

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

15 Grattan Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR [] GBR [] AHC [x] NT [x] 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 Nov. 91.

NEG FILE 48.24

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 c1847-1854
Architect possibly Gill.
Builder
Elements -
House, garden.



- 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 []

Requires inspection to confirm.

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

15 GRATTAN STREET

History

This small brick Gothic Revival house was built before 1855 for James Denham Pinnock an official of the Supreme Court, whose Estate was subdivided in 1854. The lot with the house on it, was sold for 300 pounds to William Henry Odgers, a government servant. In 1855, the property was mortgaged to the Trustees of the Permanent Benefit and Building Society for 936 pounds, and in 1856 to Robert Laidlow. In 1864 the Grattan Street house was described as a brick house of six rooms with a kitchen and servant's room. Later, circa 1871, it was sold to Arthur Morah. More recently, in 1955, No. 15 Grattan Street was purchased by Dr. Jorgensen, a Belgrave medical practitioner⁴ and relative of the well-known Justus Jorgensen, the founder of the Artists' Colony at Eltham.⁵

This single-storey structure is notable for its projecting gabled room with parapet cornice and multi-paned bay window, as well as its steel slate roof with finials, barge-boards and multi-pane gable windows.⁶

Description

This building is substantially concealed by the garden. Requires further inspection for a full description and assessment.

A two storey picturesque gothic revival house of asymmetrical form. The gable end to the steeply pitched slate roof forms the prominent feature of the facade. It incorporates a decorative fretwork barge, pointed arch first floor windows, and multipaned parapeted bay below. Under the main gable the openings are simply detailed.

The existing building appears to be rendered and painted.

Assessment

Three early picturesque Gothic revival buildings are located in the Hawthorn Hill area nearby, all from the late 1840s or early 1850s. They include "The Hawthorns" (pre 1852), "Invergowrie" c1851, and the early 1850s section of 5 Grattan Street. Although not visually connected, together they form an important early residential precinct from the 1850s.

Gothic revival was commonly employed for fashionable residences in the 1840s and 1850s. Pattern books encouraged the style, and it was relatively easy to successfully achieve in the new colony where materials and tradesmen were rare. Contemporary buildings outside Hawthorn which survive include, The Gables corner Domain Street and Domain Road South Yarra early 1850s, "Glenfern" in Balaclava of 1857, Banyule in Heidelberg of 1849 (in Tudor form).

⁴. National Trust of Australia (Vic.), File No. 3291.

⁵. Sigismund Jorgensen, *Montsalvat*.

⁶. Australian Heritage Commission citation.

15 Grattan Street continued

The form of 15 Grattan Street is similar to "Glenfern" and, in smaller scale, "Invergowrie". The latter has the closest associations, particularly evident in the parapeted bay to the gable and projections. A similar form to this was also used at The Hawthorns which has been attributed to the architect Gill. The detailing is sufficiently similar here to suggest Gill may also be the architect. The social connections are strong as well. Pinnock, the first owner, was an Official of the Supreme Court, and must have been associated with Palmer, the owner of Invergowrie. Gill is also known to have associated with Palmer.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Built before 1855 in the Gothic Revival style for James Denham Pinnock an official of the Supreme Court, this small brick villa residence has historical significance for its early date of construction in the prestigious Hawthorn Hill area, settled by business and professional men who commuted to Melbourne every day.
2. A typical but now rare Gothic revival house from the 1840s and 1850s, possibly by the architect Gill.