

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

8 Elmie Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Cooyalong"

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 June 91.

NEG FILE 05.09.

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 1887 - 1888

Architect

Builder

Elements

☒ Contributing garden☐ Original or early hard landscape layout☐ Landmark tree☒ Original or early fence (gates only)

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good ☒Fair ☐Poor ☐

CONDITION

Good ☒Fair ☐Poor ☐

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden ☐

8 ELMIE STREET

"COOYALONG"

History

The Hepburn Hill area was subdivided in October 1885 into large blocks for the wealthy. Following improvement of the railway service these blocks were highly sought after for construction of substantial garden villas.

The first owner/occupier in 1887-88 of the brick villa at 8 Elmie Street, Mrs. Selena Spurlong,¹⁵ may have had associations with the Hawthorn surgeon, Dr. William Spurlong (or Sparling), who owned a property in Burwood Road in 1879.¹⁶ Selena's house was the only building rated in Elmie Street in 1887, the rest of the properties being recorded as vacant land.¹⁷ It stood on the west side of Elmie Street, nearly opposite "Kilcreggan" built in 1889 for Walter Whitehead, printer, at 9 Elmie Street.¹⁸ Selena's Spurling's house passed into the hands of Cornelius J. Harrison, insurance agent, in the depression years of the 1890s. By 1896 it was described as a brick house of eight rooms, NAV 50 pounds, owned and occupied by Harrison.¹⁹ At the turn of the century, when Harrison occupied 8 Elmie Street still, an M.M.B.W. drainage plan showed the house with its front verandah and garden area.²⁰

Description

Two common single storey villa types occur in the peak of Hawthorn's Victorian garden suburb development during the 1880s and 1890s. One is forward facing with a double bay, central door and verandah reflecting the bay form e.g. 22 Elm Street. This building represents the second type, "L" shaped with a return verandah terminating at the projecting leg of the "L" - sometimes, as in this case, a projection also terminated the far return end to the verandah. The bichrome brickwork is typical, and the verandah decoration sombre and formal, not exuberant.

Assessment

This building is notable for its remarkable intactness. Original or early paint survives on the timber verandah, the brickwork has not been painted. The original venetian blinds appear to survive (possibly replacements) and the gate appears to be intact. The garden has a complimentary and probably early form.

This is the best example of its type in Hawthorn.

¹⁵. Hawthorn RB 1887-88 No. 4105.

¹⁶. Gwen McWilliam *Hawthorn Peppercorns*, Melb., 1978, fn. p. 117.

¹⁷. Hawthorn RB 1887-88, No. 4105 (NAV 60 pounds).

¹⁸. Ibid. 1889-90 No. 5426.

¹⁹. Ibid. 1896-97 No. 3598.

²⁰. M.M.B.W. Drainage Plan No. 1504 (1901).

8 Elmie Street continued

Significance

1. The best example in Hawthorn of one of two main garden villa types from the 1880s and 1890s.
2. This brick house in a garden setting has historical significance as one of the first constructed in the Hepburn Hill subdivision where many villas were constructed in the late 1880s boom years, for affluent residents (mainly business and professional men and their families) in middle-class suburban Hawthorn. "Cooyalong" is located in an area distinguished by the number of surviving Victorian villas and small mansions in garden settings, which include, "Kilcreggan" and "Hartland" at 9 and 11A Elmie Street, the notable 1850s "Auburn House" at 4 Goodall Street and Alfred Vasey's "Invergowrie" at 14 Goodall Street (1900).