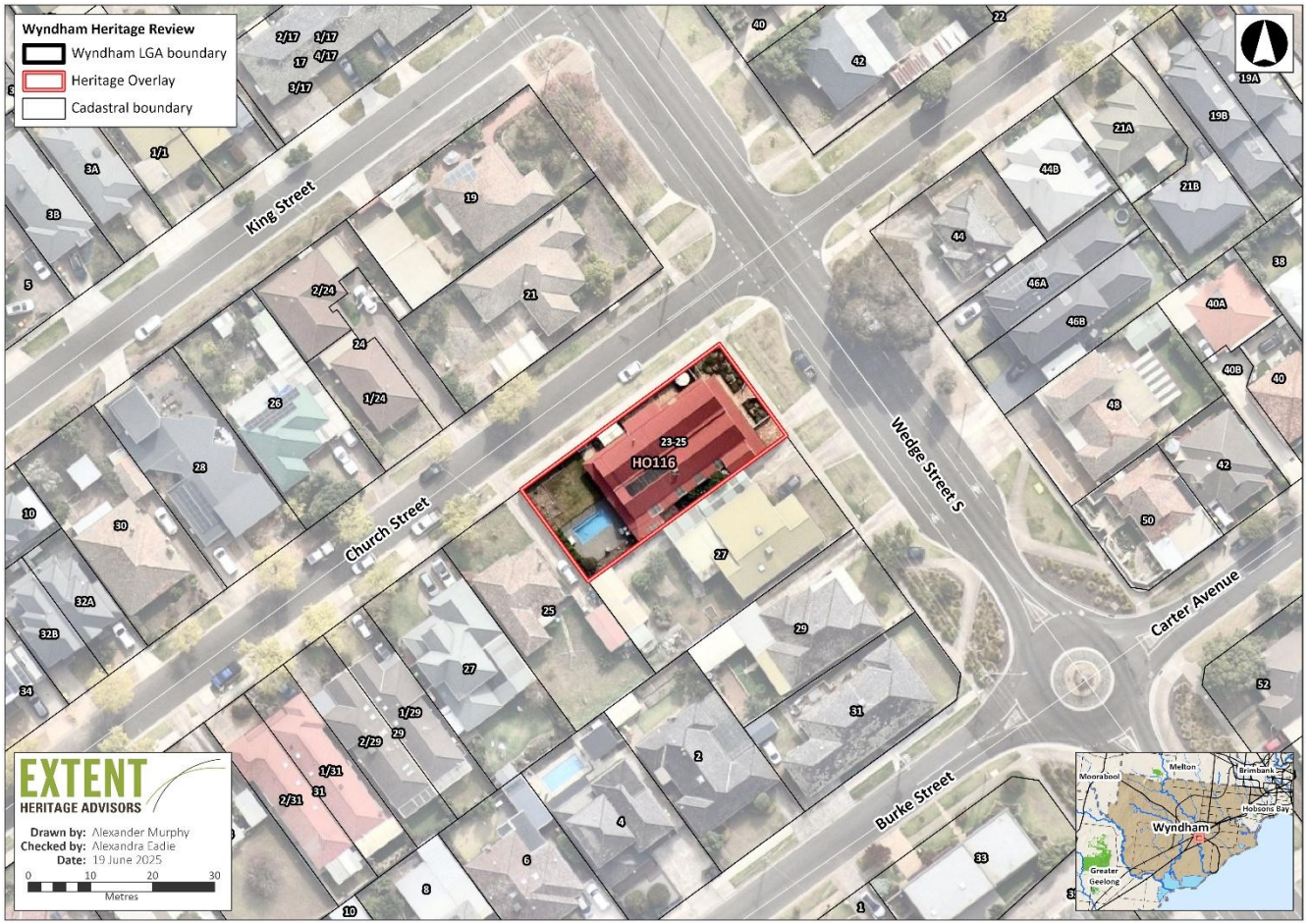


Figure 2. House at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee. *Basemap source*: Nearmap. 2025. Spatial data source: VicMap & Department of Transport and Planning

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	*Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history*	This site is of historical significance for containing a (now consolidated) pair of early twentieth century semi-detached houses, established during a period of residential expansion in Werribee, that was driven by favourable state-level economic conditions and the success of local farming activities. This period saw the construction of suburban residential developments to accommodate the growing demand for housing. This pair of houses reflects the broader patterns of suburban expansion and social stratification in Interwar Werribee. It stands as a tangible example of domestic architecture associated with this period of growth and offers insight into Werribee's consolidation as a suburb.
B	*Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history*	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	*Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history*	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	*Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments*	This place does not meet this criterion.
E	*Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics*	The pair of houses at 23-25 Wedge Street South are of aesthetic significance for their demonstration of the Interwar bungalow style expressed through the adjoining pitched roof forms, weatherboard cladding and the expression of two dwellings through the use of a central brick firewall, which projects above the roof line. While semi-detached dwellings are more typical in other areas of Victoria, this is an uncommon presentation in Werribee and its form provides a strong contrast with the surrounding pattern of urban development.
F	*Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period*	This place does not meet this criterion.

G	*Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions*	This place does not meet this criterion.
H	*Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.*	This place does not meet this criterion.

Statement of Significance – House, 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee

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Figure 3. House at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.

What is significant?

This, now consolidated, pair of semi-detached bungalow dwellings including the gable presentation, materiality, fenestration, detailing, verandah and overall form is significant.

The alterations to the front façade including the windows and doors, fencing, verandahs to the north elevation and carport are not significant.

How is it significant?

The dwelling at 23-25 Wedge Street South is of historical and aesthetic significance.

Why is it significant?

This site is of historical significance for containing a (now consolidated) pair of early twentieth century semi-detached houses, established during a period of residential expansion in Werribee, that was driven by favourable state-level economic conditions and the success of local farming activities. This period saw the construction of suburban residential developments to accommodate the growing demand for housing. This pair of houses reflects the broader patterns of suburban expansion and social stratification in Interwar Werribee. It stands as a tangible example of domestic architecture associated with

this period of growth and offers insight into Werribee's consolidation as a suburb. (Criterion A)

The pair of houses at 23-25 Wedge Street South are of aesthetic significance for their demonstration of the Interwar Bungalow style expressed through the adjoining pitched roof forms, weatherboard cladding and the expression of two dwellings through the use of a central brick firewall which projects above the roof line. While semi-detached dwellings are more typical in other areas of Victoria, this is an uncommon presentation in Werribee and its form provides a strong contrast with the surrounding pattern of urban development. (Criterion E).

Primary Source

23-25 Wedge Street South citation, Extent Heritage, 2026.

Description

Bunurong Country

The House at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee is located on the traditional lands of the Bunurong peoples. They have cared for this Country for thousands of years and continue to care for Country today. The wider landscape is shaped by the flowing waters of Wirribi Yaluk (Werribee River), exceptional and increasingly endangered plains grasslands, ancient volcanic lava flows and the considerable shorelines of Naarm (Port Phillip Bay)(BLCAC, 2026, 10).

Bunurong Country is vast, complex and interconnected. It encompasses the lands on which we live on and the plants and animals it sustains; the Sky Country above which is home to birds and insects and night-time constellations; and the Sea Country, which provides so many of the resources that allow Country to thrive (BLCAC, 2026, 10).

Physical Analysis

The dwellings at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee comprise a pair of semi-detached Interwar bungalows, now converted into a single residence. Located on a corner allotment fronting Wedge Street South and Church Street to the north, the dwelling forms part of a broadly low-rise residential streetscape. As it presents to Wedge Street South, the dwelling is a modest single storey, double gabled timber cottage with a shallow front setback that incorporates a garden. The front of the property is enclosed by a timber picket fence with a contemporary metal pedestrian gate.

The dwelling has two adjoining gabled roof forms, clad in corrugated sheet metal. The original arrangement of two dwellings is articulated by a central bricked firewall which is visible within the central roof trough. The façade is constructed of timber weatherboard and adopts a symmetrical arrangement with a single central doorway with double glazed sidelights, flanked by two further small sidelights. Below each gable is a projecting boxed window which contains matching double hung sash windows with sidelights. The frontage is also articulated with a later timber verandah with a corrugated sheet metal roof and modest Federation-style fretwork. The floor of the verandah is covered by tessellated red brick which also covers the central footpath and carport paving.

The northern elevation, as it addresses Church Street, is mostly obscured by a tall timber paling fence. A full-length skillion verandah with a central raised section runs the length of the façade. It is of modest timber construction and clad in corrugated sheet metal. The verandah returns around to the rear (west) elevation, below the twin gables. Both gable ends are without ornamentation, clad in horizontal timber weatherboards, and with a small centrally placed window.

The southern elevation is not visible from the public domain due to its close proximity to the boundary fence line.

Alterations and Additions

- External alterations to the residence include an altered front façade including new entry arrangement with Victorian/Federation style door, new boxed bay windows with

Victorian/Federation window framing, new fenestration to the northern elevation and the addition of rear gable windows.

- Later additions of lean-to verandahs to all four elevations of the dwelling, including carport extension and verandah to the primary façade, are not original.*
- The front timber picket fencing, and side timber paling fence is not original.*

The property is of moderate integrity and is in good condition.

**** Denotes element that does not contribute to the cultural significance of the place.***

History

The House at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee, is situated on the lands of the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of Country. Despite the effects of colonisation, including dispossession of land, the Traditional Custodians have maintained a continuing connection to land, waters and culture within the City of Wyndham.

Werribee was positioned in proximity to a ford over Werribee River, also known by its traditional name Wirribi Yaluk, connecting the route between Melbourne and Geelong (Murray 1974, 11; Lovell Chen 2024, 51). As traffic grew along the Melbourne to Geelong route, the Werribee settlement expanded. In 1849, land was reserved for a township and was gazetted as 'Wyndham' in 1850, commencing sale of Crown Land shortly after (James and Pritchard 2008, 15; Hocking 2013, 177; Murray 1974, 14).

The arrival of the railway in 1857 firmly positioned the commercial centre on the east side of the river. A post office, churches, schools and additional inns soon followed (James and Pritchard 2008, 103). While the township itself changed little throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, the surrounding land prospered economically under sheep and cattle grazing (Werribee Shire Banner 29 July 1937, 3).

Closer Settlement of the 1890s through until the 1930s marked a turning point, where large estates were subdivided for cropping and other industries, driving an increase in population and transforming land use (Lovell Chen 2024, 15; James and Pritchard 2008, 49; Penrose 2001, 9).

Place History

The dwelling at 23-25 Wedge Street South, Werribee, is located on land that was initially part of a larger landholding to the southern extent of the township area, owned by George Thomas Chirnside from the mid-nineteenth century (The Age 1926, 14). George Chirnside was the son of Andrew Chirnside and nephew to Thomas Chirnside, who were early pastoralists who owned vast holdings of land across the Shire of Wyndham (Lovell Chen 2024, 118).

The large allotment of land had been used by George Chirnside to grow hay, and in 1926 the land was subdivided into smaller lots and sold at auction. The site of 23-25 Wedge Street South was noted in an article as a holding of two and a half acres which was sold to J. E. Thomas for £157 10/ per acre (The Age 1926, 14). In the 1920s J. E. Thomas worked as a forage officer at the State Research Farm in Werribee where he contributed to the economic feeding and treatment of livestock (The Werribee Shire Banner 1927, 4). In 1927 he resigned from the Agricultural Department to accept an appointment with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which would require periods in Queensland and New South Wales, before ultimately proceeding to Adelaide University where he was appointed assistant to Professor Russell (The Werribee Shire Banner 1927, 4). The land purchased by J. E. Thomas was noted in a 1954 Parish Plan as Allotment 1 of Section J. The plan also shows the provision of Church Street pencilled within the neighbouring Allotment 9 (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Extract from c.1954 Parish Plan (based on c.1880-early 1900s plans as evidenced by noted allotment dates). The site of 23-25 Wedge Street South is indicated with the red arrow. *Source:* Department of Lands and Survey. 1954. *Deutgam – 2 Parish Plan.* Digitised cartographic material. Public Record Office Victoria (online database). https://prov.vic.gov.au/archive/06B4EA92-F442-11EA-BE8C-890B1FA715B8



Figure 5. Photograph of Cocoroc township in 1947, with a row of double gabled residences. Source: Melbourne Water. 1947. View of Cocoroc township, 1947. Digitised photograph. Melbourne Water (website). https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/who-we-are/history-and-heritage/history-sewerage/cocoroc-township

Associations with Cocoroc township, Metropolitan Farm.

While it has not been proven, the Werribee District Historical Society has speculated that the dwellings may have been relocated from or influenced by the residences in the nearby township of Cocoroc. Double pitched dwellings were uncommon within Werribee during the early-mid

1900s, but were prolific within Cocoroc with some being two adjoining dwellings while others were a single home with a symmetrical façade under a double pitched roof form (Figure 5). The relocation of the subject property in c.1920 is unconfirmed, as although relocation of buildings from Cocoroc would become common during the 1970s, aligning with the decline of the township, it was uncommon in the 1920s (Melbourne Water 2025). However, it is possible that some elements of the place were sourced from the abandoned township following its decline and repurposed on the façade of this building.

Ownership and Tenure

It is unclear when the dwellings at 23 and 25 Wedge Street South were constructed within the larger allotment, however upon their completion, the adjoining townhouses were initially owned by John W. Shaw and leased as rental properties (Context 1997, 387).

The first tenants have been noted to be Malcom Mattingley and Phillips who rented the townhouses from Shaw in 1924. It is believed Phillips was a school teacher at Werribee Primary School No. 649 (Context 1997, 387). Phillips apparently continued to rent one of the dwellings in 1925, whilst the other was rented out to Massey Harris Company (Context 1997, 387). Between the late 1920s and early 1930s, 23-25 Wedge Street South housed a rotation of tenants, including Thomas George McLeod and R. Plaster, and then Patrick Reidy and William Barber (Context 1997, 387-8). By the mid-1930s, the pair of semi-detached bungalows were owned and occupied by Mrs Shaw (Context 1997, 388). Aerial imagery from 1938 shows the residence at 23-25 Wedge Street South as a pair of semi-detached dwellings, indicated by the double pitched roofs and separated backyard with matching water tanks to either side of the dividing fence (Figure 6).

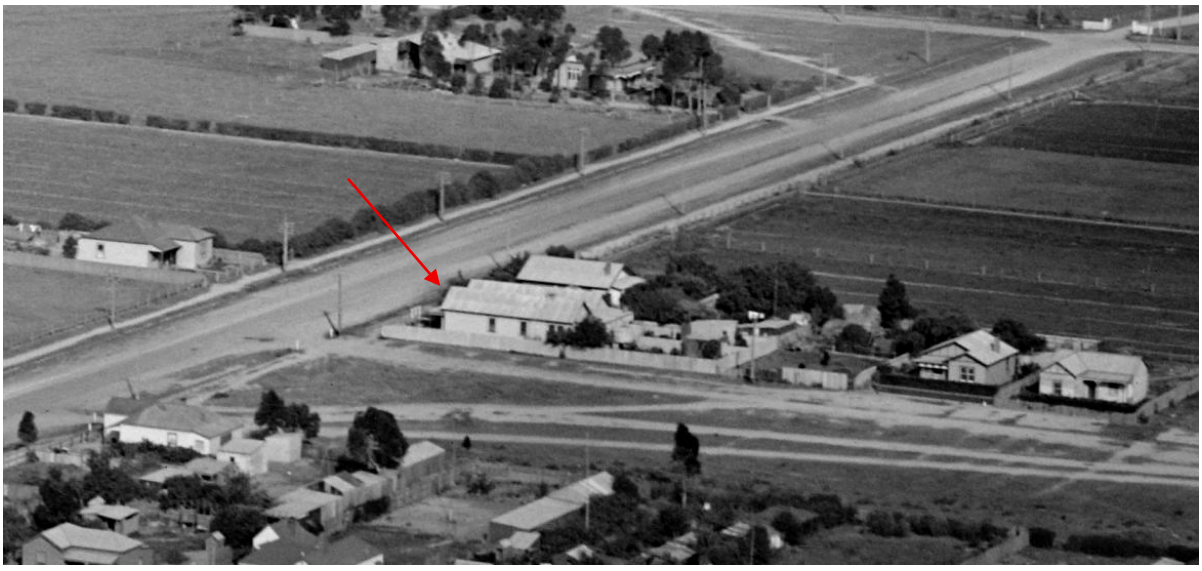


Figure 6. Extract from 1938 aerial photograph of Werribee, showing the semi-detached pair at 23-25 Wedge Street South, indicated with red arrow. The split residence is also articulated by the divided rear yards with paired water tanks and outbuildings. *Source:* Pratt, C.D. 1938. *Murphys Farm Werribee.* Digitised photograph. Airspy collection of aerial photographs. State Library Victoria. http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/20164

Rate book records indicate that the dwellings were amalgamated into a singular residence sometime between 1972-1976. In 1972, 23 and 25 Wedge Street South were rated as separate properties with differing evaluations. However, in 1976 the properties had matching values which were approximately double. In 1972, the owner was noted as Irene Joyce Kermode (Shire of Werribee, 1972-96, 2,9051,230 & 2,9051,250). It is likely during the amalgamation process that the front of the property was altered to reflect the now singular dwelling, including the removal of each front door and replacement with a central doorway. The changes are also highlighted by the architectural style of the front door and windows being of an early design, indicating that these were likely not original features to the Interwar home. It is likely that the northern verandah was also added to the property at this time (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Photograph of 23-25 Wedge Street, 2008, looking northwest from Wedge Street South *Source:* Strong. B. 2008.*20080807_0587 25 Wedge Street Werribee.* Flickr (website). https://www.flickr.com/photos/87791108@N00/2741046490/in/photolist-9oqRFA-5bdzCf-585Pdd-bnQFtz-2iRa2WW-bokwFT-FLXE7-bokvk8-bokuyi-4zy1KR-Wf43E3-2n6kvNF-9onS6z-ZwCiN1-7k2MDi-9FWQza-9opA4s-9opAUo/

The house continues to be occupied as a private residence with further alterations including the addition of a sympathetic southern carport, new fenestration to the sides and rear elevations as well as new fencing.

Comparative Analysis

As a semi-detached early Interwar house designed in the Bungalow style, the dwelling at 23-25 Wedge Street South is an unusual example in Werribee and does not have any direct comparisons in terms of architectural style. As noted in the history of the site, this typology was common within the former township of Cocoroc, however limited examples of these houses remain, and they are not subject to heritage controls. The property at 23-25 Wedge Street South does however have some comparisons with the following places:

House, 36 Wedge Street (HO140)

While of differing architectural styles, both 23-25 Wedge Street South and 36 Wedge Street are comparable as Interwar houses located within the lots that had previously been acquired to support pastoralism, and located in a part of the Werribee township outside the early areas of development. While the pair have little in common visually, they are comparable in the early histories and in demonstrating the expansion of Werribee in the Interwar period.

Bates House (HO88)

The dwelling at 23-25 Wedge Street South is comparable to Bates House in Little River as an example of a weatherboard Interwar house, constructed on a land which was subdivided in the twentieth century following the earlier establishment of the town. While the pair share some details including projecting bays, face red brick chimneys, central door with sidelights and steeply pitched roofs, the comparisons in style and place history do not extend beyond this.

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Images



Figure 8. View of western elevation of the pair of semi-detached bungalows on 23-25 Wedge Street South. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 9. Looking south-east along Church Street. View of the dwelling's eaves projecting out to the boundary fence and contemporary roof cladding. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 10. View of the dwelling's entrance, centrally located between the semi-detached bungalows. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.