

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

424 Auburn Road

TYPE

- Single Residence
- Shop
- Office
- Landscape feature
- View
- Multiple Unit Res.
- Outbuildings
- Industrial Building
- Public building
- Other

TITLE

"Ercildoune" formerly "Segovia"

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR [] GBR [] AHC [] NT [] VAS []

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [] 2 [] 3 [x]
 SIGNIFICANT [] SIGNIFICANT []
 STREET TREES KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING

A [x] B [] C [] D [] E []
 KEYNOTE BUILDING []

RECOMMENDED FOR

HBR/GBR [x] AHC [x] URBAN CONSERVATION AREA []
 VAS [] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [x]
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [] OTHER []

SURVEY DATE

Dec. 91.

NEG FILE

86.17-19.

Title
 Vol.
 Fol.

THEME

- Early Settlement
- Mansions
- Victorian Garden Suburb
- Municipal dev.
- 1870s growth
- Garden villas
- Working enclaves
- Commercial Centres
- Edwardian Prosperity
- Interwar Housing
- Flats and Offices

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Date 1892

Architect

Builder

Elements —

Mansion house and garden



- Contributing garden
- Landmark tree
- Original or early hard landscape layout
- Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good [x]
 Fair []
 Poor []

CONDITION Good [x]
 Fair []
 Poor []

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

424 AUBURN ROAD

"ERCILDOUNE"

History

Formerly known as "Segovia", this splendid two-storey residence with its "Hawthorn Blues" brickwork and immense brick chimneys was built during the 1890s depression years for tobacco manufacturer, Thomas Mitchell Hale.⁸ Scraps of newspapers dated 15 January 1892 were discovered under the floorboards,⁹ which suggests the commencement of construction. However, in that year, Hale was rated only for vacant land, 238 feet in Auburn Road.¹⁰ The following year, his nine-roomed brick house had a valuation of 180 pounds.¹¹ Memories of the Hale family occupancy are found in the initials "C.M.H." and "A.B.H." worked into the eastern wall stained glass and measuring marks for the children, Caroline and Amelia, found behind a downstairs door.¹²

John Greenwood Smith purchased the property in 1911.¹³ The new name "Ercildoune" was given to the 1890s residence at this time for Mrs. Greenwood Smith, who had been born near Mortlake in the Western District.¹⁴ Vera Clarice Stanway, purchased the property in 1936 and, in 1939, it was owned by Roy Stanway, motor valuer. Roy was the father of Grant Stanway, a partner in the real estate agency, Stanway and Flint.¹⁵

In 1949, after the property had operated as an apartment house for some time, "Ercildoune" was acquired by Mrs. Helen Katherine Shuter.¹⁶

Although "Ercildoune" retains many of its original features, including much of its stained glass, its tiled verandahs and five marble fireplaces, many of the attachments to the house have gone. The conservatory shown in a 1907 MMBW drainage plan was most probably demolished by the Greenwood Smiths to make way for a lawn tennis court. The octagonal summerhouse, also shown on the 1907 plan, a two-storey stables, coach house and buggy shed, have all gone. Subdivisions in the 1930s, 1950s and in 1964 have progressively reduced the once extensive grounds. A motor garage was built in the 1930s and carports were added in 1964.¹⁷

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8. Hawthorn RB 1893 Glenferrie Ward No. 3711.
 9. Newsletter, Hawthorn Historical Society, July 1979.
 10. Hawthorn RB. 1892 No. 2778.
 11. Ibid. 1893 Glenferrie Ward No. 3711.
 12. *Newsletter*, p.16.
 13. Ibid. p.18.
 14. Ibid.
 15. Ibid.
 16. Ibid. pp.18-19.
 17. Ibid.

424 Auburn Road continued

Description

A heavily planted garden, and extensive overgrowth on walls, gable ends and roof prevent this building from being examined. What is visible is a landmark mansion executed in local bricks, with render dressings and a slate roof. The storey heights are particularly tall, and this feature in combination with the elaborate gables and particularly tall decorated chimney stacks produce a strong vertical emphasis to the overall design.

Assessment

The gable ends are elaborately detailed in timber fretwork, incorporating keyhole patterns and diagonal slats. The chimneys adopt an equally picturesque form with contrasting brick colours used to emphasise the vertical design. At first viewing the gabled roof arrangement and picturesque qualities of the work, point to a Queen Anne or Elizabethan style, however the gable ends do not adopt the distinctive half timbered form of the former nor the ordered classical embellishment of the latter. The architect for the building is not known. Without the ability to see more of the building it is not possible to draw further conclusion about its design and significance. Considerable additional research and extensive on-site investigation are recommended. Sufficient information is clear to indicate a distinctive building, likely to merit an A grading.

Significance

Provisional State

Further research and investigation required.

1. A landmark in Auburn Road, illustrating the many mansion houses on large allotments constructed between Gardiners Creek and Burke Road in the 1880s.
2. Historically significant for the association with Thomas Hale.





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