



STRANHAER,  
46 PARK CRESCENT

C.H. James and Percy Dobson created the St. James Park Extension in 1883 from Vidal's original Crown Portion 114.<sup>1</sup>

Horace John MacKinnal, architect, designed and had built the house, Stranhaer, on lot 39 of this estate. This was in 1903; the same date as Ontario qv, opposite.<sup>2</sup>

MacKinnal was born in 1875: the son of John Simpson MacKinnal, a Scottish sculptor. Horace and Bertram (later Sir Bertram) MacKinnal were educated at private schools and Kings College prior to arriving in Australia. Horace was articled, as part of his architectural training, to the firm Smith and Johnson and worked with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works for some years. He transferred to the Public Works Department and, after Federation, to the Commonwealth Department of Works. From 1914 onwards, he was the Works Director for Victoria. Large projects that became his responsibility included the Parcel Post Building in Spencer Street and the Police Hospital in

St. Klida Road. Meanwhile his brother, Bertram was to become world famous as a sculptor. Stranhaer is still occupied by the MacKinnal family.<sup>3</sup>

Stranhaer, like Ontario qv, is designed in the Federation or Queen Anne Style of architecture. Marseille pattern terracotta tiles, half-timbered gables, leadlight bay windows and rough-cast stucco brick walling are all attributes of this style. A round-head, pierced picket fence surrounds a wild garden of mature exotic trees and shrubs. Of particular note, is the tall Cabbage Tree Palm at the front of the property which echoes the same species in Hadley Wold, opposite. A large *Platanus orientalis* (Plane tree) grows on the west boundary and a clipped privet hedge marks a serpentine path to the front door. Unlike Ontario, Stranhaer has been little altered and remains a good example of a Federation or Queen Anne Style suburban villa, situated in its mature garden.