

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

1-3 Denmarkhill Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

"McKillop House" Sisters of St. Joseph"

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 76.19.20,26.

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 1889-90 (completed)

Architect 1890-1891)

Builder

Elements

Mansion, garden  
(not outbuildings)

- 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 [ ]

## 1-3 DENMARK HILL ROAD

### "McKILLOP HOUSE"

#### History

Once known as "Graham's Folly", this mansion house was begun in 1889-90 for Henry Graham, gentleman. It was described in that year as a ten-roomed brick house, unfinished, NAV 150 pounds.<sup>1</sup> The following year, 1890-91 Graham an importer, was rated for an 18-roomed brick house in Denmark Hill Road, NAV 200 pounds.<sup>2</sup> The property was shown on the corner of Denmark Hill Road and Havelock Road in a 1902 MMBW drainage plan and was then called "Abergeldie".<sup>3</sup>

During the 1940s the old boom period mansion was known as the Mt. Joseph Convent.<sup>4</sup> Today, owned still by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the mansion is known as "McKillop House".

#### Description

A massive Italianate mansion of three storeys (the lowest a half basement) with a three stage tower projecting a storey beyond the upper floor. The two storey colonnade which dominates the design extends to all four sides. On the front it is broken by the slightly projecting tower. On the adjoining sides it includes bay projection which distorts the arches of the colonnade into unusual shapes.

The colonnade is composed of corinthian columns. Arches between the columns are variously shaped to accommodate the space available. On the bays, the columns are paired at the corners, causing a pointed arch to be formed between the two.

The windows are simple half round arch head elements, generally grouped in pairs. The balustrade detailing is repeated on the parapet to the whole design.

On the tower an arcade is implied on the top level and below, small window openings are embellished by applied pediments.

#### Assessment

This mansion is amongst the largest and is the most showy constructed in Hawthorn in the 1880s boom. Usually, the Italianate mansions of that time, incorporated a colonnade to one or two facades, not four. This building seeks to address all possible public vantage points, the Junction, Burke Road and the local access street in an exuberant display of wealth.

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- <sup>1</sup>. Hawthorn RB 1889-90 No. 3968. (Graham also owned three blocks of land in Havelock Road).
  - <sup>2</sup>. Ibid. 1890-91 Eastern Division No. 4063.
  - <sup>3</sup>. MMBW Drainage Plan, *Hawthorn*. (1962).
  - <sup>4</sup>. Melbourne Directories.

### 1-3 Denmark Hill Road continued

The architect is not known. J. Smith has been suggested. This building is similar to the equally prominently located Ravenswood in Ivanhoe of the same date, which is attributed to Smith. Like Ravenswood it employs Corinthian columns in a double storey colonnade, shield embellishment to the keystone of the arches, and a fully balustraded parapet. This design is somewhat more garish however, and lacks the order of the Ivanhoe design.

Many mansions were constructed in Hawthorn in the 1880s boom, usually on substantial grounds and located on the highest ground.

They became landmarks in the suburbs. As development continued around them in the following decades, many were demolished or their prominence was lost by subdivision. This example still retains a substantial portion of its grounds and remains a landmark, ably illustrating the boom and bust at the end of the nineteenth century.

#### Significance

#### Metropolitan

1. Possibly the largest, and perhaps the most showy of the numerous 1880s boom period mansions constructed in Hawthorn. The four sided colonnade form and its bayed form are rare in Melbourne.
2. Built in 1889-1891 for Henry Graham, importer, this substantial former residence has significance as an example of the mansion houses in extensive garden settings built during the boom years in suburban Hawthorn. It has been used as a convent by the Sisters of St. Joseph since the 1940s.



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