

**PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM**

ADDRESS

5 Creswick Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

"The Hawthorns"

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR  GBR  AHC  NT  VAS

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1  2  3   
 SIGNIFICANT  STREET TREES  
 SIGNIFICANT  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 *Oct. 91.*  
 NEG FILE *29. 30, 31.*  
 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 *Pre-1852.*  
 Architect *John Gill.*  
 Builder  
 Elements—

*Mansion house and garden.*

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



NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good  Fair  Poor   
 CONDITION Good  Fair  Poor

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden

## 5 CRESWICK STREET

### "THE HAWTHORNS"

#### History

Reputedly the oldest house in Hawthorn, this two-storeyed residence in random-coursed bluestone was built between 1845 and 1852 for James Denham Pinnock, an official of the Supreme Court.<sup>1</sup> It was designed in the Gothic style by the distinguished colonial architect John Gill.<sup>2</sup> Among Gill's other works were a number of private residences such as "Grace Park House" in Hawthorn (1857), the splendid Royal Terrace in Fitzroy (1854-56), and two commercial buildings for Richard Goldsbrough, wool merchant, at 514-518 Bourke Street (first section, 1862), and Holyman House at 390-6 Flinders Street (1858). Gill may have been responsible for Invergowrie (Burwood) in 1851.

"The Hawthorns" was built on the highest point of Pinnock's property north of Denham Street, between Church Street and the river. It is one of the few large bluestone houses of this period and style still existing in Melbourne. The area in which it stands became known as Hawthorn Hill and was settled by businessmen and civil servants who commuted to Melbourne everyday.<sup>3</sup>

Pinnock purchased the site in Block 6 Section 6 on 22 January 1845. Born in Winchester, England, in 1810, Pinnock was appointed emigration agent in New South Wales when he arrived in the colony in July 1838. He was replaced in 1841 and then became Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court in Melbourne. After retirement, Pinnock became MLC for the Eastern Province and died at his home in Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, on 20 May, 1875.<sup>4</sup>

In 1852, Pinnock subdivided his Creswick Street property and the two-storeyed residence was sold to Henry Creswick, a pioneer squatter, for 5,854 pounds.

The Creswick family called the property "Hawthorn House". Creswick was elected MLA for Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne). The Boroondara District Road Assessment Roll of 1857-58 had three entries for Creswick. The house with largest NAV, 400 pounds (identified as "The Hawthorn") was then occupied by R.W. Nutt possibly the Government surveyor. Creswick lived there from 1863 until his death circa 1890.<sup>5</sup>

An auction notice dated 14 October 1865 referred to the "well known mansion or chateau of Henry Creswick Esq., MLA on the river Yarra at Hawthorn". There was an extensive description of the two-storeyed stone house, which had been designed in the Gothic style by John Gill, architect.<sup>6</sup>

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1. *Hawthorn Hill Area Walk I*, Hawthorn Historical Society, Gwen McWilliam, 1988; Ministry for Planning and Environment File No. 6029454.
  2. *Argus* 14 October 1865 (p.2).
  3. MPE FN 6029454.
  4. *Ibid.*
  5. *Ibid.*
  6. *Argus* 14 October, 1865 (p.2).

## 5 Creswick Street continued

By 1867-68, according to the Hawthorn rate book, the property had an NAV of 240 pounds and in the 1889-90 rate book was described as consisting of ten rooms and was of stone construction, owned and occupied still by Creswick.<sup>7</sup>

During the early Creswick family ownership, "Hawthorn House" had a notable garden. This was described in 1856 by James Sinclair, landscape designer and first curator of the Fitzroy Gardens. In *The Beauties of Victoria*, Sinclair told how,

At the above gentleman's residence, as well as the adjoining one, much has been done in gardening; a very fine house with gardens, shrubberies and mixed plantations surrounding it, all kept in pretty good order, is met with; and from its height above the river, and the commanding view had from it, may, at least, be considered one of the many beauties of Victoria.<sup>8</sup>

The property stayed in Creswick family ownership until 1923, although most of the surrounding land and garden area was lost in a 1903 subdivision.<sup>9</sup>

"The Hawthorns has architectural significance as an example of the domestic work of the distinguished colonial architect, John Gill. It is notable for its castellated walled courtyard and stables in the same style, elaborate barge-boards, entrance with Tudor arch and oriel and distinctive window surrounds. Designed in the Gothic style, it has been compared with "Alloarmo" at 5 Grattan Street and the small brick villa at 15 Grattan Street.

### Description

A two storey picturesque gothic revival house, executed in coursed random rubble bluestone with a slate roof. The building is approached from a sweeping drive which terminates at a wide expanse of stone wall, unrelieved with openings except for the entrance recess and the oriel window above in a projecting gabled block. The chimneys rise beside this in a strong form capped by tall, heavy, chimney pots. The principal elevation is to the side, looking towards the river. Gables dominate the design, elaborately decorated in Gothic manner with timber fretwork and heavy finials. On the projecting wing, a bay with rendered cap provides direct access to the exterior. Adjoining, the building incorporates a single storey verandah, again with principal rooms giving access to the exterior.

The window and door joinery is multipaned. Lobel moulds are used in some locations. Shutters were used to several openings in earlier times but these are now removed. The simple timber posted verandah has had posts replaced by heavier members. Although much truncated from its original form, the garden continues to complement the overall scheme.

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7. MPE FN 6029454.

8. James Sinclair, *The Beauties of Victoria*, Notices of 200 of the principal gardens around Melbourne, 1856.

9. MPE FN 6029454.

## 5 Creswick Street continued

### Assessment

A precise date for the construction of the building has not been determined. It is commonly held that "The Hawthorns", is the oldest surviving building in Hawthorn. To achieve this status it must be closer to the 1845 land purchase date, than the first sale to Henry Creswick.

The design is consistent with late 1840s examples elsewhere notably 15 Grattan Street, Hawthorn (1845) and the similar approach at Invergowrie (Burwood) of 1851. Examples from Sydney of similar date show remarkably similar form e.g. St. Thomas' Parsonage, North Sydney c1845 which adopts a similar elevational treatment, the Sydney Government House of 1834, the villas recommended by London in his *Encyclopedia of Cottage, Farm and Architecture* and Carthona of 1841-44 at Darling Point encouraged the use of Gothic for residence and high status buildings. Churches in Melbourne were dominated by Early English Gothic Revival. It is no surprise therefore that Pinnock, a judge, would use such a distinctive style for his pioneering establishment on the opposite side of the River.

The use of Gothic in bluestone is uncommon. It was expensive and the gables required by the style necessitated potentially unstable gable end walls. Attic rooms were normally required for the upper storey, and these would not appeal to many wealthy owners. Comparable Melbourne examples of suburban mansions in the Gothic style include: Banyule 1842-46 and Avoca in South Yarra 1844. Gothic Revival buildings of smaller scale include 15 Grattan Street nearby of similar design direction but smaller and rendered, and Invergowrie of 1851. The latter has many similarities including the wall treatment, window style, fretwork and heavy finials and almost exactly matching ground level bay and the oriel window. The similarity is sufficient to suggest that Gill was probably the architect for Invergowrie, inspired by the success of "The Hawthorn's" design.

This building made a major contribution to the development of the Hawthorn Hill area as a wealthy garden suburb. With the Christ Church, and Invergowrie this building illustrates the early settlement of Hawthorn clustered around the bridge access to the City and the Village Reserve.

### Significance

### State

1. Amongst the oldest residences in the State, probably the oldest surviving residence in Hawthorn and one of very few suburban mansions to survive from before the 1850s Gold Rush.
2. One of very few Gothic Revival residences in the State.
3. Important for the impetus given to the consolidation of Hawthorn as a garden suburb, both by its initial construction, and the nature of the subsequent Subdivision.
4. Historically significant for its association with Pinnock, Creswick and Nutt.
5. Significant as a example of the domestic work of distinguished colonial architect John Gill.



5 Creswick Street