

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

1099 Burke Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Ultima"

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 47.22

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 1862 (see opposite)
 Architect
 Builder
 Elements



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

*Extended 1870's - 1880's
 Enlarged to present size
 1899 for Alfred C. Curlewis,
 Civil Servant.*

INTEGRITY Good [] CONDITION Good []
 Fair [] Fair []
 Poor [] Poor []

Note: sandblasted.

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

1099 BURKE ROAD

"ULTIMA"

History

The earliest section of the former "Ultima", as it was known from the turn of the century, dates from the early 1860s. This makes it the oldest house in the prestigious Village of Rathmines area. It has been the home of many families, including a number of well-known Hawthorn identities. In the 1862-63 Hawthorn rate records, Abraham William Lowman was listed as the owner/occupier of a four-roomed house and brick kitchen in Barkers Road, NAV 45 pounds.²⁵ This was the first section of the present residence at 1099 Burke Road. Other early owners were William Davies in 1864²⁶ and by 1869, Robert A. Lidwell, clerk.²⁷ The house's valuation increased during this decade. A miller, John Alexander Davies, lived there from 1872-1877.²⁸ During the next decade, however, it was the home of Robert S. Smythe and his wife, a singing teacher.²⁹

By the early 1890s, the house, known as No. 2 Burke Road, was described as a six-roomed house and was owned by J.T. Warnoch.³⁰ During this period, there were a number of tenants including William Francis, dairymen (1893-94);³¹ Herbert Power, ironworker (1894-95)³² and William Descombe, mariner (1896-98).³³

The enlargement of the house to its present size dates from 1899, when it became the home of Alfred C. Curlewis, Civil Servant, and was known as "Ultima". In the 1899-1900 Hawthorn rate records, "Ultima" was described as a 9-roomed brick house, NAV 72 pounds.³⁴ A 1901-2 MMBW drainage plan shows the ground plan of the house much as it is today. By the First World War period it was the home of William Truebridge and Miss Truebridge, a music teacher.³⁵ This repeated the usage of the house in the 1880s.

-
25. Hawthorn RB 1862-63 No. 308.
 26. Ibid. 1864-65 No. 314 (NAV 52 pounds).
 27. Ibid. 1869-70 No. 372 (NAV 52 pounds).
 28. Ibid. 1872-73 No. 536 (NAV 65 pounds); Ibid. 1877-78 No. 784 (NAV 70 pounds).
 29. Sands & McDougall Directories.
 30. Hawthorn RB 1890-91 Eastern Division No. 3835 (NAV 60 pounds).
 31. Ibid. 1893-94 Auburn Ward No. 6284 (NAV 46 pounds).
 32. Ibid. 1894-95. No. 6278 (NAV 34 pounds).
 33. Ibid. 1896-97 No. 6265 (NAV 34 pounds); Ibid. 1897-98 No. 6265.
 34. Ibid. 1899-1900 No. 6294 (NAV 72 pounds).
 35. Sands & McDougall Directories.

1099 Burke Road continued

Description

Despite the recent additions and alterations, this house remains a particularly unusual villa design from the turn of the century. The second storey on this house is a recent addition. The ground floor as it faces Burke Road is primarily the 1899 design. This is purposefully asymmetrical. A series of gables of varying sizes addresses Burke Road and the side garden. The most forward gable is the smallest. It appears as a porch, but clearly this is not the case as it contains no door. Instead a strange upside down "L" shaped window is placed in the red brick wall. This quirky shape is balanced by a corner buttress. The next gable contains a plain opening with evidence of a previous verandah. A two stage tower marks the entry through a plain half round arch. Its upper stage has three arched openings, geometric cast iron balustrade and castellated side walls. Adjoining the tower is a tapering window.

The walls of the house are executed in plain red brick relieved only by foliated render capitals to the tower. The roof is new slates. Either slate or terracotta tiles might have been used originally.

The location of the 1860s building within this building is unknown. On-site inspection is essential to determine this.

Assessment

The 1860s section of this house is the oldest remaining in the Village of Rathmines. It was a local landmark and is used as a reference point in Burke Road for many other properties. The 1890s house "Ultima" also attracted considerable attention even at the turn of the century by which time Hawthorn was brimming with gracious garden villas. The highly individual design has not been attributed to a particular architect. It is without comparable example in Hawthorn. Its rear neighbour at 215 Rathmines Road of 1908 does have some similarities however. This also includes unusual window shapes, buttresses used decoratively and a purposeful asymmetry intended to give the building a sculptural modelling. The Rathmines Road house has also not been attributed to a particular architect, but its art Nouveau references point towards Robert Haddon. He might also have had a hand here. The art nouveau elements are the odd shaped windows and the asymmetrical design, but these are overlaid by Queen Anne like gables, an almost Romanesque tower and the plain red brick favoured by avant-garde architects at the turn of the century.

Architects were working on several innovative styles around the turn of the century, in one way or another all influenced by William Morris' red house at Blexley Heath in Britain and the reaction to the industrial revolution in Britain during the second half of the nineteenth century. By the turn of the century these are roughly grouped together as the red brick styles. Conservative Victorian period villas which had developed through the 1870s and 1880s adopted some of the characteristics of these avant garde groups in a decorative way - sometimes referred to as Freestyle Edwardian.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant for the unusual red brick design from the turn of the century.