

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

5 Coppin Grove

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Bertment" (during Monash occupancy)

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 41.01.

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 1872 built for T. Laidlay

Architect Edward Twentymann

Builder Adams and Hardy

Elements -

Brick house and garden

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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good ☒Fair ☐Poor ☐

CONDITION

Good ☒Fair ☐Poor ☐

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden ☐

5 COPPIN GROVE

"BERTMENT"

History

Thomas Laidlay, squatter, was the first owner of this house, designed in 1872 by the architect, Edward Twentyman,¹ later of the firm, Twentyman and Askew, which was associated with the design of a number of commercial buildings in 19th century Melbourne.² The old local hand-made bricks used in the construction of the Coppin Grove house have remained unpainted.³ The contract drawings for the "brick cottage for Mr. T.W. Laidlay at St. James Park, Hawthorn", dated May 1872, survive in the Melbourne University Architectural Collection at the State Library of Victoria.⁴ The builders were Adams and Hardy. Thomas Laidlay was rated in the 1872-73 Hawthorn rate book for a house in Coppin's Grove, NAV sixty pounds.⁵ The description was the same in the 1874-75 rate book.⁶ The Laidlays occupied the house until 1893.⁷

The second owner was Francis Russell and then, in 1896, John Monash, surveyor. Monash called the house "Bertment", perhaps after his only daughter Bertha. He won a mathematics exhibition in 1882 in his first year at Melbourne University and by 1896 had completed degrees in Arts, Law and Engineering and joined the Army. In recognition of his distinction as a scholar, the Second Melbourne University was named after Monash. During his time in Hawthorn, Monash agreed in 1911 to act as an expert witness for Hawthorn Council in a drainage dispute. Monash left Hawthorn before he went off to the war, where he had a distinguished military career. Later known as Sir John Monash, he was one of the pioneers in the use of reinforced concrete in building construction. After Monash left, "Bertment" was occupied by John Brown and renamed "Te Kohanga". A decade later, it was briefly occupied by Joseph Annand.⁸

A second storey has been added at the rear.

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1. Miles Lewis, *"Australian Architectural Index"*.
 2. Ibid.
 3. Gwen McWilliam, *"Burwood Park"*, 1988, p.88.
 4. Melb. Univ. Arch. Collection, WD NOV 177, held in the Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria.
 5. Hawthorn RB 1872-73 No. 60.
 6. Ibid. 1874-75 No. 46.
 7. McWilliam op. cit.
 8. Ibid.

5 Coppin Grove continued

Description

A simple bichromatic brick villa, elegantly proportioned and detailed. The principal facade is symmetrical about the shallowly recessed door, and incorporates a pair of double hung windows to each side. The verandah is divided into five bays, reflecting the five openings behind, with the central opening just slightly narrower. Adding additional importance to the otherwise straight forward facade, a balustrade of cast iron is inserted between the post, although its presence is not really required given the ground level portion. The verandah incorporates a timber frieze frame, and timber posts, typical of cast iron verandah construction techniques of the 1860s. By the mid 1870s the timber frame usually gave way to a full cast iron integrated frieze, straight and bracket.

The brickwork is in the popular 1870s bichrome, emphasising openings with a diagonal corbel pattern. The roof has a typical, slate hipped form.

Assessment

This building is substantially intact in the visible external portions. It is a typical freestanding house from the 1870s both in its details and overall design. Architecturally, it is a good example of its type, though not exceptional.

Twentyman and Askew were important commercial architects in Melbourne in the late nineteenth century. This early piece^{by} Twentyman illustrates a careful but unexceptional example of his work.

The house is typical of the comfortable suburban villas constructed in Hawthorn in the 1870s, particularly in Grace Park. The primary cultural significance for this place is the association with Monash.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Significant as the home from 1896 until World War 1 of John (later Sir John) Monash, distinguished scholar, military leader and engineer.
2. Architecturally significant as an early example of the standard work of the architect Edward Twentyman, later of the firm Twentyman and Askew, major architects of the late 19th century.
3. A substantially intact (externally) example of the garden suburban villas which developed Hawthorn's garden suburb image in the 1870s following the early push for mansion allotments.
4. An important component of the St. James Park Urban Conservation Area.