

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

14 Goodall Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Invergowrie"

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

SURVEY DATE June 91.

NEG FILE 05.

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
Architect
Builder
Elements



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

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

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

14 GOODALL STREET

"INVERGOWRIE"

History

Sir Thomas Vasey, Secretary of the Metropolitan Gas Company, was the first owner/occupier of the two-storeyed mansion house at 14 Goodall Street constructed between 1889 and 1891. Vasey's house was listed in 1889 as Lot 18 on the west side of Goodall Street and foundations, NAV 30 pounds.¹¹ At this time, Vasey was occupying a 10 roomed brick house in Riversdale Road owned by James Lamond.¹² By 1890-91, Vasey's Goodall Street home was listed as a brick house of eleven rooms, NAV 120 pounds. Vasey also owned vacant land on the opposite, east side of Goodall Street, in Lot 8, NAV twenty pounds.¹³ The Vasey residence was known at first as "Grossmont" and was listed as such in the 1899-1900 Hawthorn rate book when the property was owned by the Estate of the late Thomas Vasey and occupied by his widow, Mrs. Thomas Vasey.¹⁴ The Vasey family also still owned vacant land on the east side of the street in Lot 8, NAV 16 pounds.¹⁵

After Vasey's death, Sir William Murray McPherson (1865-1932), businessman, Premier and philanthropist, became the new owner/occupier of 14 Goodall Street in 1900-1901, renaming the property "Invergowrie", in honour of his Scottish descent. In this year, the house was described still as a brick house of eleven rooms, NAV 125 pounds.¹⁶ The previous name "Grossmont" was transferred to a new Vasey house on land in Lot 8 on the east side of the street owned in 1900-1901 by Mrs. Thomas Vasey.¹⁷ McPherson lived here for only a few years before moving to Invergowrie at Coppin Grove. McPherson, the son of Thomas McPherson, a West Melbourne iron merchant from Scotland, served his apprenticeship with the well-known firm of James McEwan. On his father's death in 1888, William entered the family business with his brother, Edward. After Edward's death, William became the sole proprietor. In 1900 McPherson set up the Acme Bolt Co. to protect local manufacturers. In 1909 he was elected President of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce and in 1913, when George Swinburne resigned, McPherson succeeded him as MLA for the seat of Hawthorn. In the same year, he became a foundation member and permanent benefactor of Swinburne's new technical college. He also established a private company, McPhersons P/L at this time. During W.W.1., McPherson's firm produced machine tools and he became known as a shrewd and successful businessman. From 1917-23 he was State Treasurer, National Party Leader (1927), and, in November 1928, he became Premier and Treasurer. McPherson retired from politics in August 1930. He had already been appointed KBE in 1923. McPherson's two most

11. Hawthorn RB 1889-1890 No. 5430; *ibid.* 1890-91 No. 5588.

12. *Ibid.* 1889-90 No. 4600.

13. *Ibid.* 1890-91 No. 5588; *Ibid.* No. 5589.

14. *Ibid.* 1899-1900 No. 3600.

15. *Ibid.* No. 3601.

16. *Ibid.* 1900-1901 No. 3612.

17. *Ibid.* No. 3613.

14 Goodall Street continued

notable philanthropic gifts were 25,000 pounds for the establishment of the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy (named after his wife) and in 1930-31, a gift of 25,000 pounds towards the foundation of the Jessie McPherson Community Hospital (named after his mother).¹⁸

A 1902-3 M.M.B.W. drainage plan shows "Invergowrie" during McPherson's ownership in a garden setting next to its neighbour, 12 Goodall Street, also in a formal garden setting.¹⁹ The area in which these villas are located is notable for the number of remaining substantial 19th century residences in garden settings.

Description

A large two storey house, generally adopting the standard bayed form common for garden villas but with a squat tower at the rear return end and an extension of the main body of the house to emphasise the gabled projection. The detailing however is Medieval including a canted bay at first floor level, gable and embellishment and intricate rendered quoining. The chimneys are extended well past the roof and decorated in Queen Anne styles, and the tower adopts a pointed form in contrast with the parapet form of Italianate examples. The verandahs are executed in timber, consistent with the medieval theme. The roof is still slate, not the favoured terracotta of the Queen Anne.

Ussher and Kemp were at the forefront of the development of the domestic Queen Anne in Melbourne and Australia. Early buildings such as Campion College (former Dalwraith) of 1906, (Studley Park Road, Kew) and Woodlands of 1888 (Woodlands Street, Essendon) were instrumental in the development of the style to suit the typical suburban form which reached its peak in the first decade of the twentieth century.

Ussher's work falls into two categories, the gabled design - usually a two storey form and the hipped design where gables on two co-ordinate points project from an overall hip - usually a single storey form. In general, Ussher's largest houses e.g. Dalwraith in Kew of 1906, adopt the gabled designs. These houses fall into the mansion category. It is the single storey designs, which usually apply to large houses rather than mansions, which have developed into the distinctive Australian style, Queen Anne domestic and which were the most popular in the first decade of the twentieth century e.g. Hedges Residence, 1897 in Canterbury and Clarke's Residence in Toorak of 1897. Ussher joined with Kemp and developed the style with the characteristic features of tiled hipped roofs, timber verandah decorations, and a strongly three dimensional form with a corner emphasis.

Several key practitioners worked within the style. Ussher and Kemp, Walter Butler, Christopher Cowper amongst others. The early development occurs in the last decade of the nineteenth century culminating in the first decade of the twentieth century. The key practitioners were widely copied by builders up to the first world war.

¹⁸. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 10, pp.359-60.

¹⁹. M.M.B.W. Drainage Plan Hawthorn No. 1503. (1902-3).

14 Goodall Street continued

The Queen Anne style, combined with some of the principals of Australian homestead planning and design, around the turn of the century, to produce a new suburban style continuing to the end of W.W.1. Sometimes loosely referred to as "Edwardian" or "Federation" it is more appropriately referred to as "Garden Bungalow", because it does not relate just to the period around Federation at 1901, and because it is intimately related to the garden suburb concept. What sets the "garden bungalow" and "Queen Anne domestic" apart from the other red brick styles of the period, is a purposeful and close relationship with the garden as the dominant feature. A variety of decorative forms are used within this framework. The "garden Bungalow" eventually developed into the ubiquitous Californian Bungalow of the 1920s and 1930s.

The "domestic Queen Anne" had an ongoing influence on vernacular designs which can be seen up to the 1960s. The domestic Queen Anne buildings which survive from the turn of the century had a vital role in the development of the urban form of metropolis.

No architect has been discovered for the building, however its clear connections with avant garde design for the date indicate the likelihood of an influential architectural hand. It is an unusual example of the red brick styles, including Queen Anne, Medieval revival and Romanesque Revival which were developing in tandem in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Prominent examples include 521 Glenferrie Road of 1891 in Romanesque Revival, and ** Eastern Hill fire station of 1893 in Elizabethan form, Raheen of 18 in the Italian Modern, Queen Bess Pon of 1886 also Elizabethan and the Winfield Building 1891.

Of all these examples, this building is the most picturesque and most clearly shows the standard Victorian form to which the medieval and Queen Anne forms have been added. The quoins are particularly unusual and are not known elsewhere.

Significance

1. This double storeyed brick villa constructed in 1889-91 has historical significance as a fine example of the large villas and small mansion houses in garden settings constructed in the late 1880s and early 1890s for wealthy local residents (mainly business and professional men and their families) in middle-class suburban Hawthorn. It has significance for its associations with two prominent businessmen, at first with Sir Thomas Vasey, Secretary of the Metropolitan Gas Company and, from the turn of the century, with Sir William McPherson, leading businessman, Premier and philanthropist. This substantial residence is located in an important area distinguished by the number of surviving Victorian villas and small mansions in garden settings, which include the notable 1850s "Auburn House" at 4 Goodall Street, and the two-storeyed villa at 12 Goodall Street (completed 1892).
2. Architecturally significant as an early example of the wide ranging experimentation with red brick forms in the late nineteenth century, eventually leading to a truly Australian style in the domestic Queen Anne.