

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

520 Barkers Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

"St. Ouen"

EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

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

GRADING

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

RECOMMENDED FOR

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

SURVEY DATE

Nov. 91.

NEG FILE

36.21,22.

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 1890-1891.
Architect J. Edmund Burke
Builder
Elements -
House, garden and corner gates.



- Contributing garden *hedge*
- Landmark tree
- Original or early hard landscape layout
- Original or early fence (*part*)

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good []
Fair [x]
Poor []

CONDITION Good [x]
Fair []
Poor []

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

520 BARKERS ROAD

"ST. OUEN"

History

In 1890-91, the architect J. Edmund Burke designed the first house built in the new "Auburn Heights" subdivision of lawyer Roderick Sutherland's land. It stands on the corner of Barkers Road and Cowper (once Sutherland) Street. This grand residence, later known as "St. Ouen" at 520 Barkers Road, was owned at first by the Melbourne Permanent Building Society,²⁸ which financed many buildings during the 1880s boom period. In 1892, John Burke, warehouseman, was the occupier of the ten-roomed brick house on the site, NAV 90 pounds, owned still by the M.P.B.S.²⁹ From circa 1909, when the house was numbered No. 330 and known as "Lynn Regis", it was owned by E. Doery.³⁰ William Doery, warehouseman, was there in 1919, when it was described still as brick house of ten rooms.³¹

Description and Assessment

A quirky design as it appears today, possibly because of later alterations. The three prominent half timbered gables and colonial style balustrade suggest more recent work. The building's design is at odds with its placement on the block and the principle corner entrance. The two storey building faces Barkers Road with a ground floor arcade and unusually light weight verandah above. The upper level may be altered. As it presents today it has an unusually large number of columns aligning with the colonnade piers below. Each has a cast iron bracket attachment but no frieze and straight. The brackets attach directly to the fascia. A skillion roof sits uncomfortably above. Paired corner columns incorporate special cast iron panels. The balustrade presents a pattern unlikely to be part of the original design.

The roof is slate and the main body of the house incorporates a standard Victorian period, mansion house form. However, three half timbered gables are let into the roof in a Queen Anne like manner, without the wide eaves and decorative embellishments which characterise that style e.g. *Campion College* by Ussher and Kemp, 1900, Kew.

The cast iron gates are typical for mansions of the period but their location directs the principal view to the side wall of the house.

If the gables and verandah are original then the 1890 date would represent an early and influential Queen Anne influence. More likely however is the proposition that this speculative venture by the Melbourne Permanent Building Society, is a quirky architectural mixture of elements developed over several years.

The building with its garden and corner gateway is a landmark in Barkers Road.

²⁸. Gwen McWilliam, *Village of Rathmines*, Area Walk V, Hawthorn Historical Society, 1987-88.

²⁹. Hawthorn R.B. 1892 Auburn Ward No. 4910.

³⁰. Ibid. 1909-10 No. 7410 (NAV 56 pounds).

³¹. Ibid. 1919-20 No. 8644.

520 Barkers Road continued

Significance

Metropolitan

1. A speculative building, probably constructed to encourage further land sales in the Auburn Heights subdivision during difficult financial times of the 1990s. The first building constructed in that estate.
2. A landmark in Barkers Road, and a quirky architectural mixture of styles.
3. The corner gates, hedge and remnants of original fence are notable.

