

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

647-653 Bunwood Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

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 [] URBAN CONSERVATION AREA [x]
VAS [] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [x]
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [] OTHER []

SURVEY DATE

June 91.

NEG FILE

44.02, 03

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 1910, 1914

Architect

Builder

Elements -

Four, two storey shop/
residences.



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

Note original shop front to no. 649.

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

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

647-653 BURWOOD ROAD

History

Built in two stages between 1910 and 1914.

No research done by Butler, in Upper Hawthorn, 1983. Rate Book search recommended.

Description

Four shop/dwellings executed in rendered masonry with timber shopfronts and first floor joinery.

It is likely that the wider No. 647 was built first in 1910 and then the remaining narrower three, in 1914. The detailing for each matches.

The style used is a combination of Islamic revival and Edwardian freestyle with all detail concentrated on the upper levels. At ground floor level, a standard recessed ingo and timber shopfront gives access to a generous shop space. The shopfront design is unusual only for the subdivision of the upper light.

On the first floor cantered pilasters divide the tenancies, embellished with a raised tracery of render in Islamic forms. Similar detailing is used over the windows in panels, and on the raised parapets to 647 and 651. Three buildings are more elaborately detailed with half octagonal pilasters often used on Romanesque buildings in the C.A.D., and an art nouveau termination in flowing but formal render. The windows to these two have arched heads and an overpanel of raised render pattern similar to pressed metal patterns of the time. Repetitive square basket pattern, also a Romanesque revival feature completes the decoration.

Assessment

Whilst many Romanesque Revival buildings are found in the City, particularly Flinders Lane, there are very few buildings of Islamic Revival influence in Melbourne. Georges, Little Collins Street store of 1908 is executed in this style, though much more adventurously than this example. Exotic styles like the Islamic and Egyptian had a small following amongst architects, through the nineteenth and early twentieth century, up to the second world war, peaking in interest in the 1920s. They are primarily related to city buildings, and are rare in the suburbs.

In the first decade of the 20th century, the Romanesque revival style was probably the most frequently used for small warehouse/offices in the C.A.D. but few suburban buildings utilized the key characteristics of that style on commercial buildings. This is surprising given the pioneering residential developments in the suburbs at the same time, which come from a contemporary economic and architectural framework.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. One of few buildings executed with Islamic influence in Melbourne.
2. A late but uncommon example of Romanesque Revival features on commercial building in the suburbs.



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