HO117 – House, 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee

Heritage Place: House	**HO Reference:** HO117 **Date updated:** 15 October 2026

Address: 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee



Figure 1. 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

Item Group: Residential Buildings (private) **Item Type:** House	**Key Theme:** Housing the population **Key Sub-theme:** Interwar housing
Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Unknown	**Construction:** 1938-39 **Style:** Interwar California Bungalow

Significance Level: Local

Recommendation: Retain solar energy controls. Apply outbuilding and fence controls. Apply external paint controls. Update place address.

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

	○	Included on Victorian Heritage Register	○	Incorporated Plans	●	Outbuildings and fence not exempt (original brick fence and metal pedestrian gate)
	○	Prohibited uses may be permitted	○	Aboriginal Heritage Place	●	Solar energy system controls

Curtilage

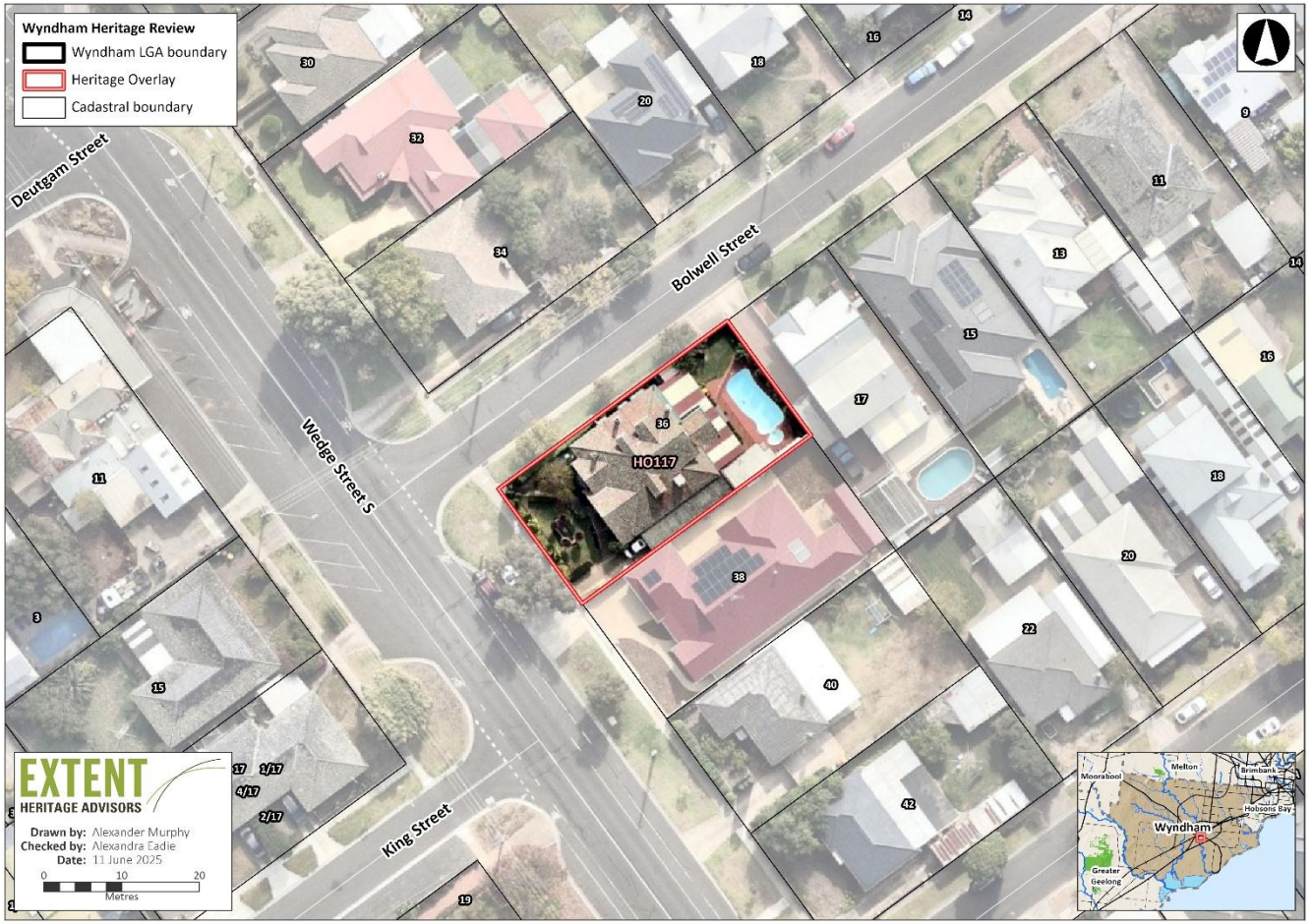


Figure 2. House, 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee. *Basemap source*: Nearmap. 2025. Spatial data source: VicMap & Department of Transport and Planning.

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	*Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history*	The house at 36 Wedge Street South is of historical significance as an intact interwar residence, established during a period of residential expansion in Werribee driven by favourable state-level economic conditions and the success of local farming activities. This period saw larger tracts of land subdivided for housing development, catering to a growing population and reflecting increased prosperity in the region. Constructed during this time, 36 Wedge Street exemplifies this broader pattern of residential growth in interwar Werribee.
B	*Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history*	The place does not meet this criterion.
C	*Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history*	The place does not meet this criterion.
D	*Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments*	The place does not meet this criterion.
E	*Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics*	The house at 36 Wedge Street is a distinguished example of an Interwar dwelling constructed within a later period of Werribee's residential development. The bungalow design includes an expressed terracotta hipped roof, with visible dormer windows. The dwelling is constructed of face brick with two gables the forwardmost of which contains the entrance enclosed in a wide entryway with brick balustrading and brick piers to either side. The second gable to the north elevation includes a shallow bow window and an adjoining small arched arcade wrapping around the north-western corner of the dwelling enclosing a secondary doorway. Other visible architectural features typical of the bungalow style include plain elongated chimneys, terracotta tiled roofing, shingle gable detailing and tripartite windows with leadlight upper panes.

F	*Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period*	The 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*	The 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.*	The place does not meet this criterion.

Statement of Significance – House, 36 Wedge Street, Werribee

Address: 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee	**PS ref no:** HO117



Figure 3. House at 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

What is significant?

The house at 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee, constructed 1938-1939, is significant. The original front red brick fence and corner metal pedestrian gate are also significant. Later alterations including attic dormers, northern window awnings, rear and southern side additions, as well as soft and hard landscaping are not significant.

How is it significant?

The property at 36 Wedge Street South is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Wyndham.

Why is it significant?

The house at 36 Wedge Street South is a distinguished example of an Interwar dwelling constructed within a later period of Werribee's residential development.

The house at 36 Wedge Street South is of historical significance as an intact interwar residence, established during a period of residential expansion in Werribee driven by favourable state-level economic conditions and the success of local farming activities. This period saw larger tracts of land subdivided for housing development, catering to a growing population and reflecting increased prosperity in the region. Constructed during this time,

the House at 36 Wedge Street South exemplifies this broader pattern of residential growth in Interwar Werribee. (Criterion A)

The bungalow design includes an expressed terracotta hipped roof, with visible dormer windows. The dwelling is constructed of face brick with two gables the forwardmost of which contains the entrance enclosed in a wide entryway with brick balustrading and brick piers to either side. The second gable to the north elevation includes a shallow bow window and an adjoining small arched arcade wrapping around the north-western corner of the dwelling enclosing a secondary doorway. Other visible architectural features typical of the bungalow style include plain elongated chimneys, terracotta tiled roofing, shingle gable detailing and tripartite windows with leadlight upper panes (Criterion E).

Primary Source

House, 36 Wedge Street South citation, Extent Heritage, 2026.

Description

Bunurong Country

The House at 36 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 dwelling at 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee, is a Californian Bungalow, constructed in the Interwar period, located on a corner lot facing Wedge Street South to the west and Bolwell Street to the north. The dwelling forms part of a residential streetscape which contains a mix of single storey federation, Interwar and contemporary housing stock. It presents to Wedge Street South as a substantial brick residence with a garden setback with low Interwar fencing.

The original portion of the House is roughly square in plan, expressed by a large primary terracotta hipped roof. Visible dormer windows to the northern and southern roof planes are later post 1980s additions, as well as the adjoining upper projecting rear gable and rear lean-to additions. Non-original parts of the dwelling are distinguished by weatherboard cladding and contemporary fenestration.

The front elevation includes two street facing gables; the forwardmost gable contains the entrance verandah which is expressed by a large, wide bricked archway with contrasting dark coursework. Below the arch, the entryway is defined by a central opening with brick balustrading with brick piers to either side. The secondary gable to the north includes a shallow bow window and an adjoining small arched arcade wrapping around the north-western corner of the dwelling, enclosing a secondary doorway. Other visible architectural features typical of the bungalow style include plain elongated chimneys, terracotta tiled roofing, shingle gable detailing and tripartite windows with leadlight upper panes.

The front setback includes a low face brick fence with a driveway to the southern extent and a corner pedestrian entrance expressed with paired brick piers, low metal gate and clustered pines to either side. The internal concrete paved pathway is arched, with the apex of the curve meeting the verandah. The garden includes hedging to the perimeter and rock-edged garden beds with a central ornamental pond in the front setback.

Alterations and Additions

- Extensions to the dwelling, including the addition of the second storey, the lean-to structure on the eastern side of the dwelling, and the carport adjoining the southern elevation of the dwelling. *

- Later additions of attic dormer windows to the north and south roof planes, as well as rear projecting gable are not original. These elements are distinguished by weatherboard cladding and contemporary fenestration.*

- Window awnings to the northern elevation are contemporary additions. *

The dwelling is of moderate integrity and in good condition.

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

History

The House at 36 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 1857 arrival of the railway 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 House at 36 Wedge Street South is located on land attributed to Allotment 13 (no section) within the Parish of Deutgam. In 1883, Thomas Maher purchased the land (Figure 4). Maher immigrated to Australia in 1857 and commenced work in the employ of the Chirnside family (Werribee Shire Banner 1925, 5). The allotment's location was considered desirable as the road formed a major arterial connection between central Werribee and significant landholdings to the south, including allotments belonging to the Chirnside and, later, Carter families.



Figure 4. Extract from 1954 Parish Plan, based off c.1900 plans, showing the larger unsubdivided allotments to Wedge Street South. The approximate location of the house is indicated by 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

Maher sold Allotment 13 in the early 1900s, and in 1923 a Plan of Subdivision of land fronting Wedge and Anderston streets was submitted to the Werribee Shire Council by Mr J.H. Bolwell (Werribee Shire Banner 1923, 4). The property at 36 Wedge Street South fronts Bolwell Street to the north, named after the subdivision applicant. J.H. Bolwell passed away three years later in 1926, and his obituary noted that "…by making a sub-division of land in Bolwell Street, he pioneered the building boom which has been a feature of local progress during recent years." (Werribee Shire Banner 1926, 10).

Construction of the House

Following subdivision by Bolwell, Lot 15 of Allotment 13 at 36 Wedge Street South was purchased by William Henry Teal. The site was rated as empty land in 1935 but was soon developed with the construction of a brick residence, a sharp contrast to the modest timber dwellings being simultaneously constructed nearby (Figure 5 and Figure 6). It is likely that many of the neighbouring houses were supported by The State Savings Bank of Victoria which offered affordable housing through the Credit Foncier Scheme, a program taken up by many Werribee residents (Lovell Chen 2024, 99). Architectural designs associated with the scheme generally did not include arches, likely due to the technical difficulty and associated costs. Comparatively, the house at 36 Wedge Street South is distinguished by its grander scale, dark red brick materiality and bold Interwar Californian Bungalow features, including its wide arched brick entry verandah, double gabled frontage and large hipped roof and matching bricked front fence with metal gates (Figure 5). The inclusion of a number of bricked archways and brick detailing to the front façade alludes to Teal's financial status at the time. The property posed a strong corner statement, making the most of its visibility to Wedge Street South by presenting a corner colonnade and tall bricked chimneys to its northern aspect. The presentation was enhanced by

the construction of a low bricked fence to the forward half of the property, with a corner pedestrian entry gate. This fence, constructed from the same bricks as the residence, can be seen depicted in Figure 5.

The dwelling at 36 Wedge Street South has continued to be occupied as a private residence, with later alterations including the addition of upper dormer windows, rear extensions and landscaping to the front setback.



Figure 5. Extract from 1938 aerial photograph of Murphys Farm Werribee. The image shows 36 Wedge Street South on the corner of Wedge Street South and Bolwell Street, looking south east. *Source:* Pratt, C.D. 1938. *Murphys Farm Werribee.* Digitised image. Airspy collection of aerial photographs. State Library of Victoria. http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/20164

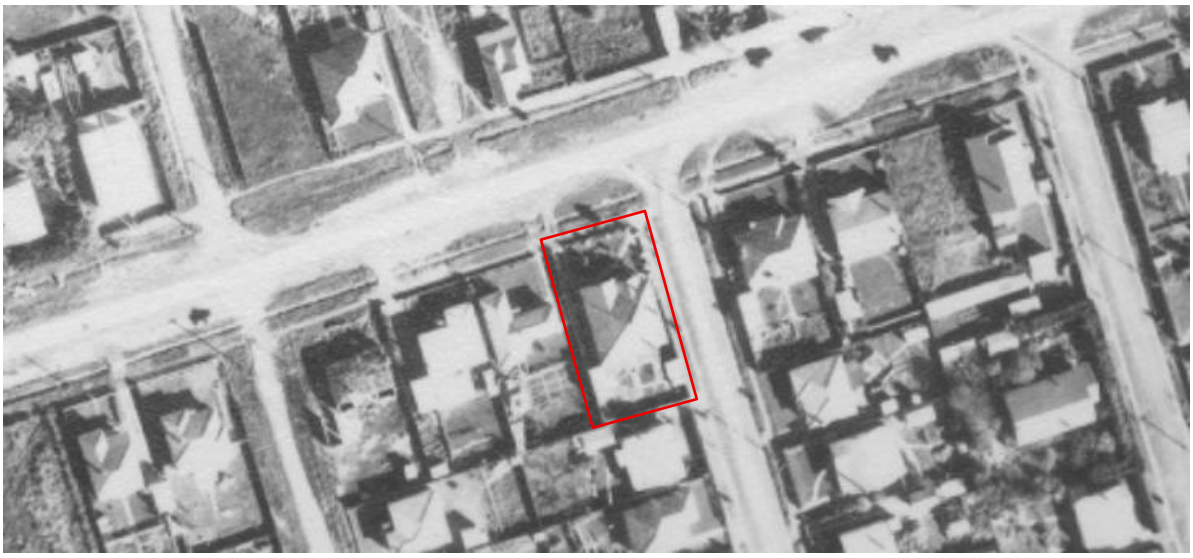


Figure 6. Extract from 1951 aerial photograph of the southern extent of Werribee township. The house at 36 Wedge Street South is visible with its square hipped roof form, early corner boundary gate and curved semi-circular footpath. 36 Wedge Street South indicated by red square. *Source:* Landata. 1951. Digitised image. https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/tpc_from_landataonline.aspx



Figure 7. 2008 photograph of 36 Wedge Street South, Werribee as viewed from the intersection of Wedge Street South and Bolwell Street, looking southeast. The image shows the Interwar Californian features of the residence as well as front setback and plantings. *Source:* Strong, Bill. 2008. *20080720_0429 Racecourse Hotel, Werribee.* Flickr (website). https://www.flickr.com/photos/87791108@N00/2705581808/in/dateposted/

Comparative Analysis

The house at 36 Wedge Street South is an unusual example within the municipality and is not directly comparable to other places subject to the heritage overlay due to its refined design, which is not typical of the prevailing Interwar housing stock in the City of Wyndham. While the Interwar period was a time of expansive growth and development with many new housing developments, there are limited examples of this bungalow style architecture within the Interwar architecture of the municipality. The house at 36 Wedge Street South is comparable to the following places:

Houses, 63-65 Greaves Street (HO58)

The house is comparable to the former Carter brother properties at 63-65 Greaves Street, as examples of Interwar development. Each of these properties was established at the beginning of a period of expansion in Werribee which saw larger tracts of land subdivided for housing development and all were the result of a later subdivision.

Shirwal Court (HO32)

Both Shirwal Court and the house at 36 Wedge Street South are comparable as examples of residential design in the Interwar period. Shirwal Court is a fine example of a Georgian Revival and Streamline Moderne style while the house at 36 Wedge Street South is expressive of the Californian Bungalow style. While the pair have stylistic differences that demonstrates the variation in popular architectural styles of the Interwar period, they remain comparable for their construction dates. The house at 36 Wedge Street South is a unique example in the municipality representing a simple variation of the Interwar style.

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Images



Figure 8. Overview of 36 Wedge Street South, looking northeast from Wedge St. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 9. The north-western corner of 36 Wedge Street South including front pedestrian entry gate, looking southeast from the intersection of Wedge Street South and Bolwell Street. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.



Figure 10. Overview of the northern elevation, looking southeast from Bolwell Street. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025



Figure 11. Detail view of the northern roof hip. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025