

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

492 Barkers Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Merrimee"

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR GBR AHC NT VAS

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 2 3
 SIGNIFICANT SIGNIFICANT
 STREET TREES KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING

A B C D E
 KEYNOTE BUILDING

RECOMMENDED FOR

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

SURVEY DATE

Nov. 91

NEG FILE

36.25, 26.

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 1908-1909.

Architect

Builder

Elements -

Brick house and garden



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good
 Fair
 Poor

CONDITION Good
 Fair
 Poor

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden

492 BARKERS ROAD

"MERRIMEE"

History

Dr. Timothy B. Ryan was the owner in 1907 of vacant land with a frontage of 198 feet to Barkers Road, NAV 56 pounds.¹⁷ At this time, he was living at "Strathroy", now 482 Barkers Road, owned by the Estate of the banker, John McCutcheon.¹⁸ The following year, 1908, when Ryan was living still at "Strathroy", his new residence at 492 Barkers Road was listed as a brick house of ten rooms "unfinished" with an NAV of 90 pounds.¹⁹ By 1909 Ryan was living in his new home "Merrimee" (or "Merrimu"), a brick house of ten rooms, NAV 140 pounds.²⁰ He was there still in 1912-13²¹ but by 1915 there was a new owner/occupier, John Dyson, merchant.²² Dyson was still at No. 492 Barkers Road in the late 1920s but by the late 1930s it was occupied by Miss Florence Dyson.²³

Description

An Edwardian period Villa, asymmetrical in plan and elevation, and constructed in red brick with rendered dressings under a slate roof with terracotta capping. Many of the features relate closely to the Queen Anne style or earlier decorative forms, particularly: the oculi; window and door details; colonnaded verandah under the main roof and plain red brick. This example departs from the Queen Anne in its shallower roof pitch, simple detailing, and less complex roof. The verandah returns around the corner to face the substantial garden, and is terminated by a projection bay at the opposite end. The whole is placed low to the ground, bringing it into close relationship with the garden. A sweeping drive and mature trees with early hedge complete the landscape.

Assessment

The Queen Anne style, and some of the principals of Australian homestead planning and design combined around the turn of the century to produce a new suburban style which continued up to the end of W.W.I. Sometimes loosely referred to as "Edwardian" or "Federation" it is more appropriately referred to as "Garden Bungalow", because it does not relate just to the period around Federation at 1901, and because it is intimately related to the garden suburb concept. Buildings using similar details continued to be used in row houses. What sets the "garden bungalow" apart is the purposeful and close relationship

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17. Hawthorn RB 1907-8 Auburn Ward No. 6379.
 18. Ibid. No. 6377.
 19. Ibid. No. 1908-9 No. 6383 (482); Ibid No. 6385 (492).
 20. Ibid. 1909-10 No. 7406.
 21. Ibid. 1912-13 No. 8419 (NAV 140 pounds).
 22. Ibid. 1915-16 No. 8468 (NAV 140 pounds).
 23. Melbourne Directories.

492 Barkers Road continued

with the garden as the dominant feature. A variety of decorative forms can be used within this. Here, a sophisticated, conservative air is implied by the most unusual corinthian columns and by the use of slate for the roof. Similar detailing using *Tuscan* columns associated with generally smaller houses is used at Grace Park of comparable date.

No architect has been uncovered for this house. The house is architecturally significant for the illustration of the garden suburb ideal applied to large homes where a comfortable subdued design is allowed to be dominated by the garden. This phase at Hawthorn consolidated the Victorian garden suburb push of the previous two decades.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. The former "Merrimee", illustrates the garden suburb ideal, where the garden dominates the house, as applied to large houses in Hawthorn in the Edwardian period. One of the best examples of this type and substantially intact.

