
Name	<i>Springfield</i>	Reference No	
Address	6 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn	Survey Date	26 April 2006
Building Type	Residence	Grading	C*
Date	1882-83	Previous Grading	C*3



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

Construction of *Springfield* commenced in 1882 for Edward Dickinson or Dickenson, an accountant, previously of Burke Road, Camberwell. The house was described an 'unfinished' in the Borough of Hawthorn's rate books for 1882, and complete and occupied by Dickenson family and staff, numbering ten, by the following year. At this date it was rated with a net annual value (nav) of £70.¹ The Dickinson family only occupied the property for a few years, before returning to Burke Road in c. 1888, and the residence was subsequently let to tenants for many years. The family retained ownership until at least the middle of the 1940s. The property was described in the City of Hawthorn's rate records for 1946-47 as a brick house of eight rooms, with a nav of £80.² It was tenanted by the Lilley family, who were listed as the occupants in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria* until the early 1960s. From the mid-1960s until the early 1970s, the house was occupied by A M Blain. Subsequently the property was acquired by Dr C Johnston, who owned *Springfield* until at least 1994.³

(G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote Places (draft)*, 2000; additional research by Lovell Chen, 2006)

Description & Integrity

Springfield, at 6 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn, is a two-storied bichrome and Hawthorn brick Italianate house of asymmetrical composition, with a two-storey canted bay on the south of its principal Berkeley Street (east) façade, and a two-storey iron-framed verandah with lacework decoration on the north side of the façade. The hipped roof has slate cladding with galvanized steel and Colorbond ridge-capping, and chimneys in a similar exposed Hawthorn brick with some bichrome banding and heavily sculpted cornices. The eaves are boxed with regularly spaced bracketing. The bichrome patterning on the Berkeley Street facade is in sideways-stepped quoin and arch-stone patterning around and over the windows, which are segmentally arched. The windows are generally timber-framed, double-hung sashes, with the canted bay windows being equally proportioned, while the main living-room windows have a larger central pane and narrow sidelights. The side elevations, also in

umber Hawthorn brick, have the floor line marked in cream brick coursing; the front walls' base plate is a battered three-course layer, again in cream brick. The front door case and fanlight appear original. The front garden has a screening stand of birch trees. The fence is a replica cast-iron picket design on a concrete base designed to look like bluestone, and was completed in 1994. There is a gravel drive and front path. A swimming pool was added exactly twenty years earlier, in 1974.⁴

Historical Context

The subject property *Springfield* was one of the first half dozen villas built in Berkeley Street, which was first gazetted in 1873-4, and then only as far south as Callantina Road.⁵ The northern end of Berkeley Street, where the property is located, became fashionable in the nineteenth century, when some large estates were established on the higher land east of Glenferrie Road.⁶

Comparative Analysis

Springfield's details and bichrome patterning resemble a great many single-storey Italianate houses of its time, but it stands out to a degree as bichrome patterning was not nearly as common in two-storey Italianate designs using a canted bay composition. Some bichrome two-storey houses are found in Lyndhurst Crescent, Hawthorn, but these do not have canted bays. It is certainly more individual than 14 Auburn Grove, Hawthorn East, and 173 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, both being two-storey Italianate houses with canted bays in the same general area, but without the subject property's vivid use of bichrome brick.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

CRITERION D: The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.

Springfield, at 6 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn, is a fine and to a degree striking example of a two-storied bichrome and Hawthorn brick Italianate house, with an asymmetrical composition, canted bay, two-storey iron-framed verandah with lacework decoration, and hipped slate-clad roof. It was one of the first half dozen Victorian villas built in Berkeley Street, and appears to be substantially intact externally.

CRITERION E: The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

Springfield, at 6 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn, has details and bichrome patterning which resemble a great many single-storey Italianate houses of its time, but stands out to a degree in this context due to its bichrome surfacing combined with the double-storey canted bay composition. It also displays a particularly vivid use of bichrome brick treatment.

Statement of Significance

Springfield, at 6 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn, is of local historical and architectural significance. It is a substantially externally intact, finely executed and to a degree striking example of a two-storied bichrome and Hawthorn brick Italianate house, with an asymmetrical composition, canted bay, two-storey iron-framed verandah with lacework decoration, and hipped slate-clad roof. Although the details and bichrome patterning resemble a great many single-storey Italianate houses of its time, this property stands out to a degree due to its bichrome surfacing combined with the double-storey canted bay composition, and a particularly vivid use of the bichrome brick treatment.

Grading Review

Unchanged.

Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

In addition, it is recommended that Council undertake a detailed study of the housing stock within the area bounded by Glenferrie, Riversdale and Auburn Roads, and the Monash Freeway to the south. The area, described here as the Berkeley Street/Kooyongkoot Road precinct, also includes Kembla,

Illawarra and Robinson Streets, and part of Riversdale Road. The area has a comparatively high number of graded buildings.

Identified By

Meredith Gould Conservation Architects, *Hawthorn Heritage Study*, 1992.

References

General: (G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote Places (draft)*, 2000; Meredith Gould Conservation Architects, *Hawthorn Heritage Study*, 1992.

Specific:

¹ Details taken from draft citation, G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.

² City of Hawthorn Rate Books, 1946-47, #4084, cited in G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.

³ Pattern of occupation derived from listings in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1940 and 1974; City of Hawthorn Building Index records.

⁴ City of Hawthorn Building Index, Permit #11425, dated 21 April 1974 (swimming pool); and #342/94 00, dated 16 August 1994.

⁵ Gwen McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns*, 1978, p. 137.

⁶ G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.